



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EASY COMPANY

Experiencearth

Using aircraft, of all sizes, to connect places of interest around the world is the dominant principle of Escorted Journeys by Air. Traditionally, these tend to be trips of 3 to 4 week duration and include a number of Continents, our Experiencearth collection is typically a 2 week exploration. This can include a large country, a Continent or follow a theme.

The Experiencearth collection includes all the benefits of a privately chartered aircraft in flexibility, choice and peace of mind but also offers in-depth discovery of a destination or a theme. An Experiencearth journey is from 10-16 days long and will suit smaller groups of up to 16 people as well as a group of up to 50 people.

Destinations are unlimited, we suggest to combine remote destinations as well as including interesting experiences. Have a look at our sample itineraries but bear in mind, the world's your oyster when curating itineraries and we would love to help.

In the footsteps of Easy Company

The heroics of Easy Company during World War II were immortalised in the Steven Spielberg miniseries “Band of Brothers”. The unit fought in major as well as decisive battles, including the D-Day landings at Normandy, Operation Market Garden in The Netherlands, the battle of the Bulge around Bastogne and finally by entering Hitler’s Eagle Nest in Southern Bavaria.

Our journey will commemorate their incredible sacrifices, determination and valour as we travel by classic DC3 to discover the areas which are for always marked as the key battles in World War II. Join a unique journey and trace the path taken by these brave men.

Day 1 | Fly to Normandy

Our morning flight will depart from our private jet terminal at London Biggin Hill. Relax until we are ready to board our DC3. The Douglas DC-3 is a propeller-driven airliner which had a lasting effect on the airline industry in the 1930s/1940s and World War II. One of the advantages of a propeller aircraft is that it can fly at lower levels than jets are permitted.

Step onboard and consider the relative luxury we will be travelling in compared to the para troopers who were dropped behind enemy lines in Normandy on the 6th of June 1944. The flight to Caen in Normandy will take just over an hour. After disembarking we commence our sightseeing in the area including a visit to Caen Cathedral as well as the famous Pegasus bridge take by the British 6th Airborne Division during the early hours of the D-Day landings. We take time to explore the area to fully appreciate the magnitude of the undertaking.

Afterwards we transfer to the Ferme de la Ranconniere in Crepon, our accommodation for the next 3 nights. Mingle with fellow travellers before enjoying dinner at the hotel.



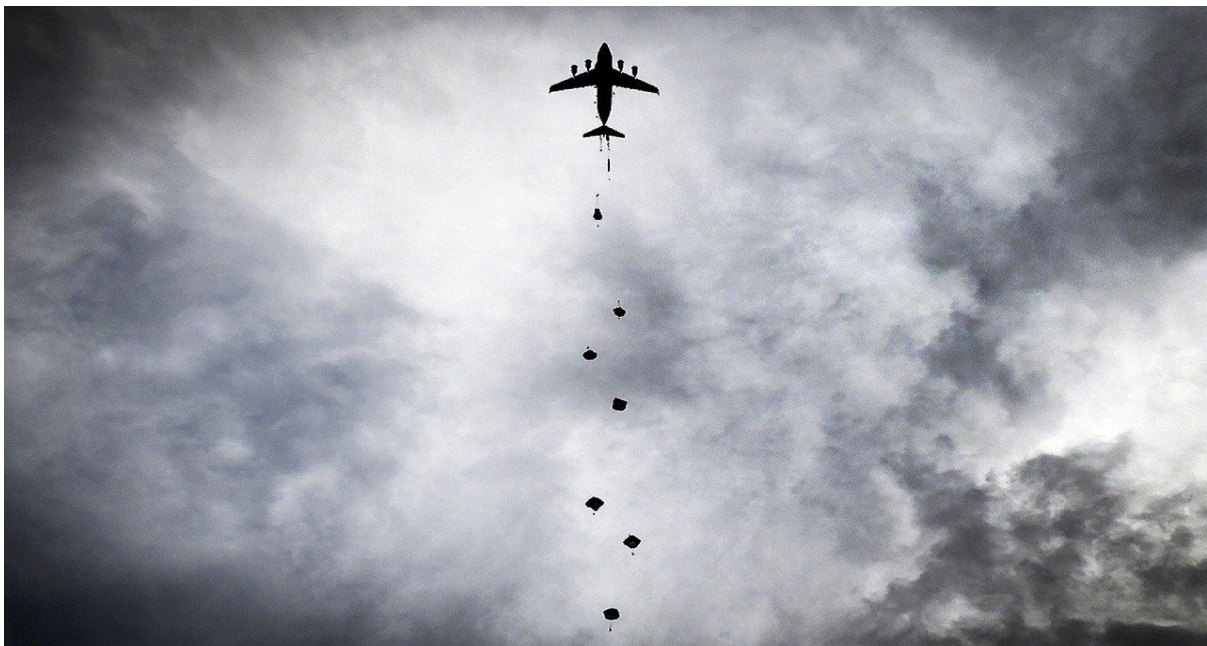
Day 2 | Longues sur Mer, British Cemetery and Arromanches 360

We have include a number of must see highlights and experiences today. Apart from WWII sites we will also pause at the world famous Tapestry of Bayeux. The Longues sur Mer coastal bunkers, part of Hitler's "Atlantic Wall" are a stark reminder of the length the Nazi's went to in protecting their evil Empire. We pay our respect at the British Cemetery before visiting the Arromanches 360 experience where we relive the 100 days of the battle in and around Normandy through an audio visual presentation.

Dinner is at the hotel this evening.

Day 3 | Saint Mere Eglise & Maisy Batteries

Continuing our exploration we head towards Saint Mere Eglise made famous in the movie "The Longest Day". This village was the scene of heavy fighting between the Germans and lightly armed US airborne troops. The church shows where John Steele got caught on a spire and watched the battle unfold below him, helpless to do anything he was later captured by the Germans before he escaped and re-joined his unit. We visit the airborne museum and the church. Later on we travel to Saint Come du Mont where heavy fighting took place before driving to Maisy Batteries an extensive network of German artillery batteries which have been opened to the public.



Day 4 | Fly to Arnhem

Departing from Caen we follow the French coast line and over Belgium to the Dutch/German border just south of Arnhem and land in Weeze (Germany). We cross the border towards the eastern part of The Netherlands and partly follow the route which was taken by the land forces as part of operation Market Garden. This major gamble was aimed at capturing the bridges across the various rivers and canals in The Netherlands allowing the Allies access to the industrial heartland of Germany and ending the war before Christmas 1944. Although bold, it failed strategically and our time in Arnhem will provide us with the background as well as with the hardship of the battles during this pivotal point in the war.

We stay at Hotel Erika in Berg end Dal near Arnhem and the hotel's manager will join us to share the extraordinary story of his family's time during WWII.

Day 5 | Arnhem and surrounding areas

Operation Market Garden was the largest Airborne operation ever launched and saw units of the American, British and Polish airborne divisions land in and around key bridges in The Netherlands with the express instruction to hold them until the land forces arrived. We are at the northern most part of the operation and we visit John Frost bridge, Hotel Hartenstein and the "Arnhem Oosterbeek Cemetery" to pay our respects to the many fallen soldiers fighting for the freedom of not just The Netherlands but the whole of Europe. We stop at Overloon Museum which showcases one of the largest collection of WWII vehicles in Europe.

A unique story surrounds the landings at Arnhem where Dutch citizens risked their lives to help the Allied soldiers. Kate ter Horst and her family opened up their house to care for the injured soldiers and witnesses accounts talk about the incredible care and love Kate and her family shared.

We visit the house, still owned by the ter Horst family, and see the small memorial for the fallen. Kate died in 1992 however we hope to meet with her daughter Sophie who was only a small child during those difficult days in September 1944.

Day 6 | Battle of the Reichswald

We travel to the Dutch National Liberation Museum in Groesbeek. The museum is near the German border and we take the opportunity to cross the border into Germany. Like any story, there are always two sides and getting a German perspective about the final months of the 2nd World War is an important part of understanding the full picture. The Battle of the Reichswald was part of the Allied plan to cross into Germany as part of a pincer movement. Fierce battles resulted in heavy casualties on both sides not only soldiers but also civilians. Large parts of the area were flooded by the Germans to slow down the allied advance thus impacting normal civilians including Germans. Today will certainly provide food for thought.

Day 7 | Arnhem to the Ardennes

Travelling south to Weeze we briefly stop in Wageningen at Hotel de Wereld where the German Commander of the Netherlands officially surrendered on 6 May 1945. This is remembered every year as part of the remembrance celebrations. Our trusted DC3 is waiting to fly us to Luxembourg airport giving us access to Bastogne, the centre of the Battle of the Bulge representing an unexpected and voracious counter attack by the German army in the winter of 1944.

Our hotel this evening is the palatial Chateau Ursfelt just north of Luxembourg City and with easy access to Bastogne.

Day 8 | Bastogne

After an early start we make our way to Bastogne which was the centre of what is known as the Battle of the Bulge when the German launched a counter offensive in the latter stages of WWII. Caught totally off guard the predominantly American soldiers suffered large casualties but held their ground at Bastogne which ultimately sealed the faith of the offensive. We will visit the Bastogne War Museum as well as Easy Company's fox holes offering a sombre insight into trench warfare during this battle.

We also visit Mardasson Memorial honouring the American soldiers wounded or killed during the Battle of the Bulge.



Day 9 | Bastogne to Salzburg

Easy Company eventually ended up in Southern Germany and our destination today is Berchtesgaden. Flying our DC3 for the last time we take off due south from Luxembourg on our way to Salzburg Airport. We bid a fond farewell to the “bird” that accompanied us on our journey of discovery before making our way to Berchtesgaden and “The Eagle’s Nest”. Exclusively by members of the Nazi Party for government and social meetings the Kehlsteinhaus is a Third Reich-era building erected atop the summit of the Kehlstein, a rocky outcrop that rises above the Obersalzberg near the town of Berchtesgaden. Our tour of the area will explain the background to the building and the role it played during WWII.

Day 10 | Berchtesgaden to Dachau

This morning we join our transport to Dachau just north of Munich. Dachau, the first Nazi concentration camp, opened in 1933, shortly after Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

Located in southern Germany, Dachau was initially a camp for political prisoners; however, it eventually evolved into a death camp where countless thousands of Jews died from malnutrition, disease and overwork or were executed. In addition to Jews, the camp’s prisoners included members of other groups Hitler considered unfit for the new Germany, including artists, intellectuals, the physically and mentally handicapped and homosexuals.

Our visit today will no doubt be emotional and invoke sober reflection on the loss of life and evil of the 2nd World War.

We stay at Hotel Zieglerbrau in Dachau this evening and gather for a final dinner. Enjoy traditional Bavarian cuisine as we reflect on the journey we took and the experiences we shared.



Day 11 | Return to London

Enjoy a leisurely morning before we join our private aircraft back to London. Our journey comes to an end but the memories are etched in our minds.

The detail

- Most of our air travel will be on the classic DC3 which will be a unique experience on its own. Naturally, facilities on-board are somewhat austere in comparison to modern airliners.
- We stay at good 4 to 5 star hotels throughout the journey.
- Maximum group size is 14 passengers.
- All transportation and sightseeing is included as per itinerary.
- This tour is best operated in the period from April to September (avoiding major memorial days in relation to World War II).
- All meals.
- Prices from £18,795.