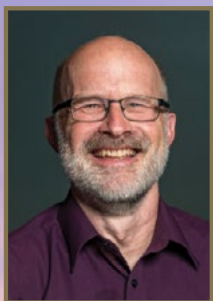




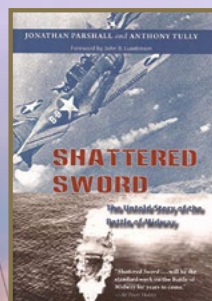
THE NATIONAL  
WWII MUSEUM  
TRAVEL

# Japan & Okinawa

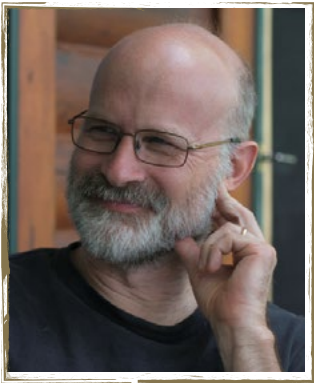
Tokyo • Hiroshima • Kagoshima • Okinawa



Featuring World-Renowned  
Naval Historian and Author  
**Jonathan Parshall**



Book early and save! See inside for details.



AUTHOR & HISTORIAN  
JONATHAN PARSHALL

*Learn more about Jon Parshall  
on page 31.*

Dear Friend of the Museum and Fellow Traveler,

I am delighted to be joining The National WWII Museum on this program commemorating the end of the Pacific war. As your historian on this epic eleven-day trek, I will provide background and context as we visit some of the most important locations significant to the final six months of the war. Beginning in Tokyo, guests will investigate the Japanese perspective on the end of the war at the Yushukan War Memorial Museum and also explore the Japanese civilian experience at the National Showa Memorial Museum.

Next, we board the incomparable bullet train (shinkansen) and whisk our way south to Hiroshima. As it happens, my wife Margaret and I spent our first year of marriage together teaching

English in this vibrant, modern city. Present-day Hiroshima is noted for both its beautiful scenery and outstanding cuisine. Hiroshima also has a dark past as the site of the first atomic bombing in 1945. We will contemplate the importance of this truly world-changing event as we view the stark remains of the Atomic Bomb Dome. We will visit the Peace Park and Memorial Museum, with its sobering exhibits detailing the horrific human cost of the attack. And we'll take time to explore the moral complexities still surrounding the bomb, reflecting on the monumental difficulties confronting President Truman and his senior advisors as they grappled with a dynamic military and diplomatic situation to bring the war to a successful close.

The nearby port of Kure is both a major shipyard and the very cradle of the Imperial Japanese Navy. While in Kure, we will visit one of my favorite spots: the Maritime Museum, complete with its awesome 86-foot-long model of the Yamato, the largest battleship ever built. Another journey to southern Kyushu takes us to Kagoshima and Chiran, the largest training center for kamikaze pilots. From the airfields at Chiran, the pilots took off on their deadly missions to Okinawa.

Finally, we'll journey to Okinawa itself, scene of the largest land battle the Americans experienced in the Pacific war. This bitter, two-and-a-half month struggle between the American forces and the Imperial Japanese Army resulted in the total destruction of the southern half of the island, leading to the deaths of nearly half of Okinawa's 300,000 civilians. We will visit some of the landmarks that have stamped their names forever on military history: Kakazu Ridge, Hacksaw Ridge, and the heights of Shuri Castle. At the end of our touring, we will all better understand how this savage battle earned its grim nickname: "The Typhoon of Steel."

I am looking forward to joining you on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. I'll be delivering a few evening lectures, but mostly enjoying your company as we see the sights, contemplate our travels, share meals together, or discuss whatever WWII topics may tickle your fancy. See you on the tour bus!

With Best Wishes,  
Jonathan B. Parshall

# 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



VISIT **16**

OVERSEAS AMERICAN BATTLE  
MONUMENTS COMMISSION  
CEMETERIES & MEMORIALS

**& 189**

MUSEUMS ON OUR ITINERARIES

### TRAVEL WITH EXPERTS

**26**

top historians with

**174**

published books and

**47**

documentary credits







## LEARN THEIR NAMES

### THE HIMEYURI OF OKINAWA

During the two-and-a-half month long battle for Okinawa, the Japanese military forced Okinawan students, known as the Himeyuri, or “Lily Corps” to serve alongside the soldiers. This group of roughly 250 high school students and teachers formed a nursing unit for the Imperial Japanese Army. Told that the battle would be a quick Japanese victory, the students brought books to study for their classes. However, they soon found themselves performing surgeries on the front lines, and living in caves. The unit remained intact, facing few casualties until the end of the battle. On June 19, 1945, American forces overran their hospital. The following week, many of the students were killed or committed suicide. Today the students of Himeyuri are memorialized at the Himeyuri Peace Museum.

Photo Credit: Himeyuri Memorial. Courtesy of Pietro Scòzzari/Alamy Stock Photo.



Photo Credit: Jimmy Doolittle, Courtesy of Aviation History Collection/Alamy Stock Photo.

## HEAR THEIR STORIES

### DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

Not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Lieutenant Colonel James “Jimmy” Doolittle led a bombing raid on Tokyo. The raid consisted of 16 B-25 bombers specially modified to launch from an aircraft carrier. After taking off from the carrier USS *Hornet*, the raiders flew for six hours before reaching their target. While not on the scale of later raids against Japanese cities, the Doolittle raid held significance in both the United States and Japan. In the United States, the raid boosted morale; in Japan, it made the citizenry rethink their belief that they could not be harmed. After the successful raid, 15 of the bombers ditched over China, with the other landing in the Soviet Union. All but 11 crew members made it back to US lines by the end of the war, and Jimmy Doolittle was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading the first raid against Tokyo.



Photo Credit: Itsei Nakagawa (back left), a Japanese American survivor of Hiroshima seen with his family in Hiroshima in 1947.

## STAND WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE

### GROUND ZERO IN HIROSHIMA

On August 6, 1945, the world was introduced to the raw destructive power of atomic weapons. At 8:16 a.m., the B-29 “Enola Gay” dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Nicknamed “Little Boy,” the bomb fell for 44.4 seconds before detonating above the Shima Surgical Clinic, producing a one-mile blast radius and killing between 60,000 and 80,000 people instantly. Fires caused by the intense heat destroyed a further 70 percent of the city and injured an additional 70,000 people. The Genbaku Dome survived the blast, despite being less than 500 feet from the hypocenter of the blast. Now called the Atomic Bomb Dome, the ruins of the building received the designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

# VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC

## *Japan & Okinawa*

Featuring Jonathan Parshall

Tokyo • Hiroshima • Kagoshima • Okinawa

~~\$8,995~~ **\$8,495\*** per person based on double occupancy

~~\$11,495~~ **\$10,995\*** single occupancy

\*\$239 per person taxes and fees are additional.

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Travel with Jonathan Parshall, one of the foremost experts on the War in the Pacific
- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local battlefield guides
- Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- 3 nights in Tokyo at The Westin Tokyo
- 2 nights in Hiroshima at the Sheraton Grand Hiroshima Hotel
- 2 nights in Kagoshima at the Shiroyama Hotel Kagoshima
- 3 nights in Okinawa at the Hyatt Regency Naha
- Transportation between Tokyo and Hiroshima on the high-speed "Bullet Train" (*shinkansen*)
- Flight between Kagoshima and Okinawa
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours
- Video oral history presentations from the Museum collection
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 dinners, and 2 Receptions
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinner
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge

## ITINERARY MAP

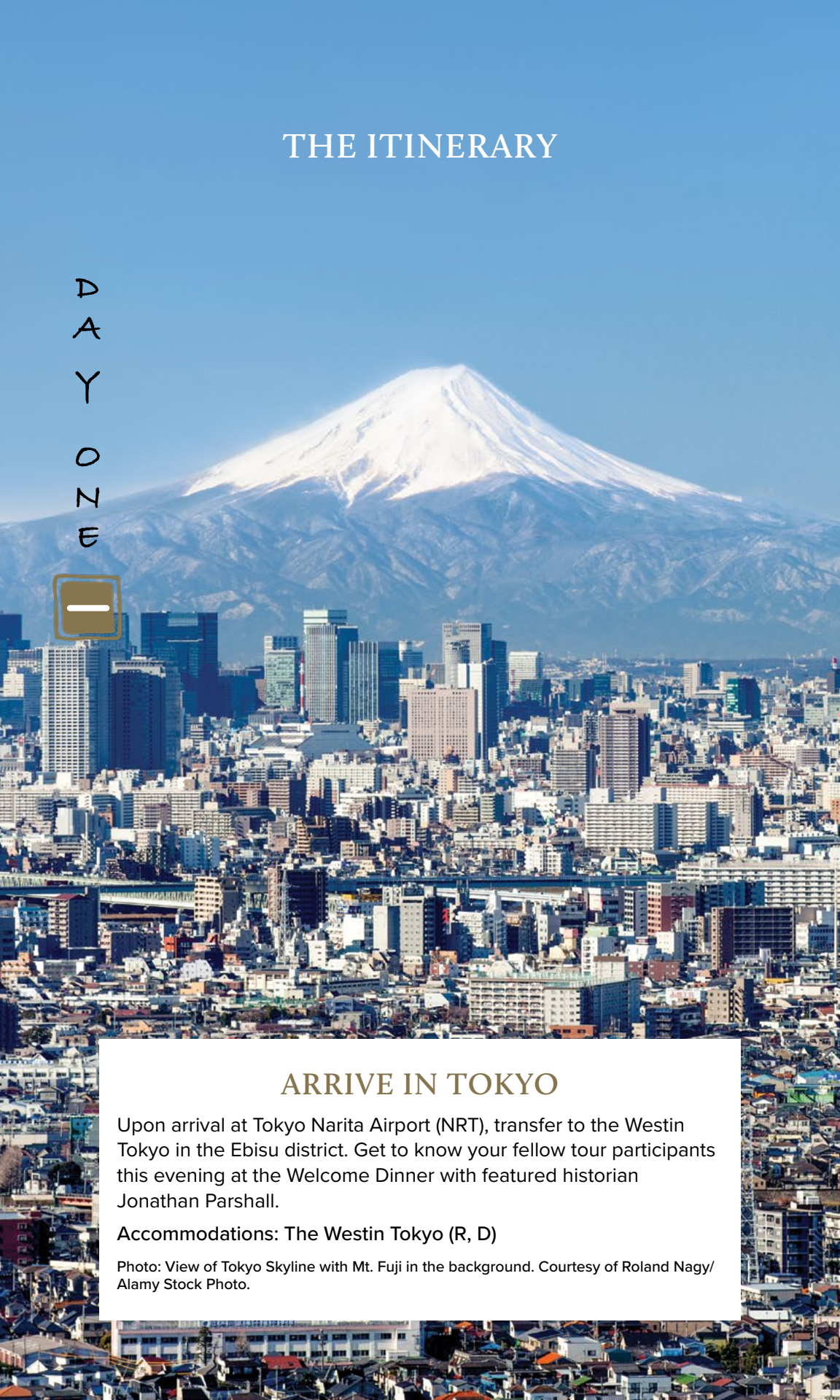


International flights to/from the US are not included.



## THE ITINERARY

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### ARRIVE IN TOKYO

Upon arrival at Tokyo Narita Airport (NRT), transfer to the Westin Tokyo in the Ebisu district. Get to know your fellow tour participants this evening at the Welcome Dinner with featured historian Jonathan Parshall.

**Accommodations: The Westin Tokyo (R, D)**

Photo: View of Tokyo Skyline with Mt. Fuji in the background. Courtesy of Roland Nagy/Alamy Stock Photo.

## THE ITINERARY

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Photo Credit: US Flag hoisted over Tokyo, Japan, 1945. Gift of Dylan Utley, from the collection of The National WWII Museum.

### YUSHUKAN WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Begin exploration of Tokyo at this Japanese military and war museum that shares the stories of those who sacrificed their lives for their country. The museum's impressive collection is within the Yasukuni Shrine, which commemorates Japanese who died in conflicts from 1868 to 1954. After an included group lunch, embark on a panoramic view of Tokyo on the way to the Asakusa Senso-ji Temple. The temple was destroyed during the firebombing of 1945, but a tree in the courtyard regrew from its burned husk and has become a symbol for the rebirth of the city. Enjoy dinner and exploration on your own this evening.

**Accommodations: The Westin Tokyo (B, L)**





Photo Credit (Top): View of the Imperial Palace moat and bridge. Courtesy of Sean Pavone/Alamy Stock Photo. Photo Credit (Bottom): Young women walk under bomb netting in Post World War II Japan during the American occupation. Courtesy of Archive Image/Alamy Stock Photo.

## THE ITINERARY



Photo Credit: Two Okinawan children help carry their family possessions from their home to a US military government camp near their village, Okinawa, Japan, July 27, 1945. Gift of Dylan Utley, from the collection of The National WWII Museum.

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## THE JAPANESE CIVILIAN EXPERIENCE

The capture of airbases in the Mariana Islands placed B-29 bombers within range of the Japanese home islands. As the Imperial Japanese leadership refused to surrender, the civilians paid a heavy price, enduring constant bombing raids. The National Showa Museum documents the civilian experience under the rise of militarism through the suffering of the final months of the war and the end of the conflict. The new Memorial Museum for Soldiers, Detainees in Siberia, and Postwar Repatriates chronicles the postwar experiences of the defeated soldiers and Japanese settlers forced to return to Japan. Enjoy a driving tour of the Imperial Palace District prior to a group dinner.

**Accommodations: The Westin Tokyo (B)**



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Photo Credit: The battleship *Yamato* sunk by US Navy planes in the East China Sea, April 1945. Courtesy of Smith Archive/Alamy Stock Photo.

### KURE

A ride on the *shinkansen*, Japan's incomparable bullet train, takes the tour to Hiroshima. Spend the afternoon in the port city of Kure, where the Japanese built the largest battleship ever constructed. Under strict secrecy, shipbuilders constructed the *Yamato*, which measured 862 feet long. The US Navy sunk the *Yamato* during its one-way mission to Okinawa in 1945. The Kure Maritime Museum, known informally as the Yamato Museum, features a 1/10 replica of the ship measuring 86 feet long. Across the street, at the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Museum, continue the exploration of Japan's postwar naval missions to demine waters around the world, including the Persian Gulf following the 1991 war.

Accommodations: Sheraton Hiroshima (B, D)

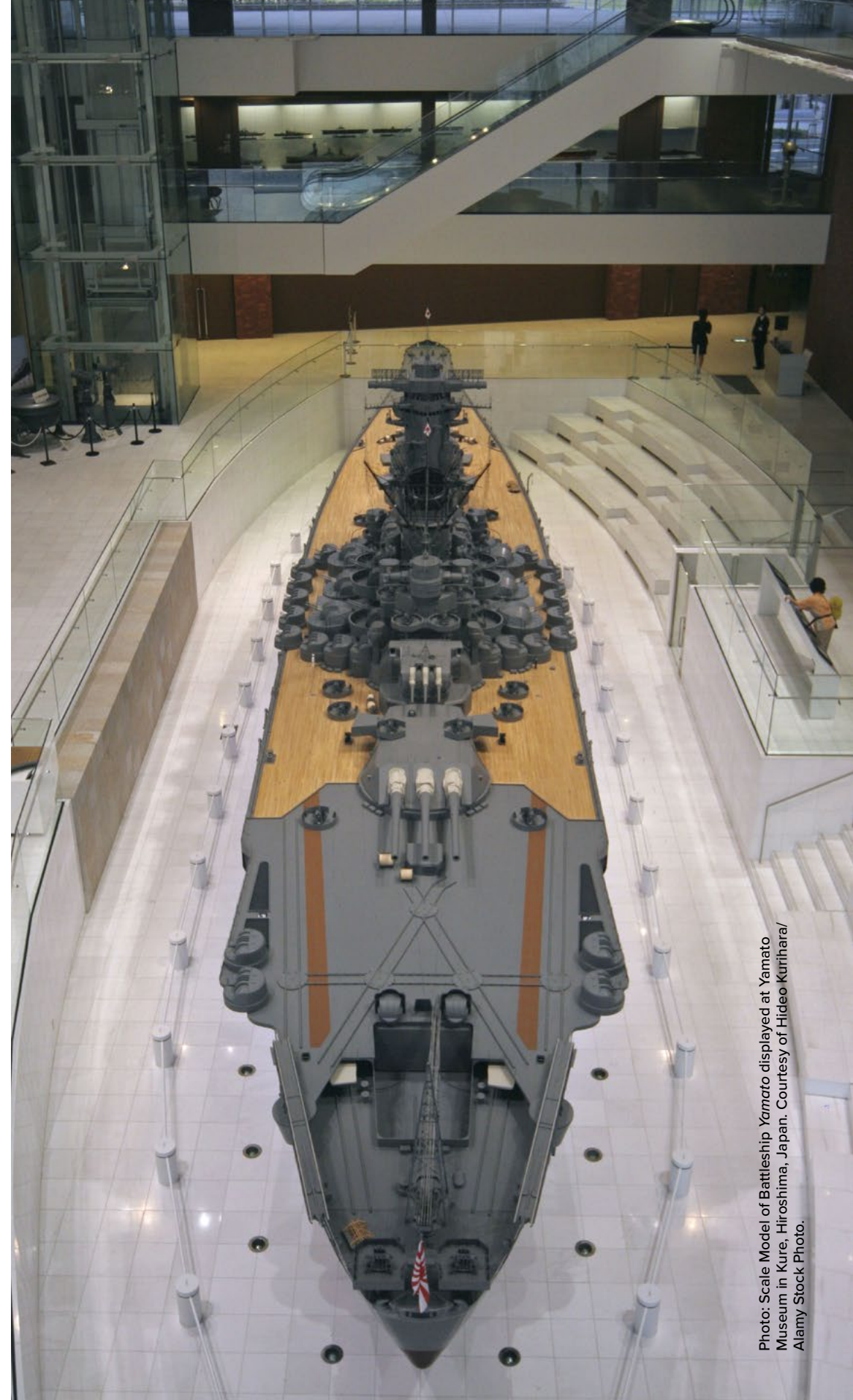


Photo: Scale Model of Battleship *Yamato* displayed at Yamato Museum in Kure, Hiroshima, Japan. Courtesy of Hideo Kurihara/Alamy Stock Photo.





Photo Credit : Genbaku Dome at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.  
Courtesy of BiR Fotos/Stockimo/Alamy Stock Photo

## THE ITINERARY

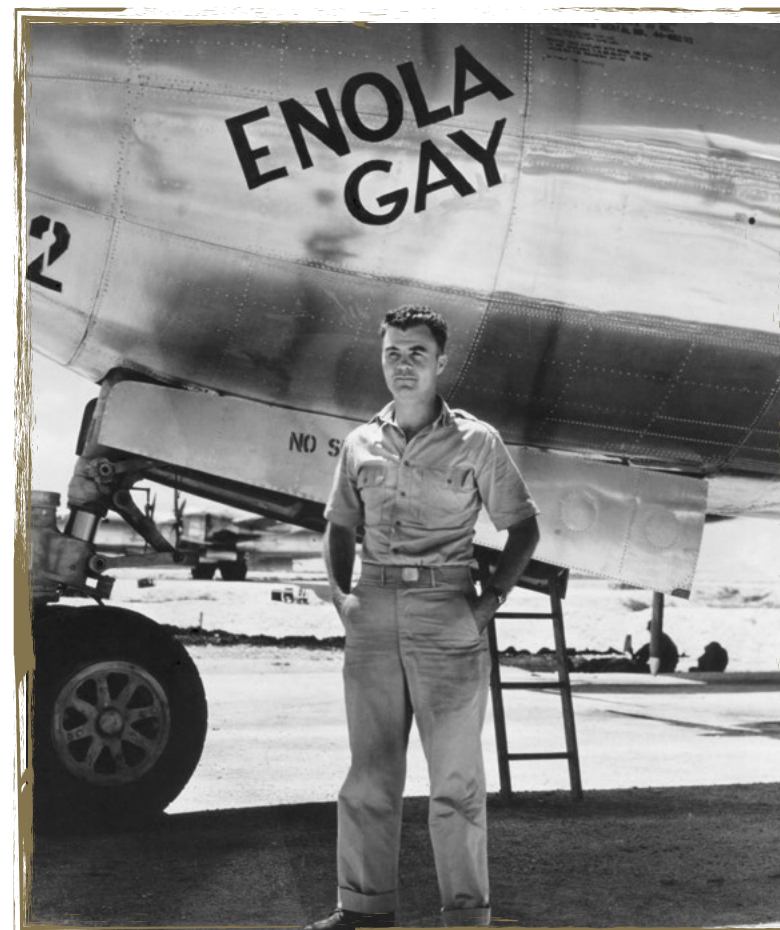


Photo Credit: Colonel Paul W. Tibbets Jr., pilot of the “Enola Gay”, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, August 6, 1945. Courtesy of Everett Collection Inc./Alamy Stock Photo.

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## GROUND ZERO

At 8:16 a.m. on August 6, 1945, the atomic bomb known as “Little Boy” exploded above Hiroshima. A bright flash preceded a shock wave that shook the city, turning most of the buildings in its path to rubble. The heat from the blast sparked fires throughout the city. Near ground zero, one building still stood, the Hiroshima Prefectural Industrial Promotion Hall. It is now known as the Atomic Bomb Dome or Genbaku Dome, and serves as a lasting reminder of the horrors of war. After standing at ground zero, continue to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, where the newly refurbished museum provides insight into the city and the aftermath of the attack, with a mission of “No More Hiroshimas.”

Accommodations: Sheraton Hiroshima (B)



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Photo Credit: Iso Residence at the Iso Teien in Kagoshima constructed in 1658 by the Shimazu Clan. Courtesy of MeijiShowa/Alamy Stock Photo.

## KAGOSHIMA

Depart for the island of Kyushu and the Kagoshima Prefecture. After lunch in Kagoshima, step back in time during a visit to Sengan-en, a Japanese garden at the site of the residence of the Shimazu Clan. Kagoshima under the authority of the Shimazu clan was exceptional, as they looked outward during Japan's period of seclusion from the outside world. The Shimazu were responsible for jump starting the Industrial Revolution in Japan, contributing to the rapid modernization of the country in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Accommodations: Shiroyama Hotel Kagoshima (B, L, D)



Photo Credit (Top): View of Kagoshima. Courtesy of Prisma by Dukas Presseagentur GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo. Photo Credit (Bottom): A sculpture in Sengan-en, a traditional Japanese garden surrounding a stately home in Kagoshima that has been passed down in the Shimadzu. Courtesy of mauritius images GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo.





Photo Credit (Top): Display at the Special Attack Peace Memorial Museum, Chiran, Kyushu Island. Courtesy of jeremy sutton-hibbert/Alamy Stock Photo. Photo Credit (Bottom): Statue of Kannon, Goddess of Mercy at Chiran Peace Park. Kagoshima, Japan. Courtesy of Peter Schneider/Alamy Stock Photo.

## THE ITINERARY



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Photo Credit: Shigeyoshi Hamazono, a *kamikaze* pilot in the Japanese Special Attack Force during World War II, at the Special Attack Peace Memorial Museum, in Chiran. After two unsuccessful missions the war ended thus denying him the chance to die for his country in a suicide plane attack against US military targets. Chiran was the airbase from where kamikaze pilots took off on their final missions. Courtesy of MeijiShowa/Alamy Stock Photo.

## CHIRAN

Head south from Kagoshima today to view some of the objectives of Operation Olympic, the planned invasion of southern Japan. Visit the town of Chiran, home to a kamikaze attack base near the end of the war. During the Battle of Okinawa, just under 50% of the kamikaze pilots who died during their suicide missions came from Chiran. Since 1975, a museum on the grounds of the former airfield has told the stories of the young pilots to ensure that such a tragic tradition of honor by suicide will never happen again. The museum's displays include several intact planes including a Mitsubishi Zero. Depart for Kagoshima this evening for a group dinner and discussion.

**Accommodations: Shiroyama Hotel Kagoshima (B, L, D)**



## THE ITINERARY

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Photo Credit: A 1st Division Marine comforts another who witnessed the death of a friend in Shuri, east of Naha, capital of Okinawa, April 1945. Gift of Charles Ives, from the collection of The National WWII Museum.

## NAHA, OKINAWA

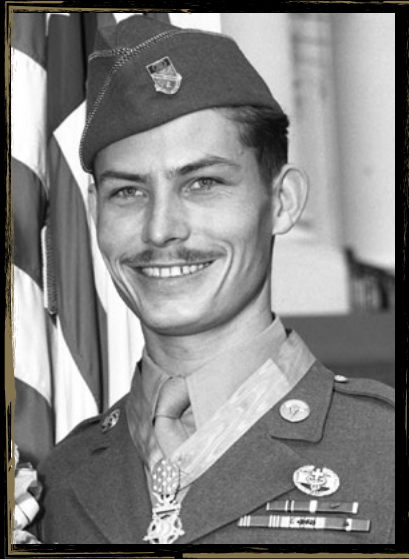
Board a flight to Naha, Okinawa, this morning and arrive by mid-day. Afternoon touring will introduce Okinawa and the city of Naha. Naha was the historic center of the Ryuku Kingdom, and it served as the capital of Okinawa Prefecture when the island was absorbed by Japan in 1879. Shuri Castle was the palace of the Ryuku Kingdom. During the Battle of Okinawa, intense shelling of the castle by the USS Mississippi left it in ruins. It was reopened in 1992 on the spot of the former castle and opened to the public for touring. Shuri Castle was again damaged in a severe fire in October 2019, and efforts at restoration will mark another in a series of rebirths for this historic site.

**Accommodations:** Hyatt Regency Naha (B, L)



Photo Credit (Top): A market on Kokusai Street in Naha. Courtesy of tse Pui Lung/Alamy Stock Photo.  
Photo Credit (Bottom): The Shikinaen Royal Garden in Naha, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Courtesy of agefotostock/Alamy Stock Photo.





# HONORING OUR HEROES

## CORPORAL DESMOND T. DOSS

Desmond Doss grew up in a devout Seventh-day Adventist household in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he learned to live a nonviolent life. Doss left school after seventh grade, and took up a job with the local lumber company to help support his family as the Great Depression ravaged the country.

When war broke out in 1941, Doss was working in the shipyard at Newport News, Virginia. Initially given a deferment from service, Doss joined the Army. Because of his strong beliefs and pacifism, Doss refused to harm enemy soldiers. Therefore, he trained as a medic with the 307th Infantry Regiment, 77th Infantry Division. The 307th did not see action until 1944 when it set sail for the Pacific to take part in the offensive to retake Guam, and later the Philippines, from the Japanese. During these offensives, Doss showed extreme bravery by helping wounded soldiers while under heavy fire.



It was during the Okinawa Campaign that Doss proved his mettle as a soldier. While moving up the Maeda Escarpment, known as Hacksaw Ridge, the men of Doss's battalion came under heavy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire, which inflicted roughly 75 casualties and caused the rest of the battalion to retreat. Disregarding his own safety, Doss remained with the wounded men. Doss singlehandedly carried each man, one by one, to the edge of the escarpment, tied him to a rope, and lowered him to safety. This, however, was just the start of Doss's career on Okinawa.

Over the next several weeks, Doss repeatedly put himself in harm's way to treat his wounded comrades. On May 21, during a night assault near Shuri Castle, several men in Doss's outfit were wounded in front of American lines. Instead of taking cover, Doss remained with the stricken men, despite the danger of both Japanese and friendly fire. Suddenly, a grenade went off near Doss, wounding both his legs. This did not stop Doss, who dressed his wounds and waited five hours for stretcher-bearers to find him. While being brought to friendly lines, the group ran into an enemy tank attack. Seeing another, more critically wounded soldier on the field, Doss got off the stretcher, instructing the bearers to take the other man. While waiting for their return, a sniper shot Doss in the arm, shattering the bone. Thinking quickly, Doss strapped a nearby rifle butt to his arm, and, using the rifle as a splint, he crawled the remaining 300 yards to the nearest aid station.

Desmond Doss survived the battle and the war. For saving approximately 100 soldiers on Okinawa, Doss received the Medal of Honor, becoming the only conscientious objector to receive the award during World War II.

Photo Page 22: Corporal Desmond T. Doss, 77th Division on Okinawa. Photo Page 23: Corporal Desmond T. Doss of Lynchburg, Virginia, is awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in the White House gardens from President Harry S. Truman. Courtesy of Bettmann/Getty Images.





Photo Credit: View of Urasoe Castle, Okinawa.  
Courtesy of Katharina Schipp/Alamy Stock Photo.



Photo Credit: A view inside Shimuku Gama cave.

## THE ITINERARY



Photo Credit: Wounded US Marine being helped to a medical aid station in Okinawa, Japan, 1945. Gift of Dylan Utley, from the collection of The National WWII Museum.

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## BATTLE OF OKINAWA

On April 1, 1945, American forces landed on Okinawa. The initial landings were uneventful with only sparse Japanese resistance as two of their airfields fell in the first days of the invasion. As the Americans turned south, the defense stiffened. Approaching the Shuri Line, every hill, ridge, and cave presented danger. Civilians caught up in the battle presented an extra set of challenges as Japanese officials warned that the Americans would commit unspeakable atrocities on anyone captured. After exploring the landing beaches, the tour continues to Shimuku Gama Cave where several Okinawans who worked in Hawaii prevented a tragedy by speaking of their experience with Americans. Approximately 1,000 Okinawans left the cave peacefully, entering into the American lines. The tour continues south toward Kakazu Ridge, the scene of the first heavy fighting on Okinawa, and Hacksaw Ridge, where Desmond Doss saved the lives of numerous men while repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire.

Accommodations: Hyatt Regency Naha (B, L)



HP



## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA

Following its victory over the Japanese on Iwo Jima, the United States set its sights on the Japanese island of Okinawa. Code-named Operation Iceberg, the April 1, 1945, invasion was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific theater. It also proved to be the bloodiest.

The invasion began with a massive naval bombardment, similar to the Normandy landing the previous summer. The Tenth Army, a composite force of soldiers and marines, landed in the thin south-central section of the island with no resistance. Within hours, the Tenth Army held two Japanese airbases, cutting the island in two. The lack of resistance led General Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr., commander of the Tenth Army, to move to the second phase of the operation, the seizure of the northern half of the island. By April 13, the 22nd Marine Regiment reached the northernmost tip of the island and cornered the Japanese forces in the north to the Motobu Peninsula. For another six days, the Marines fought hard to reduce that defensive pocket.

While the Marines cleared the northern sector of Okinawa, the US Army moved south. Resistance stiffened roughly five miles north of Shuri, an area the soldiers nicknamed “Cactus Ridge.” After four days of fighting, the Americans finally moved through this first set of defensive positions. From April 7 through mid-May, American forces launched several assaults to capture Kakazu Ridge. After weeks of fighting, the Americans broke through and captured Shuri Castle, prompting the Japanese to withdraw south to their last defensive line. The land battle for Okinawa finished on June 22, with the surrender of the remaining Japanese defenders. Okinawa was in American hands, but at the cost of over 240,000 American, Japanese, and Okinawan lives.

The Battle of Okinawa proved to be the bloodiest of the Pacific theater. The carnage did not just affect the military—It took a heavy toll on the native Okinawans also. An unknown amount of civilians died during the battle. From being conscripted into the Japanese military and used as human shields, to being hit with indirect fire, Okinawans suffered terribly in the battle. The carnage of Okinawa worried American planners regarding what could lay ahead in an invasion of the Japanese home islands—an invasion that never had to take place after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Photo Credit: Japanese soldier hanging from the side of a US landing craft after swimming from southern Okinawa in response to a call to surrender over the vessel's loud speaker system, July 31, 1945. Gift of Dylan Utley, from the collection of The National WWII Museum.



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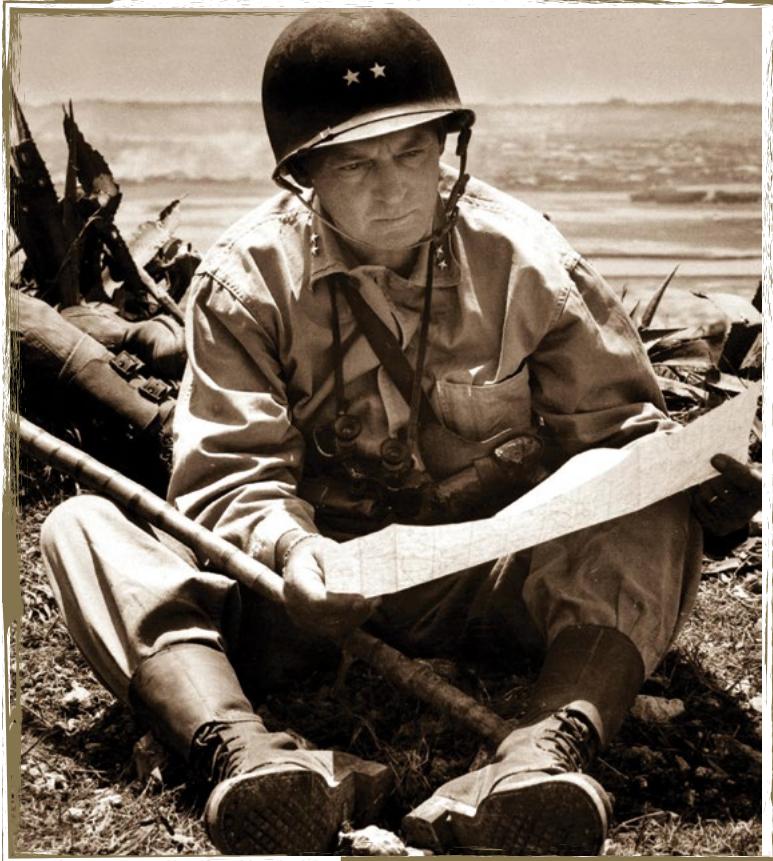


Photo Credit: With the captured capital of Naha as a background, Marine Maj. Gen. Lemuel Shepherd, commanding general of the 6th Marine Division, sits on an Okinawan ridge to consult a map of the terrain. Courtesy of American Photo Archive/Alamy Stock Photo.

## THE FINAL BATTLES

Outside of Naha, the Japanese constructed a complex of underground tunnels that would serve as the headquarters of Admiral Minoru Ota. As the Japanese retreated south from positions near Naha, Ota committed suicide in the complex. On the southern tip of the island, two memorials commemorate the human cost of the battle. The Himeyuri Museum, founded by the Himeyuri nurses themselves, chronicles the experience of the Okinawan female students forced to serve as nurses for the Japanese soldiers. Enduring the same conditions as the soldiers themselves, the Himeyuri were eventually cast out into the open battlefield when the Japanese saw the battle as lost and medical care no longer necessary. On the southeastern corner of the island, the Okinawa Peace Memorial features the names of over 240,000 individuals killed in the battle.

Accommodations: Hyatt Regency Naha (B, L, R, D)

## THE ITINERARY

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## DEPARTURES

Bid farewell to Japan and Okinawa this morning and transfer to Naha Okinawa Airport (OKA) for individual flights back to the United States. (B)

Photo Credit: Aerial view of Okinawa



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## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

### ERNIE PYLE IN OKINAWA



Ernie Pyle developed a passion for journalism while attending Indiana University in the early 1920s. During his time there, Pyle wrote for the school newspaper, took extra journalism courses, and worked as the newspaper editor. Pyle even took a sabbatical from school to follow the Indiana baseball team to Japan, reporting on the team's tour from Hong Kong, Manila, and Japan. During his time at Indiana University, Pyle began developing the storytelling style of writing that would make him famous two decades later.

In December 1940, Pyle volunteered to go to London to cover the bombing of the city. Pyle returned to Great Britain a year and a half later as a war correspondent for Scripps-Howard newspaper. Throughout the war in

Europe, Pyle followed infantry from North Africa to Italy and eventually to France. He spent most of his time on the front line interviewing enlisted men and writing about their daily experiences. Pyle grew to admire the infantry, seeing them as the underdogs.

By the end of September 1944, Pyle began showing signs of combat fatigue, and decided to return to the states to recover in his New Mexico home. In January 1945, Pyle reluctantly agreed to report on the Navy experience from the Pacific front. Despite having served in the Naval Reserve during World War I, Pyle felt more attached to the GIs in the foxholes of Europe than to the Navy serving in the Pacific.

However, it did not take long for Pyle to find himself on the front lines again. During the Battle of Okinawa, he reported from the island of Ie Shima, following the activities of the 77th Infantry Division. On April 18, 1945, Ernie Pyle and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Coolidge came under fire while driving to the new battalion command post. Both men took cover in a nearby ditch, waiting for their chance to escape. After a while, both men raised their head to see if the coast was clear. After another blast of machine gun bullets, Coolidge ducked and looked over to find Pyle lying dead next to him.

At the news of his death a national outpouring of grief flowed from the Home Front, across Europe, and over the Pacific. Even President Harry Truman eulogized, "No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told. He deserves the gratitude of all his countrymen."

Photo Credit: War Correspondent Ernie Pyle and Ex-Heavyweight Champion Jack Dempsey in Okinawa, 1945. Official US Coast Guard Photograph, Gift of Stacy Hutchinson, from the collection of The National WWII Museum.

## FEATURED AUTHOR & HISTORIAN

*Jonathan Parshall*

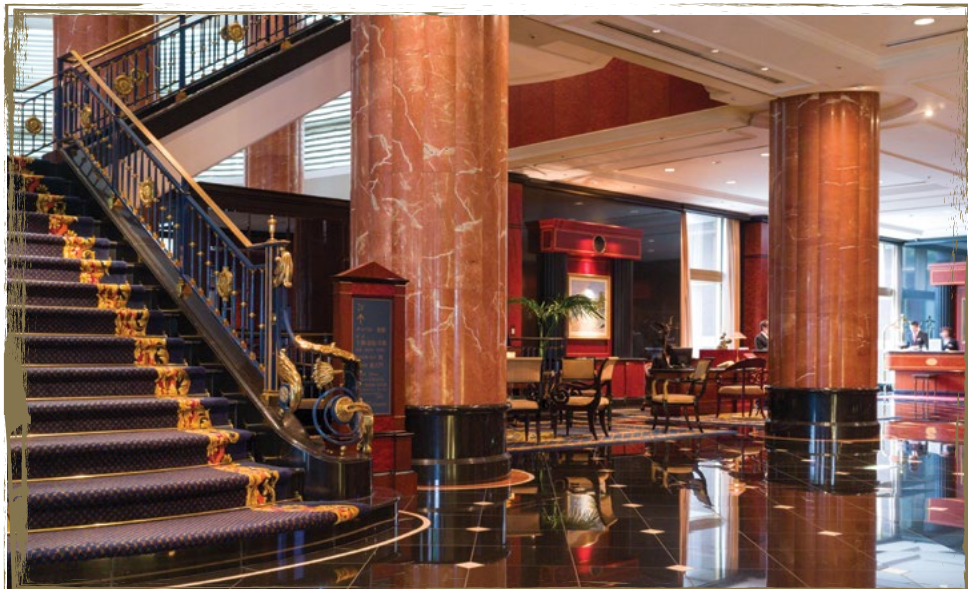


Jonathan Parshall is coauthor of *Shattered Sword: The Untold Story of the Battle of Midway*. Widely published on the Pacific War, his work has appeared in the *Naval War College Review*, *Naval History* magazine and *Naval Institute Proceedings*, *Wartime* (the Magazine of the Australian War Memorial), *World War II* magazine, the *Northern Mariner*, and many others. He is a frequent speaker at venues such as The National WWII Museum, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library,

the National Museum of the Pacific War, and the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum. He has appeared on the Discovery Channel, History Channel, Netflix, National Geographic, and the Smithsonian Channel. Parshall is a coauthor of *Fighting in the Dark* (2023), which details the history of naval night combat, as well as a forthcoming new narrative history of the year 1942, covering all theaters of the war. He is a graduate of Carleton College and the Carlson School of Management.

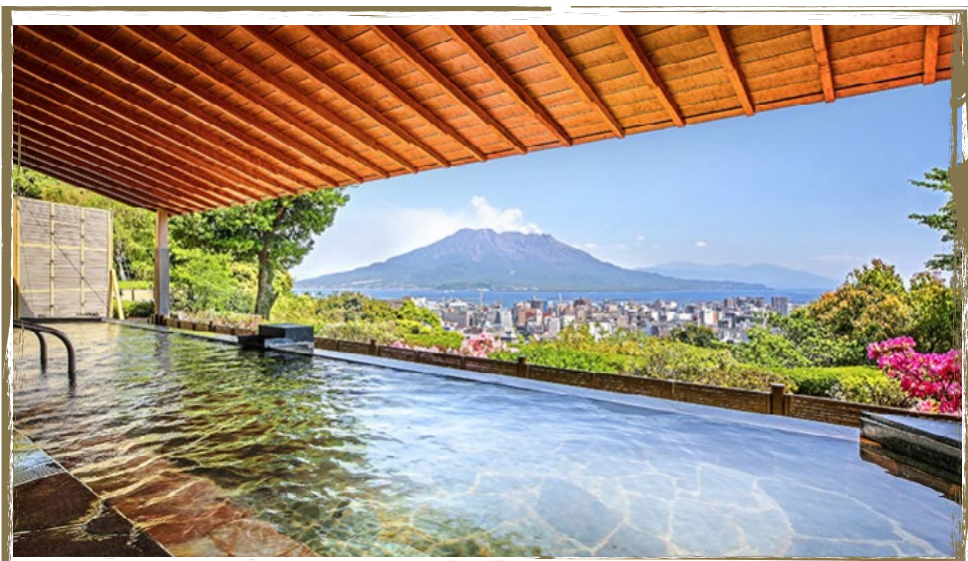


## ACCOMMODATIONS



### WESTIN TOKYO

The Westin Tokyo is a large upscale hotel situated in the Ebisu area of Tokyo. Located in a hip but quiet area, the hotel offers convenient access to the Shibuya and Roppongi areas and lies within easy walking distance of the loop line providing access to the entire city. Each beautifully decorated room offers panoramic views of the city; a Heavenly® Bed; 24-hour room service; complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi; and an entertainment system with DVD player, premium movie channels, and international cable, and satellite TV. Additionally, the hotel offers a European-style hotel spa and 24-hour fitness center.



### HOTEL SHIROYAMA KAGOSHIMA

Hotel Shiroyama Kagoshima is surrounded by breathtaking views of Mount Sakurajima and overlooks the heart of Kagoshima city. Enjoy soaking in an outdoor pool filled with Satumanoyu's natural hot spring water wells. Additional amenities include minibar, complimentary toiletries, flat screen TV and free Wi-Fi.



### SHERATON HIROSHIMA

Situated near the JR Hiroshima station with convenient access to the sites and architecture of the historic city, the beautiful Sheraton Grand Hiroshima is the ideal location from which to explore Hiroshima. Offering comfort and luxury, the hotel features spa and fitness facilities as well as two restaurants with extensive options. All 238 spacious bedrooms and suites feature a flat-screen TV, Wi-Fi, a Sheraton Sleep Experience Bed, and views of the cityscape.



### HYATT REGENCY NAHA

Located in the bustling heart of Naha, Sakurazaka, the Hyatt Regency combines Hyatt's standard of service with Okinawan hospitality, giving guests a uniquely wonderful experience. With work, play, and relaxation in mind, the Hyatt Regency features a fitness center, on-site restaurant, meeting facilities, and an outdoor swimming pool. The 294 contemporary guestrooms include a designated working area, complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, a 40/55" flat-screen TV, and Sealy BoxTop mattress.





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