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**VALOR TOURS, LTD.**  
*focussed expeditions*

presents...

## Ghost Soldiers of Bataan & Hellships Memorial tour to the Philippines

April 3 to 13, 2018  
 Escorted by Steve Kwiecinski



**Manila - Corregidor - Bataan - Subic Bay  
 - Camp O'Donnell - Cabanatuan**  
 with optional extension to Leyte



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 CST #2075156-50 IATA #05-911791

**VALOR TOURS, LTD.**  
*Focused Expeditions*  
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**Questions? Call 800-842-4504**

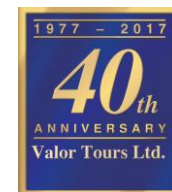
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*Valor Tours Ltd. is the only military history tour operator bonded and insured in the U.S. with 39 years experience taking WWII Veterans and their families to the Philippines.*

*"...The tour brought back a flood of memories; some pleasant and some not so pleasant - some good ones before the war, and some dreadful ones during the war, and the horrible experience of being captured by the Japanese. Many thanks to Valor Tours for all you have done to assist and encourage the preservation of the battle sites. Keep up the good work!"*  
**Everett Reamer, POW**

Cover picture: Bataan Death March and American Battle Monument & Cemetery.  
 Photo by John Shively.

Accredited by



**America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator**



Group at Camp Cabanatuan  
OG

In the early months of WWII in the Pacific, it was one defeat after another. But in the Philippine Islands American commanders thought the jungles on the peninsula of Bataan could withstand any enemy assault. And surely the heavily armed island of Corregidor in Manila Bay would be impregnable. The enemy thought otherwise, and in April and May of 1942, they proved their point. It was not for lack of determination by our men on Bataan, (or any lack of courage from the nurses who were right there with them) that defeat was followed by a ghastly death march to nightmare years of imprisonment. The nurses were evacuated at the last moment to Corregidor. Incessantly pounded by heavy guns from the now captured Bataan Peninsula, Corregidor itself surrendered on May 6<sup>th</sup>. In war, legendary battle sites are not always honored for a victorious outcome. If ever there was hallowed ground from the conflict and horror of war, it is the ground we will once again tread in 2018, as we have done for the past 40 years.

*Top left: Wally McKay's daughter Patty points to his sister's name on the Angels of Bataan marker.*

*Memorials on Corregidor's Topside.*

*Accommodations in Manila will be at the World class Manila Hotel on Manila Bay. We will obtain permission to visit the MacArthur suite located in the hotel.*

*Bottom: previous group at Cabanatuan prison camp site.*

## Application Form

### Ghost Soldiers of Bataan & Hellships Memorial tour to the Philippines - April 3 to 13, 2018

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it appears on your passport)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you would like it to appear on ID badge and passenger list)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(where confirmation and documents should be mailed)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ spaces on this tour. Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) in the form of a check\_\_\_\_, or credit card account \_\_\_\_\_ exp \_\_\_\_\_ for accommodations based on a \_\_\_\_ twin share basis or \_\_\_\_ single occupancy or \_\_\_\_ triple share (subject to availability).

\_\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and wish to share with another tour member  
\_\_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_\_ Non smoking

What is the reason for your participation on this tour, i.e. Veteran, family member of a Veteran/POW, history buff? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/we would like to participate on the Leyte extension, April 14/16

Handicap facilities are very limited in the Philippines. If you have any disabilities, which cause you to require any physical assistance of any kind, please describe them here: \_\_\_\_\_

Valor Tours, Ltd. requires passengers with handicaps to bring a traveling companion responsible for assisting with all your needs. \_\_\_\_ I/we do not require any assistance.

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

Signature

Date

This tour qualifies for Early Booking/Payment Discount.

valortours@yahoo.com



## General Information & Terms/Conditions

### **Reservations & Cancellations**

A reservation can only be held with a deposit of \$500 per person and on a first come-first served basis. Please fill out, sign and return the application form with your check or credit card number. Final payment is due January 3, 2018. Cancellations received in writing by January 3, 2018 are fully refundable. Cancellations received in writing between January 3 and March 6, 2018 subject to loss of deposit. Cancellations received after March 6, 2018 or “no shows” are non-refundable. Changes to your reservations within 30 days of departure may result in administrative fees and/or penalties. Reservation deadline is February 2, 2018 however we will do all we can to accommodate based on space availability. Space is limited to one busload. Late bookings can be accepted provided space is available and full payment is received right away. Cost is based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Tour itinerary and costs subject to change. We do not recommend participation on tour by children under the age of 12 years.

### **Travel documents**

Passports must be valid six months beyond date of travel. Visas are not required unless you extend your stay in the Philippines beyond 21 days. Inoculations are not required. Travel documents such as airline tickets, passenger list, ID badge, baggage tags and final instructions will be sent Priority Mail about two weeks prior to departure or by Express Mail ten days prior to departure.

### **Health**

Vaccinations are not required at this time, but consult with your physician about Hepatitis A or B shots, which are now recommended for all travel. Also check to see if your Tetanus is up to date. As with all third world tropical climates, malaria-carrying mosquitoes exist. Use common sense precautions such as insect repellent or wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants in the evening hours when the mosquitoes are most prevalent. Drinking unboiled tap water is not recommended. Bottled water is available for purchase. We suggest keeping a bottle in your backpack at all times. Use caution when drinking beverages with ice. Good restaurants, bars and cafes use purified or boiled waters, while local establishments often use tap water.

### **Air transportation**

We use Philippine Airlines as they offer non-stop service from both San Francisco and Los Angeles to Manila on Boeing 777-300ER series jet with 3 + 4 + 3 seating. Flight time is 17 hours. Business class with 2 + 3 + 2 seating upgrade available for approx. \$3000 per person additional cost. Boeing 777 does not offer first class.

### **Travel Emergency Insurance**

To ensure worry free travel, this tour includes valuable travel insurance at no additional cost to you. This coverage is provided by TRAVELEX Insurance Services. A description of insurance coverage will be sent to each participant upon receipt of his/her application and deposit. Coverage includes sickness and accident medical expense; trip delay or missed flight connections; medical evacuation and repatriation; baggage and personal effects loss or delay; emergency assistance services worldwide. It does not include cancellation/trip interruption coverage, which is available for \$187 per person extra for up to \$3000 worth of coverage; \$248 for \$4000 of coverage; \$313 for \$5000, etc.

## Itinerary - subject to change

### **Tues April 3**

Late night departure from the U.S. (San Francisco or Los Angeles) via Philippine Airlines for Manila, Philippines. Meet tour hosts Steve and Marcia if flying from San Francisco. Cross the Date Line and lose Wed.

### **Thurs April 5 (D)**

Arrive Manila Int'l Airport. Immigration (passport required), baggage collection and customs. Meet local guide and board private air-conditioned coach for transfer to the Manila Hotel. Rooms ready for early check in. Visit to MacArthur archives (and suite if available). Afternoon tour of Intramuros (the old walled city), and Fort Santiago and handicrafts shop for souvenirs. 7pm Group dinner in Mabuhay Palace in the Manila Hotel.

### **Fri April 6 (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, transfer to ferry and cross Manila Bay to Corregidor, at the mouth of Manila Bay. Morning tour in private Tranvia to 92<sup>nd</sup> Garage, Monkey Point, Kindley Field, and Malinta Tunnel Light and Sound show. Lunch break, then afternoon tour continues Bottomside, Middleside and Topside to include Wainwright Park, Army Dock, Navy Dock, Batteries Way and Hearn, gun batteries, Mile Long Barracks, Pacific War Memorial and Museum, Batteries Crockett and Geary. Overnight Corregidor Inn.

### **Sat April 7 (B, L, D)**

Morning boat trip around the fortified islands of Manila Bay. These include Carabao Island (Fort Frank), El Fraile Island (the “Concrete Battleship,” aka Fort Drum), and Caballo Island (Fort Hughes). Afternoon options for exploring other gun batteries and tunnels on Corregidor, extra time at the museum, or resting up. Evening includes sunset viewing at Battery Grubbs and private tour of Malinta Tunnel laterals. Overnight Corregidor Inn.

### **Sun April 8 (B, L)**

Board banca from Corregidor to Mariveles on the Bataan Peninsula and Kilometer Marker Zero, beginning of the Death March. Continue north with stops at select Death March markers as we follow parts of the actual Death March route, sites of Field Hospitals #1 and #2, and Angels of Bataan Marker at Limay. Stop at Pantingan River massacre site. Overnight at Montemar Beach Resort on the South China Sea.

### **Monday April 9 (B, L)**

Drive to Mt. Samat and the Altar of Valor for Anniversary of the Fall of Bataan commemorative ceremony. Return for afternoon of leisure at our beachside resort hotel. Overnight at Montemar Beach Resort.

### **Tuesday April 10 (B)**

Check out of hotel. Visit the Balanga Elementary School and Bataan WWII Museum, the site of surrender negotiations. Stop at the Jose Calugas monument at Layac Junction. Proceed to Subic Bay. Visit the Hellships Memorial, Jungle Survival Training, and Olangapo Museum. Overnight at Segara Suites, Subic Bay.

### **Wednesday April 11 (B, L)**

Check out of hotel and drive to San Fernando Railway Station Museum where the POW's were packed into railroad boxcars for the ride to Capas. Then on to Clark Field to see Fort Stotsenberg gates, Parade Ground, Civilian Cemetery, Clark Field Museum and lunch at Clark VFW Canteen. On to Capas Railway Station, Battling Bastards of Bataan Memorial and Camp O'Donnell. Overnight Microtel Inn, Luisita, Tarlac.

### **Thursday April 12 (B, D)**

Check out of hotel. Morning visit to Pajota's Bridge and the American POW Memorial at Cabanatuan, site of former POW camp and location of “The Great Raid” as told in “Ghost Soldiers” by Hampton Sides. Return to Manila with lunch en route. Check into the Manila Hotel. Evening farewell dinner at Mall of Asia, once and future “largest mall in the world.” Overnight at the Manila Hotel.

### **Friday April 13 (B)**

Full day tour including Santo Tomas University (site of civilian and nurses' internment camp), Bilibid Prison (subject to permission), drive through the Philippine business district in Makati including site of Nichols Field, and visit the American Cemetery at Forbes Park (possible private wreath laying). Stop at restaurant for lunch. Return to hotel to freshen up before transfer to airport for flight back to the U.S. departing at 10:00pm, arriving West Coast about 8:00pm same day, or transfer for Leyte extension.

## 'REUNION FOR PEACE'



Robert F. Reynolds, right, president of Valor Tours, Ltd., San Francisco, Calif., was commended by Northern California PATA Chapter for his creation and implementation of the "Reunion for Peace," a World War II Veterans Program to the Philippines. Lang Manning, left, of the New Zealand Government Tourist Office, chapter chairman, presented the award.



Malcolm Amos, Corpsman and POW, visiting Death March marker in his name



Steve Kwiecinski has traveled with Valor Tours, Ltd. to the Philippines several times, including the 2006 Hellships Memorial tour, and now serves as our tour director. Steve's father fought on Bataan and Corregidor, and survived Bilibid, Cabanatuan and prison camps in Japan. You'll enjoy Steve's unique insights, sense of humor, and passion for Philippines WWII history. Steve is the author of *HONOR, COURAGE, FAITH: A Corregidor Story*, available for Kindle at Amazon, and in bookstores throughout the Philippines. Steve and his wife Marcia lived on Corregidor for 6 years.

## Optional Leyte extension

### Friday April 13 (B)

Transfer to domestic terminal for Philippine Airlines mid-afternoon flight. After 1 hour flight, arrive Tacloban, Leyte. Transfer to Oriental Hotel in Palo on the beach.

### Saturday April 14 (B)

Full day sightseeing to invasion sites and memorials including Hill 120 with 96<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. Memorial, landing beaches, MacArthur Memorial and Peace Park, and Palo Cathedral (site of first invasion hospital).

### Sunday April 15 (B)

Half-day tour including San Juanico Bridge to Samar, city tour of Tacloban including Provincial Capitol Building and Sto Nino Shrine. Afternoon depart Tacloban via Philippine Airlines. After 1 hour flight, arrive Manila for transfer to the international terminal for flight to U.S. Tour ends.

April 14/16 Leyte extension cost \$900 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$200. Includes air fare between Manila and Tacloban economy class via Philippine Airlines; round trip airport/hotel transfer; two nights hotel accommodations; breakfast daily; sightseeing as indicated; local guide; local taxes.

### Main tour - April 3 to 13, 2018

Tour Cost \$3900.00 per person, twin share

Single supplement \$700.00

*Cost subject to change. Based on rates and currency values as of November 2015.*

Includes airport/hotel round trip transfers and baggage handling; emergency travel insurance coverage; services of tour leader; eight nights hotels accommodations; meals as indicated in itinerary by B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner; entrance fees; all ground transport by private coach, banca and ferry; services of local guides and drivers; local taxes; air fare via Philippine Airlines economy class, round trip from San Francisco (or Los Angeles) including taxes.

Business class upgrades approx. \$3000 per person round trip.

Doing your own air to Manila? Air credit \$1000 per person.

### 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 coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany and be completely responsible for persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home.