



# Road to Liberty Tour

The Bulge, Huertgenwald, Normandy  
April 2008



**Saturday, April 19**  
**Paris**

Upon your early arrival in Paris you will check in to the hotel Mercure la Défense 5 where you can have a rest and get over your jetlag, or discover Paris on your own for the next few hours. In the early afternoon you will go for a sightseeing tour with a certified Paris city guide in our motorcoach.

“La Défense”, where your hotel is located, is a major business district in the western part of the city of Paris and the largest purpose-built business district in Europe. Dinner and overnight in the hotel.



**Sunday, April 20**  
**Paris-Reims-Metz**

You will leave Paris after breakfast at about 9 a.m. and go toward Reims: Today the world capital of Champagne, in 1945 the focus of the world. The German surrender was signed on Monday, May 7 by General Jodl.

You will visit the surrender museum with a guided tour and discover the college where in January 1945 Eisenhower had his headquarters.

On request, you can also see the famous Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Reims or visit one of the renowned Champagne cellars including a tasting of this sparkling wine.

In the late afternoon you will continue your way to Metz, close to the border of Germany and Luxembourg, where you will have dinner and overnight in the hotel Mercure Metz Centre.

**Monday, April 21**  
**Metz-Hamm-Diekirch-Bastogne-Poix**

After breakfast you will leave Metz for the legendary American cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg, where your guide, Mr. Roland Gaul, will welcome you. Mr. Gaul is the founder of the Diekirch Military Museum in northern Luxembourg. He is the leading expert when it comes to the Battle of the Bulge and he is a frequent guest at many North American military museums.

After visiting Patton’s grave at the Hamm cemetery, you will have a half-hours’ drive to Diekirch, where you will enjoy a guided tour of this extraordinary Military Museum.

Later in the afternoon, you will have the famous ‘skyride’ with multiple tours stops along the way and discover the many WWII memorials along the way to Bastogne in Belgium. There you will visit the impressive Mardasson Memorial with its museum and the last milestone of the Road to Liberty, as well as the McAuliffe cave. Dinner and overnight in the picturesque hotel le Val de Poix.





## Tuesday, April 22 Poix-Huertgenwald-Simonskall

After breakfast you will leave Belgium for the Hurtgen forest. Your guide for this day will be Dr. Evers, a renowned WWII expert.

Upon your arrival, you will first visit the well-preserved medical pillbox No. 347 in Simonskall. Afterwards you will walk along the famous Kall trail, taking you along relics of the battles around Vossenack which resulted in more than 70,000 casualties on both sides. You will see the memorial stone on the Kall river bridge which marks a memorable ceasefire, you will see the foxholes that are still there after more than 60 years and hear the surprising stories about brave men. At about 3 p.m. your guide will take you for a visit of the Hurtgenwald 1944 museum.

Dinner and overnight will be in the Landhotel Kallbach. During dinner the Schmidt Singers choir will entertain you with songs from wartime.



## Wednesday, April 23 Hurtgenwald - Normandy

After breakfast, you will leave the Hurtgenwald for Normandy. Depending on traffic, we will be on the road for eight or nine hours, with a break in Perronne.

In the evening you will arrive in Caen, where you will have dinner and overnight in the Mercure for the next four nights.

Our guide in Normandy will be Mr. François Robinard, retired chief of the Caen archives who grew up between Utah and Omaha Beach and who is a passionate of local history.

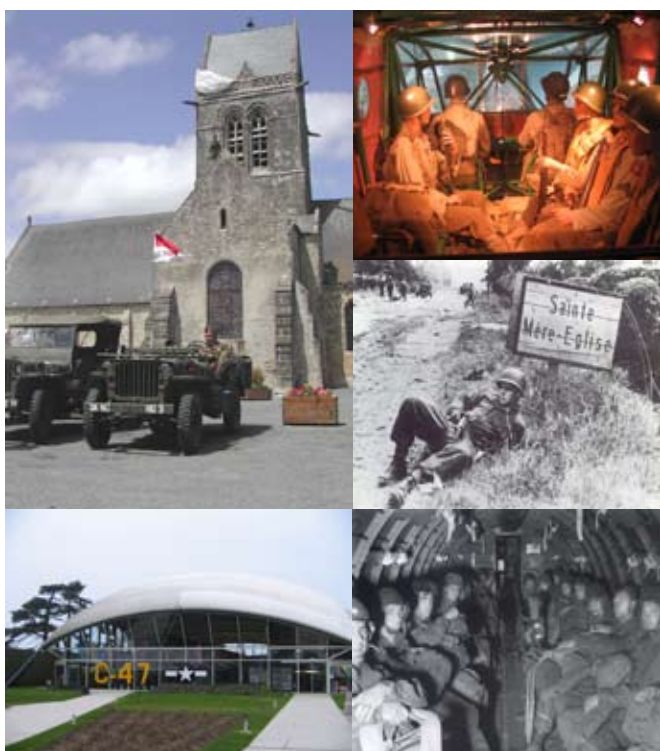


## Thursday, April 24 Normandy: Caen - St-Mère-Eglise - Utah Beach - Caen

After breakfast you will go for a walk on Utah Beach, where you will see the first milestone of the road to liberty.

You will visit the Utah Beach Museum which is partially built onto a German bunker complex. It offers a panoramic view over the sea and has a cinema, dioramas, scale models and an impressive collection of ephemera, photographs and items donated by veterans.

We will also visit the Airborne Museum at S<sup>te</sup> Mère Eglise, the first village to be liberated. Today, this village still has a parachute on its church steeple as a reminder of its liberation. We will follow the road of the Rangers and the 29th by bus with multiple tour stops to see the many monuments, memorials, battle areas and bunkers. Then, back to the hotel in Caen for dinner and overnight.



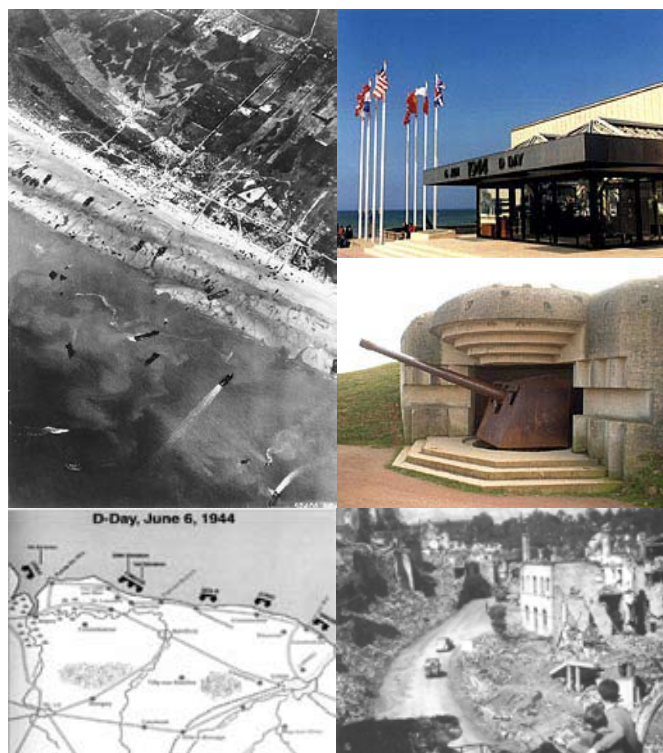
## Friday, April 25

### Normandy: Caen - Omaha Beach - Colleville - Caen

After breakfast this morning is spent at Omaha Beach where you will make an extensive visit of the museum.

While retracing the itinerary of the D-Day landings, as you look above the houses and restaurants that line the road above the sea you can see pillboxes rooted in the undergrowth. Slit trenches can still be explored along the cliff edge and when the tide recedes. The dead of the battles are buried at the Normandy American National Cemetery in nearby Colleville and Memorial at St Laurent.

You will be impressed by Pointe du Hoc, a sheer 100-foot high cliff where the Americans assaulted a German artillery battery. You can wander around impressive bomb craters and concrete remains, the visible reminders of those fights.



## Saturday, April 26

### Normandy: Caen - Mont St. Michel - Caen

This day will be dedicated to the visit of the famous Mont St. Michel: the abbey, the museums and the parish church.

It will take about 2.5 hours to get there by bus. You will have enough time to visit this medieval town located in the midst of an immense bay which is regularly invaded by the highest tides in Europe.

The Mount, consecrated to St Michel in 708, was one of the first places of cult for the Archangel Michel.

Today you can visit its shops and museums, such as the archéoscope (about the construction of the monument), the museum of history (weapons, sculptures), the maritime museum or the tiphaine's house..

## Sunday, April 27

### Gathering at Colleville - Paris

After breakfast you will gather at the United States military cemetery in Colleville for the ceremony with all of the Scouts from Europe.

Afterwards you leave for Paris. That afternoon you will check in to the same hotel as upon your arrival, the Mercure la Défense 5. You are free to get ready for your departure next morning or for a last goodbye to Paris, France and Europe. Dinner and overnight.

## Monday, April 28

### Paris

After an early breakfast you will leave the hotel to the airport for your departure at 9:55 a.m.