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Presents

81st Anniversary Operation Galvanic Tarawa – Makin



U.S. Marine Veterans retracing their steps on the beach at Betio during previous tour.



November 16 to 21, 2024
Escorted by Scott Freund



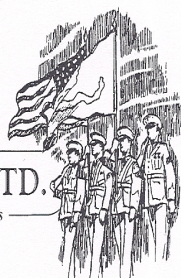
America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

Questions? Call 800-842-4504
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Accredited by



The Japanese occupied Tarawa just two days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Following an August 1942 raid by U.S. Marines on Makin to deflect attention from the invasion of Guadalcanal, Japanese Imperial forces fortified the tiny islet of Betio with big guns, bunkers, pillboxes, mines and barbed wire. In November 1943, U.S. Army troops took the island of Makin, while the Marines engaged an entrenched and determined enemy on Betio. The brutal, 76-hour struggle for Tarawa resulted in more than 3,000 Marine casualties and some 5,000 Japanese dead. The hard-fought battle was the first full-scale amphibious assault against a fortified target and taught valuable lessons for the rest of the American island-hopping campaign to defeat Japan.



Valor Tours, Ltd. made the arrangements for a group of 50 Second Marine Division Veterans and their wives to visit Tarawa in November 1988 to dedicate their new memorial (plaque above).



Scott Freund has been studying World War II history since he received his first book in the third grade. World War II research and history has been his lifelong passion. Scott served in the US Army as a Military Police Officer and recently retired after 27 years working for the Sheriff's Department in California. He has been a documentary film producer for over 20 years, with documentaries being featured in film festivals, museum special events, television, and his YouTube channel "SFR Productions". He is currently a member of the All Airborne Battalion, which is a group that parachutes from World War II C-47s at events in the US and during the D-Day Normandy Anniversary events.

Scott was one of seven passengers who attended the 80th Anniversary commemoration on Betio last November.

APPLICATION FORM

81th Anniversary - "Operation Galvanic" – 1943/2023
November 16 to 21, 2024

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

Name _____ Name _____
(as they appear on passport without middle name)

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number daytime _____

Email (if one) _____

Next of kin (Name/phone) _____

I/we wish to reserve _____ places on the tour. Enclosed is my/our deposit check in the amount of \$ _____ (\$600 per person), or charge my credit card
_____ Expiration _____ Sec code _____

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

___ Smoking ___ Non-smoking

Dietary requirements _____

Reason for participation (Veterans, history buff, etc.) _____

___ I/we need assistance with airfare to Los Angeles to coincide with tour departure from _____.

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

Place/sites of particular interest to me/us: _____

___ I/we would like the Nadi, Fiji stopover package for ___ nights on the return.

___ 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

Terms and Conditions

Reservations and Final Payment

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$600 per person accompanied by the Application form. Sending check or Money Order payable to Valor Tours, Ltd., or with your credit card information can make deposits. Final payment is due by August 1, 2024. Reservations deadline is 30 days prior to departure, but based on first come – first served. Space limited. Valor Tours, Ltd. does not recommend that children under the age of 12 participate on this tour. Passport is required, but visas are not. Tour cost based on minimum of 10 participants. Please provide a copy of the photo page of your passport with your application form and deposit. Early booking/payment discount applies, subject to space availability.

Travel documents

Upon receipt of application form and deposit, you will be sent a confirmation, recommended reading list and information on the travel insurance. Check to make sure your passport is valid at least six months beyond date of travel. Visas are not required, nor are inoculations of any kind, but we do recommend getting your Tetanus updated. We require a copy of the picture page of your passport for airlines tickets/insurance.

Cancellations and Changes

If Valor Tours, Ltd. receives cancellation by August 1, 2024, your deposit is fully refundable. Cancellations received between August 1 and October 1, 2024 will result in the loss of deposit. Cancellations received after October 1, 2024 or “no shows” are 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.

Airline services and seating

Tour cost includes round trip economy class air travel via Fiji Airways, the airline of the Fiji Islands who fly non-stop from Los Angeles to Nadi, Fiji using Airbus A330-200 jet aircraft with 2+4+2 seating. Smaller aircraft is used between Nadi and Tarawa. Business class upgrade is available for approximately \$5664 more per person. Valor Tours, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute airlines should schedules or increased airfares warrant it. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of the air segment of this tour, but can be earned from this trip. You can sign up for Fiji Airways Tabua Club upon check in and earn awards on partners Qantas and American Airlines. 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. There is no portorage included in this tour and therefore everyone will be responsible for their own luggage. It's for this reason that we recommend travelling light and using suitcases on wheels. 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.

Travel insurance

Travel emergency medical insurance and trip cancellation coverage with Travelex is made available to all participants. We strongly recommend this coverage.

Itinerary in brief – subject to change - 2024

Sat Nov 16

10:45pm Depart Los Angeles Int'l Airport via Fiji Airways #811

Sun Nov 17

Cross Date Line and lose this day.

Mon Nov 18 (L)

5:45am Arrive Nadi, Fiji Islands...connect to Fiji Airways #231 departing at 7:30am, arriving Tarawa 10:35am. Begin touring Betio. We will lay a wreath at the 2MD Memorial at the police station during our three day visit. Overnight Betio Lodge.

Tue Nov 19 (B, L)

Today we tour Betio. Overnight Betio.

Wed Nov 20 (B, L)

Charter plane day trip to Makin. Return & overnight Betio.

Thu Nov 21 (B)

11:50am Depart Tarawa via FJ #230, arriving Nadi 2:55pm. Connect FJ #810 at 9:40pm, arriving Los Angeles same day at 11:50am.

Fiji Airways flights twice a week between Nadi and Tarawa.

Stopovers in Nadi available. See next page for details.



The hotels on Tarawa are very basic. Depending on the size of our group we will most likely use the Betio Lodge which has an on site restaurant and bar, self service laundry, wireless internet. Can't always count on the shower running hot water but since Tarawa is only 50 miles from the equator, you won't care. Watch for the green flash on the horizon at sunset.

**Tour cost \$4600 per person, twin share
\$300 single supplement**

Includes round trip economy class air fare via Fiji Airways from/to Los Angeles; U.S. departure taxes; round trip airport/hotel transfers; three night's hotel accommodations on Tarawa; breakfast daily; lunch daily; transportation and sightseeing as indicated; land access fees; charter flight to Butaritari; services of Scott Freund as tour director; local guides and drivers; local taxes; share of wreath.

Dates and costs subject to change.



Clockwise from top left: Japanese bunker today. Photo by Dennis Covert. Japanese bunker after the battle. Bob Reynolds, founder of Valor Tours raises the American flag for the Second Marine Division Assoc. over Betio in 2003. Roy Robinson, 2nd Marine Division Veteran who fought in the battle, attends the 65th Anniversary ceremony on Betio in 2008. Valor Tours group at Japanese gun, Betio in 1999.

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. Coach transport on Tarawa does not have wheelchair lifts and employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion(s) 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.

"...I think of our trip often (Tarawa tour 2001). I'll never forget it. I think you have a wonderful business and the trips you offer do a lot of healing for the people who go..."
 Leroy Kisling, Jr.

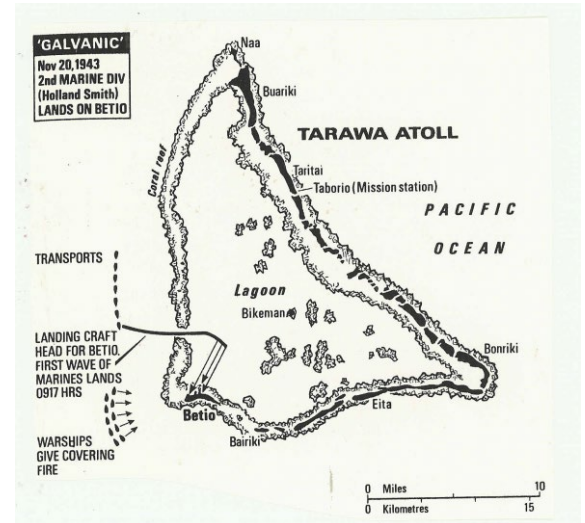
"...The Tarawa trip was excellent – to have packaged so many interesting stops into such a convenient number of days (not too long, not too short), was a great accomplishment..." John Eckersley 2002

"...The trip exceeded my expectations. It made the past come alive for me in ways I never could have imagined..."
 Susan Chad 2001

"...My son-in-law and I had a great adventure trip to Tarawa. It was everything I expected it to be. I have wanted to go for ten years. We had a great time..."
 Dennis Covert, 2008

"Jim and I thoroughly enjoyed our trip with your group and meeting our fellow travellers. We all got on very well and enjoyed each other's company." Jim and Ann Flower, 70th Anniversary 2013

"Makin was a little bit of heaven." Brian O'Mara, 2015



Optional stopover in Fiji on the way home:

Fiji Airways now flies between Nadi and Los Angeles daily. Stopovers in Nadi are possible on return leg of tour. We use the Tokatoka Hotel near Nadi Airport or the Intercontinental Hotel on the beach.

Optional extension to Guadalcanal:

Thu Nov 21 Tarawa to Nadi where you would have to spend 3 nights.
 Sun Nov 24 Nadi to Guadalcanal
 Return Guadalcanal to Nadi to Los Angeles on either Thu Nov 28. Only two flights a week Guadalcanal to Nadi.
 Approx. cost \$1500 per person, twin share.