Knee Deep Into History
Battlefield Tours

Monuments Men and Women Tour
9 – 16 September 2027 (8 days / 7 nights)



1 Lt. James Rorimer displays the Maurice Rothschild collection of jewelry and snuff boxes looted by ERR, 13 May 1945

Get knee deep into history following the multifaceted story of the Monuments Men and Women of WW2. Beginning in Paris, we will learn about the art collection efforts and looting of the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) in France and Rose Valland's efforts to track the works. The interplay between Rose Valland (curator at the Jeu de Paume Museum), her supervisor Jacques Jaujard (director at the Musèes Nationaux), and James Rorimer enabled the monuments men to locate key ERR storage facilities throughout Germany and Austria. The tour will visit a Parisian museum's permanent exhibition of unreturned works of art.

After Paris, we move northeast to Belgium, visiting Michealangelo's Madonna and Child sculpture in Bruges and the Van Eyck masterpiece known as the Ghent Altarpiece. These two works were featured in the 2014 film, The Monuments Men. We'll honor the two monuments men who were killed in action, Maj. Ronald Edmond Balfour (British) and Capt. Walter J. Huchthausen (American), stopping at their graves in Kleve, Germany and Margraten, Netherlands, respectively.

The tour then follows the Allies' advance through Germany and Austria in early 1945 and exploring key ERR safekeeping sites and explain their significance; this includes visits to the mines at Siegen and Heilbronn, Germany as well as Altaussee, Austria. (Note, we will not be stopping at the Merkers mine, as that is covered in our Third Reich Underground Tour.) We'll visit famous castles such as Neuschwanstein, and churches and monasteries that likewise served as art repositories. Finally, we'll cover a few of the collecting points established by the Americans to facilitate the return of art and artifacts to their rightful owners. **This small-group tour will be as unique as the real story of the Monuments Men and Women!**



Top: Jeu de Paume Museum in Paris, center of ERR activities

Middle: The Ghent Altarpiece by Hubert and Jan van Eyck

Bottom: Memorial to the Kochendorf Concentration Camp inside the Heilbronn mine.





Itinerary: (Subject to Modifications)

Participants need to note that the tour beings at Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) in Paris, France and ends at Munich International Airport (MUN) in Munich, Germany. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to the starting point (CDG) and from the endpoint (MUN.)

Two other notes: 1) We will NOT be visiting the Louvre or the Jeu de Paume (interior). If you wish to visit these museums in Paris, arrive early and do so on your own. 2) The famous Munich Oktoberfest begins on Saturday, 18 Sept. Again, participants can remain in Germany after the tour to participate in it.

Day 1, Thursday, 9 Sept. The Parisian art scene. Meet at CDG at 11:00am. Explore the work of ERR at the Jeu de Paume Museum (exterior) as well as the story of Rose Valland and others who worked to document Nazi activities. Explore the Tuileries Garden in Paris, where the Nazis burned artwork. Visit the exhibit on orphaned art at the Musée d'Orsay and explore the story of the last ERR art train trying to leave Paris. Welcome dinner at a Parisian restaurant before heading back to the airport hotel. Hotel at Paris Airport TBD.

Day 2, Friday, 10 Sept. **Belgian masterpieces.** Depart Paris and drive to Belgium. Visit Michelangelo's Madonna & Child statue in Bruges and van Eyck's Altarpiece in Ghent. Both pieces of art played a key role in the 2014 movie. Drive to Aachen, Germany and stay overnight in Aachen at the Hotel zur Heide.

Day 3, Saturday, 11 Sept. Graves of the Fallen. Visit the grave of Major Ronald Edmond Balfour (killed 10 March 1945) at Reichswald Forest War Cemetery (CWGC) in Kleve, Germany and the grave of Capt. Walter A. Huchthausen (killed 2 April 1945) at Netherlands American Cemetery, Margraten, Netherland. Stay overnight in Aachen at the Hotel zur Heide.

Day 4, Sunday, 12 Sept. Entering Germany. Visit the Siegen mine (above ground only). Visit Schloß Braunfels. Visit the site of the Offenbach Archival Depot and describe the post-war role it played. Stay overnight at the Leonardo Hotel Offenbach.

Day 5, Monday, 13 Sept. Drive to Heilbronn and tour the underground mine. Drive to Füssen, Germany and stay overnight at the Hideauts Hotels der Rosengarten in Füssen.

Day 6, Tuesday, 14 Sept. Guided tour of Neuschwanstein castle. Drive to Buxheim, Germany and visit Kartause (Chart House) Buxheim. Drive to Munich and visit the Führerbau an NS Dokuzentrum. The Führerbau was used by the U.S. Army as a collection point for art. The Dokuzentrum is a modern museum highlighting National Socialist activities in Munich. Stay overnight at the Hotel Metropol by Maier Privathotels.

Day 7, Wednesday, 15 Sept. Berchtesgaden / Obersalzberg and Austria. Drive to Berchtesgaden and Obersalzberg. Walking tour of famous Nazi leaders' houses and their efforts to hide / accumulate art. (Given the October 2026 fire, it is not possible to visit the Kehlsteinhaus, aka Eagle's Nest.) Drive to Altaussee, Austria. Farewell dinner this evening. Stay overnight at the JUFA Hotel Altaussee.

Day 8, Thursday, 16 Sept. Visit the Altaussee Salt Mine Experience. Drive back to Munich, Germany. We anticipate arriving at MUN by 4:00pm. If needed, we can drop clients off at the Munich Train Station.

Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	$4,520
Single Room Supplement	$645

Tour Price Includes*

- TWO military historian guides who understand both sides of the story and who speak multiple languages and understand European culture
    - Local guides at specific sites as needed
- 3-Star accommodations, typically in European family-owned hotel / restaurants
- Transportation typically in comfortable 9-person people movers with A/C or in cars
- Almost all meals, except those specified as “on your own” in the itinerary
- Water, soda and snacks available in the van
- Cultural outings (calvados tasting, church tour, etc.) and shopping time on trips longer than a few days
- Admission fees to all sites

Tour Price Excludes*

- Transportation to and from the starting point and lodging and transportation before or after the tour’s start and end times; for example, the cost of a hotel night for participants who choose to arrive early.
- Dinner drinks
- Dinners or lunches specifically excluded in the tour brochure
- Souvenirs and gifts

*See KDIH’s 2027 Terms and Conditions for full details.

Questions or concerns? Contact Randy Gaulke at kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com or 908.451.0252.





Reichsleiter Rosenberg (middle) and his nemesis Rose Valland

Knee Deep Into History's Tour Philosophy

Knee Deep Into History LLC was founded by Randy Gaulke in 2020 after he spent eight months in 2017-18 as a freelance guide to the American battlefields of WW1. During those eight months (and the prior forty years) Randy's tour philosophy has evolved. We:

1. TAKE clients into the field,
2. GUIDE small-group tours (12 max.),
3. PROMOTE a balanced view of both sides,
4. OFFER tours for passionate history buffs, and
5. BRIDGE cultures.

What to Expect from a KDIH Small-Group Tour

A KDIH small-group tour offers you the opportunity to experience history and European culture in an intimate setting!

KDIH tours are designed for the real history enthusiast, which means that you will be surrounded by like-minded participants on every tour. By limiting tour size to twelve participants maximum, we maintain a low ratio of participants to guides, delivering a very different experience than a large bus with thirty participants.

The small-group tour concept is flexible and allows for itinerary modification. For example, on a 2024 Ardennes tour we had family members representing four GIs who served in different units, and we were able to visit sites of significance for each family group.

KDIH tours include walks of moderate length and duration (1-2 miles over 60-90 minutes) on many days, as walking the ground helps one gain an appreciation of the combat from a soldier's perspective. Participants concerned about walking this distance are welcome to remain with the van.

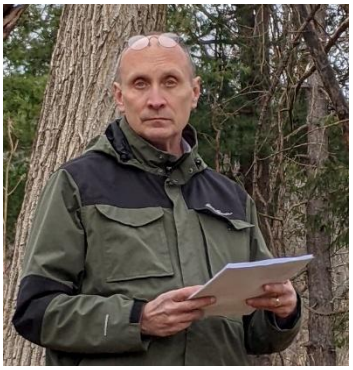
Once participants join the tour, everything is taken care of. We are generally in the field from 9:00am to somewhere around 5:00pm. Breakfast is always served at the hotel prior to departure. Lunch usually consists of sandwiches "in the field", with beverages and snacks available in the van when an afternoon pick-me-up is needed. Participants are encouraged to pack sturdy clothing for the field and to pack nicer clothing for evening meals. (Our Clothing Guidelines brochure offers good advice.)

Clients appreciate our traditional European multi-course dinners, offering participants and guides a chance to discuss the day's experiences and exchange views on critical events, leaders, etc. By selecting three-star hotel/restaurant combinations and, in some cases, in-town restaurants, we encourage participants to experience fine European dining. (Our Hotel Guidelines brochure can help travelers prepare for the differences between U.S. and traditional European hotels.)

Spouses and mature young adults are welcome, but there is limited down time for sightseeing, and it is not possible to take a day off in town when switching hotels.

Finally, KDIH tour guides are comfortable living and working in Europe, and excel at helping Americans bridge European culture. We can certainly help with problems that arise.

Meet Tour Guides Randy and Graham Gaulke



Randy Gaulke has been studying military history for decades as a wargamer, reenactor and battlefield visitor. In 2017 he left the corporate world and during 2017-18 he lived and worked eight months in France as a freelance guide to the WW1 battlefields during the WW1 Centennial. His experiences during those eight months convinced him to follow his passion and start a tour business. Randy has visited and guided tours of the WW2 battlefields since 2008. Over his life he has lived in Europe more than three years. He speaks fluent English and German and intermediate French. Randy lives in Winchester, VA, not far from the National Archives.



Graham Gaulke is KDIH's newest addition. His first trip to the battlefields of Europe were with Dad when he was eight years old, and he has been hooked ever since. Over the past decade, Graham has built a substantial knowledge and contact base with regards to Nazi Germany during WW2, focusing on the concentration camp system and the bombing war. After completing his undergraduate in Business Administration in the Netherlands, he is currently enrolling in a Historical Research master's program in London for 2027. When not studying, he is busy researching and exploring various Third Reich sites across Europe, though most frequently in Thuringia or Berlin. His father has learned to trust the depth of Graham's research and preparation, and he has led several tours for KDIH: in May 2024, Graham organized and led "Third Reich Underground", focusing on Nazi underground araments production sites and associated camps in Thuringia; in October 2025 he led his second tour, "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich". In addition to these, Graham has done several private or individually-tailored tours, and he and Randy are jointly planning the 2027 Monuments Men tour together.



Art and furniture appropriated by ERR found in the tunnels under Neuschwanstein Castle, 13 May 1945

Feedback from Recent Tour Participants

"*Thank you for letting me add to your journal of thoughts from those who attended your tour. Andy had spoken so highly of your tours that I wanted to experience it myself! It did not disappoint, from the hotels to the food and beyond, it was superlative! I especially liked how you paid attention to everyone to see how they were doing. The pace was never rushed nor was it too slow, just perfect.*

I know that I will be processing all these places we saw for a very long time. The tour forced an immersion into the period which makes it such a memorable experience! With appreciation."

Amy German

"Randy and Graham, thanks for a wonderful tour! Very professionally run, excellent information on all places visited. I was amazed at how the harder historical sites were presented now compared to forty years ago. You all made for a great experience. I hope to join you again!"

Bob Stiegel

"When Randy sent the 2024 brochure for KDIH tours, I took one look at the 3rd Reich Tour and said I had to do it. Well, it did not disappoint. It was Graham's first tour and he was a star. Everything was well organized, great hotels, great food and best of all, superb tours and good conversation. Five stars all round and an extra one for Graham. Thanks to Everyone."

Christina Holstein

"A great tour with great people and great laughs along the way… And I learned a fantastic amount about the WW2 underground Nazi factories. Many Thanks."

Derek Bird

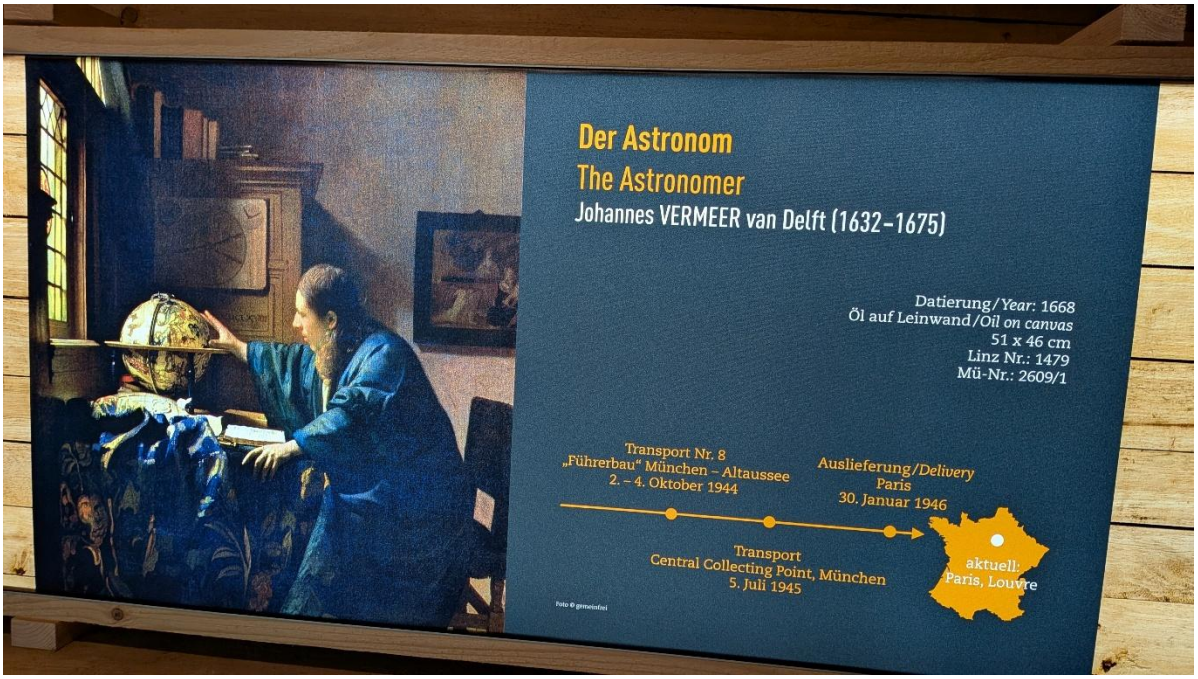


Exhibit in the Altaussee Salt Mine documenting the trek of Vermeer's painting, The Astronomer, reportedly a favorite of Adolf Hitler

2027 Tour Registration Form
Monuments Men and Women Battlefield Tour
9 – 16 September 2027

Note: Complete this form only if you are sending your registration manually!

Participants: _____ (Names and ages)

_____

Primary Contact: _____

Address: _____

Contact Email(s): _____

Contact Phone(s): _____

Rooms Needed: _____ Double rooms _____ Single rooms

Emergency Contacts: _____

Emergency Phones: _____

Health Concerns: **Per the Terms and Conditions, participant are required to factually state any health issues that could affect their participation on this trip. Please outline these concerns in a brief letter.**

Other Needs: _____

_____

Signatures: _____

_____

Remember: To complete your registration you must send: 1) signed copies of the registration form, 2) signed copies of the 2027 Terms and Conditions page 4, and 3) a $600 per person deposit. Deposits can be paid by check, PayPal, Venmo or Zelle. Ask Randy Gaulke for payment details.

Please mail / email / text a copy of this form to:
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kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com 908.451.0252