



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
TRAVEL

Bringing history to life

MEGASTRUCTURES

FORCED LABOR AND MASSIVE WORKS IN THE THIRD REICH

Hamburg • Neuengamme • Binz • Peenemünde • Szczecin
Wałcz • Bydgoszcz • Szubin • Treblinka • Warsaw

Featuring
Best-selling Author & Historian
Alexandra Richie, DPhil

Photo: A view from inside a bunker from the Pomeranian Wall near Wałcz, Poland. Courtesy of Nathan Huegen.

Book early and save! See inside for details.



Historian, Author, and
Museum Presidential Counselor,
Alexandra Richie, DPhil

Dear Friend of the Museum,

Since 2015, I have been leading *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Germany*, a tour from Berlin to Warsaw with visits to Stalag Luft III, Wolf's Lair, Krakow, and more. As we look ahead to the future, I am excited to expand the tours in Poland, visiting a number of largely unexplored sites.

The all-new tour is named *Megastructures* after many of the large complexes we visit such as Peenemünde, the Politz Synthetic Oil Factory, and numerous gun batteries and bunkers. As we tour, we will pause to remember the forced laborers who suffered under Nazi oppression. We will learn of the prisoners at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp near Hamburg who, at first, manufactured construction materials, then transitioned into the main force that cleared the city's rubble and bodies after the devastating bombing raids of 1943.

In Prora, we will explore the Nazi's "Strength through Joy" initiative when we view the three-mile-long resort that was never completed. In preparation for its opening, Poles, Slavs, and others viewed as subhuman were trained as servants for the German leisure tourists who would visit the seaside resort.

We will also explore the battlefields in Poland. Near the city of Walcz, Polish and Soviet forces waged a furious battle against the Germans along some of the largest fortifications in Europe, known as the Pomeranian Wall. This wall was the eastern counterpart to the Siegfried Line, protecting Germany's borders.

Once we arrive in Warsaw, we have included an all-new itinerary designed to continue the story we began on *The Rise & Fall of Hitler's Germany*. With visits to Pawiak Prison, the Katyn Museum, and Treblinka, we will uncover more of the history of Warsaw during World War II.

This tour will be difficult, but rewarding. A journey like this will create lifelong impacts, and I am honored to join you as we commemorate the victims of Nazi oppression and experience the freedom that is now a part of daily life in Germany and Poland.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Richie, DPhil
Author and Featured Tour Historian

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM

5 Museum Quick Facts

- 8 million+** visitors since the Museum opened on June 6, 2000
- \$2 billion+** in economic impact
- 160,000+** active Museum members
- 8,000+** travelers, representing every US state
- 625,000+** social media followers

TRAVEL TO 27 COUNTRIES

covering all theaters of World War II

30

Tour Programs operated on average per year, at times **accompanied by WWII veterans**

VISIT 16 & 189

Overseas American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries & memorials plus museums on our itineraries

TRAVEL WITH EXPERTS

- 26** top historians with
- 174** published books and
- 47** documentary credits

ww2museumtours.org

#1 ATTRACTION IN NEW ORLEANS

LEARN THEIR NAMES

Remembering the children of Neuengamme Concentration Camp

Within the Neuengamme Concentration Camp, the Nazis used 20 children between the ages of 5 and 12 for medical experiments. SS officer Kurt Heissmeyer exposed the children to tuberculosis to study the effects of the disease on Jewish children. The experiments lasted until April 19, 1945, when British troops approached the edge of the city. The men in charge of the experiments knew that the discovery of the children would cause an outcry. On April 20, the Nazis moved the children to the schoolhouse at Bullenhuser Damm. Nazi guards administered morphine injections before hanging the children. In an attempt to hide the evidence, the SS burned the bodies in a Neuengamme crematorium. Thirty years after the murders, the surviving parents learned of their children's fate. Bullenhuser Damm School is now a memorial to the children and their caretakers who died there in 1945.



Mania Altman
Age 7, Poland



Roman Witoński
Age 6, Poland



Walter Junglieb
Age 12, Yugoslavia



Eleonora Witoński
Age 5, Poland



Eduard Hornemann
Age 12, Netherlands



Alexander Hornemann
Age 8, Netherlands



Marek James
Age 6, Poland



Marek Steinbaum
Age 7, Poland



Roman Zeller
Age 12, Poland



Sergio de Simone
Age 7, Italy



Surcis Goldinger
Age 11, France



Lelka Birnbaum
Age 12, Poland



Ruchla Zylberberg
Age 8, Poland



H. Wasserman
Age 8, Poland



Lea Klygerman
Age 8, Poland



Eduard Reichenbaum
Age 10, Poland



Bluma Mekler
Age 11, Poland



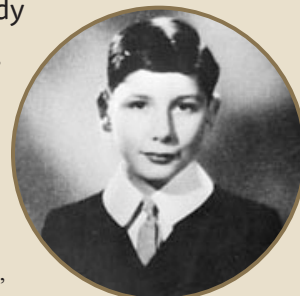
Rywka Herszberg
Age 6, Poland

Friendship through tragedy

After the death of Jacqueline's mother, she was sent to a special children's barrack in Auschwitz where the children were being held for later medical experiments. The majority of the children spoke only Polish, but one of the boys, Georges-André Kohn, spoke French, too, and they became close friends.



Jacqueline Morgenstern
Age 12, France



Georges-André Kohn
Age 12, France

HEAR THEIR STORIES

Prisoners of Oflag 64



On June 6, 1943, a prison camp in Szubin was designated *Oflag 64* and reserved for American officers. The first 150 prisoners to arrive came from North Africa, many of them captured in the Battle of Kasserine Pass. The men called themselves “Kriegies,” short for the German term for prisoner of war *Kriegsgefangenen*. The men attempted an escape in late 1943 by digging a tunnel, but in 1944, news arrived of the disastrous “Great Escape” attempt at *Stalag Luft III*. Plans for the tunnel ended. To keep moral up, the prisoners published a newspaper called *The Oflag 64 Item* with “All the News That’s Been Geprüft (checked)” and boasted “The Largest Circulation Inside the Wire.” In January 1945, the Germans evacuated most of the Americans west as the Soviets approached. On January 23, the camp was liberated by the Soviet Army. Approximately 100 Americans remained in the camp, and they soon became pawns in negotiations over repatriating Soviet prisoners liberated in the west. Today, a small monument marks the location of the camp.

STAND WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE

Peenemünde



The research facilities at Peenemünde created the feared *Vergeltungswaffen* or vengeance weapons such as the V-1 and V-2 rockets and the V-3 gun. From Peenemünde, Wernher von Braun oversaw the creation of the world’s first cruise missiles and ballistic rockets. Like most German work areas, Peenemünde used slave labor from nearby camps, including Buchenwald, to construct the test sites and rockets. On August 17/18, 1943, Bomber Command attempted to bomb the site, but missed, accidentally bombing the labor camp. This raid, and another like it a week later, resulted in only minimal damage to the program. Between 1943 and 1945, an estimated 60,000 forced laborers worked in the factories building the V-weapons. Approximately 20,000 prisoners died from disease, malnutrition, and execution.



Photo top: Men inspecting the control unit of a V2 rocket (unit 4) at a testing site launch pad in Peenemünde. Courtesy of Bundesarchiv. Background photo: View of the historical technical museum in Peenemünde. Courtesy of Image Professionals GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo.



MEGASTRUCTURES

Forced Labor and Massive Works in the Third Reich

Hamburg • Neuengamme • Binz • Peenemünde • Szczecin
 Wałcz • Bydgoszcz • Szubin • Treblinka • Warsaw

From ~~\$7,495~~ **\$6,995*** double occupancy,

~~\$9,595~~ **\$9,095*** single occupancy

\$239 per person taxes and fees are additional.



MULTIPLE DEPARTURES AVAILABLE.

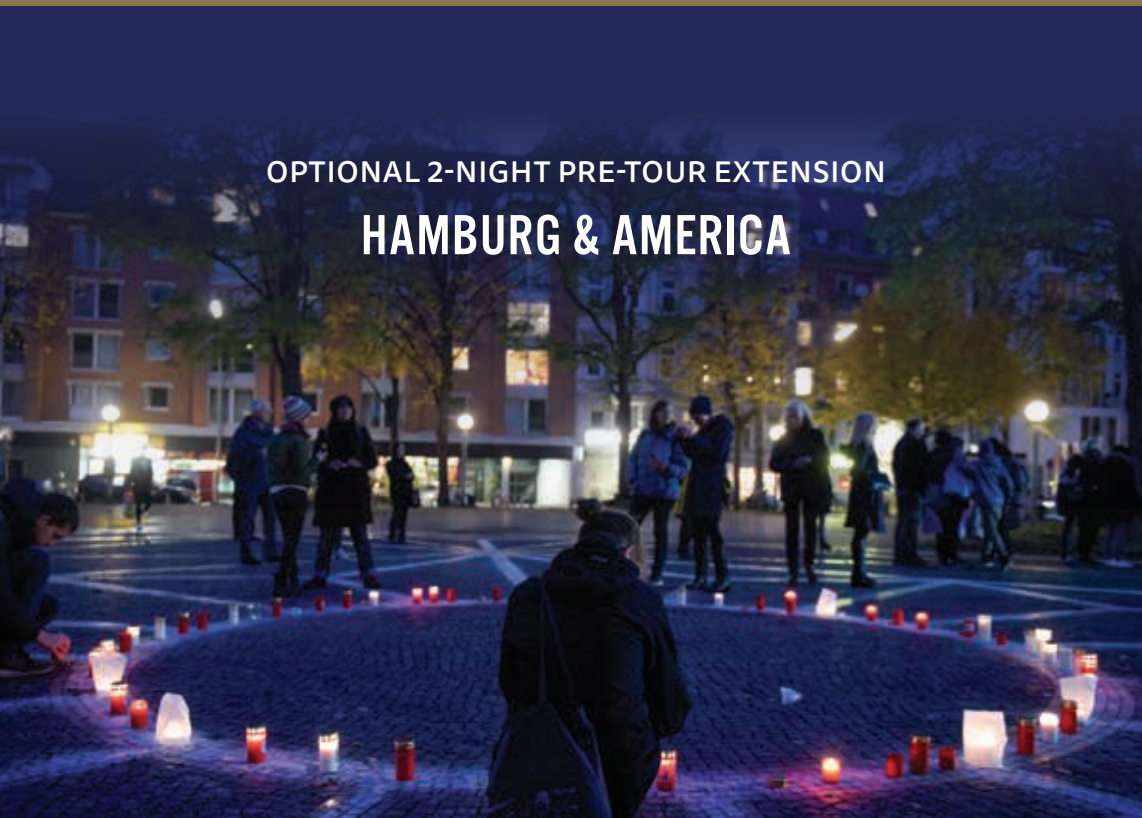
VISIT WW2MUSEUMTOURS.ORG FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING
 OF ALL TOUR OFFERINGS AND EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Unique and exclusive itinerary designed by The National WWII Museum and Dr. Alexandra Richie
- Special access to sites not offered on other tours, including a special farewell dinner at a historic, private home
- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local guides
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Luxury five-star and deluxe four-star accommodations throughout the journey
- Private, first-class, air conditioned motor coach transportation
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters and servers
- 11 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 4 Dinners, and 3 Receptions
- Beer, house wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinner
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge

OPTIONAL 2-NIGHT PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

HAMBURG & AMERICA



PRE-TOUR PROGRAM ITINERARY

Day One – Arrival

Arrive into Hamburg Airport (HAM) and transfer to Hotel Atlantic Kempinski where the balance of the afternoon is free to explore this charming city along the Elbe.

This evening, meet your fellow tour mates at a welcome reception.

Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection (R)

Day Two – Jewish Quarter

Before World War II, approximately 20,000 Jews lived in Hamburg. The rise of the Nazi regime saw the synagogues destroyed and a 1937 proclamation that Hamburg would become one of five “Führer cities.” As a “Führer city,” Hamburg underwent a transformation into Germany’s model shipping center. Systematic persecution of Hamburg’s Jewish population increased, leading to the mass deportations in 1941. Today, your local expert will escort you through the Jewish Quarter and to a viewing of the Curio-Haus, the location where the British military oversaw trials of officials from the Neuengamme and Ravensbruck concentration camps. Continue to the Jewish Cemetery in the Ohlsdorf district.

Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection (B, L)

Day Three – Hamburg’s Emigration Halls

From 1850-1934, Hamburg served as the main port of emigration for those departing Eastern Europe for the United States. After a long and arduous land journey, emigrants would stay for several days in the halls near the docks while awaiting their embarkation to America. In 1901, four Swiss-chalet style halls increased the comfort of the accommodations. The Nazis destroyed these halls in 1934. Rebuilt in the early 2000s, the halls are now part of the Ballinstadt Museum, which details the emigration process and the conditions of the passage to the United States. Join the main tour group this evening for a Welcome Dinner.

Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection (B, R, D)

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Two nights accommodations at the 5-star Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection
- Transfer from Hamburg Airport (HAM) to Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection
- Two full days of touring, including all admissions
- 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 1 Reception
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and reception
- Expert local guide/tour manager
- Private, first-class, air conditioned motor coach transportation
- Personal listening devices on all included touring

From \$1,495 double occupancy,
\$1,895 single occupancy
\$129 per person taxes and fees are additional.



Photo Page 10: : Visitors light grave lights at Joseph-Carlbach-Platz, on which the floor plans of the Bornplatz Synagogue, which was destroyed by the National Socialists, are painted with chalk. Under the motto “Grindel leuchtet” (Grindel shines), the 1938 pogrom night is commemorated in the Hamburg quarter of the Jewish victims. Courtesy of Axel Heimken/dpa/Alamy Live News Photo Page 11: A mother from Eastern Europe with her three children at the port of Hamburg shortly before embarking for America. Courtesy of Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy Stock Photo.

ITINERARY

DAY ONE

ARRIVE HAMBURG



Arrive in Hamburg (HAM) and transfer to the Hotel Atlantic Kempinski. Enjoy free time this afternoon before this evening's welcome dinner and tour preview with Dr. Alexandra Richie.

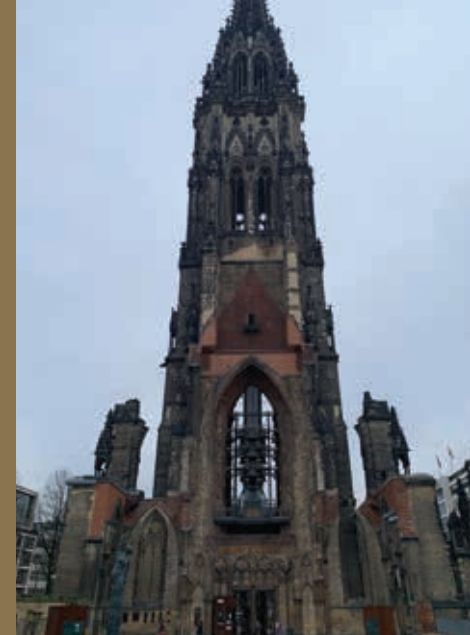
Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection (R, D)

Photo Hamburg Town Hall.

ITINERARY

DAY TWO

OPERATION GOMORRAH



During the last week of July 1943, a combined bomber offensive over Hamburg left approximately 40,000 people dead and destroyed much of the city. On the ground, the experience was a nightmare. Civilians sought shelter underground, but the resulting firestorm sucked the oxygen from the air and made the underground tunnels as dangerous as the surface.

Visit St. Nicholas Church, which has been preserved in a state of destruction with the tower still standing as the second-tallest structure in Hamburg. An observation platform in the tower gives a panoramic view of the city. Continue on a tour of other remains of the bombing of Hamburg including the flak towers and an underground bunker. The day concludes at the Ohlsdorf Cemetery, one of the largest cemeteries in the world. Ohlsdorf holds a mass grave of bombing victims and a peace memorial. The evening is free to explore Hamburg independently.

Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection (B, L)

Photo Left: St. Nicholas Church in Hamburg. Courtesy of Nathan Huegen.
Photo Right: Angel on Earth statue by Edith Breckwoldt in front of the St. Nicholas Church.
Courtesy of The National WWII Museum.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OPERATION GOMORRAH



Until early 1943, the air war against Germany focused mainly on the industrial Ruhr region, where a five-month bombing campaign severely slowed German steel production. At the Casablanca Conference in 1943, Allied leadership discussed plans for a combined bomber offensive and round-the-clock bombing. Hamburg, an industrial city near the coast with shipyards and manufacturing facilities, presented an attractive target. Planning for the raid included new technology such as chaff and improved incendiary bombs.

Just after midnight on July 24, 1943, Operation Gomorrah began with a large raid by the Royal Air Force. The RAF began the attack by dropping thin strips of metal called "chaff" or window to confuse German radar. The heavy bombers then dropped their loads on Hamburg, igniting small fires around the city. The fires overwhelmed Hamburg's fire response, and the flames lingered into the next day.

While the British bomber crews bombed at night, the American Army Air Forces took over daylight bombings. Inexperienced at this stage of the war, the American bombers counted on daylight visibility to see their targets, but German flak and fighters would also benefit in the daylight. The Americans targeted the Blohm and Voss shipyard and an aero-engine factory. Unfortunately, smoke from the prior night's bombing and the German fighters kept the bombers off course. The shipyards received only minor damage, and the factory sustained no damage from the bombing.

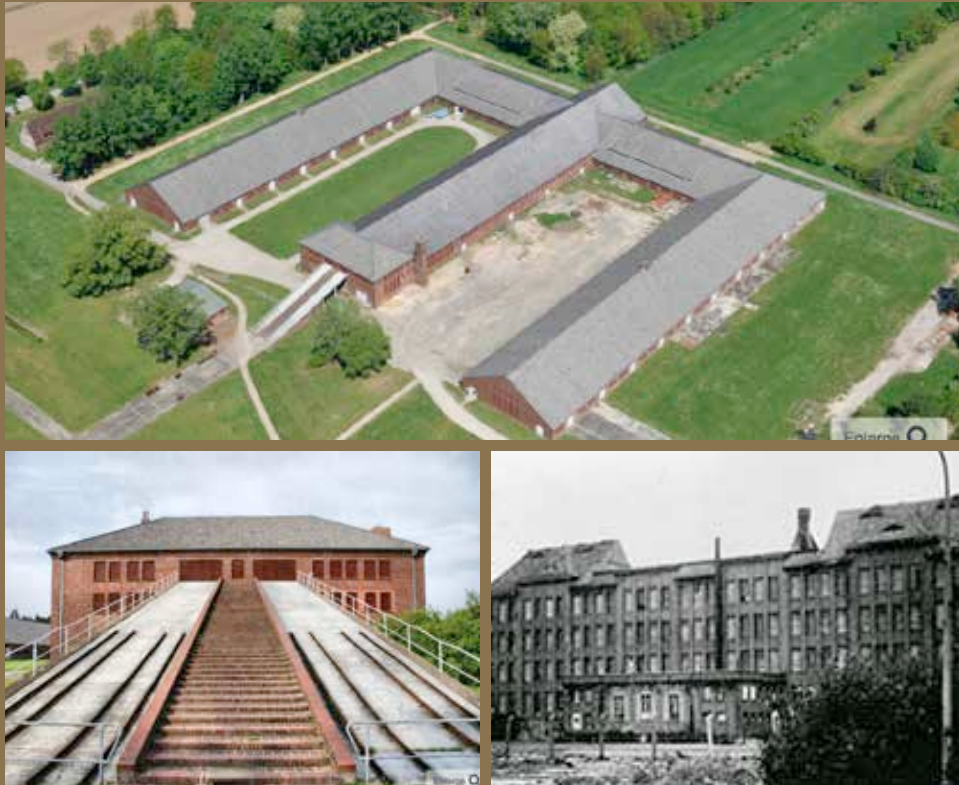
Attacks continued for several more days. On the night of July 27, 1943, British bombers again hit Hamburg. This attack led to an enormous firestorm, with winds reaching up to 150mph and with temperatures up to 1,470 degrees Fahrenheit. The inferno covered 8 square miles of the city, igniting asphalt roads and oil that had spilled out of damaged ships into nearby canals. When operation Gomorrah concluded on August 3, 1943, roughly 42,000 people were dead. Another 37,000 were injured. Half of the city was rubble.

The bombing campaign seriously reduced Hamburg's ability to produce war goods. The loss included a quarter of Hamburg's large factories and half of its smaller factories. Hamburg's transportation networks were up and running soon after the attack, but the city never fully recovered during the war. The British advanced on and captured the city in April 1945.

Photo Page 14: A woman runs through the streets of Hamburg with her last few possessions during an Allied air raid on the town, 1943. Courtesy of Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy Stock Photo. Photo Page 15: The Casablanca Conference participants (left to right) General Henri Giraud, President Franklin Roosevelt, General Charles de Gaulle, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill meet in a yard in Paris. © KEYSTONE Pictures USA. Courtesy of Alamy Stock Images.

ITINERARY

DAY THREE NEUENGAMME



In December 1938, the Nazis established a prison camp at a former brick factory in the suburb of Neuengamme. They brought in the first prisoners with the goal of establishing a work camp to produce the bricks needed for military construction. The camp expanded rapidly. From 1938-1945, approximately 100,000 people passed through the gates of Neuengamme. More than half of them did not survive the war. Tuberculosis experiments conducted on Jewish children at Neuengamme ended in tragedy with 20 children between the ages of 5 and 12 hanged at the Bullenhuser Damm School in Hamburg. Today, pay tribute to the victims at Neuengamme and Bullenhuser Damm with visits to both memorial sites.

Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection (B)

Photo Top: Aerial view of Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. Courtesy of imageBROKER/Alamy Stock Photo. Photo Bottom Left: View of the brick factory at Neuengamme. Courtesy of Zoonar GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo Bottom Right: The building at Bullenhuser Damm after the end of the war ©Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.

ITINERARY

DAY FOUR KIEL



Depart Hamburg today and travel north to the outskirts of Kiel where the Nazis inaugurated a naval memorial that was planned during the Weimar Republic. At its dedication ceremony in 1934, Nazi officials used the memorial to remind visitors that Germany was not defeated on its own soil during World War I. The event served both to commemorate past German navies and to inaugurate a new German naval force in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles. Visit a museum on German naval history that discusses several German commanders from World War II and their fates. A viewing platform at the memorial's tower gives a glimpse of the next stop, a German U-Boat. U-995 patrolled the waters of the Baltic and the North Sea. Today it is a science museum allowing visitors to experience the inside of a WWII submarine. Depart Kiel for Binz, Germany, after lunch.

Accommodations: Travel Charme Kurhaus Binz (B, L)

Photo Top: A view of U-995 from the top of the adjacent German Naval Memorial. Courtesy of Nathan Huegen. Photo Bottom Left: A plaque commemorating the loss of the Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney II and the German auxiliary cruiser Kormoran. Both ships were sunk in a naval battle off the coast of western Australia. Courtesy of Nathan Huegen. Photo Bottom Right: The E-Maschinenraum (engine room) on U-995. Courtesy of Nathan Huegen.

ITINERARY

DAY FIVE PEENEMÜNDE



At the research facility located in Peenemünde, Wernher von Braun oversaw the development of the Nazis V-1 and V-2 rockets and the V-3 cannon. Over 60,000 forced laborers built the site while the Nazis tested their terror weapons. Despite von Braun's membership in the Nazi Party and rank of lieutenant in the SS, he received an invitation to come to the United States in 1945 as part of Operation Paperclip. Von Braun contributed to the US space program with the US Army and transferred to NASA in 1958 where he was the first director of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. A tour of the facility includes the science and technical museum located in the former power plant and a coach tour viewing the remains of the larger facility, which was mostly destroyed after the war. Return to Binz this evening and visit the remnants of the Nazi recreation facility at Prora. This nearly three-mile-long complex was a centerpiece of the Nazi "Strength through Joy" leisure program. Construction ceased in 1939 as the war redirected most of the materials away from Prora. Enjoy dinner with the group this evening in Binz.

Accommodations: Travel Charme Kurhaus Binz (B)

Photo Left: A rocket at Peenemü. Photo Top Right: Transport of a V2 (aggregate 4) rocket on the trailer of a half track vehicle in Peenemünde. ©Federal Archives collection courtesy of *Bundesarchiv*.
Photo Bottom Right: A group of officers and Nazi leaders, including Joseph Goebbels and Albert Speer (with bracelet "Org. Todt"), looking up at the sky in Peenemünde, August 17 or 18, 1943.

ITINERARY

DAY SIX SZCZECIN



Known as *Stettin* when the city was part of Germany, Szczecin was home to 135 forced labor camps during World War II. One of the most significant facilities in the area was the Politz Synthetic Oil refinery to the north of Szczecin. During the height of its production, the refinery produced 15% of Germany's oil. The refinery was the target of numerous bombing raids from 1944-45, including a 1,000 bomber raid on the night of February 8-9, 1945. The Soviets overran and dismantled much of the site at the end of the war, leaving the skeletons of the buildings visible. In Szczecin, visit the city's underground, where bomb shelters enabled the German citizens to escape from the raids. End the day at the Szczecin National Museum Dialogue Center, which features exhibits on World War II and the Cold War.

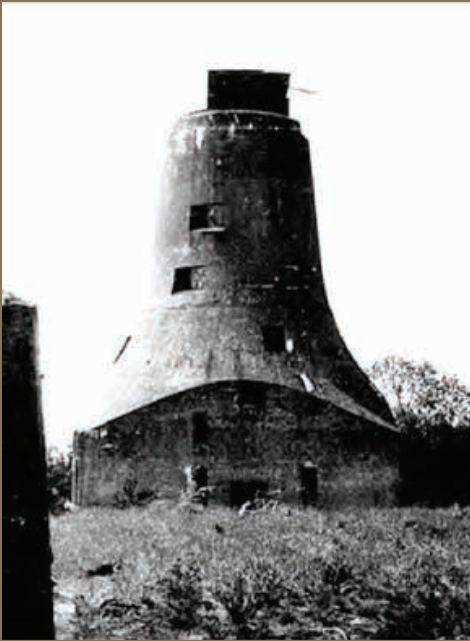
Accommodations: Grand Park Hotel Szczecin (B, L, R, D)

Photo Top and Bottom Right: Remains of the Politz Synthetic Oil Refinery near Szczecin, Poland. Courtesy of Nathan Huegen. Photo Bottom Left: Bomb attack in Stettin during World War II. Courtesy of Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy Stock Photo.

ITINERARY

DAY SEVEN

COASTAL ARTILLERY



Today's excursion heads north toward Swinoujscie. A V-3 site explains the long-range cannon filled with multiple explosive charges that, in theory, would allow projectiles to hit the UK from continental Europe. The V-3 was used in combat against the Allies in Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. After lunch, continue to Battery Goeben. Take a two kilometer hike through the forests east of Swinoujscie, and discover trenches that lead to several gun positions and a large observation tower. Constructed in 1938, the cannons at Battery Goeben never fired. In 1940, the Germans moved the cannons to Norway leaving the casemates at Goeben vacant.

Alternatively, remain in Szczecin today and tour the historic city center independently.

Accommodations: Grand Park Hotel Szczecin (B, L)

Photo Left: Battery Goeben circa 1938. Photo Right: Modern day view of Battery Goeben, which houses a museum in the old command bunker and serves as an observation tower. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum.

ITINERARY

DAY EIGHT

THE POMERANIAN WALL



The eastern counterpart to the Siegfried Line or Westwall, the Pomeranian Wall runs near the German/Polish border as it was prior to September 1, 1939. The tour visits the bunkers near the town of Walcz, including an open air museum featuring military vehicles. As the Red Army approached in January 1945, battles raged all along the Pomeranian Wall. The Polish-Soviet Cemetery at Walcz contains the remains of 6,045 Soviet and Polish soldiers, most of whom lost their lives in the fighting near this section of the Pomeranian Wall.

Accommodations: Hotel Słoneczny Młyn (B, L, D)

Photo Top: A view from outside a bunker from the Pomeranian Wall near Walcz, Poland. Courtesy of Sarah Kirksey. Photo Bottom Left: Bunker near Walcz. Courtesy of Sarah Kirksey. Tour guest exploring the inside of a bunker near Walcz. Courtesy of Sarah Kirksey.

ITINERARY

DAY NINE

SZUBIN



Departing Bydgoszcz this morning, visit the monument to *Oflag 64* in Szubin. *Oflag 64* served as a prison camp for American officers from 1943-1945. The first American officers arrived at the camp from Tunisia in June 1943. From this initial group of 150, the camp grew to hold nearly 1,500 men by January 1945. As the Red Army approached, the Germans forced the POWs to march nearly 400 miles to Hammelburg. When the Soviets reached Szubin, they found several hundred Americans who managed to evade the “Long March.” Depart for Warsaw this afternoon where guests can take an optional walking tour.

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol Warsaw (B, L, D)

Photo: Prisoners of war sitting in deckchairs in front of the main building. Photo by Erik R.Berg, courtesy of Bundesarchiv, N 1578 Bild-028-34.

ITINERARY

DAY TEN

TREBLINKA



Treblinka accentuates the brutal nature of the Nazis and their “Final Solution.” The regime promoted their ideal of the “Aryan Race,” while subjugating those whom they felt were inferior. Millions died under brutal conditions as slave laborers, were murdered in the streets, or fell victim to industrialized death camps like Treblinka. Between 800,000 and 900,000 people were murdered at Treblinka, making it the deadliest camp behind Auschwitz. While visiting Treblinka, what is now often referred to as one of the “forgotten camps,” you’ll be able to walk in the forest that once hid the second most lethal camp of the Holocaust. Begin with a visit to the small museum that houses relics and artifacts discovered over the years, and end with a walk through the area that once held the multiple gas chambers and a train depot that led to imminent death. Today, a memorial of stones represents the hundreds of thousands of victims who perished between July 1942 and July 1944 at Treblinka Extermination Camp.

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol Warsaw (B, L, R)

Photo: Stones at Treblinka Extermination Camp placed to symbolize gravestones contain inscriptions indicating the locations of Holocaust train departures.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

TREBLINKA



Between July 1942 and October 1943, Treblinka extermination camp operated in a forest just northeast of Warsaw. Following the invasion of Poland in September 1939, the Nazi party began rounding up Jews and putting them in ghettos, allowing them to be isolated and exploited for slave labor. These ghettos lacked adequate living conditions, food supplies, and other basic needs for a large population to survive.

At the Wannsee Conference in 1942, a new plan was established to deal with the “Jewish Question.” Known as *Aktion Reinhard*, the mass liquidation of the Jewish populations in occupied Europe proved to be the deadliest part of the “Final Solution.” Three extermination camps, Bełżec, Sobibor, and Treblinka turned murder into an industrial operation. Treblinka opened in two phases: Treblinka I as a work camp in 1941, and Treblinka II as an extermination camp in 1942. At most, Treblinka I housed 1,000 to 2,000 people used for slave labor to chop wood for the open-air crematorium or in the nearby quarry. Treblinka II had three sub-sections: the administrative section, the arrival section, and the execution section.

The commandant of Treblinka II, Franz Stangl, insisted his camp look hospitable so the incoming victims would not suspect their fate. He used forced labor to plant flowerbeds along the railroad tracks leading into a mock train station, complete with ticket counters and train schedules. Nearby buildings in the arrival section housed the personal belongings people brought with them, including luggage, shoes, and jewelry. A large pit behind a fake aid station served as the execution ground for the old, sick, and weak who were immediately shot, dumped, and later burned. The third section lay farther to the back with the large gas chambers. Originally, large holes were dug to hold the bodies, later replaced with crematoria.

In all, the Nazis murdered between 800,000 and 900,000 at Treblinka. With the termination of *Aktion Reinhard* on October 19, 1943, Treblinka ceased operations. Immediately, Jewish slaves began tearing down the camp, and worked to cover up any evidence of what happened there. The following August, Soviet forces found the human remains, including bones, teeth, and a black pathway made of human ash. Today, what remains of Treblinka is a memorial to those who perished at the hands of the Nazi party.

Photo Page 24: Nazi Concentration camp Treblinka in 1944. Courtesy of Alamy Stock Photo.
Photo Page 25: Dr. Alexandra Richie at the ash fields in Treblinka. Courtesy of Sarah Kirksey.

ITINERARY

DAY 11

WARSAW



Warsaw's rebirth is one of the most dramatic turnarounds of the 20th and early 21st centuries. Almost razed to the ground through Nazi brutality, two uprisings, and the battle between the Germans and Soviets, Warsaw is now a vibrant city with a youthful energy. As the city has expanded, it has kept the reminders of its tumultuous past. Visit several sites of remembrance including Pawiak Prison, the Katyn Museum, and the former Gestapo headquarters. Dr. Alexandra Richie will uncover even more of the history of the city before a final dinner at her countryside home, which also holds a rich historical significance.

Accommodations: Hotel Bristol Warsaw (B, R, D)

Photo Left: Close-up of posted obituaries on a tree in Pawiak Prison courtyard located in the former Warsaw ghetto. Courtesy of Thomas Lehne/lotuseaters/Alamy Stock Photo. Photo Top Right: Historic home of Dr. Alexandra Richie. Photo Bottom Right: Dr. Alexandra Richie in her home library with tour guests.

ITINERARY

DAY 12

DEPARTURES



Bid farewell to Poland this morning and transfer to Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW) for individual flights back to the United States. **(B)**

Photo: Sigismund's Column in Castle Square, Warsaw, Poland.



HOTEL ATLANTIC HAMBURG, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION

HAMBURG, GERMANY

Located directly on Lake Alster, the five-star Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection has served as a calm oasis since its opening in 1909. Centrally located, it is easy to explore Hamburg independently. Amenities include flat-screen TVs, Wi-Fi, and iPod docks, Nespresso machine, minibar and indoor pool. The Atlantic Restaurant offers a combination of modern German fare with regional and maritime cuisine.



TRAVEL CHARME KURHAUS BINZ

BINZ, GERMANY

Kurhaus Binz is noted for its excellent hospitality on the Baltic Sea island of Rügen, with more than 100 years of history. Today its fresh, modern design adds a special elegance to the rooms and restaurants. With a spectacular location on the beach and pier, the Kurhaus Binz offers unique style along with magnificent panoramic views of the Baltic Sea. Complimentary Wi-Fi is included.

Photo: Ariel view of the Grand Park Hotel Szczecin.



HAND-SELECTED ACCOMMODATIONS

GRAND PARK HOTEL SZCZECIN

SZCZECIN, POLAND

Grand Park Hotel in Szczecin boasts a unique combination of modern design with the soothing tranquility of the surrounding Kasprowicza Park. It is the ideal place for those who appreciate a high standard of customer service, luxury and tranquility. This boutique hotel has only 26 unique rooms and amenities such as smart TV, minifridge, and tea and coffee making facilities.



HOTEL SŁONECZNY MŁYN

BYDGOSZCZ, POLAND

The Słoneczny Młyn is the first 4-star hotel in the city located near the Brda River in Bydgoszcz. The building was renovated from the 19th-century Kentzer Mill. During World War II, the mill operated under the management of Gustaw Harmel of Germany until 1945. After the war, the mill became a private enterprise for a short time. In 1948, the mill was nationalized, and fell into disrepair. In 2008, the facility became the four-star "Słoneczny Młyn" Hotel. Complimentary Wi-Fi is included.



HOTEL BRISTOL WARSAW

WARSAW, GERMANY

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FEATURED AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN

Alexandra Richie, DPhil



Alexandra Richie is a historian of Germany as well as 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*. Her latest book, *Warsaw 1944*, won the Newsweek Teresa Torńska Prize for best non-fiction book of 2014 and the Kazimierz Moczarski Prize for Best History Book in 2015.

She has contributed to many articles, documentaries, radio, and television programs, and serves on 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. Dr. Richie is a favorite of Museum travelers and has hosted dozens of tours with The National WWII Museum to destinations in Germany, Poland, along the Elbe, and in the Baltic.



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Program Highlights



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EARLY ACCESS TO
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The National WWII Museum Educational Travel Programs

THE EUROPEAN THEATER



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