East Meets West: The Link-up on the Elbe

SAVE $1000 PER COUPLE WHEN BOOKED BY NOVEMBER 15, 2017

An 8-Night River Cruise From Berlin to Prague Featuring Best-Selling Authors Sir Antony Beevor, James Holland and Alexandra Richie, DPhil

MAY 14-22, 2018
Dear Friend,

The cornerstone of the Museum’s tremendously successful educational travel program is bringing enriching and unique experiences to our valued members, helping them to understand the many complexities of the war that changed the world.

One of the Museum’s exciting travel offerings is our new East Meets West: The Link-up on the Elbe. This program will delve into fascinating aspects of the war that seldom come to the attention of Americans, and it combines the comfort and convenience of the newly launched MS Elbe Princess with visiting these historical sites.

The participation of the renowned authors and historians in the program reflects our commitment to providing an unparalleled experience. Sir Antony Beevor provides insights based on decades of research, and excerpts on his best-selling book The Fall of Berlin: 1945 during the optional Berlin pre-cruise extension program and the early days of the voyage. James Holland, television personality and author of numerous books and Alexandra Richie, author of two best-selling books and perennial favorite at our International Conference, accompany guests along the iconic Elbe River to Prague.

One of the remarkable features of this program is the addition of our special guest and Museum friend, Captain T. Moffatt Burriss. As a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, Burriss saw combat at Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, Holland, the Ardennes, and in Germany — where he raised a toast to Allied victory with Soviet soldiers. His exhilarating personal stories will make this a memorable journey.

As I’m sure you’ll agree, this is an important Museum trip for many reasons, including the insights it will offer into the beginnings of the Cold War. And this is a rare opportunity to sail along a stunning river not often visited by Americans.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller, PhD
President & CEO, The National WWII Museum

PHOTO CREDIT: GENERAL COURTNEY HODGES, THE US 1ST ARMY COMMANDER MEETS UP WITH A SENIOR SOVIET OFFICER AT THE RIVER ELBE AT TORGAU, WHERE THE ALLIES MET FROM THE EAST AND WEST/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES
A BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP

On the partially destroyed bridge over the Elbe, the Soviet and American soldiers built a new one – between countries. On this historic day, they met as comrades-in-arms, embraced, and exchanged “souvenirs” such as buttons, stars and patches from each other’s uniforms.

FROM OUR COLLECTION

Below are photos of artifacts from the Link-up on the Elbe that the Museum has in its collection. Other documents and materials from the Museum’s archive will be reproduced and shared with tour participants.

TOKAREV “TT” PISTOL

Major General James Edward Moore, Chief of Staff, IX Army, linked up with Soviet forces at the Elbe River just prior to VE-Day. The pistol was presented to Gen. Moore by an unidentified Soviet general. General Moore remained in the army after the war and ascended to command SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) in 1963.

Gift of Major Robert B. Kazak 2016.415.001

TEREK COSSACK HAT

The Soviet Union was composed of many diverse ethnic groups, and the traditional military forces of these groups were incorporated into the Soviet Army. Cossack cavalymen from the Russian Steppes region were one such group. This hat, based on a traditional Cossack design, was given to Lt. George Taulbee, Sr., of the 83rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion when he met Soviet Forces on the Elbe River in 1945.

Gift in memory of George Taulbee, Sr. 2004.185.012

“In the name of those who have fallen on the battlefields, those who have left this life and in the name of their descendants, the way to war must be blocked!” – Oath of the Elbe
Today, the Elbe River is one of the major waterways of Central Europe, originating in the Czech Republic and running through Austria, Poland, and Germany to the North Sea. In 1945, the Elbe was the site of the monumental link-up between the Western Allies and the Red Army. Near the end of the war, American forces were ordered to halt at the Elbe, allowing the Soviet Union to attack and seize Berlin, and the Elbe became part of the border between East Germany and West Germany.

THE ELBE RIVER

PHOTO: A STAGED MOMENT WHICH OCCURRED ON THE WRECKED BRIDGE OVER THE ELBE RIVER AT TORGAU, SHOWING THE FIRST MEETING OF AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN SOLDIERS AS THEY REACH OUT TO SHAKE HANDS.
From 1940-1945, T. Moffatt Burriss went from Clemson graduate and first-year physics teacher, to a battle-hardened paratrooper who fought through Sicily, Anzio, Nijmegen, and the Ardennes with the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. At Fort Benning in 1942, Burris volunteered for the paratroopers, lured in part by the extra pay, and in part by a remark from a former ROTC classmate who claimed that paratroopers “never have to dig a foxhole and live in it for three months.” He would end the war as one of only a few Americans to cross the Elbe before the German surrender, and one of the first Americans to enter Berlin.

Burriss distinguished himself in combat in Sicily and Anzio before dropping into the Netherlands for Operation Market-Garden. Tasked with crossing the Waal River at Nijmegen, Burriss faced his toughest challenge to date. The river was swift, and it was a textbook example of an impregnable defense. The Germans claimed the high ground and possessed superior firepower. Burriss and his fellow paratroopers were supplied with collapsible canvas boats and only a few paddles – some men paddled with their rifle butts. The crossing was chaotic, as boats were swept down river or capsized while under fire, but Burris and his men still captured the objective.

After advancing to the Elbe, Burriss crossed the river without permission and persuaded a German three-star general to surrender his entire corps. Burriss thought that his experiences in Sicily, Anzio, Nijmegen, and the Ardennes left his men “prepared for everything, immune to shock, and inured to horror.” Just a few miles east of the Elbe River, a gag-inducing smell hung over the towns. It would lead them to the Wobbelin Concentration Camp, which was beyond anything he could have imagined, “A gruesome and sickening sight.”
James Holland is a historian, writer, and broadcaster. The author of the best-selling *Fortress Malta*, *Battle of Britain*, and *Dam Busters*, he has also written nine works of historical fiction, five of which feature the heroic Jack Tanner, a soldier of the Second World War. He is currently writing a three-volume new history of the Second World War in the West and a book about the Defense of the Admin Box in Burma. The first volume, *The War in the West: Germany Ascendant, 1939-1941*, is out now and the second, *The Allies Strike Back: 1941-1943*, will be released in October 2017.

He regularly appears on television and radio, and has written and presented the BAFTA-shortlisted documentaries, *Battle of Britain* and *Dam Busters* for the BBC, as well as the *Battle for Malta, Cold War, Hot Jets*, and *Normandy 44*.

Co-founder and Programme Director of the hugely successful Chalke Valley History Festival, he has his own collection at the Imperial War Museum, and is Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is also an avid cricketer, and plays for both Chalke Valley CC and the Authors CC.

Alexandra Richie is an historian of Germany and Central and Eastern Europe, with a specialization in defense and security issues. She completed her B.A. (Hons) in Political Science at the University of Victoria and went on to study at St. Antony’s College, Oxford, where she wrote her doctoral thesis, *The Political Manipulation of History in East and West Germany*.

Richie is also the author of *Faust’s Metropolis: A History of Berlin*, which was named one of the top ten books of the year by *American Publisher’s Weekly*, and *Warsaw 1944*, which won the *Newsweek* Teresa Torańska Prize for best non-fiction book of 2014 and the Kazimierz Moczarski Prize for Best History Book 2015.

She has contributed to many articles, documentaries, radio, and television programs, and is the Convener of the Presidential Counselors at The National WWII Museum. She is also a member of the Senate at the Collegium Civitas University in Warsaw, Poland, and the Władysław Bartoszewski co-chair of History and International Studies at the Collegium Civitas.

HIS WORK "THE SECOND WORLD WAR" WAS ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER. HIS BOOKS HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO MORE THAN THIRTY LANGUAGES AND SOLD OVER SEVEN MILLION COPIES. A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS, HE HAS RECEIVED HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM THE UNIVERSITIES OF KENT, BATH, EAST ANGLIA, AND YORK. HE IS ALSO A VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT AND A FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE LONDON.

East Meets West:
The Link-Up on the Elbe

BERLIN TO PRAGUE | MAY 14-22, 2018

The Elbe River is one of Europe’s most storied waterways as well as the site of one of the most famous military link-ups in world history: the monumental meeting between the forces of the Western Allies and the Soviet Union on April 25, 1945. Join historians and best-selling authors Sir Antony Beevor, James Holland, and Alexandra Richie, DPhil, as we revisit this monumental meeting near Torgau, Germany. This convergence was the result of years of hard-won battles, and meant that the end of the war was finally near. From the east, the Soviet Union won a long and vicious battle in Stalingrad from November 1942, to February 1943, and embarked on a slow and bloody push toward Germany. In the West, American forces faced a difficult and costly 100 days in Normandy, overcoming fierce German resistance in the Huertgen Forest and the Ardennes to cross the Rhine and push toward Berlin. Once both forces reached the banks of the Elbe, photographers spent days arranging photos of the soldiers shaking hands and celebrating.

During our cruise, visit the rebuilt city of Dresden, site of one of the most infamous bombing raids in history; tour the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation in Wittenberg, with stops at the All Saints Church and the Luther House; and bear witness to the Nazis’ attempt to hide the true nature of their extermination policies from the world at Theresienstadt Concentration Camp.

From $4,995 per person (double occupancy) when booked by November 15, 2017
MONUMENT COMMEMORATING THE MEETING OF RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN FORCES IN TORGAU
D A Y 1
The Experience: Berlin

Transfer from Berlin Tegel Airport or the Sofitel Berlin Kurfürstendamm (home to the optional, pre-tour extension, *Berlin: From Nazism to the Wall*) to the MS *Elbe Princesse*. The onboard journey begins with the opportunity to become acquainted with fellow travelers during a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Accommodations: MS *Elbe Princesse* (R/D)

D A Y 2
The Experience: Potsdam

After docking in Potsdam, visit the House of the Wannsee Conference, the building where Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich detailed the “Final Solution,” the extermination of the Jewish population of Europe. On the 50th Anniversary of the Conference, the Wannsee House reopened as a Holocaust Memorial and Museum in 1992. Continue to Potsdam and the Cecilienhof Palace, site of the Potsdam Conference where Truman, Attlee, and Stalin discussed the partition of Germany and the trials of Nazi war criminals in 1945.

Accommodations: MS *Elbe Princesse* (B, L, D)
Magdeburg has the unfortunate history of having been destroyed twice in its history. During the Thirty Years’ War, the important Protestant city was attacked by a force estimated to have been 40,000 strong. After a day of heavy artillery attacks and several days of looting, many buildings and homes were destroyed, and the city retained only a small fraction of its population following the battle. It never regained its former standing as an equal in importance with the cities of Hamburg and Cologne. In January 1945, a raid by the Royal Air Force again destroyed most of the city, and the Magdeburg Cathedral stands as one of only a few structures to have withstood both attacks.

Accommodations: MS Elbe Princesse (B, L, D)
DAY 4
The Experience: Wittenberg

As the cruise continues south, visit the city of Wittenberg, famous for Martin Luther’s 95 Theses and spared destruction by the Allies during World War II. The catalyst for the Protestant Reformation, Luther’s protests against policies and corruption in the Catholic Church had wide-ranging and long-term effects on the region. Visit the All Saints Church where the doors commemorate Luther’s actions and the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Luther House.

Accommodations: MS Elbe Princesse (B, L, D)
DAY 5
The Experience: Torgau

In Torgau, the story turns to the monumental meeting on the Elbe between American and Soviet forces. The tour visits both sides of the river: the western side where the American advance was ordered to halt, and the eastern side where the Soviets stopped. At the time of the meeting, plans were already underway to split Germany into occupation zones, and the Red Army was attacking Berlin. During the Cold War, this river would form a portion of the boundary between East Germany and West Germany.

Accommodations: MS Elbe Princesse (B, L, D)
Dresden was one of the most important centers of modern art and dance in early 20th century Germany. Tragically, the Allies firebombed Dresden in 1945, almost completely destroying its architecture, paintings, theaters, and museums. During the attack, POW Kurt Vonnegut survived by securing himself in an underground meat locker. The experience became the inspiration for his acclaimed work *Slaughterhouse Five*. The creative heart of Dresden’s residents remained intact, and painstaking restorations of the buildings continue to this day. Pay a visit to the Bundeswehr Military History Museum, located inside a former arsenal. After lunch continue on to Frauenkirche, the Church of Our Lady. Destroyed during the firebombing of Dresden in 1945, the ruins of the church sat for almost 50 years as a monument to WWII. Accommodations: MS Elbe Princess (B, L, D)
DAY 7
The Experience: Bad Schandau

After docking near the Czech Republic border, travel to one of the largest hilltop fortifications in Europe. The Königstein Fortress has been declared impregnable at several times throughout its history. Saxon kings would retreat to this fortress in times of war or instability, and Saxon treasures would be hidden inside. During World War II, the fortress served as a prison – first for Polish prisoners, and later for French officers and generals. In April 1942, French General Henri Giraud escaped the prison by lowering himself down the outer walls and jumping onto a train headed to France. He then traveled to North Africa via a British submarine. Accommodations: MS Elbe Princesse (B, L, D)
Born in Czechoslovakia, Mark spent his early childhood in hiding with his family. He states “we were like bounty, my mother, brother, and me. My father was in a different hiding place...so not to all get captured at the same time.” The daughter of the family who was hiding the Rubin family turned them in to the Gestapo for a reward. His father was captured the day before. The family was sent first to Sered, a transit camp, after which Mark’s father was able to bribe the Nazi officer to have the family sent to Terezin or Theresienstadt (north of Prague) which at that time had become a “model” Red Cross camp. The Germans had invited the Red Cross to inspect this camp to prove that Jews were not being systematically murdered, but instead, were just isolated from the general population. In reality, large deportations to Auschwitz prior to the Red Cross visit left the false impression that the camp was spacious with plenty of room for recreation and activities.

The family spent four days traveling across the country in a cattle car. Though Mark was only 7 years old at the time, he says, “you become an adult very quickly.” While in the camp, he had no knowledge of what was happening in the war. In May 1945, Terezin was liberated by the Russian forces after the fall of Berlin. Only 100 of the 35,000 children who were there during the war survived -- Mark, his brother, and his two cousins were four of the survivors. After liberation, Mark and his family settled in Bratislava, now the capital of Slovakia, and then in Presov, also in present-day Slovakia. When it became apparent that Communism was threatening the livelihood of the Rubin family, they emigrated to the United States, and arrived in New York on March 18, 1948.
DAY 8
The Experience: Litoměřice

Outside the town of Litoměřice, visit the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp, which primarily housed Jews from Bohemia, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany, and later was a transfer point to the death camps in Poland. To the outside world, the Nazis presented Theresienstadt as a model for Jewish resettlement. Propaganda films showed Jews living a comfortable life under the protection of the Third Reich with art and cultural activities available to all. Included in the films was the children’s opera Brundibar, written in 1938 and first performed by child inmates of the camp. A farewell reception, dinner, and special Q&A session with our featured historians this evening provides a meaningful end to a memorable voyage.

Accommodations: MS Elbe Princesse (B, L, R, D)

DAY 9
The Experience: Litoměřice/Prague

Disembark the MS Elbe Princesse this morning and transfer to the Vaclav Havel Airport in Prague or continue on the optional, post-cruise extension program, Prague: Repression and Revolt. (B)
OPTIONAL TWO-NIGHT PRE-CRUISE PROGRAM

BERLIN: FROM NAZISM TO THE WALL

$1,199 per person based on double occupancy ($399 single supplement)

Our custom-curated, optional, pre-cruise program in Berlin focuses on the city as both the center of the Third Reich and ground-zero for Cold War tensions. The program begins with the story of the city during Hitler’s reign, visiting the sites of the Reichstag Fire, the 1936 Olympics, and the ratification of the German surrender in Karlshorst. The following day, uncover the city’s Cold War history with stops along the remains of the Berlin Wall, at the Allied Museum, and at the Checkpoint Charlie Museum. See how items as small as a broken javelin or pages from a school textbook could symbolize Cold War tensions almost as strongly as the massive and tightly guarded Berlin Wall.

OPTIONAL TWO-NIGHT POST-CRUISE PROGRAM

PRAGUE: REPRESSION AND REVOLT

$1,199 per person based on double occupancy ($399 single supplement)

Explore the history of Prague, beginning with the Nazi takeover in 1939 and the systematic execution of its Jewish population. As Nazi Germany was in full retreat and nearing surrender in May 1945, the citizens of Prague rose up in rebellion to ensure that the Wehrmacht could not continue fighting from Czech territory. The rebellion ended with the German surrender on May 8, 1945, and the Red Army occupied the city. By 1948, a repressive Communist government controlled Czechoslovakia. Visit sites associated with the German occupation and the Communist period, including the Jewish Quarter, Prague Castle, and the Church of Cyril and Methodius, where Reinhard Heydrich’s assassins made their last stand.
MS Elbe Princesse

Built in 2016, the MS *Elbe Princesse* uses advanced paddle wheel technology to allow her to travel year round, even in the lowest water levels of the Elbe – something that vessels with regular propulsion are unable to do.

The 313-foot-long vessel offers two passenger decks with 40 outside staterooms accommodating 80 guests. Cabin amenities include Wi-Fi, central air conditioning and heating, flat screen televisions, hair dryers, and in-room mini-safes. The ship features a panoramic restaurant that accommodates all guests for single-service dining, a welcoming lounge, and a spacious sun deck. The contemporary décor and smart design of this four-star river cruise vessel provides a warm and inviting home for your journey along the famed Elbe River.
The Ship

The newly launched MS Elbe Princesse provides all the comforts and amenities of a 4-star hotel. With an ultra-shallow draft and unique paddlewheel propulsion, she is also ideal for navigating the water levels of this iconic river.

Her sleek exterior and smartly designed interior spaces are perfect for this unique journey. A full-service lounge with large windows, expansive outdoor seating areas with chaise lounges, and a comfortable dining room that accommodates all guests in a single seating. Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship ensures you are able to stay connected to friends and family at home.

Staterooms

All staterooms are equipped with a flat screen satellite television, hair dryer, mini-safe, desk, make-up mirror, closet with storage, and a private bathroom with shower. Each stateroom is also equipped with individually controlled heating and air conditioning to ensure your personal comfort throughout the cruise. The vessel is not outfitted with an elevator.

Category A:
- 161 Square Feet
- Located on the Upper Deck
- French balcony
- Two twin-size beds, convertible to one queen

Category B:
- 156 Square Feet
- Located on Main Deck
- Window
- Two twin-size beds, convertible to one queen

Category C:
- 156 Square Feet
- Located on Main Deck (Aft)
- Window
- Two twin-size beds, convertible to one queen

The TARIFF PER PERSON is as follows:

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Prices listed are based on double occupancy. A 60% Single Supplement applies for single accommodation and is available in Category B only. Airfare is not included in the prices listed. Please inquire at time of booking for best available airfare pricing.
The National WWII Museum Signature Journeys extend the Museum’s tradition of inspiration, excellence, and thoughtful inquiry to important World War II sites around the world. With VIP access to the most intriguing destinations, rich historical context from curators, primary-source materials from the Museum’s digital collections, and custom experiences found nowhere else, The National WWII Museum has become the leader in World War II travel, providing unforgettable journeys into history.

For a complete listing of the Museum’s educational travel tours, please visit www.ww2museumtours.org or call 1-877-813-3329 x 257.

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD WAR II
NOVEMBER 16 – 18, 2017 | NEW ORLEANS
Join the world’s preeminent WWII historians for an enlightening and engaging weekend featuring the Pre-Conference Symposium, “Hitler in History.”

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MAY 11 – MAY 17, 2018 | NORMANDY TO PARIS
A seven-day, six-night tour of France, focused on Alex Kershaw’s New York Times best-selling books The Bedford Boys and Avenue of Spies.

Book by December 1, 2017 and Save $1000 per Couple

EASY COMPANY
MAY 20 – JUNE 1, 2018 & JUNE 2 – 14, 2018

Book by December 1, 2017 and Save $1000 per Couple
Your tour fare covers arrangements and services including hotel accommodations, meals as per the itinerary, gratuities, ground transportation, guiding services, and special tour inclusions as described within the travel program brochures and on the Museum’s web-site at: www.nationalww2museum.org. All fares are quoted in US Dollars, are per guest and are based on double occupancy. As indicated above, airfare to and from the tour destination is not included in your tour fare. The Museum accepts no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets.

Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, up to the time of full payment the Museum reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier charges, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to the Museum upon notice to the tour participant of such increases.

NOT INCLUDED
Taxes, unless otherwise noted in the travel program brochure; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship and hotel personnel, unless otherwise noted in the travel program brochure; optional sightseeing excursions; airfare, baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport taxes; and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included in the travel program; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight expenses on land due to flight schedule(s) or delays; meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned as included in the travel program.

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To reserve your participation, submit an initial deposit of $1,000 per person within five (5) days of booking. A $200 per person deposit is due for any pre and/or post program options that you select. Final payment is due no later than ninety (90) days prior to departure. All reservations are subject to cancellation if payments are not received by the due date.

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Cancellations are subject to a $200 per person fee ($50 for Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs) from the time of booking through 121 days prior to departure; from 120 days up to 91 days prior to departure, $1,000 per person fee ($200 for Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs); from 90 days up to 61 days prior to departure 60% of the total tour cost (including Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs); 60 days or less prior to departure, no-show, or early return from trip will result in loss of 100% of the full tour cost (including Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs). In addition, applicable cancellation fees for confirmed additional hotel nights may apply.

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LIMITED TIME OFFER*
SAVE $1000 PER COUPLE*
WHEN BOOKED BY NOVEMBER 15, 2017
*SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS.

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New Orleans, LA 70130
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