



EDUCATIONAL  
TOURS



## WWII from Normandy to Krakow

15 Days | Summer 2024

The experience of a lifetime is waiting for you. Every detail from the cities you'll stay in to the cultural discoveries you'll make have been customized by your teacher for your group. Take a look at your personal itinerary for a sneak peek of what's in store.

### Included on tour



Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; project-based learning program, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily unless otherwise specified.

**Sightseeing:** Normandy; Bastogne; Amsterdam  
Berlin; Potsdam; Prague's Jewish Quarter; Krakow; Auschwitz and Birkenau

**Entrances:** Caen Memorial; Normandy Beaches; American Cemetery at Colleville; Pointe du Hoc; Anne Frank House; Cologne Cathedral; Topography of Terror Museum; Potsdam (Sanssouci & Cecilienhof); Jewish Museum, Prague; Jewish Cemetery, Prague; Spanish Synagogue, Prague; Old-New Synagogue, Prague; Wavel Cathedral, Krakow; St. Mary's Church Krakow; Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camp Memorial

**Overnights:** Normandy region (3); Bastogne (1); Amsterdam (1); Cologne (1); Berlin (2); Prague (2); Krakow (3)



# Your Itinerary

## Day 1: Fly to France

Board your overnight flight to Paris!

## Day 2: Paris | Normandy region

### Arrive in Paris and travel to the Normandy region

Transfer to Normandy, the location of many of the battles that turned the course of World War II. Despite its connection with major military events, Normandy is also a region of scenic beauty with elegant landscapes and patchwork fields as well as the majesty of its two major towns: Caen and Rouen.

## Day 3: Normandy region

### Visit the Caen Mémorial: Museum of Peace

Pay tribute to WWII troops who fought on the beaches of Normandy as you visit the Caen Mémorial. You'll see a short film about the D-Day invasion, followed by a slide show on WWII. A third audio-visual presentation recounts the wars in Korea, Afghanistan, and Vietnam, as well as the continuing quest for world peace. Afterwards, tour the museum and see displays that depict pre-WWII Europe and trace the events that eventually led to the outbreak of war. Take time to walk through the Nobel Peace Prizewinners' Gallery, a gallery that highlights the accomplishments of the men and women who struggled for peace.

### See La Pointe du Hoc

The Pointe du Hoc was a vital position on the Atlantic Wall because it contained guns capable of firing on Omaha and Utah Beaches. It was one of the strongholds in the German fortifications. Colonel Rudder's "Rangers" battled the German observation-post on the edge of the Point and the monument commemorates their courage on the morning of June 6th.

### Visit the American Cemetery

Visit the final resting place of 9,386 American military dead, most of whom gave their lives during the landings and ensuing operations of World War II. The site also includes a memorial commemorating the soldiers and a chapel bearing the poignant words: "These endured all and gave all that justice among nations might prevail and that mankind might enjoy freedom and inherit peace."

### Visit the Normandy Beaches

At daybreak on June 6, 1944, the Allies' D-Day landings took place, sparking the largest sea-borne invasion in military history and one of the bravest acts of World War II. As you walk on the same shores that witnessed so much courage and sacrifice over half a century ago, you can still see shelled out craters on the rocky cliffs alongside the occasional remains of German bunkers.

### Photo stop at Arromanches

See the seaside town of Arromanches, whose coastline hosted some of the D-Day landings in 1944. As part of the designated 'Gold Beach' area, British troops landed here. Arromanches was also important in WWII as one of the chosen sites for the Mulberry Harbours built by the British forces to aid in the allied invasion of Normandy. The massive concrete blocks can still be seen today.

## Day 4: Normandy region

### Excursion to Mont Saint Michel

Enjoy a day trip to this picturesque tidal island off the coast of France. Perched on a rocky islet in the midst of vast sandbanks exposed to powerful tides between Normandy and Brittany, this UNESCO World Heritage site boasts a Gothic-style Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel St Michael, and the village that grew up in the shadow of its great walls. Built between the 11th and 16th centuries, the abbey is a technical and artistic *tour de force*, having had to adapt to the problems posed by this unique natural site. Enjoy time today to explore the town on your own and experience this unique wonder.

## Day 5: Normandy region | Bastogne

### Travel to Bastogne

Welcome to Bastogne! Nestled in southern Belgium's Wallonia region, Bastogne is known for its liberation by the Allies in 1944.

### Exploration time in Bastogne

Enjoy some time to walk around Bastogne and discover the town for yourself.

## Day 6: Bastogne | Amsterdam

### Guided sightseeing of Bastogne

Your local guide will show you the rich history of this southern Belgian city. The Battle of Bastogne occurred at the end of 1944 through the beginning of 1945 and was a major turning point in WWII. This small Belgian city was attacked by German forces, but, under the direction of the famous American General Patton, the Allies emerged victorious. On your tour you will see the Bastogne Barracks, the Mardasson Memorial and the remains of foxholes in the surrounding forests.

### Travel to Amsterdam

Welcome to Amsterdam, capital of the Netherlands. Known both as a center of entertainment and as a city of classic design and architecture, Amsterdam is a city of astonishing contrast.

## Day 7: Amsterdam | Cologne

### Guided sightseeing of Amsterdam

A local guide introduces you to Amsterdam, a city where 1,200 bridges crisscross postcard-worthy canals, making it one of Europe's most charming capitals. See Westerkerk (West Church) where "Dutch Golden Age" painter Rembrandt lies buried, and then move on to Dam Square, home of the Royal Palace. Be sure to watch out for numerous bicyclists as you continue to the Flower Market and Jewish Quarter.

### Visit the Anne Frank House

Enter through the secret staircase up to where the young girl hid with her family from 1942 to 1944-and where she penned the poignant diary that has been translated into dozens of languages worldwide. (Pending availability due to entrance capacities and limited group reservations)

### Travel to Cologne

Welcome to Germany's fourth largest city, known for its famous Cologne Cathedral, as well as the University of Cologne, one of Europe's oldest and largest universities.

## Day 8: Cologne | Berlin

### Visit the Cologne Cathedral

Visit one of Germany's most moving symbols: Cologne's sublime, war-scarred Gothic cathedral (the Kölner Dom). Within the cathedral is a medieval shrine to the Three Wise Men. Completed in 1880, the cathedral was spared damage during World War II although the area surrounding the cathedral was leveled. Legend has it that Allies used the Dom as a landmark to guide their flights and could not bring themselves to destroy such an impressive construction. Enjoy panoramic views of the city from the south tower.

### Travel via train to Berlin

Welcome to historic Berlin, once again the German capital. For many years the city was defined by the wall that separated its residents, but since the monumental events that ended Communist rule in the East, Berlin has re-emerged as a treasure of arts and architecture with a vibrant heart.

## Day 9: Berlin

### Guided sightseeing of Berlin

On your guided bus tour over to the Eastern sector, pass the Reichstag, former seat of the parliaments of the German Empire and the Weimar Republic. Arrive at the Brandenburg Gate, once the symbol of the undeclared Cold War, and now the symbol of a reunited Berlin. It was at this gate that the famous images of East and West Berliners dancing atop the crumbling Berlin Wall were filmed and broadcast around the world. As you see Checkpoint Charlie and remnants of where the Berlin Wall actually stood, imagine the bleak watchtowers and piercing spotlights that guarded "the border" until November 1989.

### Visit the Topography of Terror Museum

Located on the site of the former SS headquarters in Berlin, this museum outlines the Nazi's rise to power and the depth of their administrative center. The outdoor exhibits in the former basement cells focuses on the regime's systemized rule of terror, and the fate of some of the individuals who were imprisoned and tortured in these dungeons.

# Your Itinerary

## Excursion to Potsdam

Take a journey to Potsdam, the pride and joy of former East Germany. It was here that American, British and Soviet leaders drew up preliminary plans for the postwar administration of Germany at the Potsdam Conference in 1945. Potsdam was also the royal playground of Frederick the Great, king of Prussia. You'll see the baroque palaces, pavilions and well-groomed gardens of his royal residence. During your excursion, you will visit either the Sans Souci or the Cecilienhof Palace. In addition, for tours departing between June 1 and September 25, this excursion includes a boat cruise on Lake Wann.

## Day 10: Berlin | Prague

### Travel via Dresden to Prague

Against all odds, Dresden's striking beauty endures. Trace the history of the Saxon capital and gain insight into the effects of the devastating fire bombing of World War II and the city's subsequent reconstruction. Pass the stately Semper Opera House, which debuted many of Wagner's operas. See the statue of Martin Luther, initiator of the Protestant Reformation.

### Arrive in Prague

Welcome to Prague, former capital of the Holy Roman Empire. Dubbed the City of One Hundred Spires, the city boasts an enchanting mix of diverse architecture, Bohemian culture, and storied history.

### Walking tour of Prague

Your introduction to Prague begins with a Tour Director-led walking tour. As you stroll through the City of One Hundred Spires, pass the concert hall in which Mozart himself conducted the premiere of *Don Giovanni*.

## Day 11: Prague

### Guided sightseeing of Prague's Jewish Quarter

A local guide will lead you on a stroll through Josefov, Prague's Jewish Quarter. For centuries Jews were forced to live separately in Josefov and were then purged under Nazi occupation in World War II. Today Josefov stands in loving memory of Judaism in Central Europe. You will visit the unique Old Jewish Cemetery, the Jewish Museum and the Old-New Synagogue and the Spanish Synagogue.

### Exploration time in Prague

Enjoy time to explore Prague on your own. Consider a visit to the birthplace of Franz Kafka, the National Gallery, or the Jewish Museum.

## Day 12: Prague | Krakow

### Travel to Krakow

Welcome to Krakow, Poland's former capital and second largest city. Krakow is one of the oldest cities in Poland dating back to the 7th century.

### Guided sightseeing of Krakow

Set out on a guided tour of Krakow, the only major city in Poland to escape devastation during WWII. Visit Wawel Hill, perched high above the Vistula River, and Wawel Cathedral, where Polish Kings were crowned and the late Pope John Paul II once served as archbishop. Stroll through Główny Square, passing beautiful Sukiennice Cloth Hall and the Jagiellonian University.

### Visit Wawel Cathedral

Visit the Wawel Cathedral, where Polish kings were crowned and buried until the 18th century.

### Visit St. Mary's Basilica

Visit this Gothic brick church located in the main square. It is famous for the wooden altarpiece carved by Veit Stoss, and if you stand outside, you will catch a glimpse of the trumpeter that plays the *Hejnał Mariacki* on every hour.

## Day 13: Krakow

### Guided visit to Auschwitz and Birkenau Concentration Camp Memorial

Between 1940 and 1945, over 1.5 million people died at the Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps as a result of Hitler's "Final Solution" to rid Europe of Jews and other ethnic minorities. A chilling reminder of man's inhumanity, the camp has since been turned into a memorial museum. Observe a moment of remembrance for the 6 million victims of the Holocaust, and view a film about the horror of Auschwitz and the Third Reich.

### Exploration time in Krakow

Spend some free time exploring the international city of Krakow. You may want to visit the Stare Miasto (Old Town), which is full of architectural gems. Its ancient cellars are packed with cafes and galleries. Perhaps stop at the Barbakan, the only remnant of the city's medieval fortifications.

## Day 14: Krakow

### Take an excursion to Zakopane

Enjoy time today to explore this quaint Polish town on your own.

## Day 15: Krakow

### Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

*Itinerary is subject to change*

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at [www.eftours.com/bc](http://www.eftours.com/bc).

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—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER

“ Tour review

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