Knee Deep Into History
Battlefield Tours

Rise and Fall of the Third Reich Tour
1 – 6 September 2027 (6 days / 5 nights)



Join KDIH on a unique tour through Bavaria and Austria, visiting key sites of the early and final years of the Third Reich. In the 12 years of Hitler's "Thousand Year Reich", vast construction projects were a staple of the regime, from monumental displays of power during the early years to megalomaniac bunkers to shield the collapsing Reich from Allied bombs. From the famous parade grounds in the “Führer City” of Nuremberg to enormous concrete bunkers housing jet fighter factories, participants will experience a combination of idyllic towns and exclusive historical places in Bavaria, Germany and Austria.

First stop will be Munich, where we’ll explore the route of Hitler’s 1923 Beer Hall Putsch and look at key Nazi administration buildings. Then we’ll tour Dachau, one of Germany’s earliest concentration camps, before driving to the “Führer City” of Nuremberg. We’ll walk the route where young German film director Leni Riefenstahl filmed the 1934 Nazi Party Rally, and we’ll also visit the rally grounds as well as Court Room 600, site of the Nuremberg War Crime Trials.

Next stop, Landsberg Prison, is where Hitler was imprisoned in 1923 and where he wrote Mein Kampf. This stop includes the nearby deconsecrated St. Ulrich’s Church and Spöttinger Cemetery, where many executed war criminals are buried. Then it’s on to Kaufering to tour Kaufering VII, a major Dachau sub-camp, before driving to Mühldorf am Inn, where we’ll tour the Weingut Me 262 bunker site (photo above) and Außenlager Mühldorf.

We’ve reserved one day to tour the remains of key houses and NS buildings in Obersalzberg / Berchtesgaden.

Finally, we head to Ebensee, Austria to tour the Zement tunnel system and related concentration camp. Zement was originally planned to develop Hitler’s A-9 long-range missile system. **The juxtaposition of scenic beauty and haunting locations of the Nazi regime makes this a tour you won’t want to miss.**



Top: Crematorium at Dachau Concentration Camp

Middle: Site of mass grave near the Waldlager, Mühldorf, Germamy

Bottom: Court Room 600 Nuremberg, where the Nuremberg War Crime Trials were held





Itinerary: (Subject to Modifications)

Pick-up and return point for this tour will be Munich Airport (MUC). A specific meeting point will be provided later. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the meeting point. Participants with their own vehicles can arrange to meet us at an alternate location.

Note: In preparation for this tour we encourage participants to watch German director Leni Riefenstahl's 1935 classic "Triumph of the Will." Participants are also encouraged to watch one or more high-quality videos about the Beer Hall Putsch and key Nazi locations in Munich produced by Mark Felton. These are available on YouTube.

Day 1, Wednesday, 1 Sept. Pick-up at Munich Airport (MUC) at 11:00pm. Walk the route taken on the Beer Hall Putsch, Hitler's 1923 attempt to seize power in the State of Bavaria. Visit the Munich NS Documentation Center. Welcome dinner at a German beer hall TBD. Stay overnight at the Augusten Hotel, Munich.

Day 2, Thursday, 2 Sept. Drive to Dachau and tour Germany's first concentration camp. Afternoon drive to Nuremberg. Late afternoon walk focused on Leni Riefenstahl's filming of the 1934 Nazi Party Rally. Stay overnight at the Scandic Nuremberg Central Hotel, Nuremberg.

Day 3, Friday, 3 Sept. Tour Nuremberg's famous rally grounds and the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. Drive to Landsberg am Lech, stopping outside Landsberg Prison and touring the nearby deconsecrated St. Ulrich's Church and Spöttinger Cemetery. Stay overnight at the Hotel Gasthof zur Brücke, Kaufering.

Day 4, Saturday, 4 Sept. Tour of Kaufering VII sub-camp in Landsberg. Drive to Mühldorf am Inn and tour the Weingut Me 262 armaments bunker site as well as the Außenlager Mühldof, a major Dachau sub-camp. Drive to Berchtesgaden. Stay overnight at the Hotel Koeppeleck, Berchtesgaden.

Day 5, Sunday, 5 Sept. Full day in the Berchtesgaden / Obersalzberg Region. Because of the 2026 fire, we will NOT be visiting the Kehlsteinhaus, aka Eagle's Nest. However, there are plenty of then and now photos to line up of key Nazi leaders' houses, including Hitler's Berghof, tunnel complexes, etc. in Obersalzberg as well as in the town of Berchtesgaden itself. **This will be an intense walking day, designed to include options for participants to sit out a portion of the walks.** Stay overnight at the Hotel Koppeleck, Berchtesgaden.

Day 6, Monday, 6 Sept. Morning drive to Ebensee, Austria and tour of the Zement tunnel system and Ebensee Concentration Camp. The tunnel system was originally planned to house the development of the A-9 long-range missile system, but the tunnels built there were ultimately re-purposed for other armament production. We hope to visit both tunnel systems, A & B. In addition, we will walk the Löwensweg ("Lion's Path") that the prisoners walked between the two tunnels. **This will be a second hiking day. Good shoes are a must.** Drive back to Munich Airport. We anticipate arriving at MUC around 5:00pm. The tour ends when we arrive at MUC that afternoon.

Following our arrival at MUC, participants can make their way to other vacation spots or they can book a hotel at/near the airport and fly home the next day.

Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	$3,450
Single Room Supplement	$460

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.



Deconsecrated St. Ulrich Church and Spöttinger Cemetery, which houses many executed Nazis in Landsberg-am-Lech

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:

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

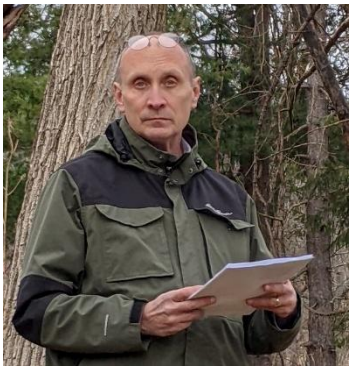
Once participants join the tour, everything is taken care of. We are generally in the field from 9:00am to somewhere around 5:00pm. Breakfast is always served at the hotel prior to departure. Lunch usually consists of sandwiches "in the field", with beverages and snacks available in the van when an afternoon 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.



Dinner at the Bratwursthäusle, Nuremberg's oldest Bratwust kitchen

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



Ebensee tunnel entrance

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