

RESPONSIBILITY: Valor Tours, Ltd. acts only as an agent in providing all the services in connection with the tour described in this brochure, and cannot assume responsibility for injury, death, damage or loss due to delays, mechanical defects or failure of any nature aboard aircraft, buses, ships, ship's tenders or zodiacs, or any other means of conveyance, accommodation, or other services resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, dangers incident to the sea, fire, breakdown of machinery or equipment, acts of government, other authorities de jure or de facto, wars (whether declared or not), hostilities and civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantine, medical or customs regulations or procedures, defaults, delays or cancellations, or changes from any causes beyond our control, or any loss or damage resulting from improperly issued passports, visas, travel documents, and that neither we nor any of our affiliates shall become liable for any additional expenses of liability sustained or incurred by a tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act or omission or events during the time the passenger is not aboard the aircraft or conveyance. The passenger contract in use shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of the tour and/or the passenger and the carrier. The right is reserved, should the circumstances warrant it, to alter the itinerary or the sequence of places visited. The right is reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels of a similar category. The operator reserves the right at their or their agent's discretion, to decline to accept, retain or cancel any member of the tour, at any time or place, or cancel the trip if circumstances demand. If the tour operator for any reason whatsoever cancels the trip, all partial and/or full payments will be refunded in full without any further obligation on their part. The schedules used in the operation of this tour are subject to change, without notice. If any tour member does not utilize any portion of the transportation at any time or for any reason whatsoever, additional cost of substitute transportation will be borne by the passengers. Payment of the required deposit or any partial or full payment for reservations shall constitute consent to all the provisions listed in the brochure. Valor Tours Ltd. cannot guarantee or be held responsible for assigned seating aboard any aircraft used in this tour. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Marin, California and by binding arbitration only.

CST#2075156-50

IATAN #05-911791

Call 1-800-842-4504



Bird watching too!

Valor Tours Ltd.
10 Liberty Ship Way
Suite 110
Sausalito, CA 94965
Tele: 415-332-7850
800-842-4504
Fax: 415-332-6971
Email:
valortours@yahoo.com
Website:
www.valortours.com

Revised/printed March 3, 2017

VALOR TOURS, LTD.

focussed expeditions



*Beach, Blue Lagoon Hotel, Truk (photo by Andy Giles)
Pohnpei (photo Dennis Covert)*



CENTRAL PACIFIC TOUR with Prof. ANDY GILES

June 12 to 27, 2018

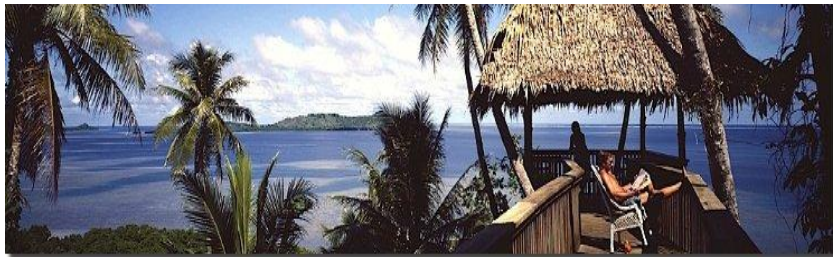


Pohnpei – Truk – Palau –
Peleliu with optional
extension to Saipan & Tinian

UNITED 

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

Your Tour Director, Professor Anderson Giles, has spent decades researching WWII in the Pacific and interviewing hundreds of veterans associated with the Pacific campaign. His knowledge of the wartime events in the Western Pacific have deep personal ties: his father fought with the 4th Marine Division in the Marshalls and on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima; his uncle, a 67th Seabee, helped build the North Field runways and atomic bomb pits on Tinian. Andy has visited these islands many times. He is an experienced tour leader who has traveled on and escorted many tours with Valor Tours, Ltd. and took over for Bob Reynolds on a series of WWII Pacific cruises as Port Historian.



As World War II in the Pacific raged on after the Solomon and Gilbert Islands battles, allied forces began the arduous task of capturing or neutralizing important islands in the central Pacific, the Marianas, and Palau. After capturing important islands in the Marshalls, plans were laid to eliminate the supposedly indestructible Japanese bastion of **Truk**. Truk was Yamamoto's major base of operations for the Japanese combined fleet and boasted numerous airfields, shore installations, almost 50,000 personnel, and a huge lagoon constantly filled with merchant shipping. Due to the prohibitive difficulties involved in a direct invasion, it was decided to neutralize Truk with air strikes and let it wither on the vine as part of the allied island hopping campaign. "Operation Hailstone" on February 17-18, 1944, sank over 40 ships and devastated shore installations. Today, impressive remnants of Japanese installations give a fascinating glimpse into the past of the "Gibraltar" of the Pacific. Installations, such as Eten Island, which was cut down to form an unsinkable aircraft carrier, are unique to the Pacific. Truk's main claim to fame has been its fabulous diving, while the impressive shore installations have been largely overlooked. **Pohnpei** was an important island, which featured many Japanese military and civilian installations, in addition to the incredible pre-historic Nan Madol ruins. It was bombed from the air and shelled from the sea periodically, but never invaded. Its rich agriculture and fishing industries help supply many of the important Japanese bases in the Pacific. Sokeh Rock, which overlooks the harbor, is one of the most impressive geologic formations in the Pacific. Pohnpei is a garden island with lush rainforest, waterfalls, and idyllic coastline. After the Marianas' campaign, it was decided that **Peleliu**, with its valuable airfield had to be seized to support McArthur's invasion of the Philippines. What was supposed to be a 4-day operation turned into a two-month nightmare, which saw the Japanese force of 10,000 men almost wiped out while the 1st Marine Division was shattered as a fighting unit. Today the Island features numerous caves, gun placements, major Japanese structures, aircraft wreckage, and much U. S. war equipment. It is a must see for any student of the Pacific War.

APPLICATION FORM

Central Pacific tour with Andy Giles – June 2018

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Name _____

Name _____
(as they appear on passports or proof of citizenship papers)

Name _____

Name _____
(as you would like them to appear on ID badge and passenger list)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number daytime _____

Email (if any): _____

I/we wish to reserve _____ places on the tour. Enclosed is my/our deposit check in the amount of \$_____ (\$800 per person), or charge my credit card account _____

Expiration date _____ for \$ _____

I am traveling alone and wish to: ___ share with another tour participant, or ___ pay the single occupancy for my own room.

___ Smoking ___ Non-smoking

Dietary requirements _____

___ I/we need assistance with airfare from hometown to Honolulu.

___ I/we will arrange our own airfare to/from Honolulu.

___ Please reserve a room at the Pacific Marina Inn, Honolulu Int'l Airport for the nights of _____

@ your special rate of \$110 per night incl. tax.

___ I/we prefer to leave tour at Guam on June 21, fly back to HNL June 22.

___ I/we are interested in the post-tour Saipan/Tinian extension, June 27/June 30.

___ I do not have any physical disabilities and am fully able to climb on and off vehicles without any assistance.

___ I do have certain physical disabilities but I am traveling with _____ who will be fully responsible for my needs.

I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions set forth in this tour brochure. _____

Signature

Date

General Terms and Conditions

Reservations and Final Payment

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$800 per person accompanied by the application form. Deposits can be made by sending check Valor Tours, Ltd., or with your credit card information. Overseas passengers may use Paypal link on our website. Final payment is due by March 12, 2018. Reservations deadline is 30 days prior to departure or first come, first served. Space limited. Due to limited space at some of the hotels we will be using, it is recommended to book early. First come – first served. Valor Tours, Ltd. does not recommend that children under the age of 12 participate on this tour. Passport required. Visas and/or inoculations are not necessary or required.

Cancellations and Changes

If Valor Tours, Ltd. receives cancellation more than 90 days prior to departure your deposit is fully refundable. Cancellations received between 90 and 60 prior to departure will result in the loss of deposit. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure or “no shows” non refundable. Refunds may take up to 30 days to process. Cancellation charges also apply to additional travel arrangements made prior to and after the tour such as domestic airfare. If flight changes are requested after airline tickets are issued, revision fees will apply. Cancellation insurance for medical reasons is not included in tour cost but is available upon request.

Airline services and seating

Tour cost includes round trip economy class air travel via United Airlines from Honolulu. United Airlines flies 737-jet on the Honolulu to Koror flights, and 767-jet on the non-stop Guam to Honolulu flight. Business First upgrade is available for additional cost. Call for quote. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of the air segment of this tour, but can be earned. You can sign up for Continental Airlines One Pass or United Mileage Plus frequent flyer programs at the counter upon check in. Every attempt will be made to accommodate your seating requests aboard the aircraft. However, Valor Tours, Ltd. cannot guarantee seating assignments made by the airlines or airport staff.

Baggage allowance

We recommend one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Portage is not included in the tour cost and everyone will be responsible for his or her own luggage, so travel light. Passengers are responsible for carry-on bags, purses, camera bags, briefcases, etc. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to baggage, or any of the passenger’s belongings. Limited baggage insurance is included in the tour cost.

Disabilities

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coaches and hotels used in this tour do not offer handicapped facilities or conveyances. Local tours guides and our passengers are not physically responsible for lifting participants or assisting them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance.

Itinerary subject to change. Valor Tours reserves the right to substitute any hotel with a hotel of similar quality, if available. Visas and inoculations are not required.

Itinerary in brief – subject to change

Tue June 12

Meet at the Pacific Marina Inn, Honolulu airport for overnight. This will facilitate a very early morning flight departure.

Wed June 13

Depart HNL via United Airlines with stops at Majuro and Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands (good opportunity for aerial sightseeing).

Thu June 14

Arrive Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Four night’s accommodations at Ocean View Plaza Hotel or similar, Pohnpei.

Friday June 15 thru Sunday June 17

It’s time to slow down to island life. Explore the ancient ruins of Nan Madol, called the Venice of the Pacific, remains of Japanese settlements occupied until the surrender in 1945 and Japanese WWII installations.

Monday June 18

Depart Pohnpei for Chuuk Atoll (Truk). Three nights at the Blue Lagoon hotel.

Tuesday June 19 and Wednesday June 20

Life here is close to nature and lived in conjunction with the land and the sea. The historical aspect of Truk Lagoon is not totally hidden under water or by the jungles. Japanese lighthouses, perched high atop the lagoon’s finest overlooks - old runways, command centers, gun emplacement, cave networks, hospitals and Japanese naval base ruins. Here the pace of life slows and tropical beauty is spectacular. If you are a bird watcher, head for the hills to view rare and migratory birds.

Thursday June 21

Depart Chuuk for Koror (Palau) by way of Guam, Overnighing in hotel at Koror.

Friday June 22

By boat to Peleliu through the Rock Islands. Explore the invasions sites and memorials of Peleliu: Bloody Nose Ridge, the 81st Infantry monument, Japanese HQ’s bunkers, site of the temporary military Cemetery, WWII Memorial Museum, invasion beaches, caves and the airfield, which was the strategic objective of the Peleliu campaign. Island Terrace and/or Adventures Inn.

Saturday June 23 – Sunday June 24

Continue with touring of Peleliu as well as Ngesebus Island, site of Japanese Airfield assaulted by U.S. forces as part of the invasion, but today relatively unexplored and untouched.



Ancient Nan Madol, Pohnpei



Japanese air administration HQ Truk

Below sunset in Palau



Continued...

Monday June 25

Boat back to Koror using a different route through the Rock Islands (see Japanese gun emplacements). Koror hotel.

Tuesday June 26

While Koror offers shopping and Museums, Babeldaob is full of cultural/historic treasures, from the famous Badrulchau, or Stone Monoliths, to ancient terraces and Stone Faces. Hear the legends and history of these sites from a local guide and wonder about times past.

Wednesday June 27

Early morning depart Koror for Guam , then Honolulu arriving June 26 at 5:30pm.



Comments from previous tour members:

"It is difficult for me to adequately express my satisfaction with this tour. It was just great. Andy Giles (tour director) did an exemplary job...we were all treated like kings."

"It was a journey into my own past. My uncle was stationed there in 1945. His letters and memories helped make the journey come alive. What a marvelous trip! Andy Giles (tour director) did a marvelous job. He is the consummate guide."

"Thank you for all you do in organizing these trips. You have made one old man very happy. The trip has given him a new enthusiasm for life!"

"This trip was a never-to-be-forgotten experience for me and my family. My family was awed by the history.... a memorable trip."

"Andy Giles is the greatest! He was a tremendous fountain of knowledge and a wonderful all-around guy."

2016 tour



Invasion beaches of Peleliu, then and now.



Tour Cost \$5950.00 per person, twin share
Single supplement \$1210.00 – subject to space availability

Includes round trip economy class airfare from Honolulu to Pohnpei, Truk, Koror, and back to Honolulu via Guam on non-stop; U.S. Departure taxes; emergency travel insurance; services of Prof. Anderson Giles as tour director; 13 nights hotel accommodations at hotels indicated or similar; breakfast daily; all ground transportation, coaches, boats; local guides; entrance and land access fees; local taxes.

Components of tour cannot be purchased separately. Itinerary subject to change.

Tour cost based on a minimum & maximum of 10 participants. Additional passengers may have to use lesser accommodations on Peleliu.

Tour cost without Koror/Peleliu – return to Honolulu from Guam on June 22 - \$4250.00 per person. Single supplement \$700 (Includes one night at the Guam Outrigger Hotel)



Left: Truk's Eten Island, carved by the Japanese to look like an aircraft carrier. Right: 2013 group at Nan Madol, Pohnpei. Above: Rock Islands from Koror to Peleliu.

Truk, Pohnpei and Koror are known for their snorkeling and scuba diving, and although this is not the purpose of our trip, one is welcomed to take advantage these opportunities by visiting one of many dive shops in or near our hotels.

Any diving or snorkeling expense such as rental of equipment is to the account of the passenger.



Optional Saipan & Tinian extension

June 27 to June 30 - 2 full days on Saipan and 1 full day on Tinian \$1250.00 per person, twin share, including round trip air fare from Guam, hotels, tours and transport, and services of Andy Giles escorting. Single \$200 supplement.