



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
TRAVEL

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

WHAT THEY FOUGHT AGAINST: SCARS OF THE NAZI WAR MACHINE

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

AUGUST 13-24, 2026

Featuring Best-selling Author & Historian
Alexandra Richie, DPhil

A view from inside a bunker on the Pomeranian Wall near Wałcz, Poland. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum.

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



Dear Friend of the Museum,

On April 12, 1945, Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, and Patton inspected a recently liberated concentration camp. The scene was shocking. Eisenhower, realizing the significance of this discovery, forced himself to examine every corner of the camp. Anticipating that future generations might doubt such an atrocity could have happened, he decided that it must be documented and ordered every nearby unit that was not on the front lines to tour any similar camp in the American sector, saying:

“We are told the American soldier does not know what he is fighting for. Now, at least, he will know what he is fighting against.”

What They Fought Against: Scars of the Nazi War Machine remembers the forced laborers, Holocaust victims, civilians, soldiers, and so many others who suffered under Nazi oppression. The National WWII Museum’s Education Travel Team and I worked together to create a rich and impactful itinerary across Germany and Poland, to delve into some fascinating aspects of the war that are seldom explored by Americans. At the same time, this tour pays homage to the overwhelming Allied effort that contributed to the Third Reich’s eventual downfall.

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 Wałcz, 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 and Fall of Hitler’s Germany tour. With visits to Pawiak Prison, the Katyń 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

10 million+
visitors since the Museum
opened on June 6, 2000

\$2 billion+
in economic impact

150,000+
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 AND
HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS



VISIT **16**

OVERSEAS AMERICAN BATTLE
MONUMENTS COMMISSION
CEMETERIES & MEMORIALS PLUS

189

MUSEUMS ON OUR ITINERARIES

TRAVEL WITH EXPERTS

26
top historians with

174
published books and

47
documentary credits



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.



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



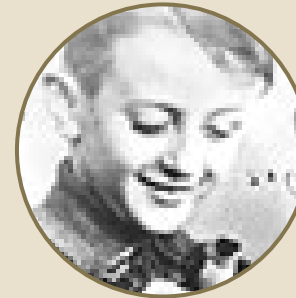
Bluma Mekler
Age 11, Poland



Rywka Herszberg
Age 6, Poland



Mania Altman
Age 7, Poland



Eduard Hornemann
Age 12, Netherlands



Walter Jungleib
Age 12, Yugoslavia



Eleonora Witoński
Age 5, Poland



Roman Witoński
Age 6, Poland



Alexander Hornemann
Age 8, Netherlands



Marek James
Age 6, Poland



Marek Steinbaum
Age 7, Poland



Roman Zeller
Age 12, Poland



Jacqueline Morgenstern
Age 12, France

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 bogus 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.



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 morale 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.

Top: Prisoners at Oflag 64. Courtesy of Bundesarchiv. Background: English prisoners of Oflag 64 drying their laundry. ©ICRC Photo Library VP-HIST-01245-03/

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.

Top: Men inspecting the control unit of a V2 rocket (unit 4) at a testing site launch pad in Peenemünde. Courtesy of Bundesarchiv. Background: Alexandra Ritchie poses with a tour guest at Peenemünde.



ITINERARY MAP



WHAT THEY FOUGHT AGAINST: SCARS OF THE NAZI WAR MACHINE

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

August 13–24, 2026

From ~~\$8,499~~ **\$7,999*** double occupancy,
~~\$10,499~~ **\$9,999*** single occupancy

\$329 per person taxes and fees are additional.

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, 6 lunches, 4 dinners, and 3 receptions
- Beer, house wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge

OPTIONAL ONE-NIGHT PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

MEGASTRUCTURES



Valentin Bunker

PRE-TOUR PROGRAM ITINERARY

Day One – Arrival

Arrive into Hamburg Airport (HAM) and enjoy a guided introductory walking tour of Hamburg with stops along the city center near the hotel. Learn about Hamburg's fascinating history as you find memorials to the soldiers of World War I and a few symbols of the bombing of July 1943. Next, visit St. Pauli Bunker. Originally referred to as Flak Tower IV, this is one of the largest bunkers ever built, designed to accommodate 18,000 people. During air raids, more than 25,000 people sought shelter here. Today, the impenetrable structure houses a nightclub, music store, and pop music school. This evening, meet your fellow tour mates at a welcome reception.

Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Hamburg, Autograph Collection (R)

Day Two – Valentin Bunker

After breakfast, spend the morning touring the Valentin Bunker. Designed as a U-boat assembly facility, construction began on the Valentin Bunker in 1943. More than 10,000 forced laborers worked on the site—many of them taken from the Neuengamme and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. More than 1,600 workers died from the deplorable conditions related to the construction. The Allies monitored the construction site, and a British raid in early 1945 caused irreparable damage. By the end of the war, The Valentin Bunker had not assembled. After lunch with the group, return to Hotel Atlantic for relaxation or independent exploration in the area prior to the start of the main tour this evening.

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

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- One night's accommodations at the five-star Hotel Atlantic Kempinski in Hamburg
- Transfer from Hamburg Airport (HAM) to Hotel Atlantic Kempinski
- Two half days of touring, including all admissions
- One breakfast, one lunch, one reception, one and a half days of touring
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunch and reception
- Expert local guide/tour manager
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- Personal listening devices on all included touring

From \$1,799 double occupancy,
\$2,225 single occupancy

\$129 per person taxes and fees are additional.

St. Pauli Bunker



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 Kempinski Hamburg (R, D)

Above: Hamburg Town Hall.

ITINERARY

DAY TWO

OPERATION GOMORRAH



During the last week of July 1943, a combined bomber offensive over Hamburg left approximately 42,000 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 Kempinski Hamburg (B)

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



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 (RAF). 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 150 miles per hour 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, and half of the city was reduced to 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.

Opposite: 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. Above: Casablanca Conference participants French General Henri Giraud, US President Franklin Roosevelt, French General Charles de Gaulle, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill meet in a yard in Paris. © KEYSTONE Pictures USA. Courtesy of Alamy Stock Images.

ITINERARY

DAY THREE

HAMBURG AND THE HOLOCAUST



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 to 1945, approximately 100,000 people passed through the gates of Neuengamme. More than half of them did not survive the war. Initially there were very few Jewish prisoners at Neuengamme, but in 1944, over 10,000 Polish and Hungarian Jews were sent to the camp. 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. Visit the Medical Museum, dedicated to remembering those who suffered and were victims of euthanasia, forced sterilization, and human experiments by the Nazis.

Accommodations: Hotel Atlantic Kempinski Hamburg (B)

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

ITINERARY

DAY FOUR

NAVAL WARFARE



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: Alexandra Richie and tour guest pose in front of U-995 in Kiel. Bottom Left: The German Naval Memorial in Laboe. Bottom Right: The E-Maschinenraum (engine room) on U-995.

ITINERARY

DAY FIVE

PEENEMÜNDE



Travel along the Baltic coast by boat to the research facility in Peenemünde where 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, Alabama. A tour of the facility includes the science and technical museum located in the former power plant and the remains of the larger facility, which was mostly destroyed after the war.

Accommodations: Travel Charme Kurhaus Binz (B)

Left: A rocket at Peenemünde. 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. Bottom Right: Tour guests cruise the Baltic coast from Binz to Peenemünde.

ITINERARY

DAY SIX

PRORA AND SZCZECIN



Depart Binz this morning and visit the remnants of the Nazi recreation facility at Prora. This nearly 3-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 lunch with the group in 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 percent 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.

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

Top: Aerial view of the ruins Prora, Germany. Courtesy of blickwinkel/Alamy Stock Photo. Bottom Left: Tour group photo after lunch in Szczecin. Bottom Right: Remnants of the Politz Synthetic Oil Refinery.

ITINERARY

DAY SEVEN

COASTAL ARTILLERY



Today's excursion heads north toward Świnoujście. A V-3 site explains the long-range cannon filled with multiple explosive charges that, in theory, would allow projectiles to hit the United Kingdom 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 2-kilometer hike through the forests east of Świnoujście, 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)

Above Left: Battery Goeben circa 1938. Above Right: Modern day view of Battery Goeben.

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 Wałcz, including an open-air museum featuring military vehicles. As the Red Army approached in January 1945, battles raged all along the Pomeranian Wall. This afternoon, visit the open-air museum Exploseum in Bydgoszcz. It was built around the Nazi Germany munitions factory DAG Fabrik Bromberg, one of the largest arms factory of the Third Reich. It was manned by thousands of prisoners of war and forced laborers to produce explosives and ammunition.

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

Top: A view from outside a bunker from the Pomeranian Wall near Wałcz, Poland.
Bottom Left: Bunker near Wałcz. Bottom Right: Tour guest exploring the inside of a bunker near Wałcz.

ITINERARY

DAY NINE

SZUBIN AND TORUŃ



Depart Bydgoszcz this morning and visit the monument to Oflag 64 in Szubin. Oflag 64 served as a prison camp for American officers from 1943-1945. Stop in the gorgeous medieval city of Toruń for lunch and a short walking tour. The Old Town was not destroyed during World War II and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon, arrive in Warsaw and enjoy a champagne reception and private Chopin concert. As the Germans marched into Poland, Polish radios broadcasted Chopin's music throughout Warsaw. Immediately after the invasion and occupation, Hitler banned the music of Fryderyk Chopin. After an emotional and difficult journey this far, reflect on the beauty and light of the arts. Following the reception and concert, dinner and the evening is at leisure.

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

Photo Left: Tour Group photo in Toruń
Photo Right: Veteran tour guests laying a wreath and the Oflag 64 Monument. NWWIIM

ITINERARY

DAY TEN

WARSAW'S DARK PAST



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 Rakowiecka Street Prison, the Katyń Museum, and Pawiak Prison. In the afternoon, visit 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. 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)

Photo: Tour guests at Rakowiecka Street Prison, the location of Witold Pilecki's assassination.
Photo courtesy of The National WWII Museum.



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, Belzec, 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 prisoners were forced to tear 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.

Opposite: Nazi concentration camp Treblinka in 1944. Courtesy of Alamy Stock Photo.
Above: Dr. Alexandra Richie at the ash fields in Treblinka.

ITINERARY

DAY ELEVEN

THE REBIRTH OF WARSAW



This morning, visit the Ringelblum Archives, which houses a collection of documents from the Warsaw Ghetto. These documents were collected and preserved by a small group led by Jewish historian Emanuel Ringelblum. Next, learn a story of heroism by visiting the Żabiński family villa at the Warsaw Zoo. Zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski offered Jewish families protection and shelter in the zoo. Both Jan and Antonina have been recognized by the Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.

This evening, enjoy a farewell group reception and dinner at the private home of Dr. Alexandra Richie. During World War II, her home was used as headquarters for General Herbert Otto Gille, commander of the 5th SS Panzergrenadier Division "Wiking" during the Battle of Radzymin. This is the site of the last great tank battle of World War II.

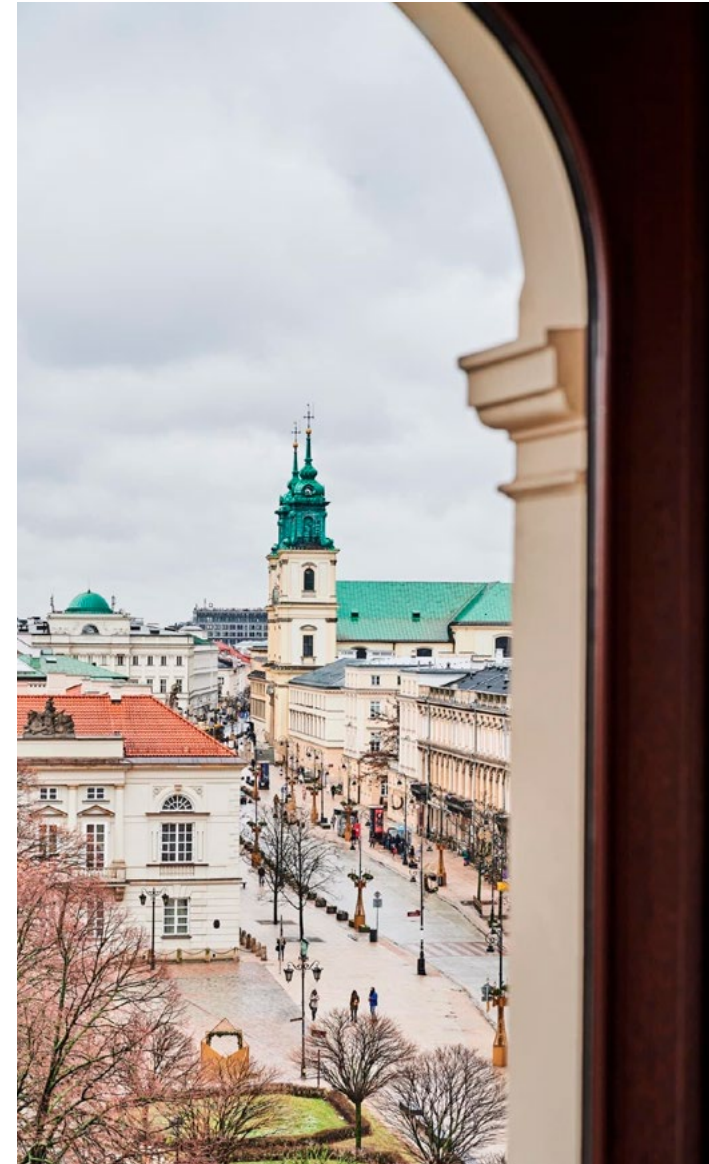
Accommodations: Hotel Bristol Warsaw (B, R, D)

Photo Left: Modern day photo of the Zookeeper's Villa in Warsaw. Top right: Tour guests at the farewell dinner at Alex Richie's home. Bottom right: Dr. Richie shares artifacts from her private library in her home outside of Warsaw.

ITINERARY

DAY TWELVE

DEPARTURES



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

Above: View of Old Town Warsaw from the Bristol Warsaw Hotel.



HOTEL ATLANTIC KEMPINSKI

HAMBURG, GERMANY

Located on the banks of Lake Alster, the five-star Hotel Atlantic Kempinski 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, iPod docks, Nespresso machine, minibar, and indoor pool. The Atlantic Restaurant offers a combination of French flavors and modern international cuisine with an Asian twist.



HAND-SELECTED ACCOMMODATIONS



TRAVEL CHARME KURHAUS BINZ

BINZ, GERMANY

Boasting more than 100 years of history, 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.

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, mini fridge, and tea and coffee facilities.

Background: Aerial view of the Grand Park Hotel Szczecin.



HOTEL SŁONECZNY MŁYN

BYDGOSZCZ, POLAND

Located near the Brda River in Bydgoszcz, the Słoneczny Młyn is the first four-star hotel in the city. 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. 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

This distinctive hotel is located just steps from the Presidential Palace, the Royal Castle, Old Town Square, the Praga neighborhood, and many other attractions in the capital. With Art Deco inspired interiors, guests enjoy two on-site restaurants and bars, Bristol Spa and Fitness, and impeccable service.

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 BA (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 10 books of the year by *American Publisher's Weekly*. Her latest book, *Warsaw 1944*, won the Newsweek Teresa Torńska Prize for best nonfiction 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.





Group photo at the Pomeranian Wall Museum in Watz.

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