



History 3385 D-Day: Operation OVERLORD & Europe's Liberation A Travel Course for Students, Alumni & Friends of SMU

MAY 19-27, 2019

Join SMU's Center for Presidential History's Jeffrey A. Engel and Essential History Expeditions' Brian DeToy for an on-site exploration of London, Shrivenham, Portsmouth, Normandy and Paris, walking the cities and beaches where Churchill schemed, Ike commanded, flyers downed pints and soldiers fought for Europe's liberation. This intergenerational tour offers three credits for students, and for alumni and friends the opportunity to see the places history took place — and to relive a bit of college life.



Highlights: Interactions with current SMU students and leadership. London, Churchill Cabinet War Rooms, Royal Defense Academy, London theatre, ULTRA at Bletchley Park, Southwick House, *MV Mont St Michel* Channel Crossing, Normandy & D-Day Beaches including Pointe du Hoc and OMAHA with its beautiful American Cemetery, Bayeux & its Tapestry, and Paris in WWII!

3 NIGHTS LONDON/3 NIGHTS NORMANDY/2 NIGHTS PARIS

Join us for a fully guided and immersive tour of the people and places of Operation OVERLORD, the June 1944 invasion of Normandy that began Europe's liberation from Nazi rule. Participants will walk the beaches and cliffs, learn from local experts and guest lecturers, and, if desired, investigate and role-play a renowned (or reviled) figure from history. Enjoy plenty of time to explore these iconic sites on your own and to reconnect with SMU friends and students in some of Europe's most scenic sites. Connect with current SMU students through meaningful discussions and mentorship.

This trip features in-depth guided tours and lectures for all sites, all admission fees and transportation, all lodging and most meals (as detailed on the itinerary). Airfare not included.

Trip preparation: Pre-departure lectures and study groups led by Dr. Jeffrey Engel, mandatory for students and optional for alumni and friends of SMU.

History 3385 D-Day: Operation OVERLORD & Europe's Liberation Daily Itinerary

Sunday, May 19th: Arrival in London

- ◆ Arrive in London and check in to lodgings
- ◆ Enjoy London on your own

Monday, May 20th: Introduction to London in WWII

- ◆ Afternoon welcome & overview of the expedition
- ◆ Group visit to Churchill Cabinet War Rooms
- ◆ Guided tour of Westminster Abbey
- ◆ Walking tour of central London from Parliament Square to Whitehall to Trafalgar Square (mandatory for students and optional for alumni/friends)
- ◆ Group dinner at Royal United Services Institute on Whitehall

Tuesday, May 21st: ULTRA at Bletchley Park & Royal Defense Academy

- ◆ Bletchley Park: Visit the ULTRA Code Breakers compound – a vital component in Allied victory and real-life inspiration for the recent Oscar-winning film "The Imitation Game"
- ◆ Lunch on your own at Hut 4 Café in Bletchley Park
- ◆ Royal Defense Academy at Shrivenham for hands-on experience with WWII weapons and equipment followed by relevant lecture
- ◆ Dinner on your own followed by an evening of London theatre

Wednesday, May 22nd: Southwick House, Portsmouth & Seaborne Preparations for OVERLORD

- ◆ Southwick House: HQ of the Allied High Command in the days before the invasion, and the location where, in the dark hours of night with torrential rains beating against the windows, Ike made the decision – "Let's go!"
- ◆ Group lunch at Golden Lion Inn in Southwick Village
- ◆ Discussion of D-Day shipping in Portsmouth harbor along the quays
- ◆ *MV Mont St Michel* Channel Crossing with dinner on your own
- ◆ Check in to Normandy lodgings

Thursday, May 23rd: The British Airborne and Beaches

- ◆ British 6th Airborne Division at Pegasus Bridge
- ◆ Coffee at Café Gondree. the first house liberated in France and Mme Arlette Gondree may well join us for conversation
- ◆ Ranville British Cemetery
- ◆ Caen Memorial Museum
- ◆ Lunch on your own at museum café
- ◆ Canadians and Free French at JUNO Beach
- ◆ British at GOLD Beach and Mulberry Harbor at Arromanches
- ◆ June 6 capture of Crepon and the only VC awarded on D-Day!
- ◆ Group dinner at Michelin-rated La Ferme de la Ranconniere

Sunday, May 19th: Exploring Historical London

- * Visit The Tower of London (William the Conqueror's Castle) * Guided walk through the old City of London to St Paul's Cathedral (2d largest in Christendom) with lunch enroute * Travel from St Paul's to Westminster Abbey
- * Attend Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey, home to a millennia of English history and culture * Guided tour of the highlights of the National Gallery * Dinner on your own

Friday, May 24th: American Airborne, UTAH Beach & Bayeux

- ◆ UTAH Beach landings and 4th Infantry Division
- ◆ 101st Airborne Division at Ste Marie du Mont/Band of Brothers (Easy Company) at Brecourt Manor
- ◆ 82nd Airborne Division at La Fiere Bridge outside Ste Mere Eglise
- ◆ Walking tour of Ste Mere Eglise including famed church; lunch on your own in first town liberated by Americans
- ◆ La Cambe German Cemetery
- ◆ Bayeux Tapestry Museum, the millennium old story of William the Conqueror
- ◆ Walking tour of old town Bayeux, including the Cathedral
- ◆ Dinner on your own in one of many great restaurants in old Bayeux

Saturday, May 25th: Pointe du Hoc and OMAHA Beach

- ◆ Pointe du Hoc and the cliff assault with the 2nd Ranger Battalion
- ◆ OMAHA Beach western end and 29th Division, 5th Ranger Battalion and American Mulberry Harbor
- ◆ OMAHA Beach eastern end and 1st Infantry Division; group lunch on beach
- ◆ Climb the cliffs from the beach to the museum and cemetery (bus option available)
- ◆ Visit the profoundly beautiful and moving Normandy American Cemetery
- ◆ Arrive in Paris, check in to lodgings and dinner on your own

Sunday, May 26th: Paris in WWII and the City of Lights

- ◆ Walking tour of WWII Paris events and personalities, with numerous sites from the Arc de Triomphe down the Champs Elysees to the Ritz Hotel and the German HQ and liberation site near the Louvre and Tuileries Gardens
- ◆ Lunch on your own and time to explore Paris
- ◆ Farewell group dinner and lecture

Monday, May 27th: Departure and Onward Journeys

- ◆ Departures from Paris OR visit Reims for optional add-on day

For more information and pricing, contact the
Center for Presidential History at cphinfo@smu.edu;
call 214.768.3210;
see historyexp.com/events/partnershipssmu

- ◆ \$2,500 of pricing is tax-deductible and used for student scholarships
- ◆ Itinerary subject to minor changes
- ◆ Airfare not included
- ◆ Hotels as follows or similar:
 - ◇ London: Conrad St James (alumni); Doubletree Westminster (student)
 - ◇ Normandy: Ferme de la Ranconniere in Crepon
 - ◇ Paris: Westin Paris Vendome (alumni); TBD (student)

Optional Add-On Days

Monday, May 27th: Reims and the End of World War II

- * Tour V-E Day May 8, 1945, World War Two surrender site in Map Room of Eisenhower's SHAEF HQ * Visit cathedral where nearly all French monarchs were crowned * Relax with lunch on the plaza * Enjoy cellar tour and tasting at La Maison Mumm, the famed vineyard in the capital of the Champagne region * Return to Paris and dinner on own

CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY & ESSENTIAL HISTORY EXPEDITIONS



Jeffrey A. Engel is founding director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University and a Senior Fellow of the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies. Author or editor of ten books on American foreign policy, his latest is *When the World Seemed New: George H.W. Bush and the End of the Cold War*.

Essential History Expeditions' president, expert historian and guide, Lt Col (Ret) Brian DeToy, PhD served as Director of the Defense & Strategic Studies program at the United States Military Academy, West Point from 2007-13. He has appeared in numerous documentaries for programming such as History, Discovery, A&E and Military channels. He is also an accomplished author and presenter at international history conferences.

