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Bringing History To Life

# The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Germany

A journey that takes you from Berlin to Auschwitz to Warsaw, focused on the devastating legacy of the Holocaust, the bombing raids, and the last battles.

BERLIN • ŻAGAŃ • WROCŁAW • KRAKÓW • GDAŃSK  
WESTERPLATTE • WOLF'S LAIR • WARSAW



Featuring  
best-selling author & historian  
**Alexandra Richie, DPhil**







Cover Photo: Aerial view of Gdańsk. Photo Page 2: Russian soldiers looking at a torn down German Nazi Eagle with swastika emblem lying in the ruins of The Reich Chancellery after the fall of Berlin—1945, Berlin, Germany.

©Frank Aymami.



Dear World Traveler,

For several years now, it has been my ultimate pleasure to welcome guests from The National WWII Museum Travel on tour with me throughout Germany and Poland on the educational program, *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Germany*. Both Berlin and Warsaw, the two capital cities of the countries we visit, have been the subjects of my books. *Faust's Metropolis: A History of Berlin* dives into the role of this city as a crucible of social, political, and economic transformation—both positive and negative. In *Warsaw 1944: Hitler, Himmler, and the Warsaw Uprising*, my focus was more defined with an emphasis on what was perhaps Warsaw's most transformative year.

I invite you to join me on a journey back in time, to explore the origins of World War II. We meet in Germany where the early seeds of war were planted in private meeting rooms and in raucous public stadiums, and we uncover the Nazi's sinister plans to remake the world. As we travel deep into Poland, the strategically thought out evil is clearly revealed, and the tragedy of Nazi ambition becomes strikingly apparent. Former prisons, concentration camps, and rebuilt cities are the physical reminders of the suffering brought by the Third Reich. Along the way, we learn not only about the men who sought to destroy the world, but also about those who heroically fought back against the Nazi regime. Colonel von Stauffenberg, Oskar Schindler, and Władysław Bartoszewski—my late father-in-law—are only just a few of the resistance fighters whose names you will hear.

Since the inception of this poignant itinerary I created in collaboration with The National WWII Museum, I have seen firsthand the travelers forever transformed by the entire experience. They are in awe of modern Poland with its vibrant culture on full display. As we gather for a farewell dinner held at my home outside of Warsaw on the last evening of the tour, we reflect on the horror but also remember the heroes. No longer held back by the oppression of dictators, Poland has seen a rebirth that coincides with a desire to never forget the legacies of World War II.

It has been one of my life's greatest honors to travel on *The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Germany*, and I so look forward to welcoming you on this memorable journey.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Richie, DPhil





BEST-SELLING AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN  
**Alexandra Richie, DPhil**

Dr. Alexandra Richie is the Asness Family Foundation Fellow at the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy and is a 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* (1999), which was named one of the top ten books of the year by *American Publisher's Weekly*, and *Warsaw 1944* (2009), 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 a past 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. Dr. Richie has been a featured historian with the Educational Travel Program since 2017.

Photo: Featured tour historian Dr. Alexandra Richie on tour. Photo courtesy of Stuart Bertie Photography.

## 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

#### 40



**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](http://ww2museumtours.org)



**#1 ATTRACTION IN NEW ORLEANS**





## Poland in World War II

# A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

**September 1, 1939**

**Westerplatte, Poland**

Nazi Germany invades Poland and fires the first shots of World War II in Europe.



**January 15, 1940**

**Kraków, Poland**

Oskar Schindler opens his factory where he will go on to save more than a thousand Jews.

**May 20, 1940**

**Oświęcim, Poland**

Auschwitz is established by the SS and was initially populated with Polish political prisoners. The camp eventually becomes a site of mass extermination of European Jews.



**July 30, 1941**

**London, England**

The Sikorski-Mayski Agreement frees Polish POWs held in Soviet camps, enlisting them to fight the Nazis on the Eastern Front.



**April 19, 1943**

**Warsaw, Poland**

Jewish resistance to Nazi police and SS leads to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In response, the Nazis kill 13,000 and ship those remaining to concentration camps.



**July 20, 1944**

**East Prussia, Germany**

An assassination attempt on Hitler fails at the fortified command post known as "Wolf's Lair."



**August 1, 1944**

**Warsaw, Poland**

As Soviet forces near Warsaw, Polish freedom fighters take up arms, thus beginning the Warsaw Uprising.



**May 8-9, 1945**

**Berlin, Germany**

At an estate in the Karlshorst neighborhood, German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel officially surrenders Germany's armed forces.



**January 19, 1947**

**Poland**

Parliamentary elections characterized by violence and persecution of opponents give full governing power to the Polish United Workers' Party.



**July 4 & 18, 1989**

**Poland**

Parliamentary elections result in a victory for Solidarity and spell the end for the Polish United Workers' Party.



**August 31, 1980**

**Gdańsk, Poland**

The Gdańsk Agreement legitimizes the Solidarity movement that would ultimately undermine the communist government.



**November 9, 1989**

**Berlin, Germany**

The fall of the Berlin Wall, a pivotal event in world history, marks the beginning of the fall of communism in Europe.



## Featured

# MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Poland is home to some of the world's most inspiring museums. Included in this tour are various engaging exhibitions designed to teach the turbulent history, culture, and stories that impacted generations.



## Museum of the Second World War

**GDAŃSK, POLAND**

Located just three kilometers from Westerplatte, where World War II began on September 1, 1939, this museum boasts one of the largest exhibitions presented by a historical museum in the world: almost 5,000 square meters. The exhibits tell the story of the tragic experiences of World War II, about its genesis and consequences, about the victims and perpetrators, and about the heroes and ordinary citizens.



## Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

**OŚWIĘCIM, POLAND**

Housed in the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp, the preservation of the original buildings and relics has long evoked controversy. Through international support, this museum takes collective and individual memories into account, along with the accompanying reflections and emotions of its many visitors.



## POW Camps Museum

**ŻAGAŃ, POLAND**

During World War II, there were four prisoner of war camps under the command of VIII *Wehrmacht* Military District with headquarters in Wrocław and three POW camps under the command of the Luftwaffe in Żagań. On the evening of March 24, 1944, 76 prisoners from one of these camps, Stalag Luft III, escaped via a specially constructed tunnel during an event has become known to history as "The Great Escape." A modern-day museum at this site commemorates what took place there.



## European Solidarity Centre

**GDAŃSK, POLAND**

The European Solidarity Centre is a museum and library devoted to the history of Solidarity—the Polish trade union and civil resistance movement—and other opposition movements operating in the now defunct communist Eastern Europe. The Centre is devoted to ensuring that the ideals of democracy, an open society, and culture of dialogue endure, and also to be a source of inspiration and hope for those who don't live in open democratic societies.



## The Pawiak Prison Museum

**WARSAW, POLAND**

During World War II, the Pawiak Prison became part of the Nazi concentration-death camp apparatus. Pawiak Prison Museum was founded in 1965, based on the initiatives of former Pawiak political prisoners. It was built in the foundation of the surviving underground casemates of the prison, which was blown up by the Germans in August 1944.



## Katyń Massacre Museum

**WARSAW, POLAND**

Located in the grand and stoic Warsaw Citadel, the Katyń Museum documents the shocking events of 1940, known as the Katyń Massacre, when around 22,000 Polish officers were executed by their Soviet captors in the middle of a Russian forest. The museum has a host of objects, documents and personal effects that have been recovered from the site near Smoleńsk, Russia.



## The POLIN Museum of the History of the Polish Jews

**WARSAW, POLAND**

The POLIN Museum is located in the area the Nazis turned into the Jewish ghetto during World War II. Beyond the main exhibition that presents the history of Polish Jews, POLIN Museum also functions as an educational center with rich cultural programs working closely with the community at large.



# MAP, PRICING, & INCLUSIONS

Berlin • Żagań • Wrocław • Kraków • Gdańsk • Westerplatte  
Wolf's Lair • Warsaw

## The Rise and Fall of Hitler's Germany

12 days from ~~\$8,899~~ **\$8,399\*** double  
~~\$10,899~~ **\$10,399\*** single

*\*329 per person taxes and fees are additional.*

- Exclusive itinerary designed by The National WWII Museum and Alexandra Richie, DPhil
- Special access to sites not offered on other tours, including a special farewell dinner at a historic, private home
- VIP events with the opportunity to meet people who were eyewitnesses to historic events in Germany and Poland
- Full-time logistical tour manager
- Expert local guides
- Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving \ and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- First-class train ride from Kraków to Gdańsk
- Luxury 5-star and deluxe 4-star accommodations throughout the journey
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Included gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- 11 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 5 Dinners, and 3 Receptions
- Beer, house wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Personalized luggage tags and name badge
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey.







## - 1 -

### THE EXPERIENCE

#### Arrival in Berlin

Arrive in Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER) and transfer to the Hotel de Rome Berlin. Enjoy free time in the area before attending a Welcome Dinner and tour preview with Dr. Alexandra Richie this evening.

**Accommodations: Hotel de Rome Berlin (R, D)**

Photo: Alexandra Richie at the Holocaust Memorial, Berlin.

## - 2 -

### THE EXPERIENCE

#### Berlin

After breakfast, embark on a day long tour of Berlin. First, visit the reimagined and refurbished Reichstag building, historic home of the *Bundestag* (the national parliament) from 1894 to 1933. The massive 19th century building was used during the German Empire, the Weimar Republic, Nazi Germany, and now by a united, democratic Germany. Next, view the Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauer Strasse, where the only preserved section of the notorious wall can be seen, and walk the “no-man’s-land” along the remaining segment. The tour continues to the Topography of Terror Museum, which has housed a permanent exhibition since 1987, when the cellar of a Gestapo headquarters was discovered and excavated. An open-air memorial was erected in memory of those who were imprisoned, tortured, and killed by the Nazis, and the site developed into a prize-winning documentation center. After lunch, visit the Olympic Stadium on the outskirts of Berlin. Built to host the 11th Olympic Summer games in 1936, the stadium was a prime example of Nazi architecture and design, and could hold 110,000 spectators. This evening is free for dinner and independent exploration of Berlin.

**Accommodations: Hotel de Rome Berlin (B, L)**

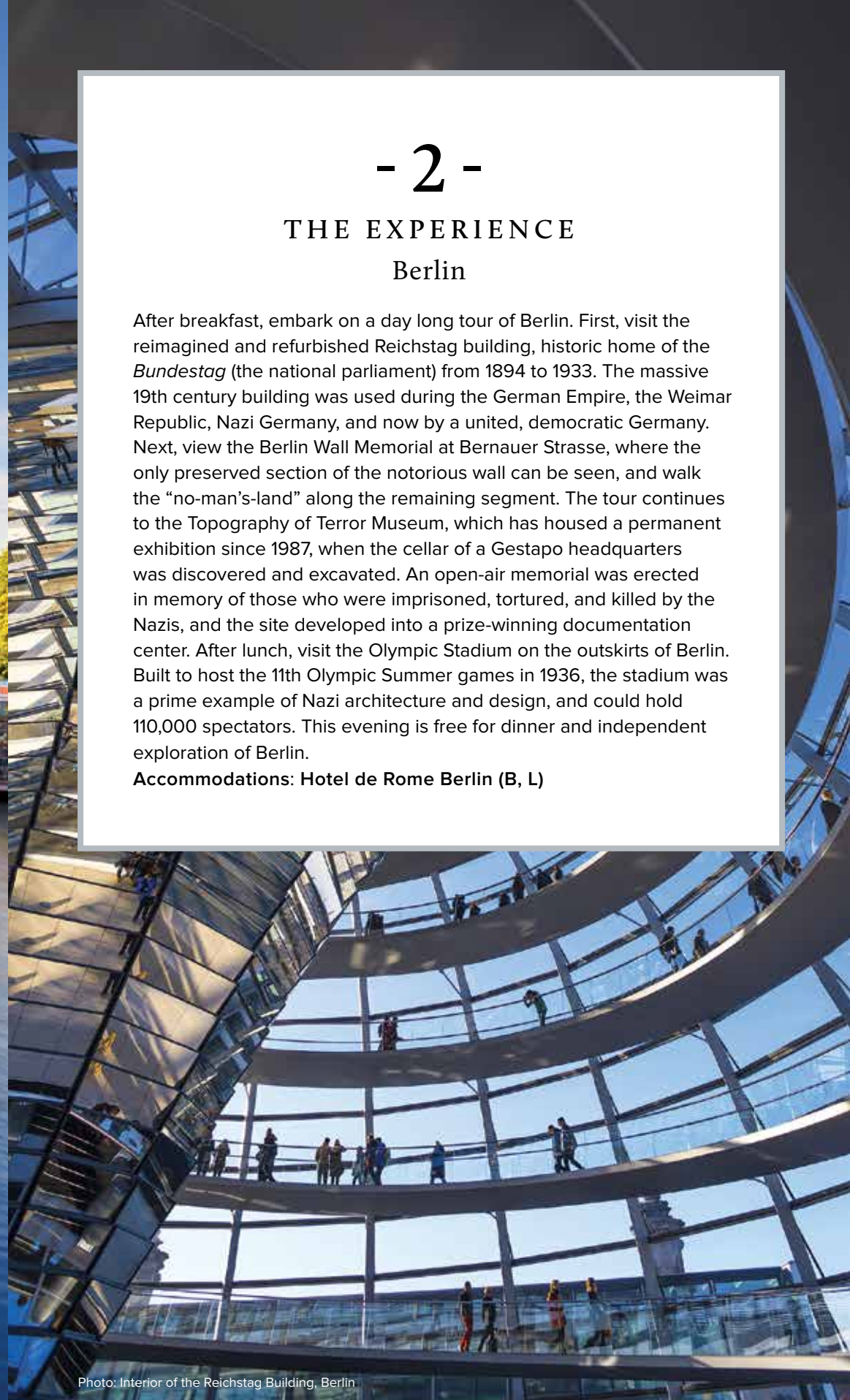


Photo: Interior of the Reichstag Building, Berlin





## - 3 -

### THE EXPERIENCE

#### Berlin

Start the day at the House of the Wannsee Conference, a lakeside mansion used by the Nazis in 1942 as they formulated the “Final Solution” of the planned extermination of European Jewry. Stop for lunch on the way to Potsdam, the capital of the Brandenburg state, which is only 15 miles from Berlin. Visit Cecilienhof Palace, the location of the Potsdam Conference of 1945, where Stalin, Churchill, and Truman met to discuss how to establish a post-war order. Return to Berlin for a guided tour of the Allied Museum located in the American sector of postwar Berlin. The remainder of the evening is free for exploring Berlin and enjoying an independent dinner.

**Accommodations: Hotel de Rome Berlin (B, L)**



Photo top: House of the Wannsee Conference. Photo bottom: Promenade at the house of Wannsee Conference. Contributor ullstein bild.



Photo: Two former prisoners of war: Air Commodore Charles Clark (Rt) and RAF airman Andrew Wiseman at Stalag Luft III near Żagań, Poland. Courtesy of Craig Stennett.

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### THE EXPERIENCE

#### Żagań to Wrocław

Bid farewell to Berlin and head to Żagań, a small city in Poland near the German border. During World War II, Żagań was the site of Stalag Luft III. It was from this camp that one of the most daring prisoner escapes took place, providing the inspiration for the 1963 film, *The Great Escape*. Around eighty prisoners escaped through tunnels underneath the complex. All but three were recaptured, and fifty were executed. A museum at the site of the former camp is dedicated to the martyrdom of Allied prisoners of war. After lunch in Żagań, continue to Wrocław or the evening.

**Accommodations: AC Hotel by Marriott Wrocław (B, L, D)**





# HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

# THE GREAT ESCAPE

MARCH 24, 1944

The area around Żagań, now in Poland, was selected by the Nazis as the site of *Stalag Luft III* due to several security considerations. The sandy soil would compromise the integrity of any underground tunnel, and the underground soil contrasted sharply with the surface sand, making any soil dumped from tunneling operations instantly noticeable. Additionally, the Germans placed seismographs around the camp to detect any sounds of digging, and the barracks were raised off of the ground to allow for easy visual inspections.

These obstacles did not deter Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Roger Bushell from launching an ambitious escape plan involving three tunnels code-named Tom, Dick, and Harry. Bushell started by consolidating all escape plans. No tunnels or escapes would be attempted outside of his plan. In the event of detection of one of the tunnels, work could continue on the other two as the guards focused on the first.

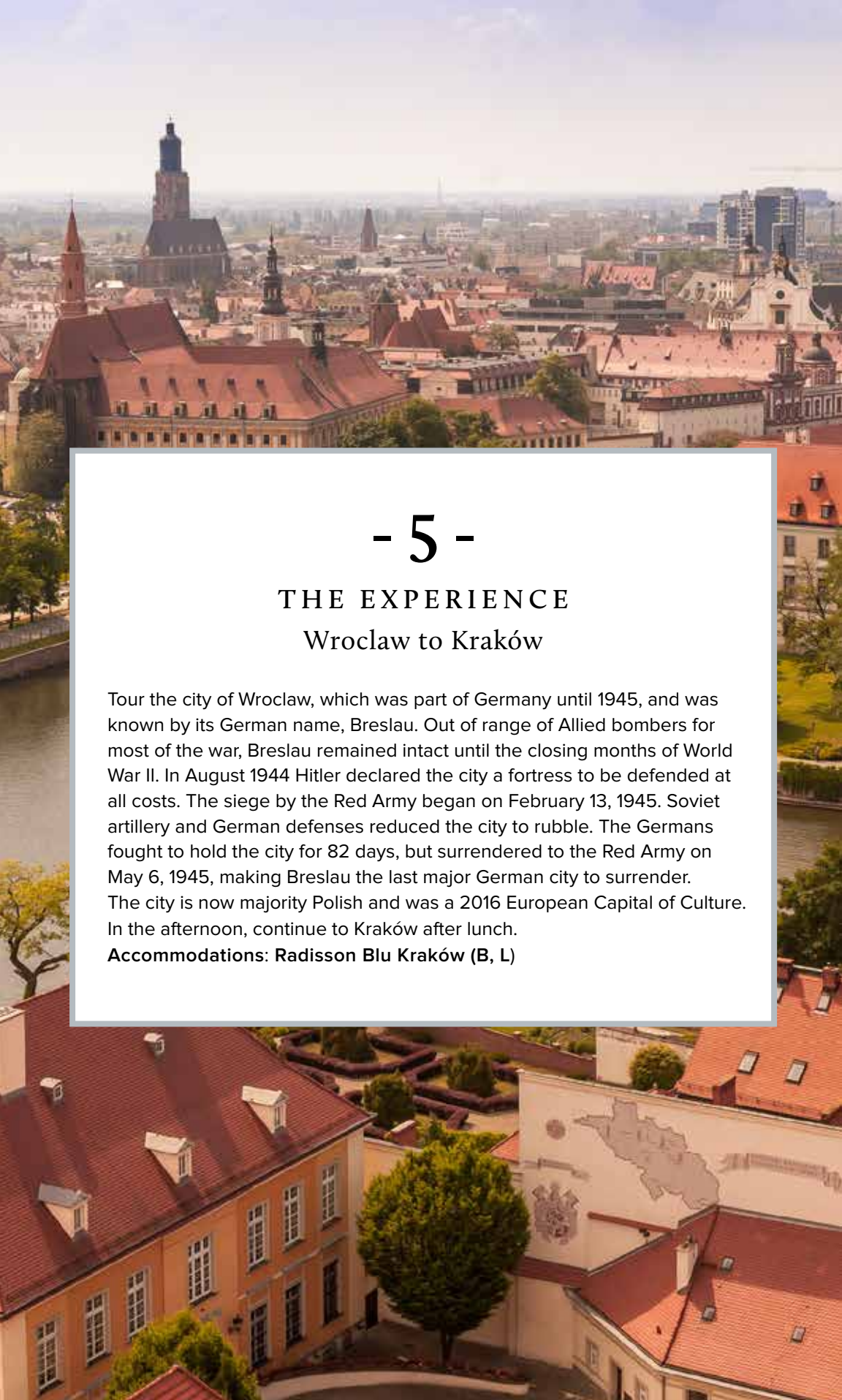
Work on the three tunnels began in spring of 1943. More than 600 prisoners worked on the tunnels in various roles such as digging, soil disposal, and scavenging for supplies—especially wood for bracing the sandy soil in the tunnels. The tunnels were thirty feet deep, but only two square feet wide so that they could be easily concealed. Work on Tunnel Dick was stopped to allow it to be used for storage and soil disposal. Tom was discovered by the Germans in the winter, so work stopped on Harry until the Germans' heightened security was reduced.

In March 1944, nearly one year after Bushell first called a meeting about the escape plans, Harry was complete. The original plans called for a summer escape, but the date was moved forward to the first moonless night. The March weather did not cooperate with temperatures below freezing at night, but the escapees continued with the plan. On the night of the planned escape, the entrance to the hatch was frozen, delaying the opening by over an hour, and an air raid alert cut the electricity and the lighting in the tunnel. Finally, the first men made their way outside the camp in the evening hours of March 24, 1944. The tunnel exit was too close to a guard tower, so the flow of escapees had to be slowed to six men per hour. Seventy-six POWs made it out of the camp, but only three evaded capture. To set an example, Hitler ordered all escapees to be executed, but the number was reduced to 50 who were sent to a firing squad.

Dutch aviator Bram Van der Stok managed to evade capture, and was the only one of the three permanent escapees to rejoin the fight. With the Royal Air Force, Van der Stok flew missions over the coast of Northern Europe, was awarded the Order of Orange Nassau from the Netherlands, and was inducted as a Member of the Order of the British Empire. He later settled in the United States, worked as a General Practitioner, and eventually joined NASA's space lab research team.

Photo: Prisoner of war camp Stalag Luft III Circa 1942, which was run by the Luftwaffe for captured RAF airmen until its liberation on April 29, 1945. Courtesy of Hulton Archive/Getty.





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## THE EXPERIENCE

### Wrocław to Kraków

Tour the city of Wrocław, which was part of Germany until 1945, and was known by its German name, Breslau. Out of range of Allied bombers for most of the war, Breslau remained intact until the closing months of World War II. In August 1944 Hitler declared the city a fortress to be defended at all costs. The siege by the Red Army began on February 13, 1945. Soviet artillery and German defenses reduced the city to rubble. The Germans fought to hold the city for 82 days, but surrendered to the Red Army on May 6, 1945, making Breslau the last major German city to surrender. The city is now majority Polish and was a 2016 European Capital of Culture. In the afternoon, continue to Kraków after lunch.

**Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (B, L)**



Photo: Two former prisoners of war: Air Commodore Charles Clark (Rt) and RAF airman Andrew Wiseman at Stalag Luft III near Żagań, Poland. Courtesy of Craig Stennett.

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## THE EXPERIENCE

### Kraków & Auschwitz-Birkenau

Start the day with a brief stop at Oskar Schindler's factory, the site from which Schindler was able to save over 1,000 Jews from the Plaszow forced labor camp, and ultimately from death, as portrayed in the film *Schindler's List*. After an opportunity to view the exterior of the factory and take photos, enjoy a walking tour of picturesque Kazimierz in Kraków's Old Town, followed by lunch. A thirty-mile drive west of Kraków is the Polish town of Oswiecim, known to history by its German name, Auschwitz. The German occupiers took over this former army barracks in 1940 and populated it with Polish political prisoners. As the war continued, the Nazis expanded and refined the camp, imprisoning Jews from all over Europe or sending them on to their deaths at nearby Birkenau. The Martyrdom Museum at Auschwitz is a ghastly reminder of the unspeakable horrors that took place there. An evening on your own allows reflection on today's touring.

**Accommodations: Radisson Blu Kraków (B, L)**



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# THROUGH THEIR EYES

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WŁADYSŁAW BARTOSZEWSKI  
1922-2015



*The Economist* magazine called him “The Great Survivor,” others referred to him as the “Polish Schindler.” He is one of the only people in the world to have been commemorated twice at Yad Vashem as a “Righteous Gentile.” Whatever the label, Władysław Bartoszewski was a remarkable figure. He witnessed some of the worst horrors of World War II, and yet he dedicated his life to the goals of reconciliation between former foes with humor, empathy, and compassion.

Bartoszewski was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1922. The son of a Roman Catholic banker, he grew up next to the Jewish Quarter with both Catholic and Jewish visitors to the house. On September 1, 1939, he awoke to the sound of bombs falling on Warsaw. Hitler had ordered the first mass terror bombing of the war, and 20,000 civilians died. Bartoszewski volunteered to work as a stretcher-bearer for the Red Cross.

Photo: Władysław Bartoszewski in front of a picture of Auschwitz / Reuters

Bartoszewski’s formal schooling ended with the German invasion. Nazi rule in Poland was highly oppressive: schools and universities were closed, along with newspapers, publishing houses, and virtually all other Polish institutions. Bartoszewski continued to work for the Red Cross as a clerk. In September 1940, the Germans began random roundups of men between the ages of 18 and 65. Bartoszewski was 18 years old when the Nazis arrived at his house. They stormed in, grabbed him, and put him on the second-ever transport to a small town in southern Poland where a new camp, Auschwitz, was being built. There, he was photographed, put in striped prison uniform, and given the number 4427.

Life in Auschwitz was intolerable. He watched as friends were beaten to death in front of him; he was forced into slave labor pulling a gigantic concrete roller; food was scarce. By the end of the first year he had become desperately ill. The Red Cross intervened and arranged for Bartoszewski and a number of other prisoners to be released—something which would have been impossible later in the war. He returned to Warsaw sick and too weak to function. His old friend Hanka Czaki, who worked for the Polish Underground, came to see him as he recovered, and over some weeks wrote down his testimony about Auschwitz. It was sent to London and published in April 1942 by the Home Army as *Memoir of a Prisoner*. It was the first-ever eyewitness testimony published about Auschwitz, and it was the first warning to the Allies about what was happening to the victims in the new concentration camps in German-occupied Poland.

In the spring of 1942 Bartoszewski was interviewed by Jan Karski, a later recipient of the American Presidential Medal of Freedom. As a result of this meeting, Bartoszewski was invited to join the Polish Home Army in August 1942. Disturbed by the increasing brutality directed against the Jews, he became a founding member of The Council for Aid to Jews, code named “Żegota,” was funded from London and helped approximately 50,000 Jews in occupied Poland. The exact number of those aided who survived the war is unknown, but it is thought to be less than 20%. During the course of his work Bartoszewski and the Żegota organization supported well-known activists, including Irene Sendler, who saved 2,500 Jewish children, and the “Zookeeper” Jan Żabiński, who saved Jews by hiding them at the Warsaw Zoo. Aside from his work at Żegota, Bartoszewski personally saved dozens of Jews, and as a result was honored at Yad Vashem both for his work with Żegota and for his own individual contributions. He was also made an honorary citizen of the State of Israel.

After the war, Bartoszewski was arrested and spent seven years in a Stalinist prison. Between 1963 and 1989, he worked in secret for Radio Free Europe. Given his links with the Solidarity movement activists, he was arrested again on December 13, 1981, when the Polish Communist Government declared martial law. When Poland finally threw off the communist yoke in 1989, Bartoszewski became Polish Ambassador to Austria, and then was twice made Polish Foreign Minister. He served as Secretary of State in the Polish Prime Minister’s Office until his death on April 24, 2015.

Władysław Bartoszewski suffered through the horrors of Nazism and Stalinism, and as a result was determined to be a witness to history. He wrote hundreds of books and articles, gave countless interviews, and supported initiatives to remember the war. He was Chairman of the International Auschwitz Committee, and worked tirelessly to promote ties between Poland and Israel, and between Poland and Germany. He was truly a “great survivor.”



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## THE EXPERIENCE

### Kraków

Explore Kraków, which was included on UNESCO's first World Heritage list in 1978. Since the Tatar raids in the 13th century, the Old Town has remained mostly intact, making it the only large Polish city to escape the destruction of World War II. The tour day begins at St. Mary's Basilica before breaking for an independent lunch in the Old Town Square. *Rynek Główny* in Polish, the square is known for its quaint cafés and excellent shopping. The afternoon includes a visit to the Wawel Royal Castle, the residence of Polish kings for hundreds of years, and the gothic Wawel Cathedral, where Polish kings were crowned and buried for centuries. During the war, Governor General of the occupied Polish territories, Hans Frank, installed himself in the Wawel Castle. Calling himself the "King of Poland," he surrounded himself with stolen art including Leonardo Da Vinci's *Lady with an Ermine*, and wielded his terrifying power over the population. Continue on a walking tour to Jagiellonian University, founded in 1364 by Casimir III the Great. Over the centuries, the university has educated some of Europe's most respected figures, including Nicolaus Copernicus, Pope John Paul II, and Nobel Prize-winning poet Wisława Szymborska. Take a stroll through the university's lovely botanical garden, which is more than 200 years old. Return to Old Town to visit Cloth Hall, which historically functioned as the main marketplace of the town. Enjoy a first class train ride to Gdańsk this evening.

**Accommodations: Sofitel Grand Sopot (B, D)**



Photo: Old town of Gdańsk

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## THE EXPERIENCE

### Gdańsk

Poland's maritime city on the Baltic Sea, Danzig, now known as Gdańsk, was first mentioned in historical documents in 997. During its millenium of existence, this venerable port city has changed hands six times – the prize in a long game of tug-of-war between Germany and Poland. This morning, visit Westerplatte, the place where the Germans fired the first shots of what became World War II. On September 1, 1939, a German battleship paying a "courtesy call" on Gdańsk began firing shells at the Polish garrison here. Enjoy lunch on your own and the option to take a walking tour of Gdańsk, then visit the Museum of the Second World War. After ample time to explore the museum, your evening is free in the quaint seaside town of Sopot.

**Accommodations: Sofitel Grand Sopot (B)**



Photo: Aerial view of Main Square in Kraków.





Photo: The National WWII Museum Expert Local Guide at Wolf's Lair, Hitler's command post *Wolfsschanze*.

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### THE EXPERIENCE Wolf's Lair & Mikolajki

Today, drive onward to Wolf's Lair, the English name for Hitler's secret, fortified Eastern Front command post *Wolfsschanze*. The failed July 20, 1944, assassination attempt on Hitler's life, portrayed in the 2008 movie *Valkyrie* (starring Tom Cruise) took place within the concrete fortification. Virtually untouched since the war, this huge bunker complex is where many of the major decisions affecting the conduct of the war on the Eastern Front were made. Spend the evening in the resort town of Mikolajki.

**Accommodations: Hotel Mikolajki (B, L, D)**

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### THE EXPERIENCE Warsaw

Depart Mikolajki, bound for Poland's capital city of Warsaw. Enjoy free time for independent exploration and lunch in Old Town Square. Set out on a walking tour this afternoon, beginning at the 1944 Warsaw Uprising Monument. Unveiled in 1989, the monument commemorates the valiant and tragic attempt of the Polish Resistance to take back the city of Warsaw from Nazi troops before the Soviet Army entered the city. This afternoon, visit the Warsaw Uprising Museum. Opened in 2004, on the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Uprising, this museum includes a collection of almost 1,000 photographs taken by photographer and Olympian athlete Eugeniusz Lokajski, who documented the uprising before he was killed in an artillery attack. During a reception this evening, learn more about the uprising from local members of the community.

**Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B, R)**



Photo: Jewish uprising Museum in Warsaw





Photo: Private Residence of Dr. Alexandra Richie, near Warsaw

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### THE EXPERIENCE

#### Warsaw

Spend the day exploring Warsaw, starting at the Genscher Cemetery, Warsaw's largest Jewish cemetery with over 250,000 people buried on site. Many prominent leaders of Warsaw's Jewish community are buried here, including Marek Edelman, a leader of the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. Continue on to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews for a guided tour of the exhibits. The afternoon is free for lunch and individual pursuits. Drive a short distance outside of Warsaw this evening to Radzymin, the site of one of the last great tank battles of World War II, in August 1944. Explore the terrain with Dr. Richie who will explain the events of the battle and their consequences for both the Germans and the Soviets. The tour concludes at the private residence of Dr. Alexandra Richie, which was used as the headquarters for German General Herbert Otto Gille, commander of the 5th SS Panzergrenadier Division Wiking during the battle. Here, Dr. Richie hosts a farewell reception and dinner. **Accommodations: Hotel Bristol (B, R, D)**

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### THE EXPERIENCE

#### Depart Warsaw and Return to the US

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



Photo: Royal Castle and Sigismund Column in Warsaw



## LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS



### HOTEL DE ROME BERLIN, Germany

The stylish, high-end Hotel de Rome is located by the State Opera House and located in a former bank built in 1889. Guestrooms have high stucco ceilings, marble bathrooms with separate tubs and showers, and free Wi-Fi. There is a chic Italian restaurant and rooftop terrace bar for cocktails and snacks. Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more information.



### AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT WROCLAW, Poland

Housed in a redbrick building dating back to 1875 and set around an elegant courtyard, this sleek hotel is a short walk from Wrocław Town Hall and the medieval Market Square. Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more information.



### RADISSON BLU KRAKOW, Poland

Within walking distance of Market Square and St. Mary's Basilica, the Radisson Blu Hotel, Kraków, welcomes you with stylish interiors and conveniences. Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more information.



### SOFITEL GRAND Sopot, Poland

The Sofitel Grand Sopot is a famous spa and health resort located in the tri-city complex of Gdańsk, Sopot, and Gdynia and surrounded by historic architecture alongside cutting-edge, modern infrastructure. Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more information.



### HOTEL MIKOLAJKI, Poland

Inspired by its picturesque natural surroundings on Bird Island, The spa facilities include a relaxation area and a signature Sauna World with incredible views of Mikolajskie Lake. Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more information.



### HOTEL BRISTOL, Poland

This distinctive hotel is located just steps from the Presidential Palace, the Royal Castle, Old Town Square, Praga, and many other attractions in the capital of Poland. Scan the QR code with your smart phone for more information.