



WORLD WAR II

HISTORY ROUND TABLE

World War 2 – Battle of Britain and “The Mighty Eighth” Tour

May 23 – June 4, 2023

13 days / 10 overnights

Day 1. Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Depart the USA for London Heathrow Airport for an overnight flight with arrival the next day.

Day 2. Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Arrive at London Heathrow Airport in the morning from the U.S., meet your tour escort and historian outside the arrival gate, and depart for our hotel. For those interested before dinner a **walking tour of Windsor** will be offered. The town is rich in history, with a heritage dating back over 1000 years. A welcome dinner is planned where you will receive a name tag and a detailed itinerary with daily information.

2 overnights at Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor (Welcome Dinner)

Macdonald Windsor Hotel****

23 High St, Windsor SL4 1LH, UK, United Kingdom

Day 3. Thursday, May 25, 2023 (The Mighty Eighth)

This morning we head for the town of High Wycombe. During World War II, from May 1942 to July 1945, the **U.S. Army Air Force's 8th Air Force Bomber Command**, code-named "Pinetree", was based at a former girls' school called Wycombe Abbey. The abbey was also the home of the **RAF 8th Bomber Command** from April 1942 to Jan 1944. Our next stop will be a visit to the **Battle of Britain RAF Bunker and Museum** which will include a 1 hour **guided tour of a 1940s Bunker** located underground. This evening will be free to visit the city of Windsor and enjoy dinner at your leisure.

Overnight at Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor (Breakfast)

Day 4. Friday, May 26, 2023 (The Mighty Eighth)

After Breakfast, we depart Windsor for RAF Debden a former Royal Air Force station. We will visit the **Fourth Fighter Group (Eagle Squadron)** USAAF Station # 356, now the current active duty, British Army Base, Carver Military Barracks. Our hotel will be in the town of Suffolk which is listed as one of the many historical hotels in the UK. During World War II the United States 8th Army Air Force (USAAF) set up camp in Suffolk in 1942. Between then and 1945 thousand of USAAF personnel were stationed in the county. A special dinner is planned tonight in the “The Vault” dining room of the historic Angel Hotel.

3 overnights at The Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds (Breakfast, Dinner)

The Angel Hotel****

3 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1LT, United Kingdom



Day 5. Saturday, May 27, 2023 (The Mighty Eighth)

Our first stop this morning will be the **St Andrews Church, Quindenham**. The chapel is dedicated to the memory of the US airmen of the **96th Bomb Group** who lost their lives in WW2." We will find a stained-glass window from a 1947 American war memorial for the **96th Bomb Group**, depicting a WWII airman looking up at a vision of Christ. A copy can be found in the Chapel of the Fallen Angels, Pooler, GA, USA. We continue to our next destination and visit the **453rd Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, and Airfield**. The 453rd flew 259 missions in B-24 Liberators. They dropped 15,804 tons of bombs and in the process lost 58 aircraft. Most importantly 366 servicemen lost their lives serving from Old Buckenham. Hollywood legend Jimmy Stewart was the first Operations Officer of Old Buckenham. Before departing we will have **lunch at Jimmy's Cafe** at the airfield. We will then visit the **390th Bomb Group Memorial Air Museum** which is housed in the original wartime Control Tower of Framlingham, Station 153. It is a tribute to the endeavors of the 390th Bomb Group, 8th United States Army Air Force, and other Allied airmen operating from bases throughout East Anglia, during the Second World War

Overnight at The Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 6. Sunday, May 28, 2023 (The Mighty Eighth)

Another great experience awaits us today. We will visit this morning the **95th Bomb Group museum and Red Feather Club**. The 95th flew 334 missions between May 14, 1943 and May 25, 1945 and was the first American Bomb Group to perform a daylight raid on Berlin. It claimed 425 enemy aircraft were destroyed, the highest number by any USAAF Bomb Group in WW2. The last B-17 Flying Fortress shot down in Europe was from the 95th and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation on three occasions, more than any other Bomb Group. A stop for **lunch** is planned at the **Half Moon Pub & Inn** – (Pub frequented by 100th BG Personnel in WWII). Then we continue to the **100th Bomb Group Museum - Thorpe Abbots** - USAAF Station #139. Home of the 'Bloody Hundredth', a Bomb Group which was under USAAF control from June 1943 to the end of the war. The control tower houses the museum, which tells the stories of the base and the men who flew the 100th's B-17s in combat over Germany. With the upcoming **"Masters of the Air" mini-series**, the 100th Memorial Museum will be one of the highlights of our tour. The mini-series is the third in Tom Hanks & Stephen Spielberg's WW2 drama series. It is based on Donald L. Miller's book and tells the story of the U.S. 8th Air Force bomber crews over Europe in World War II, focusing on the exploits of the 100th Bombardment Group and two of its B-17 Flying Fortress squadrons.

Overnight at the Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 7. Monday, May 29, 2023 (Memorial Day service)

A day of remembrance lies before us as we depart after breakfast for the **Memorial Day service at the WW2 Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial**. The cemetery, dedicated in 1956, contains 3,811 American war dead and covers 30.5 acres. It is one of 26 overseas military cemeteries administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). An interesting note is the land for the cemetery was donated by the University of Cambridge. We will have reserved seating for our group during the service with additional time to visit the cemetery before the service. In the afternoon we depart for the city of Canterbury for a **Sightseeing tour of Canterbury and the Cathedral**. The medieval walled city has been hosting pilgrims from all walks of life for more than 1,000 years. Canterbury Cathedral is one of the most important historic sites in the world. It remains one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

2 overnights at the Abode Hotel, Canterbury (Breakfast, Dinner)

Abode Hotel Canterbury ****

30-33 High St, Canterbury, CT1 2RX, United Kingdom

Day 8. Tuesday, May 30, 2023 (WW2 Battle of Britain)

Today, we will visit the famous White Cliffs high above the Channel and **Dover Castle**, an icon of England. The world of Henry II's, 12th-century court, and the option to climb to the roof of the Great Tower for amazing panoramic views over the huge medieval castle, which was one of the strongest in England. The castle is also the site of royal intrigue and epic sieges and was at the center of the crucial effort to evacuate hundreds of thousands of Allied troops from the beach of Dunkirk. Our visit will include the **Dover Secret Wartime Tunnels and hospital** which consist of a network of tunnels within the white cliffs beneath Dover Castle. The Tunnels served as barracks for soldiers during the Napoleonic Wars, became a headquarters and hospital during the Second World War, and tunnels were also equipped to serve as a Regional Seat of Government in the 1960s in the event of nuclear war. We will find weapons and technology for uniforms and personal possessions. We will get a glimpse into the lives of the men and women who served their country from Dover Castle. To end the day, we will do a **tour of Dover harbor** to get a WW2 historical insight into the harbor including the location of the submarine pens.

Overnight at Abode Hotel, Canterbury (Breakfast)

Day 9. Wednesday, May 31, 2023 (WW2 Battle of Britain)

We continue today by going further west to the town of Portsmouth one of the world's best-known ports, its history can be traced to Roman times, and has been a significant Royal Navy dockyard and base for centuries. During the Second World War, the city was a pivotal embarkation point for the D-Day landings and was bombed extensively in the Portsmouth Blitz, which resulted in the deaths of 930 people. During the Second World War, the city (particularly the port) was bombed extensively by the Luftwaffe in the Portsmouth Blitz. Upon our arrival, we will start with a **WW2 Portsmouth Sightseeing tour** to include the harbor. After lunch, we will visit the **Portsmouth D-Day Museum**. The D-Day Story is about the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany's occupation during the Second World War. The story is told using the personal possessions and words of the people who took part. The first part of the visit starts with an impressive newly renovated 59-meter Landing Craft Tank 7074 which is located outside the museum. Our hotel is near the seafront, and just a thirty-minute walk from King Henry VIII's Southsea Castle (free entry). After dinner visit the Millennium Walkway near our hotel and walk west, towards Portsmouth, which will take you along the seafront to digest today's history.

2 overnights at Q8 Boutique Hotel, Portsmouth (Breakfast, Dinner)

Q8 Boutique Hotel****

38 Clarence Parade, Southsea, Portsmouth, PO5 2ET, United Kingdom

Day 10. Thursday, June 1, 2023 (WW2 Battle of Britain)

Wake up this morning and take a walk on the seafront before breakfast. Our day will start with a **guided tour of the Southwick House and Royal Military Museum**, it is within the grounds of the Defence College of Policing and Guarding. The house was the invasion headquarters, and the scene of Eisenhower's final decision to invade on June 6, 1944. It was at Southwick House, the elegant Georgian mansion and ancestral home of the Thistlethwayte family, that General Dwight D Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, made his historic and momentous decision to commit three million men and 2,727 ships to the operation which turned the tide of World War II. Our guided tour of the house and museum will include the opportunity to view the original D-Day wall map. Free time for **lunch at the Golden Lion Pub** reputedly the unofficial officers' mess during the war. After lunch, we will have some free time to explore the Harbor area and seafront at our leisure. Our hotel is nearby along the Millennium Promenade which links to Portsmouth's historic waterfront.

Overnight Q8 Boutique Hotel, Portsmouth (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 11. Friday, June 2, 2023 (WW2 Battle of Britain)

After breakfast, we depart Portsmouth for **Stonehenge** (UNESCO's World Heritage Site) a prehistoric monument 4000 years old which consists of an outer ring of vertical sarsen standing stones, each around 13 feet high, 7 feet wide, and weighing around 25 tons, topped by connecting horizontal lintel stones. Undoubtedly, it is a wonder of the world, a spiritual place, and a source of inspiration. In the afternoon we continue our travels today and visit an English country house and estate in **Bletchley Park**, Milton Keynes (Buckinghamshire) which became the principal center of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War. During World War II, the estate housed the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), which regularly penetrated the secret communications of the Axis Powers – most importantly the German Enigma and Lorenz ciphers. According to historians, the "Ultra" intelligence produced at Bletchley shortened the war by two to four years.

2 overnights at Park Grand London Hyde Park Hotel (Breakfast, Dinner)

Park Grand London Hyde Park Hotel ****

78 - 82 Westbourne Terrace, Westminster Borough, London, W2 6QA

Day 12. Saturday, June 3, 2023 (WW2 Battle of Britain)

Our last day in the UK will consist of a **Sightseeing tour of London to include WW2** sights including Churchill War Rooms and the London Imperial War Museum with local professional guides and historians. London was central to the British war effort. The Blitz on London from September 1940 to May 1941 and the V1 flying bomb and V2 rocket attacks in 1944 caused a massive amount of damage. It is estimated that more than 12,000 metric tons of bombs were dropped on London and nearly 30,000 civilians were killed by enemy action. The **Churchill War Rooms** comprises the Cabinet War Rooms, a historic underground complex that housed a British government command center throughout the Second World War, and the Churchill Museum, a biographical museum exploring the life of British statesman Winston Churchill. **Imperial War Museums** is the world's leading museum of war and conflict. Founded while the First World War was still raging, it gives voice to the extraordinary experiences of ordinary people forced to live their lives in a world torn apart by conflict. We will find the new Second World War Galleries in the museum, which bring to life a war that affected millions of people from around the world, from London to Russia, New Zealand, China, and the Philippines. This evening we will end the tour with a farewell dinner looking back at the highlights of the tour.



Overnight at Park Grand London Hyde Park Hotel (Breakfast, Farewell Dinner)

Day 13. Sunday, June 4, 2023 (Individual departure to the USA)

After breakfast, everyone bids farewell to London and departs for the **London Heathrow Airport** from the Paddington train station. The **Heathrow Express** to the Airport only takes 15 minutes. The fastest way between London Paddington and Heathrow.

Highlights included in the tour program:

May 23 – June 4, 2023

13 days / 10 overnights

- Deluxe air-conditioned coach transportation.
- Full time tour escort John Rogers with over 30 years of guiding experience in Europe.
- Professional historians and guides throughout the tour program.
- 11 overnights in 4-star hotels as per the itinerary.
- Daily breakfast buffet.
- 6 dinners and 3 lunches.
- Visit High Wycombe Abbey, RAF 8th Bomber Command.
- Battle of Britain RAF Bunker and Museum.
- Visit Fourth Fighter Group (Eagle Squadron), USAAF Station # 356, Carver British Army Base.
- Visit St Andrews Church, 1947 war memorial, Stained glass window, 96th Bomb Group.
- Visit the 453rd Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, and Airfield.
- Lunch at Jimmy's Cafe at the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, and Airfield.
- Visit 390th Bomb Group Memorial Air Museum.
- Visit the 95th Bomb Group museum and Red Feather Club.
- Lunch at Half Moon Pub & Inn – (Pub frequented by 100th BG Personnel in WWII).
- Visit 100th Bomb Group Museum, - USAAF Station #139. Home of the 'Bloody Hundredth'.
- Overview of the upcoming "Masters of the Air" mini-series, at the 100th Memorial Museum.
- Memorial Day service at the WW2 Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial.
- Sightseeing tour of Canterbury and the Cathedral.
- Visit the famous Dover White Cliffs.
- Tour of Dover Castle, including the Secret Wartime Tunnels, hospital, and museum.
- WW2 Tour Dover harbor including an overview of the former submarine pens.
- WW2 Portsmouth Sightseeing tour.
- Visit and tour the Portsmouth D-Day Museum.
- Guided tour of the Southwick House and Royal Military Museum.
- Visit Stonehenge (UNESCO's World Heritage Site).
- Bletchley Park highlighting the allied code-breaking during the Second World War.
- Sightseeing tour of London to include WW2 sights.
- Visit Churchill War Rooms.
- Visit and guided tour of the London Imperial War Museum.

Tour Coordinator and HRT contact person:

Don Patton

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Application and Deposit

History Round Table Tour 2023

(flight not included)

I would like to book the following tour

Date:

Price p.p. double/twin room

**Battle of Britain
and "The Mighty Eighth" Tour**

May 23 – June 4, 2023

US \$ 4,995.- * paying by check
(if paying by credit card: \$ 5,245.-)
US \$ 1,660,- single supplement

Mr. /Mrs. (Last name / First name)

Birth date

Double / Single

Price

1. Name:

2. Name:

Address

Phone / E-mail

Please check one: The deposit can be paid by credit card and the balance by check.

I have enclosed a check for \$ 200.- per person for a deposit to reserve a place on the tour.

Please bill my credit card in the amount of \$ _____ My credit card information is included below.

Card number: _____ Expiration: _____

Minimum of participants: 20

We reserve the right to cancel any tour up to 2 months before the travel date if the minimum group size is not met.

Signature(s) / Date:

Narrow Gauge Paradise - As a condition to the acceptance of any application, each applicant must agree to, and sign, the statement set forth below: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for this tour and recognizes and accepts any risk thereof. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of himself, his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth under the History Round Table Tour 2023 Terms and Conditions, and to release and hold harmless Narrow Gauge Paradise and any of their officers, agents, licensees or representatives from any liability for delays, injuries or death, for the loss of or damage to, his property, however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the History Round Table Tour 2023. After receiving your application, the detailed conditions will be sent to you together with a confirmation of your application.

(Subject to changes and errors)

Please mail the check for final payment to:
(secure P.O. Box)

Tour Operator and contact person

Narrow Gauge Paradise – John Rogers

Battlefield Seminars and Tours dept.

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