

THE BRENNER ASSIGNMENT

SHADOW WAR IN THE ALPS WITH THE ORIGINAL INGLORIOUS BASTARDS

A tour through the Italian Dolomites and the Austrian Alps

Featuring best-selling author and military historian Patrick K. O'Donnell and
National WWII Museum Founding President & CEO Emeritus Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
TRAVEL

CORTINA | BOLZANO | MERANO | INNSBRUCK

September–October 2026
12 nights | Starting at \$13,599



The vertical snow-capped peaks, winding alpine trails, and emerald lakes of the Italian Dolomites and Austrian Alps showcase some of the world's most glorious natural beauty. But during World War II, they were also the setting for the virtual suicide missions of the Brenner Assignment. This is the story of one of the most brutal yet untold shadow wars involving American OSS commandos, forerunners to the US Army Special Forces who forged the original "Inglorious Bastards." Behind the lines, the truth was far stranger than fiction.

Uncover a secret world by retracing the footsteps of these operators first brought to life by author, military historian, and special

operations expert Patrick K. O'Donnell. Based on his award-winning and best-selling books *Operatives*, *Spies and Saboteurs*, *The Brenner Assignment*, and *They Dared Return*, this groundbreaking tour relives the behind-the-lines drama of an unknown theater of World War II. O'Donnell and Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PhD, Founding President & CEO Emeritus of The National WWII Museum, will guide guests on a remarkable journey through history, highlighting some of the greatest special operations stories of the war—and venturing where no tour has ever gone before.

A \$2,500 per person refundable deposit reserves your booking. Book by October 31, 2025, to save \$1,000 per person!

TO RESERVE

Call: 1-877-813-3329 x 257

Email: travel@nationalww2museum.org



ITINERARY MAP

*Flights not included.



INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Fly into Venice, Italy, then take a scenic drive to Cortina, the heart of the action in *The Brenner Assignment* and the site of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.
- Be immersed in Roderick Stephen Hall's *Brenner Assignment*, which began with a daring parachute drop in the Friuli region of Northern Italy in the Dolomite Alps.
- Traverse an area that was infested by the SS and German-allied Cossack troops 80 years ago, and visit remote mountain safehouses while taking in gorgeous vistas.
- Retrace the resistance and guerilla tactics of the commandos and double agents and the cat-and-mouse hunt pitting the Americans against the elite SS and Gestapo.
- Listen to true stories of stunning escapes from heavily armed SS troops and their ferocious war dogs in plunging mountain ravines.
- Explore the setting of an impossible love story featuring a mysterious machine-gun-toting, auburn-haired countess who is also a double agent.
- See the centuries-old Casteldardo, a villa owned by a countess and resistance member and used as a German headquarters while doubling as a safehouse under the noses of the Nazis.
- Travel north toward the Brenner Pass and Bolzano, Italy, to the Corpo d'Armata headquarters of the Gestapo and SS. Enter its infamous "machine room" torture chamber and visit the site of a concentration camp that held captured members of the American team.
- While in Bolzano, see the famous Ötzi—a 5,000-year-old "ice man" discovered near the Brenner Pass in 1991.
- Shop the old center of Merano, enjoy a lovely dinner in a local vineyard, and visit enchanting 11th-century Castle Tirol—the oldest extant castle in Europe since Roman times.
- Journey to Innsbruck, Austria, to see the glacier where the commando team parachuted and explore the operations and memories of the original Inglorious Bastards. Their chutzpah disguised as German soldiers culminated in one of WWII's most daring and successful covert missions.
- From Innsbruck, relive the moments of danger endured by the team members, meet families of the resistance, see the safe houses, hear from local historians, and follow our tour leaders to the sites of memory and extraordinary deception that led to the climactic finale of the Special Ops mission in the last days of the war.
- Enjoy leisure time for cultural tours to historic castles and museums, shopping in the old medieval town (the "Altstadt"), cable cars to mountain peaks, special event dinners, and a visit to the famous Swarovski Kristallwelten.

*Tour itinerary is not final and is subject to change.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY INTO HISTORY

The full tour itinerary, inclusions, accommodations, and more details will be released in September 2025.

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Space is extremely limited, act now to ensure your spot on this unique journey!



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