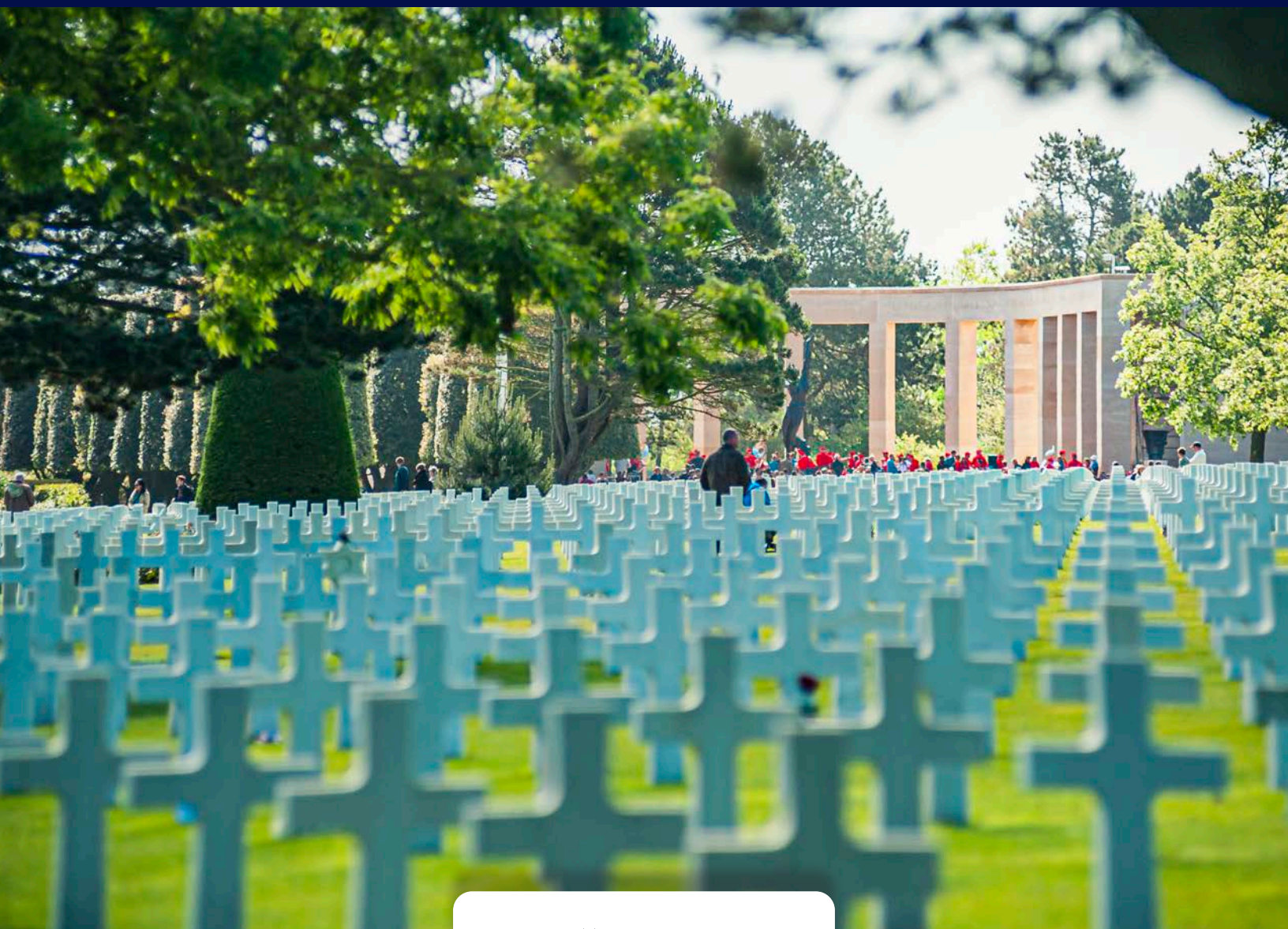


# Remembering D-Day: Churchill's War Rooms to Omaha Beach

*with Dr. Keith Huxen* (May 27–June 3, 2026)  
*or Dr. Harry S. Laver* (May 23–30, 2026 and June 2027)  
*or Dr. Edward G. Lengel* (May and October 2027)

May 23–30, 2026 | May 27–June 3, 2026 | May 31–June 7, 2027  
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From: \$7,695 per person



**Join a renowned Great Courses professor on an extraordinary journey through the pivotal moments and places that shaped D-Day and the Allied victory in World War II. Beginning in London, trace the footsteps of the courageous men and women who fought for freedom with visits to Winston Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms, the nerve center of Britain's wartime leadership, and Bletchley Park, where codebreakers worked tirelessly to decipher enemy communications. Explore the HMS Belfast, a Royal Navy vessel that played a key role in the D-Day landings, and travel to Portsmouth where final preparations for the invasion were secured at Southwick House, otherwise known as D-Day headquarters.**

Next, you'll cross the English Channel into Normandy and watch history unfold as you follow the events of the historic liberation of France. From defensive fortifications won in hard-fought battles to bridges captured in daring airborne assaults, each visit is a poignant reminder of a time when the fate of Europe was determined by the success of the largest amphibious landing in history. Your experience culminates in a powerful walk along Omaha Beach, where the bloodiest battles of D-Day were fought, followed by a private wreath-laying ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery to honor those who gave their lives. With fascinating insights into the circumstances surrounding that fateful day interspersed with human stories of bravery and determination, your professor will bring this monumental chapter of history to life as you explore the courage, conflict, and sacrifice that forever changed the course of the 20th century.

# Your Journey Expert



**Dr. Keith Huxen** (*May 27–June 3, 2026*) is the Senior Historian at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in support of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and was previously the Senior Director of Research and History in the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at The National WWII Museum. An expert in 20th-century military and diplomatic history, Professor Huxen has extensive experience leading tours and delivering lectures at battle and historical sites in Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Poland, China, and Taiwan. He has taught at Arizona State University, the University of New Orleans, and Louisiana State University. Professor Huxen holds a PhD degree in American history from George

Washington University, specializing in the diplomatic, military, and international history of the 20th century. He has published articles on military history in numerous academic journals and created World War II: Up Close and Personal for The Great Courses.

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**Dr. Harry S. Laver** (*May 23-30, 2026 and June 2027*) is a professor of military history at the US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, who specializes in the American Civil War and World War II Europe. Within his World War II research interests, Professor Laver's special focus is Operation Overlord. He is an award-winning teacher as well, and in 2017 he was selected as the Educator of the Year in the Department of Military History at the Staff College. Professor Laver received his PhD in history from the University of Kentucky. As an author, he has written *A General Who Will Fight: The Leadership of Ulysses S. Grant* and coedited

*The Art of Command: American Military Leadership from George Washington to Colin Powell*.

Professor Laver is currently developing his first course with The Great Courses.

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**Dr. Edward G. Lengel** (*May and October 2027*) is an award-winning historian and educator. He received his PhD in Irish and British history from the University of Virginia, and wrote his first book about the Irish Famine, which was the focus of his dissertation. He has conducted archaeology in Ireland, and traveled and studied there over the past 35 years, including learning about Irish architect, James Hoban, who designed the White House. Professor Lengel previously directed the Washington Papers Project for many years. Also a professional author, speaker and battlefield tour guide, he has written 15 books on Irish, European, and American history. Professor

Lengel is a co-recipient of the National Humanities Medal and has won two writing awards from the Army Historical Foundation. With The Great Courses he produced the Audible Original *Ireland in the 1990s: The Path to Peace*.





## Highlights

- Walk along Omaha Beach, where Allied forces made their historic landings, and pay tribute to the fallen heroes at the Normandy American Cemetery during a wreath-laying ceremony.
- Learn about the daring airborne operations and beach landings by the British at Pegasus Bridge and Sword Beach that were critical to the success of D-Day.
- Explore Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms, the historic underground bunkers where Churchill directed Britain's war strategy during World War II, preserved with original maps and artifacts from 1945.
- Uncover the secrets of Bletchley Park, the home of the Enigma code breakers who cracked Nazi communications and played a pivotal role in shortening the war.
- Enjoy lunch at The Golden Lion Pub in Portsmouth, used as an officer's mess during the war and where General Eisenhower would occasionally enjoy a pint of beer.



# Remembering D-Day: Churchill's War Rooms to Omaha Beach

## Itinerary



### Day 1: Drama Beneath Westminster

Arrive on individual flights into London and transfer independently to your hotel. Your journey begins with a private guided coach tour of London's World War II sites and memorials, including a visit to Winston Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms. These historic underground bunkers, where Churchill directed Britain's war strategy, remain preserved with original maps, telephones, and sleeping quarters from 1945. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome drink and opening remarks by your professor, followed by dinner in your hotel.

**Included Meal:** Dinner

**Accommodations:** Hotel Riu Plaza Victoria



### Day 2: Scrambled Messages and Royal War Ships

Begin your day with a guided visit to Bletchley Park, where your professor will uncover the true story of the Enigma code breakers and their pivotal role in the war effort. With their decoder machine, famously featured in *The Imitation Game*, they deciphered the Wehrmacht's encrypted messages and helped to shorten World War II. After lunch at leisure, get a firsthand look at naval life during one of history's most defining moments with a visit to the HMS *Belfast*, an historic Royal Navy warship that fired some of the first shots on D-Day. Dinner and the rest of the evening will be yours to enjoy in London.

**Included Meal:** Breakfast

**Accommodations:** Hotel Riu Plaza Victoria



### Day 3: Planning is Everything

Travel south to Portsmouth, which in 1944 was part of a 10-mile-deep coastal strip closed to all visitors in preparation for Operation Overlord. Explore Southwick Village and gather for lunch at The Golden Lion Pub, once converted into an officer's mess during World War II and where General Eisenhower himself would enjoy a pint of beer. View copies of the map that Eisenhower and Commander-in-Chief General Bernard Montgomery used to plot the largest amphibious landing in military history. Visit The Portsmouth D-Day Museum, home to the Overlord Embroidery and

“My wish is that every American could visit the hallowed grounds of Normandy’s beaches and battlefields.”

—Dr. Harry S. Laver



Landing Craft Tak 7074, and join your professor in a discussion about the logistics of such a massive operation: How do you get an army across the English Channel and into France when your enemy is well armed, well trained, and expecting you? Continue the conversation over dinner this evening at your hotel.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodations:** The Marriott Hotel Portsmouth

### Day 4: Operation Tonga

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This morning, cross the English Channel by ferry and arrive in Normandy in the afternoon. Visit the Merville Battery and Museum, a coastal artillery battery built as part of the Germans’ Atlantic Wall to defend continental Europe from Allied invasion. As you walk amongst the original bunkers, hear you expert the story of the 6th British Airborne Division who were deployed just after midnight on June 6, 1944, to destroy the German stronghold before its troops could prevent the progress of Allied forces on nearby Sword Beach. Afterwards, check in to your hotel in Bayeux and gather for dinner in a local restaurant.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** Hotel d’Argouges or Mercure Caen (May 31 departure)

### Day 5: A Mighty Endeavor

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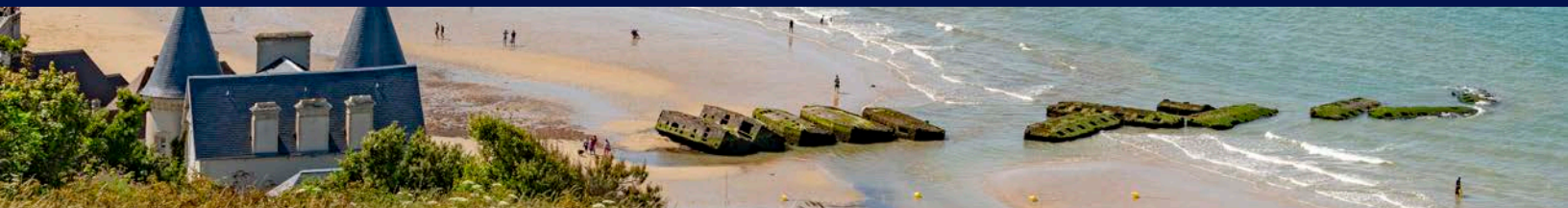
Spend a full day immersed in the history of D-Day as your professor offers insights that place some of Normandy’s most significant sites into a broader context of the Allied invasion and the overall strategy of World War II. Begin at La Fièvre Bridge and its ‘Iron Mike’ Monument, a tribute to the paratroopers who fought bravely in the area. Continue to Sainte-Mère-Église, one of the first towns liberated by Allied forces, and explore the Airborne Museum, which vividly recounts how the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions dropped to the ground under the cover of darkness on June 5, 1944. In Saint-Marie-du-Mont, visit the historic Église Notre-Dame and see the confessional that is still riddled with bullet holes, then head to Utah Beach, where over 23,000 Americans made an amphibious landing in the early hours of D-Day. If time permits, pay a visit to the solemn La Cambe German Cemetery. Conclude the day with dinner in a local restaurant.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** Hotel d’Argouges or Mercure Caen (May 31 departure)







## Day 6: Keep Calm and Carry On

Begin with a morning visit to the Longues-sur-Mer Battery, a German artillery unit perfectly located to oppose the D-Day landings and a prime example of the defensive strategies faced by Allied forces. In the afternoon, your exploration of the remarkable achievements of the British army continues with visits to Sword Beach and Pegasus Bridge, whose swift capture of these key positions by daring British troops played a crucial role in the success of the invasion. Return to Bayeux, where dinner and the rest of the evening will be at your leisure.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodations:** Hotel d'Argouges or Mercure Caen (May 31 departure)



## Day 7: The Fight for Liberation

Spend today exploring the Omaha Beach area, beginning with a visit to The Overlord Museum and its extensive collection of artifacts from the Normandy invasion. Then, reflect on the bravery of Allied forces during a guided walk along Omaha Beach, where American soldiers entered the “gates of hell” and incurred the greatest losses of D-Day. Continue to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur Mer and join your expert in a poignant wreath-laying ceremony to honor the fallen heroes who sacrificed so much for freedom\*. In the evening, gather with your professor and fellow travelers to conclude your journey during a special farewell reception and dinner.

*\*Travelers on the May 31 departure may have the opportunity to attend the public ceremony commemorating the anniversary of D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery. The annual ceremony is subject to confirmation and details will be announced closer to the event.*

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodations:** Hotel d'Argouges or Mercure Caen (May 31 departure)



## Day 8: Departures

Transfer to Paris for individual flights home. The drive to Paris will take approximately 4 hours.

**Included Meal:** Breakfast

# Accommodations



## **Hotel Riu Plaza Victoria** | *London, UK*

Newly opened and located in the heart of London, the Hotel Riu Plaza Victoria is the perfect base to discover the vibrant British capital. 435 bright and stylish rooms are designed to guarantee a peaceful rest and offer Wi-Fi, satellite TV, air conditioning, and a tea kettle for your morning brew. Other onsite amenities include a lobby bar, Tastes Restaurant, and a fully equipped 24-hour fitness center. **(2 nights)**



## **Portsmouth Marriott Hotel** | *Portsmouth, UK*

A contemporary hotel ideally located near the ferry terminal, 174 relaxed rooms offer high-speed Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, pillow-top mattresses, and tea and coffeemaking equipment. The sleek hotel gym is equipped with cardio and weight training machines, while the onsite Cast Iron Bar and Grill features old-school classics and delicious craft beers. The Portsmouth Marriott received a Green Key certification for its environmental responsibility and sustainable operations. **(1 night)**



## **Hôtel d'Argouges** | *Bayeux, France*

**(May 2026, June 2027, and Oct. 2027 departures)**

Historic Hôtel d'Argouges is housed in an elegant 18th-century townhouse and surrounded by a quiet country garden. In the main house, guests will admire a lovely, classic atmosphere: high ceilings, parquet floors, Normandy antiques, and ornate fireplaces. The guest rooms are spread out over three buildings, featuring traditional designs, exposed wood beams and comfortable furnishings, with restorative views of the peaceful landscapes. Located in the city center of Bayeux, guests are perfectly situated for exploration of both Normandy and historic Bayeux, with numerous shops, restaurants and bars only moments away from the hotel. **(4 nights)**



## **Mercure Caen Porte de Plaisance** | *Normandy, France* **(May 2027 departure)**

Discover comfort and elegance at Mercure Caen Centre Port de Plaisance, nestled by the waterfront in the heart of Caen's historic center. Modern, air-conditioned rooms offer a restful home base for visiting Normandy's D-Day sites and are equipped with a flat-screen television and a hot water kettle. Savor your favorite drink at Le Between, the onsite lounge bar, or stroll along the nearby marina and historic streets lined with shops and restaurants. **(4 nights)**





## Pricing:

Departure	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Deposit	
May 23–30, 2026	\$7,850	\$9,300	\$500	<a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>
May 27–June 3, 2026	\$7,695	\$8,945	\$500	<a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>
May 31–June 7, 2027	\$9,295	\$11,245	\$650	<a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>
June 4–11, 2027	\$8,595	\$10,175	\$650	<a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>
October 3–10, 2027	\$8,450	\$10,000	\$650	<a href="#">BOOK NOW</a>

## What's Included:

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Meals, as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Expertise of The Great Courses Expert, travel director and local guides throughout the tour
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- One group airport transfer upon departure
- Quietvox listening devices to facilitate audibility and social distancing on tour
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance

[Click here to view terms and conditions online.](#)