

Campaigns Pavilion



Executive Summary:

The stories of World War II span several years and many continents, and engaged hundreds of thousands of people in the air, at sea, underwater, in the jungle, the desert, the snow and everywhere in between. Through immersive environments that recreate the look and feel of a specific place and time, the Museum will transport visitors to the World War II era in the galleries. The Campaigns Pavilion will house the most significant exhibitions and stories of World War II, representing the “heart and soul” of The National World War II Museum’s expansion. All campaigns of the war on land, sea, and air, and every branch of the U.S. military services will be explored in this important pavilion.

The Road to Berlin: European – Mediterranean Campaign Gallery

Europe is probably the most familiar theater of World War II – and in other ways, the most unfamiliar. The European – Mediterranean Campaign Gallery will present the larger context of the European front, helping visitors to understand what preceded and what followed the landing on Normandy – connecting the battles in Europe to the essential, but less widely known campaigns and efforts that laid the groundwork for the D-Day invasions, such as the battle for control of the Atlantic and the hard-fought struggle in North Africa, which became our stepping-stone to Italy. It will help visitors to understand and appreciate the challenges, strategies, and operations that paved the way for D-Day, as well as the bloody battles that followed in the Allied drive to Berlin.

The Road to Tokyo: Asia – Pacific Campaign Gallery

For America, World War II began in the Pacific. Although the nation’s attention had long been drawn to events in Europe, it was the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that officially brought America into World War II. The Asia – Pacific Campaign Gallery builds on that galvanizing event, following the path that leads from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Harbor by way of New Guinea and Southeast Asia, the Himalayas, Burma, and the islands of the Pacific. The gallery will explore the evolving strategy for fighting in Asia and the Pacific, and the cultural differences and tremendous range of extreme conditions that confronted our soldiers.