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Accredited by



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America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

Valor Tours, Ltd.

presents...



60th Anniversary group of Veterans at Peleliu, 2004

Operation Stalemate II – Battle for Peleliu

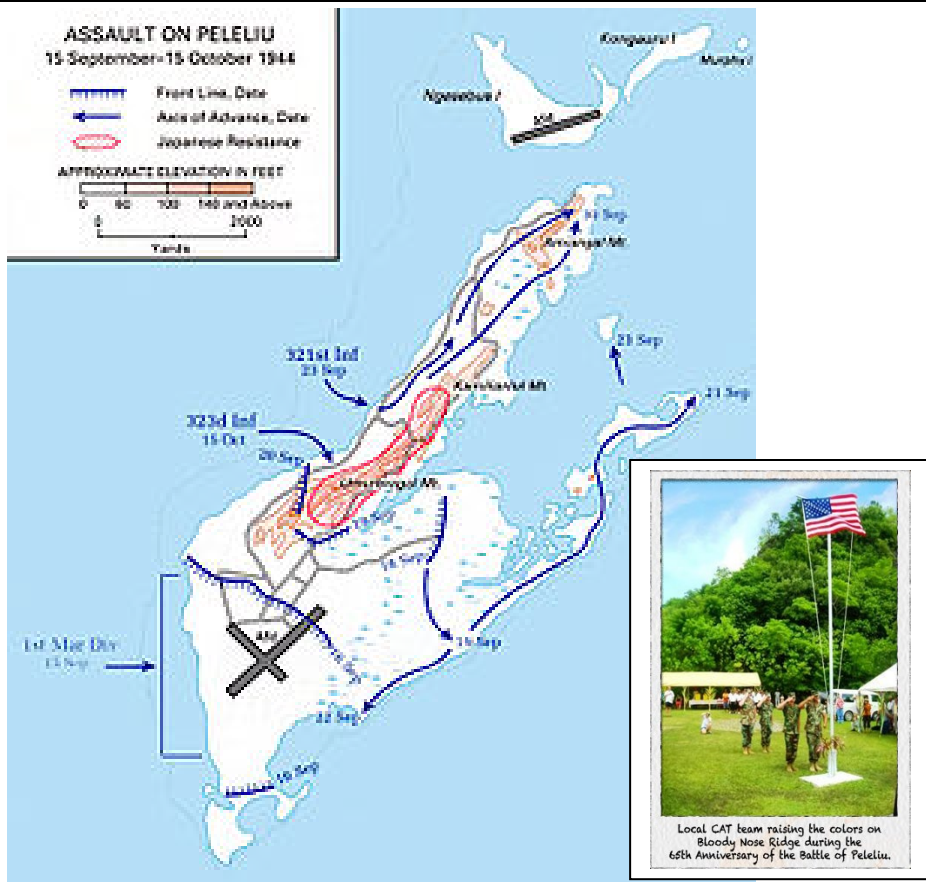
September 11 to 18, 2024

Escorted by Scott Freund



80th Anniversary





With Saipan, Tinian and Guam secured in the summer of 1944, General MacArthur was determined to fulfill his famous promise to return to the Philippines. The Palaus were seen as a possible stepping-stone. Occupied by the Japanese since WWI their strategic importance had not escaped the Japanese who built airfields and defensive positions all supported by well-armed and trained soldiers. These airfields appeared to be a threat to the American advance but intelligence about Japanese strength was sadly lacking after reconnaissance had failed to locate Japanese defenses or even the very profile of the islands. Too late, the American invasion force was to discover how well prepared for battle was the enemy. On September 15, 1944 Operation Stalemate II was put in to motion, as the 1st Marine Division landed on Peleliu, later to be relieved by the U.S. Army 81st Infantry Division, both fighting in one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific campaign in WWII.

Application Form

80th Anniversary Battle for Peleliu – September 11 to 18, 2014
Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Name _____ Name _____
 (as it appears on your passport without middle name)

Name _____ Name _____
 (as you would like it to appear on ID badge and passenger list)

Enclose copy of photo page of your passport now or when final payment is due.

Address _____
 (where confirmation and documents should be mailed)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (days) _____
 Email (if any) _____

Please reserve _____ spaces on this tour. Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of _____ (\$600 per person) in the form of a check _____, or credit card number _____ exp _____ for accommodations based on a _____ twin share basis or _____ single occupancy.

____ I am traveling alone and wish to share with another tour member
 ____ Smoking ____ Non smoking

What is the reason for your participation on this tour, i.e. Veteran, family member of a Veteran, history buff, etc. _____?
 Emergency contact name/phone _____

____ Please make reservations for me/us at the Pacific Marina Inn, Honolulu Airport for the nights of _____

____ Post tour extension to Saipan & Tinian, September 18 to 21 (\$1500 per person)

Handicap facilities are very limited in these islands. If you have any disabilities, which require physical assistance, please describe them here:

Valor Tours, Ltd. requires passengers with handicaps to bring a traveling companion(s) responsible for assisting with all your needs. ____ I/we do not require any assistance.

I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions set forth in this tour brochure _____

Signature

Date

Comments:

General Information & Terms/Conditions

Reservations & Cancellations

A reservation can only be held with a deposit of \$600 per person and on a first come-first served basis. Please fill out, sign and return the application form with your check or credit card information. Final payment is due June 11, 2014. Cancellations received in writing before June 11, 2014 is fully refundable. Cancellations received in writing between June 11 and August 11, 2014 subject to loss of deposit. Cancellations received after August 11, 2014 or "no shows" are non-refundable. Changes to your reservations within 30 days of departure may result in administrative fees and/or penalties. Reservation deadline is August 10, 2014 but subject to availability. Cost is based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together, but limited to a maximum of 20 passengers due to limited hotel accommodations and transport on Peleliu. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Tour itinerary and costs subject to change. We do not recommend participation by children under the age of 12 years.

Travel documents and health

A Passport valid six months beyond date of travel is all that is required, however we recommend updating your Tetanus shots and consult with your physician about Hepatitis A or B shots, which are now recommended for all travel. There is no Malaria risk in the Marianas or Palau. Protect your legs against scratches when walking over rough terrain and brush by wearing long pants. We also recommend drinking only bottled water, which will be provided. Travel documents such as airline tickets, passenger list, ID badge, baggage tags and final instructions will be sent by Priority Mail about two weeks prior to departure.

Air transportation

Tour cost includes round trip economy class air travel via United Airlines from Honolulu. United Airlines flies non-stop to Guam on 767-jet service with 2 + 3 + 2 seating. Valor Tours, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute airlines should schedules or increased fares warrant it. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of the air segment of this tour, but can be earned. Every attempt will be made to accommodate your seating requests aboard the aircraft, however Valor Tours, Ltd. cannot guarantee the airport staff will honor these assignments.

Baggage allowance

We allow only one suitcase and one carry one bag per passenger. Porterage is included in the tour cost, but limited. There may be times when you will be responsible for your baggage, so it is to your benefit to travel light. Passengers are responsible for carry-on bags, purses, camera bags, briefcases, etc. Limited baggage insurance is included in the tour cost.

Disabilities

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance.



Itinerary – subject to change

Wednesday September 11

2:25pm Depart Honolulu via United 201, connecting in Guam, arriving Koror...

Thursday September 12

12:50am arrive Koror, capital of Palau. Transfer to West Malakal Hotel or similar for the night.

Friday September 13 (B, L)

After breakfast, depart by speedboat for scenic cruise to Peleliu through the Rock Islands filled with relics from Japanese positions built to defend against an American assault. Transfer to hotel on Peleliu. (If the Army is still taking up all accommodations on Peleliu, we will return by boat to Koror and make it our home base during our time on Palau, boating back and forth.)

Saturday September 14 (B, L)

Tour Peleliu including Bloody Nose Ridge, the 81st Infantry monument, Japanese HQ's bunkers, and site of the temporary military cemetery, WWII Memorial Museum, invasion beaches and the airfield - the strategic objective of the Peleliu campaign.

Sunday September 15 (B, L)

80th Anniversary commemoration and wreath laying ceremonies – details to be advised. Visit to Ngesebus Islands, site of Japanese Airfield, assaulted by U.S. forces as part of the invasion, but today relatively unexplored and untouched.

Monday September 16 (B)

Cultural and WWII historical tour of Babeldaob and Koror, sites include the Belau (Palau) National Museum, monoliths, Japanese lighthouse, Japanese guns and buildings, and traditional men's meeting house. Return to our hotel on Koror until time to check out and transfer to airport early the next morning. We will keep our room for the night.

Tuesday September 17 (B)

Day free. Do some diving or take the boat to Jelly Fish Lake. We will keep our room for the day and night.

Wednesday September 18

Transfer to the airport around midnight for...

3:10pm flight from Koror on United #158, arriving Guam 6:15am...connect to Guam #200, arriving Honolulu 6:20pm Tuesday Sept 17 after crossing the International Date Line. Tour ends here.

Sept 18 to 21: Optional extension to Saipan and Tinian from Guam, or extend your stay in Palau to do some diving. It's a diver's paradise.

Scott Freund has been studying World War II history since he received his first book in the third grade. World War II research and history has been his lifelong passion. Scott served in the US Army as a Military Police Officer and recently retired after 27 years working for the Sheriff's Department in California. He has been a documentary film producer for over 20 years, with documentaries being featured in film festivals, museum special events, television, and his YouTube channel "SFR Productions". He is currently a member of the All Airborne Battalion, which is a group that parachutes from World War II C-47s at events in the US and during the D-Day Normandy Anniversary events.



Scott giving impromptu presentation during our 2023 Tarawa tour



Evidence of the battle still washes up on the beach



WWII Veterans stand on one of the invasion beaches during our 60th Anniversary return to Peleliu



\$4,100 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$500

Includes round trip economy class air fare from Honolulu to Guam and Koror via United Airlines; departure taxes; services of Scott Freund as tour director; seven nights accommodations at hotels indicated in itinerary or similar; meals as indicated by B-Breakfast, L-Lunch; ground and water transport/sightseeing as indicated; all permit and entrance fees; local guides/driver; local taxes. Water provided while touring.

Components of tour cannot be purchased separately. Subject to change. Tour cost based on minimum of 10 persons traveling together. Valor Tours reserves the right to substitute the hotel(s) with hotel(s) of similar or better quality.

Does not include any meals not indicated in itinerary; passport fees; airport departure tax from Koror (about \$50); items of a personal nature such as alcoholic beverage, phone calls, laundry, etc.; over limit baggage fees; tips to local guides and drivers; cancellation insurance coverage; domestic air fare from hometown to Honolulu. Note: If the Army is still residing on Peleliu in the very limited accommodations there, we will boat back and forth from Koror.

It is recommended that you bring along your flashlight, a pair of comfortable closed-toed shoes, insect repellent, hats, sunglasses and sun block. It is very hot and humid in Palau.

Inexpensive hotel accommodations can be arranged at the Pacific Marina Inn at Honolulu Int'l Airport for stopovers. It has a free airport shuttle, and hotel is close to Pearl Harbor.

"It was 55 years ago that Wendall fought on Peleliu. This was a trip (Return to Peleliu, 2000) back in time for him under peaceful conditions. I had a great desire for many years, to visit that island – to see the war remnants, which remain, as grim reminders of the sacrifice and bravery of our servicemen during that terrible struggle. This trip will long remain vividly in my memory. I'm glad that we were able to share it together." Wendall & Jean Clift, Laurel, Florida

"An absolutely fascinating trip (independently planned tour of the Pacific including Palau) – beautiful, different, exciting, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Valor Tours did us proud – exceptionally well organized and arranged." Doris and Ed Hopper, Illinois

"Thank you for a wonderful trip! (Return to Peleliu, 2004) The boat rides and tours were amazing. The people we met were so friendly and hospitable. It was an amazing experience for Ken to be able to return to Orange Beach after sixty years. This time he was not being shot at! He enjoyed talking with the other Veterans and hearing what the history buffs had to say." Kenneth & Jill Harrell