

Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

Third Reich Underground—Rockets, Aircraft and More! Small Group Battlefield Tour 18 – 23 May 2026 (6-days / 5-nights)



Get knee deep into history where the desperate German war industry went underground to avoid Allied bombardment, burying its factories and assets in disused mines or newly-built tunnel systems, hundreds of which were under construction all over the *Reich* by the war's end.

This six-day tour will visit the underground installations in central Germany, along with associated forced labor sites. Participants will visit the rapidly-expanded *Mittelbau-Dora* concentration camp, where the Nazis assembled the V-2 rockets and V-1 flying bombs, as well as the secret *REIMAHG* factory complex for the assembly of the Me-262 jet fighters, and an exclusive visit to the underground factory which made the jet engines for these aircraft. Additional sites will focus on the tens of thousands of slave laborers who were forced to work on these construction projects, including a visit to *Ohrdruf*, the first concentration camp liberated by US troops and an underground jet fuel refinery, where Jewish-American POWs were forced to excavate over a dozen tunnels.

We'll also visit one of Germany's vast salt mines, including a visit to the room where Patton's army famously discovered the *Reichsbank's* gold reserves.

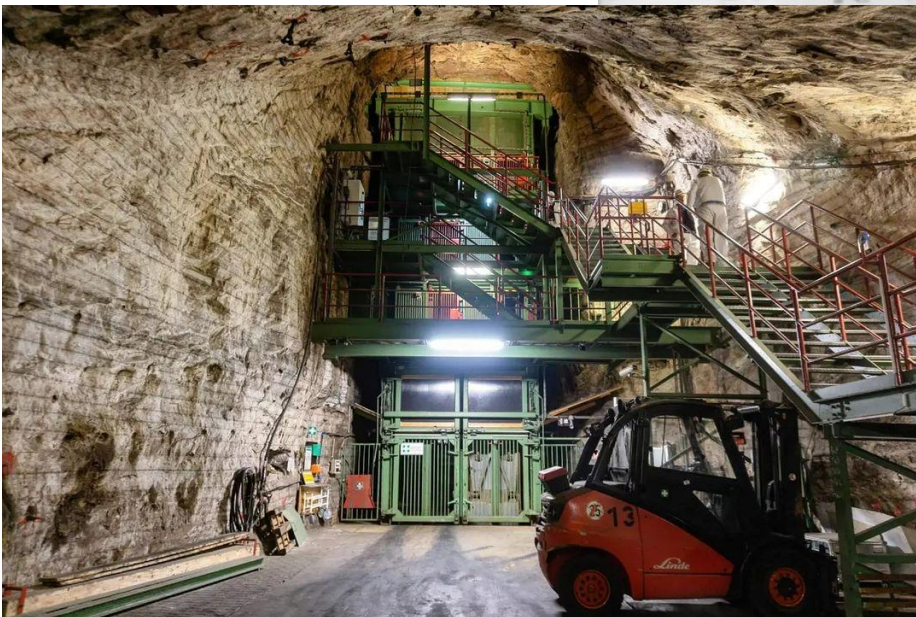
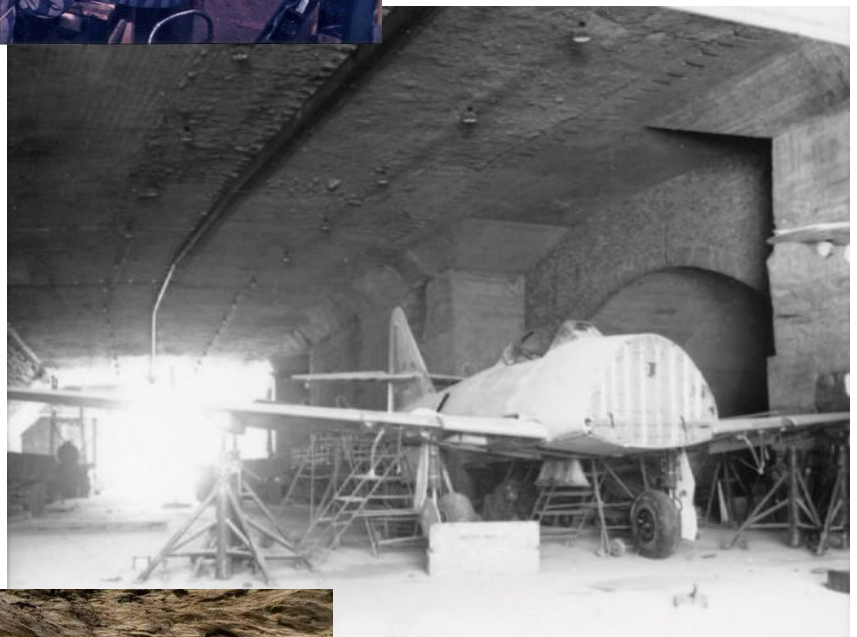
Join us for this very unique above- and underground tour that showcases the lengths the Nazis went to in order to continue war-time armament production and the horrific cost in human life that resulted.



Top: Concentration camp inmates assemble V-2 rockets in the Mittelwerk tunnel system in Nordhausen. Photo by Walter Frantz, Gedenkstätte Mittelbau-Dora.

Middle: Unfinished Me-262s at the REIMAHG factory.

Bottom: Shaft of the Merkers salt mine, where Patton's army discovered the Reichsbank gold reserves. Photo by Graham Gaulke.



Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Pick-up and return point for this tour will be Frankfurt Airport (FRA). 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.

Day 1, Monday, 18 May: Pick-up at FRA at 12:00pm. Drive to hotel. Time for resting and/or sight-seeing in Weimar before dinner. Briefing at hotel followed by a welcome dinner. Overnight in Weimar, Germany.

Day 2, Tuesday, 19 May: Morning visit to the Museum Zwangsarbeit (forced labor) im Nationalsozialismus in Weimar, Germany. Afternoon visit to the Berga Concentration Camp / Schwalbe V facility, where Jewish-American POWs were forced to build an underground jet fuel refinery. Dinner and overnight in Weimar, Germany.

Day 3, Wednesday, 20 May: Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp walking tour, including the underground V-1 and V2 factory. Visit to the Heimkehle, a Junkers aircraft factory in a natural cave, and Ellrich (aka Mittelbau II), the largest Dora sub-camp. Overnight in Weimar, Germany.

Day 4, Thursday, 21 May: REIMAHG sites (secret Me-262 jet fighter factory) starting at the Museum in Kahla and continuing up the Walpersberg mountain. This will be the most physically-demanding walking day of the tour, including walking up the Walpersberg to the former Me-262 runway. Overnight in Kahla, Germany.

Day 5, Friday, 22 May: Kamsdorf, the secret underground jet engine factory for Me-262s in an abandoned iron mine. This will be an exclusive underground tour to parts of the factory not normally open to the public, guided with flashlights and helmets. This will be a physical day, spending several hours underground. Cultural break: After the Kamsdorf tour we will visit the 13th century Leuchtenburg Castle, which overlooks the Thuringian landscape. Overnight in Kahla, Germany.

Day 6, Saturday, 23 May: Commemoration ceremony at Ohrdruf, the first camp liberated by U.S. troops, and the Jonastal Valley, where inmates worked on a secret bunker. Afternoon tour of Merker's salt mine, where the Reichsbank gold reserves were discovered, as portrayed in *The Monuments Men*. Afternoon drive back to FRA. We anticipate arriving at FRA around 7:00pm.

Participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodations before flying back to the U.S. in the morning and/or further travel plans departing that evening.



Tour guide, Graham Gaulke, explaining the expansion of Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp in Nordhausen.

Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	\$2,760
Single Room Supplement	\$300

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 2025 Terms and Conditions for full details.

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



Exploring underground manufacturing in Kamsdorf

Knee Deep Into History's Tour Philosophy

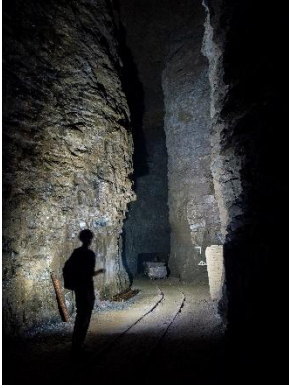
Knee Deep Into History, LLC was founded by Randy Gaulke in 2020 after he spent eight months in 2017-18 as a freelance guide to the American battlefields of WW1. During those eight months (and the prior thirty years) Randy's tour philosophy has evolved. We:

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,
5. BRIDGE cultures.

What to Expect from a KDIH Tour

- Our small-group tours are designed to enable maximum interaction between participants and guides. Size is generally limited to a maximum of 12 participants.
- Clients will be picked up and returned to the designated starting and ending point at the times indicated.
 - Clients desiring other arrangements need to communicate their needs to Randy Gaulke in advance with the understanding that KDIH has to balance an individual client's needs with the group.
- On tour days, participants should expect to be "in the field" from 09h00 to somewhere around 17h00, regardless of weather. This will be followed by a break and dinner around 19h30.
 - Participants should bring appropriate clothing for the field, and nicer clothing for evening meals.
 - Please see the clothing guide on our website for ideas.
- Spouses and mature young adults are welcome, but please understand that there will be limited down time for sightseeing and time off.
 - When moving from one hotel to another, it will generally not be possible to stay in town.
- Regarding meals:
 - Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.
 - Sandwich lunches (with wonderful European bread) will be eaten "in the field" to conserve time.
 - Snacks of water, soda, fruit and sweets will be available for free in the van to recharge one's batteries.
 - Multi-course dinners will generally start at the hotel/restaurant around 19h00.
 - Traditional European dinners often last two hours +/-.
 - This gives participants a chance to socialize, ask questions of the guides and share their experiences of the day.
- As per the 2025 Terms and Conditions, in the event that we have fewer than six participants signed up 61 days prior to the tour, we reserve the right to cancel the tour or we can run the tour with only one guide and/or step the hotels down to high-quality two-star hotels.

Meet Tour Guides Graham Gaulke, Patrick Brion and Randy Gaulke



Graham Gaulke's passion for exploring the Third Reich's underground manufacturing sites began a decade ago, when he explored an underground aircraft factory in Waltenheim, France. Since then, Graham has visited and documented dozens of aboveground and underground sites; and he has combined these visits with archival research in Washington, D.C. and Europe. As a result, Graham has developed a thorough understanding of the Third Reich's efforts to move its arms production underground and its inextricable relationship that this has had with forced labor. Graham has attended several concentration camp commemorations and his photographs can be found on the information panels at several historical sites and on his website, <https://graham-gaulke.format.com>.

Patrick Brion is a retired Belgian Army officer living in Kahla, Germany. He has been actively researching and working to preserve some of these sites since the wall came down in 1989. He will be leading the REIMAHG portions of the tour. More details can be seen on this website: <https://www.walpersberg.de>.

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 also visited and guided tours of the WW2 battlefields since 2008. Over his life he has lived in Europe almost three years. He speaks fluent English and German and intermediate French. Randy lives in Winchester, VA, not far from the National Archives. He also maintains the website <https://meuse-argonne.com> and the Meuse-Argonne.com Facebook group.



2024 Tour participants posing on the Walpersberg

Select Feedback from our Recent Tours

“When Randy sent the 2024 brochure for KDIH Tours, I took one look at the Third 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, UK battlefield tour guide specializing in Verdun

“Randy and Graham: Another great tour. Fast paced and a great amount of knowledge. This is my 3rd tour with Knee Deep and all have been sweet. Best of luck in the future. Glück Auf!”

Michael Mancuso

“Yet another amazing tour, but this time with Graham. I’d never been interested in WW2 tours until I saw this opportunity. BIG, BIG thanks to Graham for having the idea and executing the idea with enthusiasm and professionalism and great spirit—what a treasure you have in your son. Here’s to many more!”

Valerie Young



After some intensive walks, above and below ground, German beer and cuisine is a welcome treat.

2026 Tour Registration Form
June '44 Normandy Beach and Airborne Landings
19 – 24 May 2026 (6-days / 5-nights)

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 2025 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