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DVD of 1997 & 1999 cruise available free of charge.

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

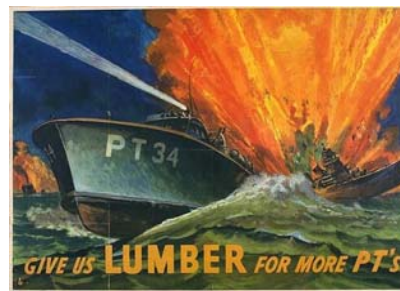
Valor Tours, Ltd. presents....

Return to the Solomon Islands

April 29 to May 8, 2012



Escorted by Prof. Andy Giles



Artist Peter Helck – www.peterhelck.com



GUADALCANAL 1942 - 1943

The U.S. offensive of WWII in the Pacific Theater began on August 7th, 1942 when U.S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal, Tulagi and Gavutu to establish a foothold upon enemy held territory. Thus began the Allied Advance on the road to Tokyo.



Previous cruise group on Plum Pudding Island where Lt. JFK swam ashore from PT109.

The Solomon Islands campaign lasted twenty months. It was a violent air, land and sea struggle with a determined enemy. This tour offers WWII history and ceremony with sightseeing among now peaceful and beautiful islands. Walk invasion beaches and airstrips – cruise through harbors once teeming with warships – explore villages and plant memorial trees in the Memorial Park. Relics still abound although the jungle now mostly conceals the wounds of battle.

The archipelago we will sail though is among the most beautiful in the World. Morovo Lagoon alone is considered an “Eighth Wonder”. Today it is difficult to image that such fierce battles swept through these islands. Relics still abound, although the jungle now covers the wounds of battle. Even though our concentration will be on WWII points of interest, the gentle people and their lovely islands will charm you.



Here, on and around these islands, in 1942/43, the tide of war in the Pacific was turned. The contest was hard.... The cost was high.... The valor was exemplary.

Above: Red Beach. Above right: Veterans standing at the American Memorial. Right: US Marines rest in a field on Guadalcanal in 1942, Wikipedia. Map on next page by Bradley Sheard, Wreck Diving Magazine, 2007.



Application form for 2012

Return to the Solomon Islands cruise/tour

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

Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504

I/we enclose a check for \$_____ (\$1000 per person) to reserve ___ places on the cruise/ tour – April 29 to May 8, 2012 on a:

___ Twin share occupancy or ___ single occupancy
 ___ Smoking ___ Non smoking

Or please charge my American Express card _____
 Expiration date _____ for the deposit.

Name _____ Name _____
 (As it appears on your passport without middle name)

Name _____ Name _____
 (As you would like it to appear on ID badge)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (days) _____

Veteran of WWII (Branch, division, ship, etc.) or reason for participation:

Any places of special interest? _____
 Dietary requirements on aircraft? _____

Options:

___ I/we would like to stopover in Nadi, Fiji Islands for ___ nights on the return leg of the tour.

___ I/we are interested in the optional Tarawa extension (\$2000 per person)

Facilities for the disabled in the Solomon Islands and Fiji do not exist. Please let us know if you have any disabilities that may prevent you from climbing on and off the boats, walking through the jungle, getting on and off buses, etc. _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____

GENERAL INFORMATION, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS

Please complete the application form and return with a deposit of \$1000 per person. Reservations cannot be held without a deposit. American Express, personal check or Paypal only can be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Valor Tours, Ltd. and mail to 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965. Secondary deposit of \$1000 per person Nov. 1, 2011. Final payment is due Feb. 1, 2012. All passengers on deposit will receive written confirmation, description of insurance coverage (included in the cost) and newsletter with further details. Final travel documents will be sent Priority Mail to fully paid participants about two weeks prior to departure. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Cost based upon a minimum number of participants traveling together and current airfares and rates. Once deposit is received, current rates are guaranteed.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All moneys are fully refundable for cancellations received up to Nov. 1, 2011. Cancellation received between Nov. 2, 2011 and Feb. 1, 2012 subject to loss of deposit. Cancellation received after Feb. 1, 2012 or "no shows" non refundable. Cancellation and trip interruption insurance coverage is not included in the tour, but available upon request and is based on trip cost/age of passenger. Payments made by check will be refunded by check and may take up to 30 days to process. Payments made by American Express must be credited back to your AX account and may take up to 60 days to appear on your statement.

HEALTH & TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

Mosquitoes can be a problem on Guadalcanal, but not as much on the vessel as Mosquitoes do not cross the water. Anti-Malaria medication is available from your doctor; however, we find that roll-on insect repellents work very well on exposed skin in the evening and early morning hours when mosquitoes are most prevalent. Also, natural citronella wristbands and ankle bands are very effective and non-toxic, or clip on OFF. We recommend that passengers wear long sleeved shirts and long pants in the evening hours when ashore. We also recommend that all passengers get tetanus and hepatitis inoculations. Check with your doctor. For those prone to seasickness bring some Dramamine. We will spend most of the time in sheltered water, but between the Russell Islands and the New Georgia Islands we will be in open waters, which can be a bit choppy, depending on the weather. You will need a passport valid six months beyond date of travel. Visas for U.S. citizens are not required.

WHAT TO BRING

Casual clothes such as shorts, bathing suit, wash n'wear, loose fitting clothing, comfortable walking shoes, beach (water) shoes, snorkel gear, brimmed hat, suntan lotion, wash clothe, bottle of Woolite, plenty of film, camera (water proof if possible), wind breaker, back pack, flask to carry water, binoculars. If you are a diver, bring your own fins and regulator. Other dive equipment is available on board vessel. Leave expensive jewelry and high-heeled shoes at home. Carry medications, airline tickets, and passport, cash and travelers checks on your person – do not pack in suitcase, as there are occasional delays. Travel light – one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Vessel has laundry facilities.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

We will fly Air Pacific 747 non-stop jet service from Los Angeles to Nadi, in the Fiji Islands, in economy class with 3 + 4 + 3 seating. From Nadi to Guadalcanal fly Solomon Airlines 767 jet service with 3 + 3 seating. Business class upgrade is available upon request at an additional cost of about \$2700 round trip. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of this tour. Deviations from the group air space may result in higher fares. Omit airfare and reduce cost by \$1200 per person. Passengers will be responsible to getting to/from Henderson Field (Honiara), Guadalcanal, in time for cruise departure.

SINGLE TRAVELERS

When a tour member asks Valor Tours to seek a suitable roommate, we will do the best we can to oblige and find a colleague with common interests and habits. Valor Tours cannot be held responsible for incompatibility or guarantee a roommate. If a roommate cannot be found, the single supplement would apply.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE COST

Foreign airport departure taxes, meals not indicated in itineraries, passport fees, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature, and domestic airfare within the U.S.

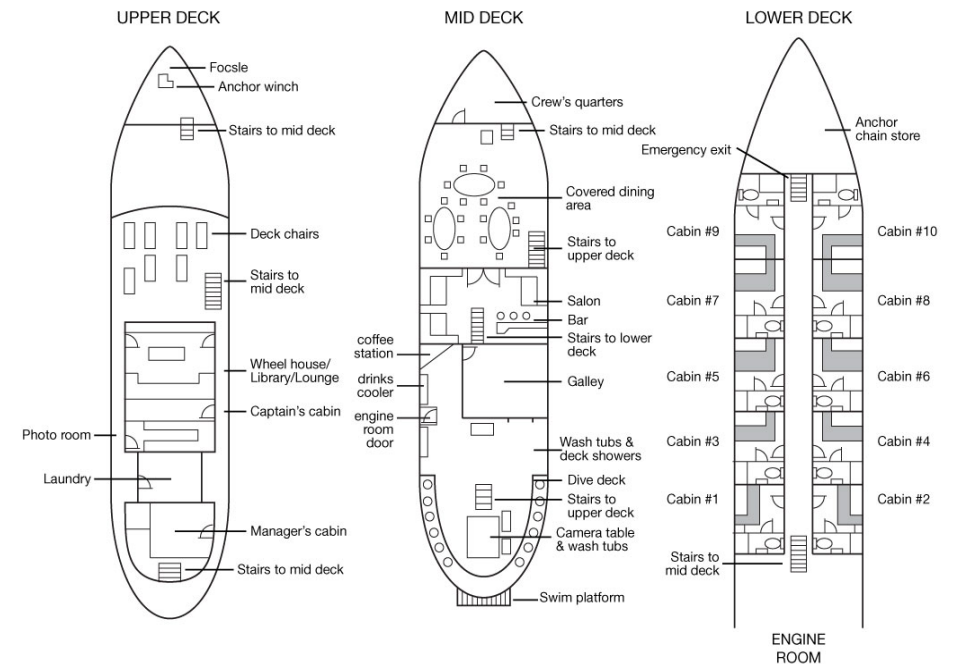
PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES

Due to the absence of handicap and disability laws in the countries we visit, and the expeditionary nature of our tours, we do not recommend participation by passengers with severe disabilities. A companion legally responsible for assisting throughout must accompany passengers with limited disabilities. There is no wheelchair access at all.



Relaxing on the aft deck.

In 1989 MV Bilikiki sailed as the first full service luxury live aboard dive vessel in the Solomon Islands. She was also one of the first in the world to offer private showers and toilets in every cabin. MV Bilikiki has 10 identical cabins, all with a double bed below and single above and air-conditioned. Her large size and a hull that was built for South Pacific seas are two main reasons why guests from around the world still say that "the Bilikiki" is one of the most spacious and comfortable vessels that they have traveled on.



2012 Itinerary in Brief

Subject to change-can be altered to fit the needs of our passengers

Sunday April 29

Check in at the AIR PACIFIC counter in the International Terminal, Los Angeles Int'l Airport no later than 8:30pm for our 11:30pm FJ #811. Meet your tour director at the departure gate.

Monday April 30

In-flight entertainment, friendly Air Pacific staff and breakfast pass the time pleasantly on this non-stop 9-hour flight to Nadi, Fiji Islands, crossing Int'l Date Line and loosing this day.

Tuesday May 1

Arrive Nadi, Fiji Islands at 5:15am. Short layover until departure on Solomon Island Airways at 8:30am, arriving Henderson Field 12:10pm. Transfer to Bilikiki vessel. Set sail for the Florida Islands: Gavutu, Tulagi and Tanambogo. Drop anchor overnight in Tulagi Harbor

Wednesday May 2

Sail past Savo Island to the Russell Islands: Puvuvu and Banika. Drop anchor overnight in the sheltered waters.

Thursday May 3

Set sail this morning for Seghe. Walk the Seghe airstrip, a vital component in Operation Cartwheel. Dive on P38 wreck in the waters off the runway. Sail to Munda, pass Rendova and Viru Harbor.

Friday May 4

Today see Munda airstrip, the longest airstrip in the Southern Hemisphere at the time. Cruise to Kula Gulf through the Diamond Narrows with Arundal Island on the left. Enter Blackett Straits, famous for the Coastwatchers. Swim ashore at Kennedy Island (Plum Pudding Island). Sail to Gizo with a great view of Kolombangara.

Saturday May 5

Morning tour around Gizo, then set sail back to Guadalcanal with Prof Giles giving presentation about the battles that took place in these waters 68 years ago. Cruise past Savo Island at sunset. Anchor off the coast of Red Beach, Guadalcanal.

Sunday May 6

Morning land on Red Beach and tour Edson's Ridge, Gen. Vandergrift's HQ, Mt. Austen, Henderson Field. Overnight onboard vessel.

Monday May 7

Cruise up the coast past the mouth of the Matanikau River and anchor at Ft. Cruz. Visit American Memorial on Skyline Drive, overlooking Iron Bottom Sound, Coastwatchers Memorial, Sir Jacob Vouza's Monument and Memorial Park to take pictures of newly dedicated trees/plaques. Return to vessel for overnight.

Tuesday May 8

Morning free before transferred to Henderson Field and mid-day flight to Nadi, connecting to Los Angeles, arriving the same day at 1:20pm.

Optional stopovers in Nadi, Fiji, or seven-day extension to Tarawa available. Details available upon request.

We do not recommend participation by children under the age of 12.

Cost \$5,190 per person, twin share – all inclusive Single occupancy \$8,000 per person – or share and save \$\$\$

Includes round trip air fare economy class via Air Pacific and Solomon Islands Airways from Los Angeles; U.S. Departure taxes; services of Prof Andy Giles as historian/guide; airport/hotel transfers and baggage handling; seven nights aboard the *Bilikiki*; all meals onboard vessel; all shore excursions and ground transport; entrance and land access fees; travel insurance; local taxes. Without air from Los Angeles \$4,190 per person.

Based on a minimum of 14 persons traveling together and limited to 20 passengers. Reservations accepted on first come-first served basis. Early booking discounts do not apply to this trip as it is based on a charter. Itinerary and cost subject to change. Unused components are non-refundable. Valor Tours does not recommend that children under the age of 12 years of age participate on these tours. Changes, deviations, upgrades to your reservations within 45 days of departure may result in additional costs and administration charges. Schedule of activities and sightseeing may be shifted to accommodate local conditions, availability of services, ceremonies and other activities that may arise.

"I recently came back from the Guadalcanal tour and would like to thank you for a terrific experience. The tour was in every way professional and the experience gave me greater insight into what took place at Guadalcanal...I would highly recommend this tour to anyone. The Solomon Islanders are wonderful hosts as well and added greatly to my enjoyment of the trip. I will be going on future trips with Valor Tours and look forward to another great learning experience."

John Payne, Guadalcanal 2006

"...to walk these battlefields, 'where uncommon valor was a common virtue' is a memorable, humbling experience. Thank you Valor Tours."

Charles Schrenkel 2002

"The most memorable moment was the visit to Red Beach and knowing that my Dad walked this very same beach..."

John Willis 2003

"...I enjoyed my return to my old ship, or what's left of it (USS LST 342) and standing on the rusty deck, and thinking back 55 years to the days of my youth..."

Theron MacKay, U.S. Navy Vet (who has made eight trips with us back to his LST)

"Every day my Dad begins his emails from Guadalcanal with the words "This is the best day yet." You and Valor Tours have really shown my Dad honor and respect and a very life-changing experience. Many thanks to you!"

Susan Layman, 2009

Memorial Park of Honor

Valor Tours, Ltd. is pleased to draw attention to this unusual opportunity for family, friends or relatives of U.S. Servicemen and women who served in the Pacific during any of the major conflicts of the Twentieth century. As part of the Honiara Beautification Project, you may purchase a tree to be planted in the name of a Veteran, unit or ship in the Memorial Park. A plaque will be placed and dedicated when our group visits each August. Application form available upon request.