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PRESENTS...

POLAND

THE TURBULENT HISTORY OF WW II



September 2 to 11, 2012

Escorted by historian Phil Peterson



America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

Poland, where the first shots of WWII were fire...

The tank and aircraft war began September 1, 1939 with the German invasion of Poland. Two weeks later the Soviets attacked from the east and the savaged Polish Army was crushed between the two forces.

Resistance against the Nazis in Warsaw, including uprisings by Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and by the Polish underground, was brutally suppressed. As the Germans retreated in January 1945, they leveled the city. During the war, about 6 million Poles were killed and 2.5 million were deported to Germany for forced labor. More than 3 million Jews were killed at Nazi death camps like Auschwitz, Treblinka and Sobibor.



William "Phil" Peterson served in the U.S. Army and is a pharmacist by trade, but his passion is World War Two history which has taken him all over the world to "walk the ground" of Battlefields on six continents. He has traveled extensively with Valor Tours for over ten years and is currently writing a book describing his adventures.

Poland: The Turbulent History of WWII tour - 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, Calif. 94965 U.S.A.
Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504.

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (days) _____

I/we wish to reserve ___ spaces on a ___ twin share basis (two persons to a hotel room), or ___ I am traveling alone and wish to pay the single supplement so as not to share my hotel room, or ___ share with another tour member. ___Smoking ___Non smoking

___ Enclosed is my/our check for the deposit in the amount of \$ _____ (\$500 per person, per tour), or please charge my American Express account number _____ Exp _____
(Valor Tours does not accept VISA or Master Card)

Please arrange my/our air arrangements from _____ to Warsaw to coincide with tour in ___Economy class or ___ business class.
I/we would like ___ additional nights hotel accommodations in Warsaw: ___pre-tour and/or ___post-tour.

___I/we are interested in the Crossing the Rhine tour, Sept 13 to 22, from Frankfurt to Amsterdam. I/we understand the 3-day/2-night link from Warsaw to Frankfurt with a stop in Berlin enroute is free for taking both tours back to back.

Reason for taking tour, i.e. Veteran, history buff, family member, etc.

Special needs, dietary requirements _____

Next of kin _____

I/we have read and understand the terms set forth in this brochure:

Signature _____

Date _____

Reservations and Final Payment

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$500 per person accompanied by the Application form. Payments accepted in the form of a personal check, American Express card or Paypal. We do not accept VISA or Master Card. While we recognize the convenience and other advantages of using credit cards, they do carry administration fees, which we would have to add to the cost of our tours. We choose not to do this. Final payment is normally due 90 days prior to departure unless otherwise stated on confirmation. Reservations will be accepted on a first come – first served basis. Valor Tours, Ltd. does not recommend that children under the age of 12 participate on this tour. Passport required. Visas are not required. Tour cost based on minimum of 10 paying participants. Airfare from the U.S. to Europe not included, however if you need assistance with air arrangements we will be happy to do so.

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 to 30 days prior to commencement of tour subject to loss of deposit. Cancellation within 30 days or ‘no shows’ are non refundable. Refunds may take up to 30 days to process. Cancellation charges also apply to additional travel arrangements such as airfare. If flight changes are requested after airline tickets are issued, revision fees will apply. Travel medical emergency insurance is included in tour cost, but does not include cancellation or trip interruption coverage. Available upon request.

Baggage allowance

We recommend one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Porterage for one bag per person is included in the tour cost, however there may be times when you will be responsible for your baggage, so it is to the benefit of the passenger to 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 coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home.

Single travelers

Single occupancy of hotel rooms is an additional \$750 over and above the tour cost. If you would like to avoid this expense, you may share with another single traveler. Valor Tours will make every attempt to find you a suitable roommate of the same age and gender, however Valor Tours, Ltd. cannot be held responsible for incompatibility, nor can they guarantee a roommate should one not be available. In that case, the single supplement will apply.

Not included in tour cost

Meals not indicated in itinerary, airfare from the U.S., passport fees, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, tipping to driver & guide, foreign airport departure taxes, cancellation/trip interruption insurance coverage.

Itinerary in brief – subject to change

Sunday September 2 (D)

Independent arrivals into Warsaw. Meet at the Hotel Le Meridien Bristol – a 5* hotel near old town. Welcome dinner and introductions at local restaurant. Overnight Le Meridien Bristol, Warsaw.

Monday September 3 (B)

Today get to know the story of the troubled city that went through countless experiences of wars and uprisings. Warsaw suffered unparalleled destruction during WW II. You can feel the breath of these tragic events, walking by numerous historical monuments that Warsaw is dotted with. In 1999, Polish capital was distinguished with the Warsaw Insurgent Cross, as homage to the Invincible City and the heroism of its inhabitants. A sightseeing tour will include a walk around the streets of Old Town, painstakingly restored after WW II. Today the area’s inclusion on UNESCO’s World Heritage List speaks volumes for the effort involved. We will watch short documentary, “Warsaw Remains” at the Warsaw Historical Museum. Guided tour of the Warsaw Rising Museum, an expression of homage to the heroes of the Warsaw Uprising. Continue to the Mausoleum of Struggle and Martyrdom, a branch of the Museum of Independence. The museum presents the conditions in which Polish patriots and resistance fighters were jailed by Nazi Germany during World War II. Also visit Monument to the Ghetto Heroes and Memorial Wall at Umschlagplatz. Overnight Le Meridien Bristol, Warsaw.

Tuesday September 4 (B)

This morning we travel by private coach south to the famous ancient capital city of Krakow, one of the gateways to the most infamous place of the war. Unlike Warsaw, Krakow survived WWII relatively undamaged and has a wealth of genuine architectural treasure to offer. Stroll Podgorze district, the actual Jewish ghetto during Nazi Occupation, and visit the Schindler’s Factory Museum, telling the story of Oscar Schindler, German entrepreneur who saved the lives of over 1,200 Jewish employees. Overnight Radisson Blu, Krakow.

Wednesday September 5 (B)

Tour of the ancient city and it’s part of the German invasion and occupation of Poland: Wawel Royal castle with it’s 16th century Flemish tapestries, the Cathedral where Poland’s kings were crowned and Schindler’s Factory Museum which presents the history of Krakow under Nazi Occupation 1939-1945. Overnight Radisson Blu, Krakow.

Thursday September 6 (B)

Today a short drive to Auschwitz & Birkenau, the largest death factory in the history of humanity. The site of the camp now houses the Oswiecim State Museum, which displays exhibits and documents concerning Nazi crimes. Watch short documentary movie. Then continue through several battlefields to Wroclaw. Overnight Sofitel Old Town, Wroclaw.

Friday September 7 (B)

This morning guided tour of Wroclaw. Then head north to Torun, the home of N. Copernicus, the man who changed the place of man in the cosmos. Stroll the lovely Gothic Old Town. Overnight Mercure Helios, Torun.

Saturday September 8 (B)

Depart for Gdansk through the famous Danzig Corridor, to visit this historic city where the first shots of WWII in Europe were fired in 1939. A city tour and discussion of events from the first shots fired to the emergence of a newer Polish state. Overnight Hilton, Gdansk.

Sunday September 9 (B)

Today we move easterly to Gierloz. Located amongst woods and lakes, this little village is renowned for being home to the Wolf's Lair – the wartime HQ of Adolph Hitler, and comprising a complex of 80 strong bunkers built between 1940 and 1941, also the site of the "Valkyrie" plot bomb that nearly ended Hitler's reign. Overnight Hotel Koch, Ketrzyn.

Monday September 10 (B, D)

Today we turn south and stop at another notorious Concentration Camp at Treblinka. Like most of the camps, it was mostly destroyed after the war, but one can view a symbolic cemetery containing 17,000 stones, a monument and a mausoleum. Return to Warsaw for a farewell dinner and overnight at the Hotel Le Meridien Bristol, Warsaw.

Tuesday September 11 (B)

Check out of hotel. Tour ends.

Please note: The Crossing the Rhine - Operation Market Garden tour begins in Frankfurt on Thursday September 13. Should you wish to combine the Poland tour with the Crossing the Rhine tour, back to back, Valor Tours will arrange transport, 2 nights hotel accommodations in Berlin and a tour of Berlin WWII sights, Sept 11 to 13 to link the two tours. No charge for 3-day/2-night Warsaw to Frankfurt via Berlin link for taking both tours back to back.



Gdansk



A photograph taken inside the Auschwitz (Oswiecim) Concentration Camp in Poland, Nazi Germany's largest concentration and extermination camp. Polandpoland.com.



Wolf's Lair

Tour cost \$3,395 per person, twin share.
Single supplement \$775.
Land only – begins and ends in Warsaw, Poland.
Includes nine nights hotel accommodations at 3 to 5 star hotels; breakfast daily; welcome and farewell dinners; private coach/driver throughout itinerary; entrance fees; local guides where necessary; local taxes; travel emergency insurance coverage; services of Phil Peterson as historian; Porterage at hotels; Tour Briefing Book.

Cost based on rates and currency exchange at the time this brochure was printed, and is subject to change. Also based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together – maximum 45 passengers. We do not recommend participation by children under the age of 12.