

# NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

79th Anniversary of  
the end of World War II

## France

July 13-25, 2023



Dear Friends,

Come join us on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to France to commemorate the 79th anniversary of the end of World War II. The focus will be on the role of the Nebraska National Guards' famed 134th Infantry Regiment and its liberation of the country.

The trip will start off in Normandy along the beaches of D-Day, and you will learn about how a Columbus, Nebraska native and soldier revolutionized amphibious warfare. The highlight of this area will be the liberation ceremonies in St. Lo and the touring of the hedgerow sites (Hill 122).

During the trip, we will pay homage to the fallen at Normandy American, Lorraine and Luxembourg American Cemeteries with official party wreath-laying and tours. We will visit Reims (the world's Champagne capital) and the city of Nancy, with another set of battlefield sites such as Sugar Loaf Hill, Fort Vincent, and the Flavigny Bridge.

Nancy is a beautiful city and promises great nightly entertainment while we are there. Next stop will be the Battle of the Bulge sites in Belgium. Visit historical battlefields around Bastogne: Luttrebois Memorial, Company M Hill, Battle of the Bulge Museum and Memorial. The trip will include scholars and academics on the military history of the Nebraska National Guard in World War II. We will also take advantage of wonderful French cuisine, wine, and art/culture along the way.

Our French guide is the best in France and has worked with our Nebraska groups in the past.

I look forward to seeing you on the trip.

Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer  
Colonel (retired), NENG Historian Tour Host



**Nebraska National Guard  
Historical Society**

 **ExecutiveTravel**

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888.



## Normandy American Cemetery



## Calvados



## Private John Steele



### July 13, 2023 - Thursday

#### Travel to France

Our journey begins as we meet at the Omaha airport to take an overnight flight to Paris. Enjoy in-flight entertainment, relax and unwind as you start your once-in-a-lifetime tour. Meals are served onboard the international flight.

### July 14, 2023 - Friday

#### Monet's House & Gardens - Caen

Welcome to France! We are met by our professional tour guide and driver at the airport, and we are off toward the Normandy region. On our way, we will make a stop to visit Claude Monet's house and gardens in Giverny. Art lovers will immediately recognize images immortalized in Monet's most beloved paintings, such as water lilies, Japanese bridges, and graceful willow trees. Wander around his famous gardens and home where he lived for more than four decades. If time allows, we will stop at the Pegasus Bridge to learn about its important role on the morning of D-Day 1940. In the early evening, we will arrive at our hotel in Caen in time for dinner. Off to bed for a good night's rest. L (boxed) | D

### July 15, 2023 - Saturday

#### Arromanches-les-Bains - Colleville-sur-Mer - Pointe du Hoc - Omaha Beach

After a hearty breakfast, we take a short drive to Arromanches-les-Bains to discover the Mulberry Harbors, considered one of the greatest engineering feats of WWII, the temporary mobile harbors for unloading troops, vehicles, and supplies. Omaha Beach, the codename for one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of German-occupied France in the Normandy landing on June 6th, 1944, is next. We will visit the American cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer,

the first American cemetery on European soil in WWII, and a wreath-laying ceremony is arranged. Pointe du Hoc will make a special impression on you. On our return back to Caen, we will make a stop at a local Calvados producer in the area. Calvados is a special brandy made from crisp and sweet Normandy apples. This is the perfect ending to our day. The evening is yours to relax in Caen. B | T

### July 16, 2023 - Sunday

#### Utah Beach - Sainte-Mère-Église

Enjoy a rich breakfast before heading to Utah Beach to experience Higgins Boat Memorial. We will listen to the story of the Allied invasion of Normandy and the reasons for the success at Utah Beach. The next stop today is at the church of Sainte-Mère-Église to see where Private John Steele's parachute got caught in one of the pinnacles of the church tower, leaving him hanging on the side of the church. Free time for lunch in the village before we pay a visit to the Airborne Museum and stop at the Iron Mike statue, dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of the American airborne troops. On our return to Caen, we will make a stop at picturesque Bayeux. This is your chance to visit the Bayeux Tapestry Museum. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Caen. B

### July 17, 2023 - Monday

#### Mortain

After an enjoyable breakfast, we take a good hour's drive to the mountain village of Mortain. In August 1944, after the Normandy invasion of June and the subsequent breakout at St. Lo, in July, the German High Command was prepared for a massive counter-offensive in an attempt to throw the Allied Armies back into the sea. We will learn everything about the importance of the Battle of Mortain today. Lunch is served in the village. We will also

pay a visit to St. James Cemetery with a wreath-laying ceremony. The evening is yours to enjoy in Caen. B | L

### July 18, 2023 - Tuesday

#### Hedgerow Tour - Hill 122 - St. Lo Celebration Day

Breakfast at our hotel. We head out for a very emotional experience; Hill 122 and a special Hedgerow Tour. Then, continue to St. Lo to spend the day with the liberation ceremonies in the city. Lunch is served in the company of our St. Lo Rotary Club friends, yet another emotional touch of the day. There will be plenty of time to reflect on history today, guaranteed! We will return to Caen in the early evening. B | L

### July 19, 2023 - Wednesday

#### Amiens - Reims

We will say farewell to Caen this morning. Today is one of the longer driving days as we head to Reims, via Amien, with a stop for lunch near the largest cathedral in France. We will visit Musée de la Reddition (Museum of the Surrender) in Reims, the location where the German Third Reich officially surrendered to Allied forces in World War Two. Reims is the world's Champagne Capital. Enjoy this beautiful city by night. B | L

### July 20, 2023 - Thursday

#### Verdun (WW I) - Nancy

We enjoy breakfast, and we will continue towards Nancy. On the way, we will stop for lunch and pay a visit to the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (a wreath-laying ceremony is arranged). Within the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in France, which covers 130.5 acres, rest the largest number of our military dead in Europe, a total of 14,246. Most of those buried here lost their lives during the



## Sainte-Mere-Eglise



Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I. You will learn about World War I today. The Battle of Verdun was fought from 21 February to 18 December 1916 on the Western Front in France. The battle was the longest of the First World War and took place on the hills north of Verdun-sur-Meuse. Nancy is reached in the afternoon. Nancy is the beautiful capital of the Dukes of Lorraine and is known worldwide for its array of eighteenth-century architecture in Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière, and Place d'Alliance. The city has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1983. Even more than being a town dedicated to art (which it is!), Nancy has turned to "live" culture with a national opera, a ballet, and a symphony- and opera orchestra. Do not miss the spectacular light show at Place Stanislas in the evening. B | L

## July 21, 2023 - Friday

### Nancy - Lorraine American Museum - Mayor's Ceremony

The morning is dedicated to the visits of Flavigny Bridge and the Lorraine American Museum in Vezelize, a short drive from Nancy. We will return to Nancy in time for a leisurely lunch prior to a very special ceremony held exclusively for us by the mayor of Nancy in the stunning town hall. This visit is definitely one of the highlights of the tour. The evening is yours to enjoy in beautiful Nancy. B

## July 22, 2023 - Saturday

### Battle Site Tour - Luxembourg

After a filling breakfast, we are ready to head out to the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in Saint-Avold. A wreath-laying ceremony has been arranged. The next stop is in the village of Armaucourt, with the plaque of orphans of the 134th Infantry Regiment.

## St. Lo Battle Field



A lunch stop is included along our route today before we continue to Luxembourg with a stop and a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Cemetery of Luxembourg. Dinner is served at our elegant hotel in the center of town. B | L | D

## July 23, 2023 - Sunday

### Luttrebois - Bastogne

Our day is dedicated to the Battle of Luttrebois and the Battle of the Bulge. Our first stop today is Luttrebois. A stop at a very special site on the outskirts of the village is included. Next, we will visit the impressive Bastogne War Museum, where we will have time for a leisurely lunch and to take a closer look at the Mardasson Memorial, the Battle of the Bulge Monument honoring the memory of American soldiers wounded or killed during World War II's Battle of the Bulge. It is designed in the shape of a five-pointed American star. We will also visit the Airborne Museum, with rich collections that offer a real immersion in the tragic WW2. We will return to Luxembourg and our wonderful hotel for an evening at leisure. B

## July 24, 2023 - Monday

### Reims - Paris

We say goodbye to Luxembourg and begin our journey towards Paris, a four-hour drive. Our route takes us via Reims, where we overnights earlier on this journey. We will stop for lunch and enjoy the "ultimate in bottled glamour"; Champagne. Entering Paris, we will take a short panoramic tour to see a few of the highlights of the "City of Lights." We will arrive at our hotel in Paris in the early afternoon. Our farewell dinner tonight is a one-of-a-kind as we enjoy a Seine River cruise to admire Paris by night. We expect to return to our hotel around 11:30 PM

## Remembrance Plaque



tonight - "Bonne nuit, Paris!" - Good night, Paris! B | L | D

## July 25, 2023 - Tuesday

### Traveling Home

All too soon, our journey has come to an end. Transfer to Paris airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean, back to the United States. Arrival at Omaha airport tonight. B | Meals served onboard your international flight.

If you would like to extend your journey in Paris, please reach out to us. We can assist!

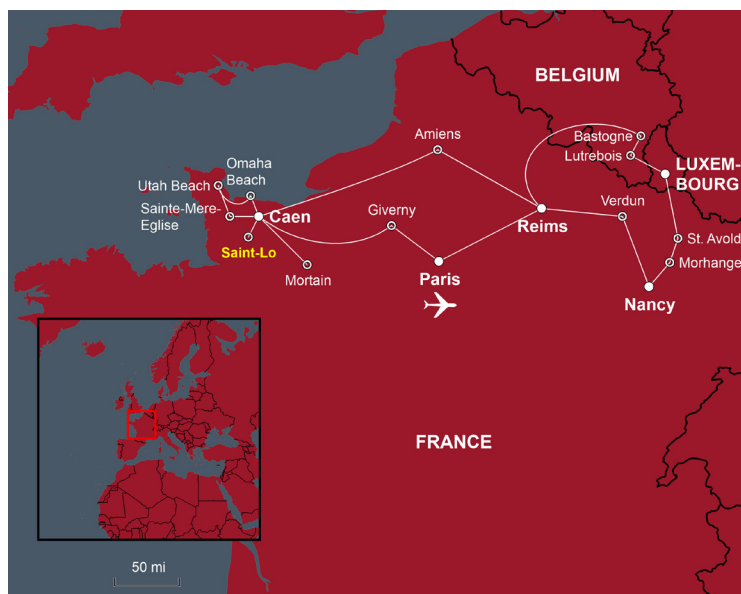
*Itinerary is subject to change.*

B = Breakfast L = Lunch

T = Tasting D = Dinner



## Omaha Beach



## To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-435-8888 (ask for Group Department)

Fax: 402-435-2735

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

## ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours/>

### Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$4,995  
Per person in a single room: \$6,195

*Limited number of single rooms available.*

*Triple rooms are not available on this trip.*

*We offer a "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate if you would like to share a room!*

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon registration. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on April 14, 2023, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid by cash or check. Payment with credit card (any payments after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

### Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276.

### Guaranteed Departure:

*This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 30 travelers. Should the number fall below 20, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

### Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour is rated a level 4 and involves an extensive amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, sturdy shoes/boots are recommended. Please reach out to Executive Travel or Jerry Meyer, the tour host, if you have any questions about the activity level of this tour.

### Air:

We offer group airfare. See separate page.

### Visa/Passport requirements (per 12/14/2022):

U.S. citizens must have a valid passport to enter France, Luxembourg, and Belgium and can enter visa-free for tourism stays of up to 90 days. It is the traveler's responsibility to make sure all documentation is as per current regulations. We recommend you check [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) at least 90 days prior to your departure.

### Included:

- 11 nights during the tour at hotels mentioned (or similar), standard rooms
- Porterage at hotels
- 11 x full breakfast
- 7 x lunch as per itinerary
- 3 x dinner as per itinerary
- Calvados and Champagne tastings
- All motor coach transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary
- Professional tour manager and tour guide in France
- Tour host (Gerald "Jerry" Meyer)
- All local taxes and fees as of December 14, 2022



**Nebraska National Guard  
Historical Society**

### Accommodations:

- Caen: Mercure Centre Port de Plaisance
- Reims: Holiday Inn Reims Centre
- Nancy: Grand Hotel de la Reine
- Luxembourg: Hotel Le Royal
- Paris: Holiday Inn Gare du Lyon Bastille

*Final accommodations will be confirmed 90 days prior to departure.*

### Not Included:

- Airfare
- Additional baggage fees (your first checked bag is FREE, up to 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities, estimate \$12-15 per person per day in total, covering guide and driver
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than mentioned in the tour program
- Beverages at meals
- Entrances to sites other than mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found on our website at [executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours](https://executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours/)

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

12/30/2022



## JOIN OUR GROUP AIRFARE!

### July 13-25, 2023:

We offer group airfare with Delta Airlines:

July 13, 2022	Omaha* - Detroit	10:20 AM - 1:14 PM
July 13, 2022	Detroit - Paris	6:15 PM - 8:15 AM (July 14, 2023)
July 25, 2022	Paris - Atlanta	2:00 PM - 5:17 PM
July 25, 2022	Atlanta - Omaha*	10:36 PM - 11:55 PM

Group air is offered at **\$1,295 per person** including taxes and fees.

\*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha.  
Please reach out to us to assist you. A small supplement may occur.

Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. Premium seating upgrades are not available when traveling on a group air contract. If you have frequent flyer miles (SkyMiles), please note those cannot be used to upgrade to Delta Comfort Plus but only be used for upgrades to business or first class when traveling on a group air contract. Contact us if you have any questions about this and kindly note that certain exceptions may exist.

Mileage credit for individuals on group air contracts is not guaranteed and is subject to the rules of the airline under contract.

All taxes, fuel charges and security fees are subject to change.  
Air schedules may be subject to change at the discretion of the airline.

## SECURE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!

