In collaboration with The National WWII Museum



EASY COMPANY ENGLAND TO THE EAGLE'S NEST

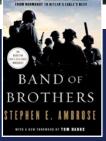
SEPTEMBER 9-21, 2024

Aldbourne • Portsmouth • Normandy • Eindhoven• Arnhem Bastogne • Clervaux • Luxembourg City • Haguenau • Dachau Berchtesgaden • Zell am See



Book early and save!

Join our most popular tour, based on the best-selling book, *Band of Brothers* by Museum founder Stephen E. Ambrose, featuring original cast members from the award-winning HBO miniseries.





Dear Spartans,

In 1980, Nick Mueller (President and CEO Emeritus of The National WWII Museum) persuaded his best friend and University of New Orleans colleague Stephen Ambrose to lead their first overseas tour – a trip from the Normandy D-Day beaches to the Rhine River. For the next 20 years, the duo continued to run tours while Ambrose began collecting hundreds of oral histories from D-Day veterans, including interviews with surviving members of the famed Easy Company.

Of course, the rest is history. Ambrose's research and interviews led to bestselling book *Band of Brothers*, which would years later be adapted into the HBO miniseries that brought the story of Easy Company to millions of viewers worldwide. Perhaps no single work, in the past three decades, has had such an impact, or made such an imprint on the American memory of World War II.

Ambrose and Mueller's passion for preserving the stories of D-Day veterans led to the idea of building a National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. Their overseas tours tracing the wartime route of the "Band of Brothers" helped raise funds for the Museum, which would open in 2000 and quickly expand its mission to include the entire war effort.

Today, the Easy Company tour is the most popular educational travel program offered by The National WWII Museum. The exclusive itinerary features sites referenced in the Easy Company veteran interviews conducted by Ambrose and his team at the Eisenhower Center for American Studies. This journey remains core to the Museum's mission – offering rare access to sites, extraordinary guides, and quaint regional accommodations. As the authority on World War II, the Museum draws upon its collection of oral histories, photographs, and artifacts to deliver the most memorable, emotional, educational, and extraordinary travel experiences.

We hope you'll join us on this personal journey to the beaches, bridges, cities, and villages where the legendary Easy Company fought the crucial D-Day battles and changed the course of history. Every tour features an original cast member from the miniseries, making this tour a truly unique experience.

Sincerely,

Regina Cross

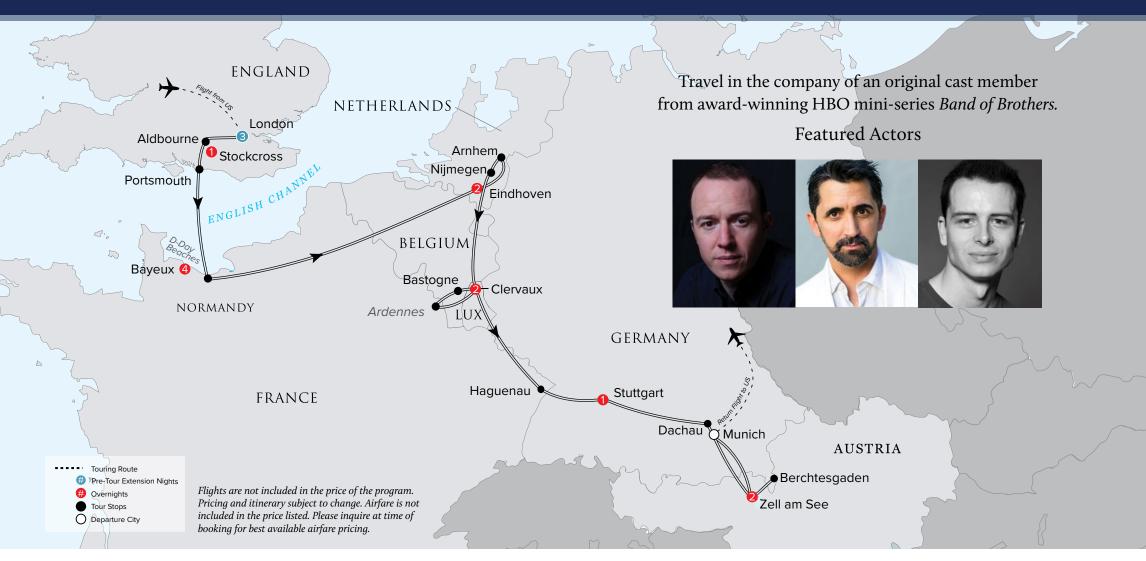
Regina Cross, B.S. '91 Director of Alumni Travel MSU Alumni Office



COVER PHOTO: AERIAL VIEW OF HITER'S EAGLES NEST. BACKGROUND PHOTO: TOUR GUESTS EXPLORE THE FOXHOLES DUG BY MEMBER OF EASY COMPANY DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE. BOIS JACQUES FOREST, BELGIUM. PHOTO COURTESY FRANK AYMAMI.

ITINERARY MAP

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS



EASY COMPANY ENGLAND TO THE EAGLE'S NEST

SEPTEMBER 9-21, 2024

13 days for only \$8,499 **\$7,999*** double occupancy \$10,499 **\$9,999*** single occupancy

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

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Travel in the company of a cast member from the HBO miniseries Band of Brothers (Actor will be announced to travelers prior to departure)
- Full-time logistical tour manager
- Expert local battlefield guides
- Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Boutique hotel accommodations in prime locations
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours

- Entrance fees to all sites, museums, and historic attractions in itinerary
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- 12 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 1 reception, and 8 dinners
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Informative map book with useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout the journey
- Personalized luggage tags and name badge

THE ITINERARY

THE ITINERARY



PHOTO: THE BLUE BOAR PUB IN THE VILLAGE OF ALDBOURNE , ENGLAND

Day 1: London Arrivals / Aldbourne, England

After individual arrivals into London-Heathrow (LHR), proceed west of London to the training areas of Easy Company. After lunch in Aldbourne, enjoy a walking tour with local villagers and members of the Aldbourne Historical Society, who recount what it was like to welcome Easy Company and other American troops more than 75 years ago. This evening, get to know your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

Accommodations: Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa (L, R, D)

Day 2: Portsmouth / Cross the English Channel

After breakfast at the hotel, head south to Portsmouth. Serving as the launching point for Operation Overlord, Portsmouth is overflowing with history. The visit starts with Fort Nelson. This fully restored Victorian Fortress served as an ammunition depot supplying the batteries that defended the southern coast of Britain. The complex covers 18 acres of tunnels, fortifications, and artillery from various eras. For lunch, enjoy classic English pub fare at the Golden Lion in the picturesque village of Southwick, renowned for the planning of the D-Day landings and the historic location where Eisenhower and Montgomery met. This afternoon, cross the English Channel by ferry with a dinner onboard, landing in Normandy late in the evening.

Accommodations: Le Lion d'Or (B, L, D)

Day 3: Utah Beach / US Airborne

After breakfast, depart for the Utah Beach area to tour the landing beach and visit the Utah Beach Museum. View original B-26 bomber in the museum's hangar and listen to the oral history of Dick Winters on the second floor of this magnificent museum. Next, take an exclusive tour of Brécourt Manor, made famous by Easy Company's action here on June 6, 1944. In the small town of Sainte-Mère-Église, enjoy lunch independently then visit the Airborne Museum and the church made famous by the film *The Longest Day.* En route to the hotel, the coach makes a photo stop at Marmion Farm, the makeshift rendezvous point for paratroopers during the D-Day invasion. Enjoy dinner with the group this evening. *Accommodations: Le Lion d'Or (B, D)*





IN REMEMBRANCE

MAJOR DICK WINTERS

Commander, 2nd Bn., 506th PIR

1918 - 2011

Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart





THROUGH THEIR EYES

Remembering Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne

Richard "Dick" Winters began his association with the 101st Airborne Division's 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment as a platoon leader in Easy Company. By war's end, he commanded the 506th's Second Battalion, which included his old company. Although the attrition of war played a part in Winters' rapid advance through the ranks, it was his superb leadership and ability to complete tough assignments that endeared him to the men under his command. The men of Easy Company who survived the war attribute their survival to many things, and the leadership of Dick Winters is always near the top of the list.

Easy Company: England to the Eagle's Nest visits sites that Winters and his men made legendary, including Brécourt Manor where they knocked out a battery of German 105's on D-Day; "The Crossroads" in the Netherlands where they took on a force many times their size; Foy, on the outskirts of Bastogne, where they endured hell from both the Germans and Mother Nature; the site of the "Last Patrol" in Haguenau; and finally, the Eagle's Nest near Berchtesgaden where the men of Easy Company enjoyed Hitler's famous mountain retreat at the end of the war.



Day 4: La Fière / Easy Company in Normandy

Today, travel along rural lanes, past hedgerows, and over causeways to La Fière bridge, where elements of the 82nd Airborne fought off four days of attacks from German troops trying to retake this strategic bridge. Next, travel to Beuzeville-au-Plain to view the monument to Lt. Thomas Meehan's downed C-47, and hear his story. After an included lunch, learn the story of Easy Company at the important town of Carentan, which linked the Utah and Omaha Beach forces. End the day's touring at the Dead Man's Corner Museum and with a visit to the church at Angoville au Plain. This evening enjoy free time to enjoy one of Bayeux's many quaint cafés.

Accommodations: Le Lion d'Or (B, L)

Day 5: Pointe du Hoc / Omaha Beach / Normandy American Cemetery

On the final day in Normandy, touring is devoted to the ground troops who came ashore in the Omaha Beach area. First, visit Pointe du Hoc, where Army Rangers faced tough odds coming ashore and scaling the imposing 100-foot cliff. Next, visit Dog Green Sector of Omaha Beach. A Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry of the 29th "Blue and Gray" Division landed at "H- Hour" on D-Day. A 250-meter stretch of beach untouched by preliminary bombardments lay in front of them, and they could clearly see German bunkers in the distance. Within 15 minutes, A Company was reduced from an assault company to a small rescue party. These events inspired the opening scenes of *Saving Private Ryan*. After an included lunch overlooking Omaha Beach, spend the afternoon at the Normandy American Cemetery, where more than 9,000 Americans are laid to rest in the ground they helped liberate. Guests will be given time to walk the grounds, visit the small museum, and remember the sacrifices made here. Reflect on the day's touring during dinner with the group this evening. *Accommodations: Le Lion d'Or (B, L, D)*

THE ITINERARY



VIEW OF AMIENS DEWAILLY CLOCK AND THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF AMIENS, AMIENS, FRANCE.

Day 6: Normandy to the Netherlands

Bid farewell to Normandy and head to The Netherlands. Along the way, view episodes from the *Band of Brothers* miniseries. Stop in picturesque Amiens, France, a city along the Somme River. Enjoy lunch and independent exploration, with time to visit the Amiens Cathedrals, the tallest complete cathedral in France, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Relax on the coach this afternoon. An included dinner at the hotel greets you upon arrival in Eindhoven. *Accommodations: Hotel Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne (B, D)*

Day 7: Eindhoven / Arnhem / Nijmegen

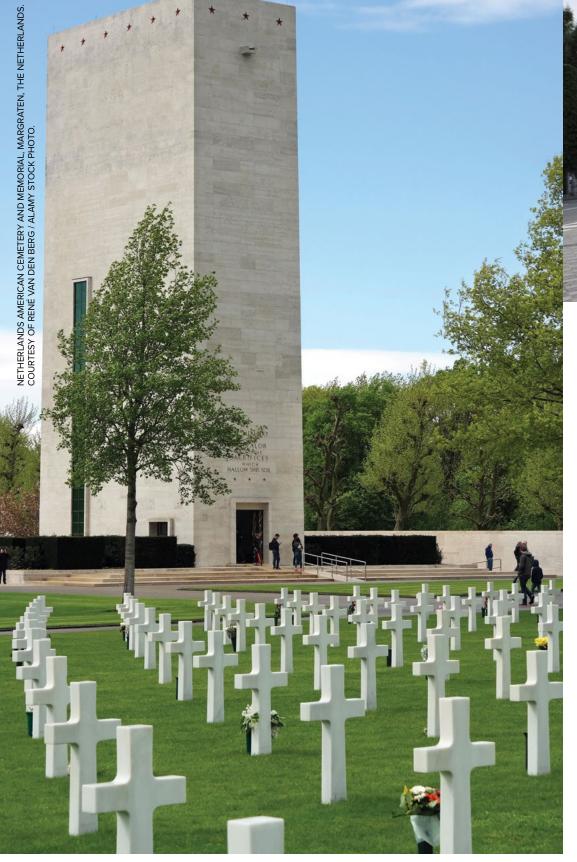
In September 1944, the Allies launched Operation Market Garden, a daring airborne operation meant to secure crucial Rhine River crossings and advance into northern Germany. Although it ultimately failed to achieve its objectives, the determination and courage shown by the airborne troops and the units that assisted them made

Market Garden one of World War II's most famous battles. During today's tour, visit the actual battle sites where Easy Company fought and learn how the 101st Airborne fit into Operation Market Garden at Nuenen, Zon Bridge, and Logtenburg. After lunch, visit Schoonderlogt Farm to see where Dick Winters led the attack at "The Crossroads," the subject of Episode 5 of *Band of Brothers*. Near Arnhem, members of the company helped rescue more than 100 British airborne troops who were stuck behind enemy lines across the Rhine during Operation Pegasus in October 1944. The touring day ends in Nijmegen and "A Bridge Too Far" before returning to Eindhoven where guests enjoy an evening at leisure. *Accommodations: Hotel Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne (B, L)*

PHOTO TOP: ALLIED COMMANDERS FIELD MARSHAL SIR ALAN BROOKE, WINSTON CHURCHILL, FIELD MARSHAL BERNARD MONTGOMERY, AND US LIEUTENANT-GENERAL WILLIAM CROSSING THE RHINE ON MARCH 26, 1945. COURTESY OF PICTORIAL PRESS LTD / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO. PAGE 17 BOTTOM LEFT: BRIDGE OVER THE RHINE, NUMEGEN. COURTESY OF EVERETT COLLECTION ALAMY. PAGE 17 BOTTOM RIGHT: BAND OF BROTHERS ACTOR MATTHEW LEITCH ON 2019 EASY COMPANY TOUR IN FRONT OF THE NIJMEGEN BRIDGE.

THE ITINERARY

THE ITINERARY





A SHERMAN TANK AND THE GENERAL MCAULIFFE MEMORIAL PICTURED ON THE MCAULIFFE SQUARE IN BASTOGNE, BELGIUM. COURTESY OF DPA PICTURE ALLIANCE ARCHIVE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO.

Day 8: Netherlands American Cemetery / Journey to the Ardennes

This morning, guests may choose to take a guided walking tour of Eindhoven, explore the area independently, or relax at the hotel. The optional morning tour includes details on the actions that occurred around Eindhoven, with visits to the Joe Mann Memorial and the Robert Cole Memorial. After lunch at leisure, visit the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten – the only American military cemetery in The Netherlands. A unique aspect of this cemetery is its connection with the Dutch people. Since 1945 members of the local community have adopted the gravesites of the American fallen. They bring flowers to the cemetery and research the life of the service member they adopt as a way to honor their sacrifice. After paying respects to members of Easy Company who are buried there, continue to the medieval market town of Clervaux, Luxembourg, in the heart of the Ardennes. Along the way, the tour guide presents an overview of the Battle of the Bulge – Hitler's last-ditch effort to defeat the Allies in the west, and the largest land battle fought by the US Army in World War II.

Accommodations: Hotel Koener (B, D)

Day 9: Battle of the Bulge / Bastogne / Bois Jacques

This day is dedicated to the heroic defense of the besieged crossroads town of Bastogne as depicted in *Band of Brothers* Episode 6: "Bastogne." Today's visits also include the Mardasson Memorial, a monument honoring the memory of the American soldiers wounded or killed during the Battle of the Bulge. Next, a visit to the Bastogne War Museum provides insight into the experiences of the troops during the harsh, cold winter of 1944 - 45. In the Bois Jacques forest, guests may choose to climb in the foxholes that provided some shelter to Easy Company. Free time in Bastogne is also provided during the day for lunch – and perhaps some shopping for Belgian chocolates. The evening is at leisure. *Accommodations: Hotel Koener (B)*

Day 10: Luxembourg American Cemetery / Haguenau

Before departing the Ardennes, the final stop is at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, where guests visit the graves of Easy Company members and of Gen. George S. Patton. Continue to Haguenau for lunch and then walk the "Last Patrol" of Easy Company, where they held fast against Operation Nordwind, the last major German offensive of the war in the west, for more than a month. Visit the MM Park (Musee Militaire), a new museum with an impressive collection of tanks and other large artifacts of the era. Arrive in Stuttgart this evening and enjoy dinner and exploration on your own.

Accommodations: Maritim Stuttgart (B, L)

Day 11: Dachau / Zell Am See

Located ten miles northwest of Munich, the Dachau Concentration Camp was established in 1933 to hold political prisoners. Throughout the rest of the 1930s, the camp grew to hold Jews, Roma, Slavs, and more groups deemed unworthy by the Nazis. In 1943, as war raged across the continent, the Nazis constructed more than 150 subsidiary camps near Dachau where prisoners were often worked to death. The terrible conditions in Dachau and throughout the subsidiary camps led to a widespread typhus epidemic by the end of 1944, as the Allied armies were preparing to enter Germany. When the first American troops approached the camp in April 1945, the sight of the prisoners and the living conditions tested even the most battle-hardened soldiers. Episode 9 of the miniseries portrays Easy Company discovering one of Dachau's subsidiary camps at Landsberg. After discussing why World War II was fought, the group heads to the Bavarian Alps, as Easy Company did, for the final chapter of the journey.

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Zell Am See (B, D)

PHOTO: 101ST AIRBORNE AT HITLER'S EAGLE'S NEST.





PHOTO: TOUR GUESTS AT HITLER'S EAGLE'S NEST, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM.

Day 12: Berchtesgaden

On the final day of touring, guests take in the spectacular views from Hitler's Eagle's Nest, captured by Allied forces in May 1945. A gift to Adolf Hitler for his 50th birthday in 1939, Eagle's Nest was funded by Hitler's inner circle. Legend says that Mussolini gifted the fireplace to the project. Although a fortune was spent to build the perch, Hitler only made 14 official visits. Return to Zell Am See and reflect on the journey during a farewell dinner at the hotel, overlooking the lake featured in the final scenes of *Band of Brothers. Accommodations: Grand Hotel Zell Am See (B, L, D)*

Day 13: Zell Am See / Munich

Early this morning the entire group transfers together to the Munich Airport (MUC) for individual flights home.* (B)

*Please note that flights should be scheduled to depart no ealier than 12:00 noon. Weather and/or local government and venue conditions may change the final schedule. Each evening you will receive a detailed schedule for the following day, including the timing of meals and tours. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Travel Team.

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY!

CHURCHILL'S LONDON

\$1,999* per person double occupancy, \$2,759* single occupancy *\$129 per person taxes & fees are additional.

Program Inclusions

Three-nights accommodations at the 5-star Rubens at the Palace Transfer from London Heathrow Airport (LHR) to the hotel Two full days of touring, including all admissions 3 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 1 Reception Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and reception Expert local guide/tour manager Private, first class air-conditioned coach Personal listening devices on all included touring Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers Day One - Arrive London

Arrive at London Heathrow Airport (LHR), and transfer to the 5-star Rubens at the Palace Hotel in the heart of London. Relax this evening with dinner and sightseeing at your leisure.

Accommodations: Rubens at the Palace (R)

Day Two - Chartwell

Travel to Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's countryside manor. Pictures, books, and personal mementos evoke the career and wide-ranging interests of this great statesman, writer, painter, and family man. Explore the hillside gardens and reflect on Churchill's love of the landscape and nature. They include the lakes he created, Lady Churchill's Rose Garden, and the playhouse built especially for his youngest daughter. After lunch on the grounds of Chartwell, return to London and enjoy an evening on your own.

Accommodations: Rubens at the Palace (B, L)

Day Three - Imperial War Museum and Churchill War Rooms

After breakfast, tour the Churchill War Rooms, which were constructed beneath the streets of Westminster during World War II. This facility served as the underground nerve center where Churchill and his inner circle directed the war in Europe. Enjoy a traditional lunch of fish and chips at a nearby English pub, then take a driving tour of London. Continue to the famed Imperial War Museum for an afternoon of exploration in the exhibits. Imperial War Museum-London is a place to experience the continuing influence of war on the world—an experience that is as compelling and thoughtprovoking as it is unforgettable. Return to the Rubens this evening for your final night in London.

Accommodations: Rubens at the Palace (B, L)

Day Four - Join the Easy Company Tour

Enjoy breakfast at the Rubens then transfer to Aldbourne to meet the main tour group. (B)

5-Star Accommodations

Rubens at the Palace Hotel, London

The luxurious Rubens at the Palace Hotel overlooks Buckingham Palace and lies within easy walking distance to Victoria Station. This historic hotel is fully renovated and offers a host of restaurants and bars. The beautifully appointed guest rooms are elegantly furnished with meticulous attention to detail and personal thoughtful touches. Traditional style blends seamlessly with the latest modern amenities, including complimentary Wi-Fi, an entertainment system with interactive TV, a huge selection of on-demand movies, and a music library.



STUNNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Our educational travel programs allow you to experience your journey in quaint regional boutique hotels as you go behind the scenes to the beaches, bridges, cities, and villages where crucial battles took place.*



DONNINGTON VALLEY HOTEL & SPA -Newbury, UK-

Situated in the heart of the Berkshire countryside just outside of Newbury, Donnington Valley Hotel & Spa is a privately owned country hotel. Designed for work, relaxation, and play, the hotel boasts a 2 AA Rosette restaurant, state-of-theart spa and health club, and a stunning 18-hole golf course. All of the 111 bedrooms and suites are elegantly designed with marble bathrooms, flat-screen TVs, a selection of films to choose from, and complimentary Wi-Fi. Bedrooms include Egyptian cotton duvets, laptop-sized safes, and complimentary bottled water.

*Please note: Due to the average climates in many of the locations visited and the historic nature of the properties utilized, air conditioning may not be available at certain hotels. Hotel accommodations are subject to change and final hotel selections will be communicated one month prior to departure.





LE LION d'Or -Bayeux, Normandy-

Le Lion d'Or is a quaint 3-star boutique hotel, ideally located in the center of medieval Bayeux and perfectly nestled amongst the D-Day landing beaches. With just 31 guestrooms, Le Lion d'Or exudes a warm and cozy atmosphere, a full and hearty breakfast each morning, and boasts a historic lounge bar and a gourmet restaurant. It was here that famed WWII correspondents, such as Ernest Hemingway and Ernie Pyle, celebrated the successes and mourned the devastating losses of D-Day in June 1944.



THE PULLMAN HOTEL - Eindhoven -

This beautiful 4-star hotel is located in the charming heart of Eindhoven just opposite the luxury De Heuvel shopping center. The Pullman Eindhoven Cocagne is well-known for their Vestdijk 47 restaurant & bar. Rooms are spacious and include complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, high-definition television, in-room safe, and room service.







HOTEL KOENER -Clervaux, Luxembourg-

A family-owned 19th-century property, this boutique hotel is situated in a pedestrian-only area of Clervaux, and is a 2-minute walk from the medieval Clervaux Castle. The simple, comfortable rooms come with flat-screen TVs, free Wi-Fi, hair dryer and safe.

MARITIM HOTEL STUTTGART -Stuttgart, Germany-

This beautiful hotel located right next to Hoppenlau Park showcases three restaurants, a café, piano bar, and an exclusive wellness area with swimming pool, fitness area, and beauty lounge. Guests enjoy seasonal and regional delicacies at the Reuchlin Restaurant, discover the popular Swabian "Maultasched" (filled pasta) at Café Espresso, and embibe in a generous selection of cocktails in the Pianobar. Recently renovated in 2016, each room boasts a modern bathroom design including a rain shower with digital temperature settings.

FEATURED PROPERTY





FEATURED PROPERTY





GRAND HOTEL -Zell Am See, Austria-

At the end of the war, Grand Hotel Zell Am See was occupied by US forces for ten years and is best known as the hotel where the *Band of Brothers* spent time.

Today, it is the perfect end to a pilgrimage honoring Easy Company. This superior 4-star hotel is located in a unique location on a private peninsula directly on the shore of Lake Zell. In existence for more than 120 years, it provides the highest level of *Gemütlichkeit*, or regional hospitality, to our guests. A farewell dinner at this breathtaking property provides an excellent end to your tour.



BOOK EARLY AND SAVE! | 27



Call 1-877-813-3229 X 257 • Visit: ww2museumtours.org • Email: travel@nationalww2museum.org



Book early and save \$1,000 per couple!



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