

"Tour of Remembrance" April 27th - May 14th, 2020 Daily Itinerary - 18 days - a tour of places of interest and fascination relating to World War II

Apr. 27 (Mon.) We depart London (Charing Cross) at 08:40 for Dover, where we board the traditional ferry to Calais; by coach the short distance along the coast to Dunkirk, to see the site of the evacuation by the "little ships" in 1940; and visit the "Dunquerque Operation Dynamo 1940" museum. On by TGV ("high speed train") to PARIS Nord, and transfer to our hotel, and dinner in the hotel.

Apr. 28 (Tue.) Morning visit (by coach) to the Palace of Versailles, returning to Paris with time for lunch in the Pigalle district. In the afternoon, a comprehensive Paris sightseeing tour will take us to all the most famous sights - the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame; the Arc de Triomphe; the Louvre; and the Champs Elysee. In the evening, dinner at an intimate "bistro", and a trip along the River Seine on the famous "Bateaux Mouches". Overnight in our hotel.

Apr. 29 (Wed.) We depart Paris by the 07:55 train to Koln, arriving 11:16 and head straight for the Cathedral which is right by the station. After lunch we will drive alongside the Rhine, to the attractive old town of Koblenz, for dinner and overnight. We will pass en route Bonn, the capital of the former West Germany; Bad Godesburg, where Neville Chamberlain met Hitler, and we all hoped that the war would be averted; and Remagen, where the bridge, made famous in the film, was never rebuilt after it collapsed into the Rhine.

Apr. 30 (Thu.) After breakfast, a short drive to Konrad Adenauer pier to board the paddlesteamer "Goethe", for our Rhine cruise departing 09:00 with lunch, which will take us to Bingen where we arrive 15:00. Transfer to the main railway station for our train to Frankfurt, connecting into a fast service to Munich and transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

May 1 (Fri.) After breakfast, a full day excursion to the former Dachau Nazi Concentration camp, passing by Landsberg prison where Hitler wrote "Mein Kampf" ("My Struggle") - still a working prison, so no visit! - and the fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein, returning to Munich by way of Oberammergau (world famous for its "passion play" performed every 10 years) and the summer and winter resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Dinner and overnight in Munich.

May 2 (Sat.) After breakfast, a brief city tour; then by coach through Braunau, where there is a memorial stone to the victims of the Nazis outside the house (Salzburger Vorstade 15) (Hitler's birthplace in 1889) and on to Salzburg, Berchtesgaden - Hitler's mountain retreat, where we will take an included late lunch/early dinner, before returning to Munich railway station to join our train to Prague, departing 16:44, arriving 22:31 and transfer to our hotel in Prague - the 5-star Grandium, a few minutes from Prague railway station.

May 3 (Sun.) After breakfast, a city tour of Prague; in the afternoon, an excursion to Thieresenstadt (now Terezin), the "model" concentration camp where artists, and writers were interned; and to Lidice, a village razed to the ground by the Nazis in 1942, as retribution for the assassination of Heydrich. Return to Prague for dinner at a local restaurant, then transfer to Prague Hl.n. railway station for our sleeping-car train, departing at 22:19 and which proceeds across the Polish border into Silesia.

- May 4 (Mon.) Breakfast on the train ? - we head past Gliwice, where the faked attack on the radio station on 31st August 1939 gave Hitler the pretext to invade Poland; past industrial Katowice, to Oswiecim (Auschwitz), for a visit to the former Nazi Concentration Camp complex of Auschwitz-Birkenau, now a "museum of Martyrology". Our arrival is at 04:55, too early for a visit, so we proceed to a local restaurant for breakfast, before visiting Auschwitz which opens at 07:30. We will continue by coach to Krakow, to settle into our hotel for a free afternoon, and for dinner and overnight.
- May 5 (Tue.) Morning city tour of the beautiful city of Krakow, Poland's mediaeval capital. In the afternoon we take the 14:42 restaurant/bar car train for Warsaw, for dinner and overnight stay in a central hotel.
- May 6 (Wed.) Morning sightseeing tour of Warsaw, including the "Old Town", almost -completely destroyed during the war, and painstakingly reconstructed from the rubble in the original 17th Century style; in the afternoon we will see the lovely palaces and parks of Lazienki, and Wilanow. We return to Warsaw for dinner and overnight.
- May 7 (Thu.) This morning after breakfast, there will be a short drive - about an hour - to visit the manor house of Zelazowa Wola, birthplace of Chopin - and there will be a short recital of his music there. We leave by train in the afternoon by the regular "Polonez" express sleeping- and restaurant-car train for Moscow. Dinner will be taken on the train.
- May 8 (Fri.) We arrive in Moscow around mid-day (on the "Polonez" from Warsaw) and we transfer to our hotel "National" ***** on Red Square, or the "Metropol" ***** , both in the city centre. There will be a city sightseeing tour in the afternoon, and dinner will be followed by a visit to a performance of the Bolshoi Ballet.
- May 9 (Sat.) Today is the day Russia celebrates "Victory Day" so access to the parades and other city centre locations may be severely restricted. We would like to take a trip on the world-famous Moscow Underground railway; in Red Square, we also see St. Basil's Cathedral. After dinner (in a famous restaurant) we may be able to join the crowds in Red Square, to watch or at least hear the fireworks and celebrations which have traditionally commemorated the end of World War II. Overnight in our hotel.
- May 10 (Sun.) An early hotel check-out (packed breakfast) and transfer to Moscow Leningradsky railway station for 06:50 departure of "Sapsan" high-speed train to St. Petersburg, formerly Leningrad, arriving 10:52. On arrival we transfer to our hotel, the "Astoria" ***** to check-in; there will be a city tour including a visit to the Peter & Paul Fortress, and evening

dinner will be taken in a folkloristic restaurant. Overnight in our hotel in the city centre.

May 11 (Mon.) After breakfast, a full day to explore St. Petersburg, or, as Leningrad, the "Hero City" which withstood a siege of more than 2 years during WWII - a period made famous by Shostakovich's "Leningrad" Symphony, written during the siege. In the morning, the Hermitage Museum; the afternoon is at leisure until we leave by "Fir" sleeping- and restaurant-car train around six in the afternoon for Minsk, the capital of Belarus...

May 12 (Tue.) ...arriving approx. 07:30, and transfer to an hotel for a buffet breakfast. Later there will be a city tour of Minsk, including the Belarussian State Museum of the Great Patriotic War, and the historical complex "Stalin Line". Dinner and depart 18:00 by sleeping-car train to Berlin.

May 13 (Wed.) Arrive Berlin Hbf. 07:17 and transfer directly to our hotel. There will be a morning sightseeing tour of both parts of the previously divided city. In the evening, dinner and a show at one of the restaurants that capture, as far as is now possible, the decadent atmosphere of pre-war Berlin. Overnight in our hotel.

May 14 (Thu.) After breakfast, we catch our 10:51 Inter-City Express train to Cologne (Koln), changing trains there for another "ICE" to Brussels. Here we change onto "Eurostar", the Channel Tunnel train which brings us to London St. Pancras a few minutes before 8 p.m.

All train times, numbers etc. are subject to confirmation closer to the time of travel. Hotels will also be advised later, but they will be of minimum 4-star standard and often 5-star; and many will have some association with the war. The tour will be accompanied throughout by experienced Tour Directors/guest lecturers who are acknowledged experts upon aspects of WWII, assisted by local guides in the historically most important cities.

Visas: Depending upon your country of origin, visas may be needed for some parts of this journey. For UK passengers, Russian and Belarus visas will be required - we can obtain these for you for a modest fee if you wish us to.

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