

Battlefield Berlin Tour 2020

Summary:

A three-night, four-day tour following the final major battle of WW2 in Europe which effectively brought an end to five years of conflict across the continent. This tour will explore the fascinating city of Berlin, turning back the clock 75 years to explore some of the incredible wartime gems the city still has to offer.

Note: This tour begins and ends in Berlin and flights are not included in the tour price.

Cost:

TBC

Tour Dates:

Thursday 17th – Sunday 20th September 2020 (*TBC*)

Accommodation:

Three night's accommodation in a three-star central Berlin hotel.

Travel:

Executive coach provided by PKR Berlin Coach Company and public transport tickets are provided.

Tour start/end Location:

This tour begins and ends in central Berlin at Berlin Tiergarten S-Bahn Station. Flights are not included in the tour price and you should make your own independent travel plans to reach Berlin.

Guide:

Guided by military historians Dan Hill and Jesse Alexander.

Booking:

A deposit of **£100** per person is required to ensure your place on the tour. Full payment is due six weeks prior to departure date. This tour has limited places and bookings will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. To book your place please email enquiries@battle-honours.co.uk

Tour Itinerary (Subject to change):

Day One:

Beginning our tour in central Berlin, we meet our vehicle and head south to the town of Zossen on the outskirts of the city where we take a tour of the fascinating preserved WW2 Bunker Complex which formed the Headquarters of the German Army (OKH & OKW) during WW2 until it was overrun by encircling Russian forces in 1945. Here we have a chance to explore a vast system including a huge underground complex known as 'The Zeppelin' and learn about German preparations to defend Berlin as the fighting drew closer.



Following our visit to Zossen we move closer to the city where we visit the incredible preserved former Luftwaffe airbase at Rangsdorf. Long since abandoned, it was the airfield from which Claus Von Stauffenberg left on his journey in July 1944 in a failed attempt to assassinate Hitler. Rangsdorf was also one of the few operational airbases used by the remnants of the Luftwaffe in a futile attempt to protect Berlin from aerial attack – the perfect place to discuss the air-war over the city. Moving further inland, we focus on the encirclement itself when Russian troops from three Armies numbering several million men finally encircled Hitler, most of his closest aides and hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians in 'Fortress Berlin'.

Day Two:

Today we take to public transport and head into the Berlin city suburbs to explore the defensive positions occupied by ad-hoc units of veteran soldiers alongside old and young Volksturm members as they faced impossible odds. Despite such overwhelming firepower, a number of units managed to hold soviet forces at bay for considerable periods of time.



After lunch we head west to Berlin's Charlottenburg district and to the famous Olympic Stadium, site of the 1936 Olympic Games. Here we follow the story of the fighting for the stadium and surrounding area and also focus on a local counter-attack which highlights the desperation of defender and attacker alike. We finish our day with a visit to the magnificent Commonwealth War Cemetery at Berlin which commemorates thousands of British and Allied servicemen who gave their lives during WW2.

Day Three:



Today's walking tour of central Berlin itself will focus on the final fight for the city centre. Almost completely destroyed by April 1945, we will walk in the footsteps of those units fighting to capture many important locations in the Government district. Visits to the Tiergarten Soviet War Memorial, Moltke Bridge, Berlin Holocaust Memorial, former Gestapo Headquarters and site of the 'Führerbunker' where Adolf Hitler eventually

committed suicide are all on today's agenda. Our final visit of the day will be a of the world-famous Reichstag building, designated by Soviet troops before the battle as the 'symbol' of Berlin's capture. We will follow the incredibly intense fighting between the last die-hard SS troops and attacking Soviet forces as they struggled for control of the building for several days before finally the hammer and sickle was raised over the building, the moment preserved in one of the most powerful images of WW2.



Day Four:



The focus of today's tour will be the post-war history of the city in the days and year's following the fall of the city. We will visit the imposing Treptower Park Soviet War Memorial and the suburb of Karlshorst, The Headquarters of Soviet Marshal Georgy Zhukov, exploring the very room where the eventual unconditional surrender of the German Army was signed, ending the Second World War in Europe.

Our afternoon in the city leaves a little time to explore some of the historical post-war locations the city has to offer, including a trip to checkpoint Charlie and a remaining stretch of the Berlin wall at Bernauer Strasse.

