Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: Bavaria and Austria
Small Group Battlefield Tour
2 - 7 October 2025 (6-days / 5-nights)

Weingut Me 262 Bunker, Mühldorf, Germany

Join KDIH on a unique tour through Bavaria and Austria, visiting key sites of the early and final years of the Third Reich. In the 12 years of Hitler's "Thousand Year Reich", vast construction projects were a staple of the regime, from monumental displays of power during the early years to megalomaniac bunkers to shield the collapsing Reich from Allied bombs. From the famous parade grounds in the “Führer City” of Nuremberg to enormous concrete bunkers housing jet fighter factories, participants will experience a combination of idyllic towns and exclusive historical places.

First stop on the tour will be the parade grounds in Nuremberg. We’ll also visit the Palace of Justice in the city, learning about the most important war crimes trial of Nazi leaders. From Nuremberg we move to Landsberg am Lech. It was in the Landsberg prison that Hitler penned his infamous manifesto, “Mein Kampf.” The prison cemetery is also the resting place for key Nazi leaders. Next stop is Dachau, a Bavarian town whose name will forever be tainted by the establishment of Hitler’s first concentration camp in the 1930s. Moving to Mühldorf, Germany we’ll tour the Weingut Me 262 bunker site and Außenlager Mühldorf, a major Dachau sub-camp.

From Mühldorf it is on to Austria, with a visit to Ebensee and a tour of the Zement tunnel system, which was originally planned to develop Hitler’s A-9 long-range missile system. Next stop is Berchtesgaden / Obersalzberg in the Alps, visiting the remains of key Nazi elite residences. Finally, the tour will end with a look at Nazi sites in Salzburg, Austria. The juxtaposition of scenic beauty and haunting locations of the Nazi regime makes this a tour you won’t want to miss.

Top: Nuremberg Rally Grounds in a still from Leni Riefenstahl's Triumph des Willens.

Center: Landsberg Prison

Bottom: Courtroom 600, where much of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials played out after the war.

Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Pick-up and return point for this tour will be Munich Airport (MUC). A specific meeting point will be provided later. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the meeting point. Participants with their own vehicles can arrange to meet us at an alternate location.

Note: Because of the traffic around Munich, we will NOT be visiting sites within the city of Munich. However, we encourage tour participants to visit the city on their own before or after the tour. Of course, the Oktoberfest and Beer Halls are always popular. However, historian Mark Felton has also produced several high-quality videos about the Beer Hall Putsch and other key Nazi locations in Munich. These are available on YouTube.

We also encourage participants to prepare for this trip by watching film director Leni Riefenstahl's 1935 classic "Triumph of the Will."

Day 1, Thursday, 2 October: Pick-up at Munich Airport (MUC) at 12:00pm. Drive to Nuremberg. Tour Hitler's famous rally grounds and the Nuremberg Palace of Justice. Potential for down time in Nuremberg before dinner. Stay overnight in Nuremberg, Germany. Hotel TBD.

Day 2, Friday, 3 October: Drive to Landsberg am Lech. Tour Landsberg Prison and nearby cemetery in the morning. Drive to Dachau and tour Germany's first concentration camp in the afternoon. Stay overnight in Dachau, Germany. Hotel TBD.

Day 3, Saturday, 4 October: Drive to Mühldorf am Inn, Germany, and tour the Weingut Me 262 bunker site as well as the Außenlager Mühldorf, a major Dachau sub-camp. Stay overnight in Germany. Town and hotel TBD.

Day 4, Sunday, 5 October: Drive to Ebensee, Austria and tour the Zement tunnel system. This system was originally planned to house the development of the A-9 long-range missile system, but the tunnels built there were ultimately re-purposed for other armament production. We hope to visit both tunnel systems, A & B. In addition, we will walk the Löwensweg ("Lion's Path") that the prisoners walked between tunnels. **This will be an intense hiking day. Good shoes are a must.** Stay overnight in Germany. Town and hotel TBD.

Day 5, Monday, 6 October: Drive to the Berchtesgaden / Obersalzberg Region. Visit the remains of Hitler's house, the Kehlstein Haus (Tea House atop Berchtesgaden) and a salt mine, where the Nazi regime stored its plunders and national treasures. There will also be walks in the woods showing the remains of famous Nazi's houses, tunnel complexes, etc. **This will be another intense walking day, designed to include the option for participants to sit out a portion of the walks.** Stay overnight in Salzburg, Austria. Hotel TBD.

Day 6, Tuesday, 7 October: Tour of Third Reich and Sound of Music sites in Salzburg, Austria. Down time for shopping and sightseeing in Salzburg. Farewell lunch in Salzburg, before driving back to MUC. We anticipate arriving at MUC around 5:00pm.

Participants are responsible for arranging their own accommodation before flying back to the U.S. in the morning or further travel plans.

Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	$2,668
Single Room Supplement	$250

Tour Price Includes*

- TWO military historian guides who understand both sides of the story and who speak multiple languages and understand European culture
    - Local guides at specific sites as needed
- 3-Star accommodations, typically in European family-owned hotel / restaurants
- Transportation typically in comfortable 9-person people movers with A/C or in cars
- Almost all meals, except those specified as “on your own” in the itinerary
- Water, soda and snacks available in the van
- Cultural outings (calvados tasting, church tour, etc.) and shopping time on trips longer than a few days
- Admission fees to all sites

Tour Price Excludes*

- Transportation to and from the starting point and lodging and transportation before or after the tour’s start and end times; for example, the cost of a hotel night for participants who choose to arrive early.
- Dinner drinks
- Dinners or lunches specifically excluded in the tour brochure
- Souvenirs and gifts

*See KDIH’s 2025 Terms and Conditions for full details.

Questions or concerns? Contact Randy Gaulke at kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com or 908.451.0252.

GI standing in front of the smoldering ruins of the Berghof

Knee Deep Into History's Tour Philosophy

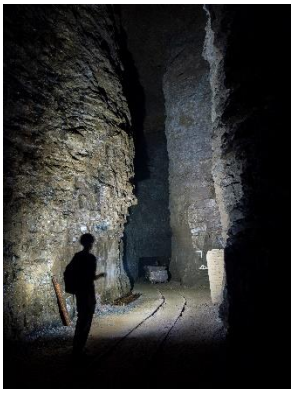
Knee Deep Into History, LLC was founded by Randy Gaulke in 2020 after he spent eight months in 2017-18 as a freelance guide to the American battlefields of WW1. During those eight months (and the prior thirty years) Randy's tour philosophy has evolved. We:

1. TAKE clients into the field,
2. GUIDE small-group tours (12 max.),
3. PROMOTE a balanced view of both sides,
4. OFFER tours for passionate history buffs,
5. BRIDGE cultures.

What to Expect from a KDIH Tour

- Our small-group tours are designed to enable maximum interaction between participants and guides. Size is generally limited to a maximum of 12 participants.
- Clients will be picked up and returned to the designated starting and ending point at the times indicated.
    - Clients desiring other arrangements need to communicate their needs to Randy Gaulke in advance with the understanding that KDIH has to balance an individual client's needs with the group.
- On tour days, participants should expect to be "in the field" from 09h00 to somewhere around 17h00, regardless of weather. This will be followed by a break and dinner around 19h30.
    - Participants should bring appropriate clothing for the field, and nicer clothing for evening meals.
    - Please see the clothing guide on our website for ideas.
- Spouses and mature young adults are welcome, but please understand that there will be limited down time for sightseeing and time off.
    - When moving from one hotel to another, it will generally not be possible to stay in town.
- Regarding meals:
    - Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.
    - Sandwich lunches (with wonderful European bread) will be eaten "in the field" to conserve time.
    - Snacks of water, soda, fruit and sweets will be available for free in the van to recharge one's batteries.
    - Multi-course dinners will generally start at the hotel/restaurant around 19h00.
        - Traditional European dinners often last two hours +/-.
        - This gives participants a chance to socialize, ask questions of the guides and share their experiences of the day.
- As per the 2025 Terms and Conditions, in the event that we have fewer than six participants signed up 61 days prior to the tour, we reserve the right to cancel the tour or we can run the tour with only one guide and/or step the hotels down to high-quality two-star hotels.

Meet Tour Guides Graham Gaulke and Randy Gaulke



Graham Gaulke's passion for exploring the Third Reich's underground manufacturing sites began a decade ago, when he explored an underground aircraft factory in Waltenheim, France. Since then, Graham has visited and documented dozens of aboveground and underground sites; and he has combined these visits with archival research in Washington, D.C. and Europe. As a result, Graham has developed a thorough understanding of the Third Reich's efforts to move its arms production underground and it inextricable relationship that this has had with forced labor. Graham has attended several concentration camp commemorations and his photographs can be found on the information panels at several historical sites and on his website, https://graham-gaulke.format.com.

Randy Gaulke has been studying military history for decades as a wargamer, reenactor and battlefield visitor. In 2017 he left the corporate world and during 2017-18 he lived and worked eight months in France as a freelance guide to the WW1 battlefields during the WW1 Centennial. His experiences during those eight months convinced him to follow his passion and start a tour business. Randy has also visited and guided tours of the WW2 battlefields since 2008. Over his life he has lived in Europe almost three years. He speaks fluent English and German and intermediate French. Randy lives in Winchester, VA, not far from the National Archives. He also maintains the website https://meuse-argonne.com and the Meuse-Argonne.com Facebook group.

Graham and Randy Gaulke and participants of the 2024 Third Reich Underground Tour

Select Feedback from our Recent Tours

"When Randy sent the 2024 brochure for KDIH Tours, I took one look at the Third Reich Tour and said I had to do it. Well it did not disappoint. It was Graham's first tour and he was a star. Everything was well organized, great hotels, great food and best of all superb tours and good conversation. Five stars all round and an extra one for Graham. Thanks to everyone."

Christina Holstein, UK battlefield tour guide specializing in Verdun

"Randy and Grahm: Another great tour. Fast paced and a great amount of knowledge. This is my 3rd tour with Knee Deep and all have been sweet. Best of luck in the future. Glück Auf!"

Michael Mancuso

"Yet another amazing tour, but this time with Graham. I'd never been interested in WW2 tours until I saw this opportunity. BIG, BIG thanks to Graham for having the idea and executing the idea with enthusiasm and professionalism and great spirit—what a treasure you have in your son. Here's to many more!"

Valerie Young

After some intensive walks, above and below ground, German beer and cuisine is a welcome treat.

2025 Tour Registration Form
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Note: Complete this form only if you are sending your registration manually!

Participants: _____ (Names and ages)

_____

Primary Contact: _____

Address: _____

Contact Email(s): _____

Contact Phone(s): _____

Rooms Needed: _____ Double rooms _____ Single rooms

Emergency Contacts: _____

Emergency Phones: _____

Health Concerns: **Per the Terms and Conditions, participant are required to factually state any health issues that could affect their participation on this trip. Please outline these concerns in a brief letter.**

Other Needs: _____

_____

Signatures: _____

_____

Remember: To complete your registration you must send: 1) signed copies of the registration form, 2) signed copies of the 2025 Terms and Conditions page 4, and 3) a $600 per person deposit. Deposits can be paid by check, PayPal, Venmo or Zelle. Ask Randy Gaulke for payment details.

Please mail / email / text a copy of this form to:

Randy Gaulke, 124 East Clifford Street, Winchester, VA 22601 USA
kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com 908.451.0252