Take a front-row seat to history and enjoy France’s beautiful chateau country and a cruise onboard Uniworld’s S.S. Joie de Vivre.

Normandy & the Seine River
From the D-Day Beaches to the Liberation of Paris

Take a front-row seat to history and enjoy France’s beautiful chateau country and a cruise onboard Uniworld’s S.S. Joie de Vivre.
Dear Friend of The National WWII Museum,

We have long honored our mission to preserve the history and teachings of the war that changed the world through exhibitions, educational programs, and battlefield tours. The story of D-Day and the Allied invasion of Normandy have been at the heart of this Museum since we first opened our doors on June 6, 2000, and while our mission has expanded to cover the entire American experience in World War II, we still hold our Normandy travel programs in special regard – and consider them the very best in the market.

It is with great excitement that I invite you to join this remarkable journey designed to offer even more meaningful personal insight into Normandy and the Seine River Valley. Led by expert historians on World War II and local battlefield guides, this memorable tour offers a unique opportunity to delve into D-Day and the Battle of Normandy along the French coast, explore the rich culture of the Normandy countryside, and cruise the Seine River into the heart of France. Along the way, you’ll learn the timeless stories of those who sacrificed so much to pull off the greatest amphibious attack in history and ultimately secure the freedom we enjoy today. After an emotional tour of the Normandy beaches, the Seine River will guide you to well-preserved villages, to less-visited historic sites, and return you to the “City of Light”.

Even if you have visited France before, I encourage you not to miss this poignant and unforgettable chateau stay and luxury cruise voyage – an exclusive charter by The National WWII Museum.

We are honored to share the stories of the heroes to whom we owe so much.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Watson
President & CEO, The National WWII Museum

“"This was an amazing trip. We have traveled around the world, but this trip was more meaningful than any we have taken because of the history of the places we visited. What happened in Normandy and the rest of France had an enormous impact on us as Americans. Our lives would have been very different had the Normandy invasion failed. We can’t wait to visit the Museum and share what we learned on our trip with our children and grandchildren."”
– Sharon A., La Jolla, CA

“This trip was truly the finest we have been on from start to finish. Every aspect showed attention to detail, comfort, learning, and enjoyment. We have already recommended this to friends. Thank you so very much for such a wonderful and meaningful voyage.”
– Carolyn B., Louisville, KY
Author and Historian
Jonathan Boff, PhD

Jonathan Boff is Reader in the History of Warfare at the University of Birmingham (U.K.), where he has taught since 2011. He specializes in the history of the two world wars. His most recent book, Haig’s Enemy: Crown Prince Rupprecht and Germany’s War on the Western Front, 1914-18 (Oxford University Press, 2018) was selected as British Army Military Book of the Year 2019, and was joint winner of the Tomlinson Prize for the best book on the First World War. His previous book, Winning and Losing on the Western Front: The British Third Army and the Defeat of Germany in 1918 (Cambridge University Press, 2012) was short-listed for several prizes. His current research focuses on the political, social, and cultural history of money in wartime, and on the nature of strategy. He was educated at Merton College, Oxford, and spent twenty years working in finance before returning to academia via a doctorate in the Department of War Studies, King’s College London. He serves on the council of the National Army Museum, has worked as a historical consultant with the British Army, the US Military, the UK government, and the BBC, and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Author and Historian
Michael Neiberg, PhD

Michael Neiberg, PhD, is the Professor of History and Chair of War Studies in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College. His published work specializes on the First and Second World Wars in global context. The Wall Street Journal named his Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I one of the five best books ever written about that war. He is also the author of The Blood of Free Men: The Liberation of Paris, 1944 and Potsdam: The End of World War II and the Remaking of Europe, both published by Basic Books. In October 2016, Oxford University Press published his Path to War: How the First World War Created Modern America and in July 2017, Oxford published his Concise History of the Treaty of Versailles. He is now at work on a history of US involvement in the Middle East from 1942 to 1950.
Normandy & The Seine River
From the D-Day Beaches to the Liberation of Paris

From $8,499 $7,499* per person double occupancy
$10,798 $10,298* single occupancy

*See page 29 for deck plan and full pricing chart. $299 taxes and fees per person are additional.

Your journey in Normandy and on the Seine River features renowned historians and expert local guides with unparalleled knowledge of WWII locations—from lesser-known sites available exclusively to The National WWII Museum’s travel programs to iconic landmarks steeped in heroism and history. Visit the famous church in Sainte-Mère-Église, stand on Omaha Beach to view the intricate German defense system, and ponder the overwhelming odds the American soldiers faced on June 6, 1944. Cross Pegasus Bridge, where the men of the British 6th Airborne Division won the first battle of D-Day just minutes after midnight. Along the way, appreciate the beauty, culture, and history of a region that has played a critical role throughout world history.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Exclusive lecture series featuring Jonathan Boff, PhD, and Michael Neiberg, PhD
- Full-time Museum logistical tour managers
- Four-nights accommodation in Normandy at the hand-selected 5-star Château D’Audrieu or Château la Chenevière
- Four-nights accommodation aboard the 5-star S.S. Joie de Vivre on the Seine River
- Most meals, including: breakfast each day, 4 lunches, 8 dinners, 8 receptions
- House wines, beer, and spirits with included lunches and dinners during land program and throughout the cruise
- All gratuities to drivers, guides, and shipboard staff
- Entrance fees to all sites, museums, and attractions
- Private first-class, air-conditioned motorcoach transportation
- Personal listening devices for touring
- Airport transfers when arriving and departing on scheduled program dates
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge
Landing on June 6, 1944, Staff Sergeant Walt Ehlers and his entire squad made it off the beach unscathed, and pushed inland. Unfortunately, Roland wouldn’t make it up to the bluffs. Roland was among the more than 1,400 Americans killed in action that day.

On June 9, 1944, near the small Norman village of Goville, Ehlers led his men on an attack that knocked out a German mortar position and multiple machine gun nests. The next day, as his unit encountered German resistance, he was wounded while covering the retreat of his comrades. Despite his wound, he carried one of his squad members back to safety. It would be six long months before Walt learned that he was awarded the Medal of Honor for these actions.

After the Normandy campaign, Ehlers and the 1st Infantry Division pushed across France, into the Huertgen Forest, and then into Germany. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Ehlers received three Purple Hearts and a Silver Star. Following the war, Ehlers became an advocate for military veteran benefits, interviewing a wide range of veterans through his work with the Veterans Administration. The National WWII Museum is honored to have Walter Ehlers’ Medal of Honor and Oral History in our collection and on exhibit.
DAY ONE
Depart the US, Paris Arrival, and Transfer to Bayeux

Depart the US and arrive at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport the following morning. Guests are warmly welcomed during a breakfast reception at the Sheraton Charles de Gaulle Airport hotel and transfer to Normandy mid-day. Enjoy the scenic coach ride to the Normandy region, with a stop for an independent lunch along the way. After enjoying some free time to relax or explore the grounds of your preferred château, the group gathers this evening for introductions and an itinerary overview during a welcome reception and dinner.

Accommodations: Château (R, D)

DAY TWO
The British Sector

Today’s tour of Normandy begins where the first shots of the invasion were fired by British glider troops at the crucial Pegasus Bridge. Guests learn about Major John Howard and his men of the “Ox and Bucks” and how they were able to secure and hold the bridge. Drive along the British and Canadian sectors while hearing stories of the landings that took place to the east of the American assaults. Midday, arrive at Arromanches, explore this quaint village, and enjoy lunch on your own. This afternoon, view the remains of a “Mulberry Harbor” and gain insight into this great feat of engineering and ingenuity. Next, a trip up the commanding bluff culminates with a screening of Cinema Circulaire 360 followed by a visit to the German gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer. This evening join the group for dinner at the château.

Accommodations: Château (B, R, D)
This morning starts with an exclusive visit to La Fière Bridge, the scene of heavy fighting from June 6-8, 1944. Seizing this strategic causeway resulted in over 500 American casualties. Next, visit the town of Sainte-Mère-Église, where paratroopers landed during the predawn hours of D-Day. Dropping into the town square, the men of the 82nd Airborne Division fought tenaciously against the German defenders for control of this vital crossroads. Tour highlights include a visit to Musée Airborne and to the famous church. This afternoon, visit Utah Beach, one of the two American landing beaches which had four crucial causeways that allowed for the invasion forces to advance through the flooded fields. Hear the story of General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and visit the Utah Beach Museum, which features a restored B-26 Marauder and detailed recreations of the German beach defenses. End the touring day with a stop at Brécourt Manor, widely known as the scene of Dick Winter’s D-Day assault in the HBO mini-series Band of Brothers. Accommodations: Château (B, L, R, D)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
THE CHURCH AT SAINT-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

On the night of June 5/6, 1944, during the parachute drop of airborne troops in the area of Sainte-Mère-Église, Trooper John Steele was hit in the foot by a burst of flak. He could not control his parachute and landed on the steeple of the church around 1:00 a.m. Steele tried to free himself from his parachute for more than two hours while the battle raged on the church square below. Finally, two German soldiers freed him, took him prisoner, and cared for his wounded foot. He escaped and three days later joined the Allied lines and was transferred to a hospital in England. For his actions and his injuries, John Steele was awarded the Bronze Star medal for bravery and a Purple Heart medal for wounds in combat. This action was featured in the movie The Longest Day, and, to this day, a “dummy” paratrooper hangs from the church steeple commemorating this event.
DAY FOUR
Pointe du Hoc / Omaha Beach / Normandy American Cemetery

The morning tour begins at Pointe du Hoc, where the 2nd Ranger Battalion scaled the cliffs to neutralize the fortified German position. The next stop is “Bloody Omaha” beach, where the US Army overcame the odds to etch a heroic chapter in history. Visits to the coastal towns of St. Laurent-sur-Mer and Vierville-sur-Mer provide a close-up view of the intricate German defense system on Omaha and give a sense of the overwhelming odds American soldiers faced on June 6, 1944. After lunch, visit the Normandy American Cemetery to pay respects to the 9,387 Americans buried in the ground they helped liberate. This evening, take part in a special “Farewell to Normandy” dinner with the group.

Accommodations: Château (B, L, R, D)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
ERWIN ROMMEL, “THE DESERT FOX”

Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was Germany’s most celebrated commander during the war. Known as “The Desert Fox” for his achievements against the British in North Africa, he was appointed by Hitler to be in command of the Normandy region’s coastal fortifications and defenses. When he arrived in early 1944, he quickly and markedly improved the German defenses that awaited the Allies on D-Day.

“The war will be won or lost on the beaches. We’ll have only one chance to stop the enemy and that’s while he’s in the water…struggling to get ashore…the first twenty-four hours of the invasion will be decisive…for the Allies, as well as Germany, it will be the longest day.”

– Erwin Rommel
SAILING THE SEINE ABOARD
UNIWORLD’S FIVE-STAR S.S. JOIE DE VIVRE

Uniworld’s 5-star Joie de Vivre has been exclusively chartered by The National WWII Museum for its valued guests. Quite possibly the finest rivership plying the waterways of Europe, her 64 staterooms and suites exude the elegance and charm of the châteaux found in the regions she sails. Impeccable attention to every detail, a legacy of service, culinary excellence, and a custom-curated program for The National WWII Museum will be sure to create lasting memories.

DAY FIVE
Bayeux / Board the S.S. Joie de Vivre

Spend the last morning in coastal Normandy exploring the picturesque town of Bayeux. Touring includes a viewing of the Bayeux Tapestry—the historic 230 foot-long embroidered chronicle of William the Conqueror’s cross-channel invasion of England in 1066. Continue to the medieval center of the town, the Bayeux Cathedral, where a guided tour brings to life the construction of the cathedral, from the crypt to the spires. After free time to shop and have lunch at your leisure, head to Rouen to embark on the luxurious S.S. Joie de Vivre.
Accommodations: S.S. Joie de Vivre (B, R, D)
DAY SIX
Rouen / Dieppe

On the northern coast of France lies the fishing community of Dieppe. It was here in August 1942, that the ill-fated Allied raid by mostly Canadian forces would offer invaluable lessons for D-Day nearly two years later. Marvel at the smooth stones, called shale, which make up the beach. Traction is difficult while walking on them, so one can imagine the difficulty of landing and advancing while under fire. The boardwalk behind the beach contains tributes to the units and men who came ashore in hopes of seizing and holding the town. A keen eye will be able to spot the German emplacements on the cliffs above Dieppe. After lunch and free time in this charming seaside town, return to Rouen. Described by Victor Hugo as “the city with a hundred bell towers,” and the scene of the Eighth Air Force’s first bombing mission over Europe in 1942, just two days before the Dieppe Raid. Take part in a walking tour of the town center or return to the ship to relax before dinner this evening.

Accommodations: S.S. Joie de Vivre (B, R, D)

DAY SEVEN
La Roche-Guyon & Les Andelys

This morning, arrive at La Roche-Guyon, the famous 12th century château on the Seine, where Field Marshal Erwin Rommel had his headquarters. At La Roche-Guyon, “The Desert Fox” planned and prepared the tough defenses that the Allies encountered on D-Day, as well as the German movements during the campaign that followed. After lunch onboard the ship, dock at Les Andelys, and visit Château Gaillard, Richard the Lionheart’s 12th century stronghold, offering inspiring views of the Seine River.

Accommodations: S.S. Joie de Vivre (B, L, R, D)
DAY EIGHT
Versailles or Auvers-sur-Oise

This morning, dock in Mantes-la-Jolie, gateway to both the city of Versailles and the commune of Auvers-sur-Oise. At the end of World War I, the world’s statesmen gathered at The Palace of Versailles to sign the ill-fated peace treaty ending “The Great War.” The defeated Germans ultimately rejected the harsh provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, setting the stage for another world war just two decades later. Visit the famous Galerie des Glaces (Hall of Mirrors), the actual site of the treaty signing. Also included is an exclusive tour of the royal apartments, which still look much as they did when Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette fled before an outraged mob in 1789. Alternatively, for those who may have visited Versailles on prior trips, there is the option to tour Auvers-sur-Oise, where Vincent van Gogh spent the last days of his life and where he is buried. While in the village, a visit to Château d’Auvers-sur-Oise offers a look at various Impressionist artists who visited this area, or you may spend free time exploring independently.

Accommodations: S.S. Joie de Vivre (B, L, R, D)

DAY NINE
Disembark in Paris

Disembark S.S. Joie de Vivre for transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) (B)

The Liberation of Paris
Featuring Michael Neiberg, PhD

Only $1,899 per person double occupancy, $2,399 per person single
$129 per person in taxes and fees are additional.
Airport transfers are included when arriving on scheduled program dates.

Program Itinerary

Day One: Arrival
Arrive into Charles de Gaulle International Airport (CDG) and transfer to Hotel du Louvre where the balance of the afternoon is free to explore the City of Light. This evening, meet your fellow tour mates at a welcome reception.

Accommodations: Hotel du Louvre (R)

Day Two: Hitler’s Victory Tour of Paris
In June 1940, Hitler visited Paris at the conclusion of a battlefield tour of Belgium and France. Over the course of one day, he visited the Eiffel Tower, the Opera, the Pantheon, and Napoleon’s tomb among other sites. Today, visit these historic stops and learn more about Paris under German occupation. Hitler came away from his whirlwind tour with both an admiration of Paris and a desire to surpass its breathtaking architecture with a vision for a new Berlin created by architect Albert Speer.

Accommodations: Hotel du Louvre (B, L)

Day Three: Liberation
On August 25, 2019, the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Paris, a newly renovated Liberation Museum opened to the public. This museum chronicles the events in Paris from the German invasion in May 1940 to the surrender of Nazi Germany in May 1945. Through those four years, Parisians either adapted to or resisted their occupiers. Resistance groups formed around numerous ideologies, and the exhibitions detail the efforts by Jean Moulin to unify the disparate groups. Continue the exploration of Paris’ liberation at other key sites around the city.

Accommodations: Hotel du Louvre (B)

Day Four: Transfer to Normandy
After breakfast, enjoy a scenic coach ride to the Normandy region to begin the main tour program. (B)
Guests who experience this unique journey exploring Normandy and the Seine River have the option to spend four nights at one of two hand-selected châteaux chosen to accommodate our privileged guests. Both rated 5-stars and equivalent in grandeur, immerse yourself in the profound histories of either Château la Chenevière or Château D’Audrieu for the first four nights of your tour. Both centrally located for easy access to the beaches and battlefields of Normandy, unwind after a full day’s touring with exquisite dining and rich décor. Guests may choose their preferred château at the time of booking (based on availability).
Château la Chenevière is a 5-star hotel renovated from an 18th century mansion and farm. The château was occupied by the Germans during World War II and then the Americans after the D-Day landings. It was fully restored in 1988 to become the lush hotel-restaurant that it is today. La Chenevière boasts twenty-eight spacious and comfortable rooms that reflect the elegance and romance of its design. The decor of each room has an individual design, with a perfect blend of modern comforts and traditional luxury. Room amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, fully stocked mini bar, hair dryer, bathrobe and slippers, and courtesy l’Occitane toiletries.

For more information, visit [http://lacheneviere.com/](http://lacheneviere.com/)

Château D’Audrieu, a 5-star hotel situated between Caen and Bayeux in Calvados, is ideally located in the heart of Normandy’s countryside. During World War II, the German army set up their headquarters here. On the June 8, 1944, 45 members of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and two British soldiers were killed in the orchards, forests, and clearings around the château. This 18th century residence is listed as a Historical Monument and joined the prestigious Relais et Châteaux Association in 1977. Twenty-nine elegant rooms with garden views feature satellite TV, Wi-Fi access, and minibars. Suites offer original Louis XV and XVI furniture, or art deco styling. Le Séran restaurant serves high-end cuisine. The property also includes a bar, period-style lounges, and a charming breakfast room.

For more information, visit [https://www.chateaudaudrieu.com/](https://www.chateaudaudrieu.com/)
THE S.S. JOIE DE VIVRE – UNIQUELY BOUTIQUE

The S.S. Joie de Vivre, a brightly colored, chic, and sophisticated “super yacht” on the Seine, provides a relaxed social atmosphere and plenty of space for private contemplation. Under the guidance of Uniworld’s talented chef, savor wrap-around views of the Seine while enjoying classic French cuisine. After retracing remarkable battlefield stories on shore, reflect and recharge at Club L’Esprit, the onboard spa and wellness center. Experience the magic each evening as Club L’Esprit transforms into Claude’s, a vibrant bar and entertainment venue. Claude’s glitzy and glamorous atmosphere is the perfect place to listen to local music and enjoy signature cocktails with fellow guests and the world-renowned featured tour historians.

SHIP FEATURES & AMENITIES

- Salon de Toulouse with full-service bar
- Le Bistrot
- Le Restaurant Pigalle
- Claude’s/Le Esprit with full-service bar
- Deck de Montmartre
- Heated enclosed swimming pool
- Well-equipped fitness center and spa
- Laundry
- Elevator
- 24-hour specialty coffee and tea station
- Free internet & Wi-Fi access
- Salon de Toulouse with full-service bar
- Well-equipped fitness center and spa
- Laundry
- Elevator
- 24-hour specialty coffee and tea station
- Free internet & Wi-Fi access

S.S. JOIE DE VIVRE SUITES

In addition to the amenities listed below, all suites onboard also enjoy in-suite butler service, daily fruit & cookie plate, evening snacks, Nespresso coffee machine and fine teas, and a fully stocked mini-bar including bottled water. Other amenities include wine on arrival, shoeshine, and free laundry service.

GRAND SUITE (410 SQ FT.)

- French Balcony
- Spacious separate living room
- Separate rain shower and tub
- Secluded toilet and bidet area
- Handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England
- Built-in closet
- Hair dryer
- Safe
- Individual thermostat
- Flat-screen TV with infotainment center and satellite

SUITE (260 SQ FT.)

- French Balcony
- Handcrafted Savoir® Beds of England
- Built-in closet
- Hair dryer
- Safe
- Individual thermostat
- Flat-screen TV with infotainment center and satellite
**ACCOMMODATIONS ON BOARD**

**S.S. JOIE DE VIVRE STATEROOMS**

**DECK PLAN & TARIFFS**

**DECK PLAN**

**PRICING** *(Book early and save up to $2,000 per couple)*

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*$299 per person taxes and fees are additional.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Guests who book a suite aboard S.S. Joie de Vivre will receive a suite at either the Château D’Audrieu or Château la Chenevière. Guests booking in the French Balcony category may have the option to upgrade to a suite at their château if desired, for an additional fee. All other levels of accommodation will receive Standard/Classic or Deluxe rooms as assigned by the château.

Single accommodations are available in limited quantities in the French Balcony and Classic Stateroom categories only. Pricing and itinerary subject to change. Airfare is not included in the prices listed.

Book online now. Only 1 departure offered per year!
Experience the #1 Attraction in New Orleans.
Travel to The National WWII Museum in New Orleans to explore, remember, and reflect on World War II through exclusive access to the Museum's campus. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to experience a custom program at this world-class institution!

Four days from $1,449 $1,199 per person.
$120 taxes and fees person are additional.

Luxury Accommodations at the Official Hotel of The National WWII Museum
Enjoy easy access to The National WWII Museum during your stay at The Higgins Hotel, located across the street from the Museum.

Prominently located in the New Orleans Warehouse District and directly on the Museum campus, the Higgins Hotel & Conference Center features a striking 1940s theme and is part of the exclusive Curio Collection by Hilton. This 4-star hotel offers spacious and well-appointed accommodations featuring 230 era-inspired guest rooms and suites, exceptional dining, and a state-of-the-art conference center, home to the Museum’s many conferences, symposia, military reunions, student group visits, and student and teacher residential programs. Revenue generated by the Higgins Hotel helps fund the growth of the Museum’s endowment and educational initiatives.

Expressions of America
Generously presented by the Bob & Dolores Hope Foundation, Expressions of America is a brand-new outdoor sound and light show featuring living murals covering the facades of our buildings. Along with music, archival footage, and personal reflections, this groundbreaking show places you in the center of the war’s most epic and personal moments.

Program Highlights
- Out of the Vault tour with a Museum Curator
- Guided touring of all of the Museum’s permanent exhibits
- Private Early Access to the Museum
- 3-day access to The National WWII Museum
- A showing of Beyond All Boundaries
- Final Mission: USS Tang Submarine Experience
- 3-nights stay at the Higgins Hotel with 3 breakfasts
- Special group events including a welcome cocktail reception, private lunch, and VIP dinner with viewing of Expressions of America
- Free time to explore the Museum and New Orleans on your own
- 3-day unlimited rides on Hop on Hop off double decker bus and streetcar lines

Tour Inclusions
Out of the Vault tour with a Museum Curator
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Worry-free booking! Full refund until one week prior to the tour.

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THE EUROPEAN THEATER

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D-DAY: THE INVASION OF NORMANDY AND LIBERATION OF FRANCE
Normandy Beaches • Arromanches
Sainte-Mère-Église • Bayeux • Caen • Pointe du Hoc
Falaise

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Featuring an original Band of Brothers cast member
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Berchtesgaden

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La Gleize • Bastogne • Luxembourg American Cemetery • Ardennes • Bois Jacques

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ITALY 1944: FROM ANZIO TO THE GOTHIC LINE

THE PACIFIC THEATER

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VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC: JAPAN & OKINAWA
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Featuring Jonathan Boff, PhD & Michael Neiberg, PhD
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Pointe du Hoc • Normandy American Cemetery
Rouen • Dieppe • La Roche-Guyon • Les Andelys
Versailles or Auvers-sur-Oise

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80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY CRUISE: D-DAY AND THE BOMBER WAR
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Honfleur • Normandy Beaches • Pointe du Hoc • Dover

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