

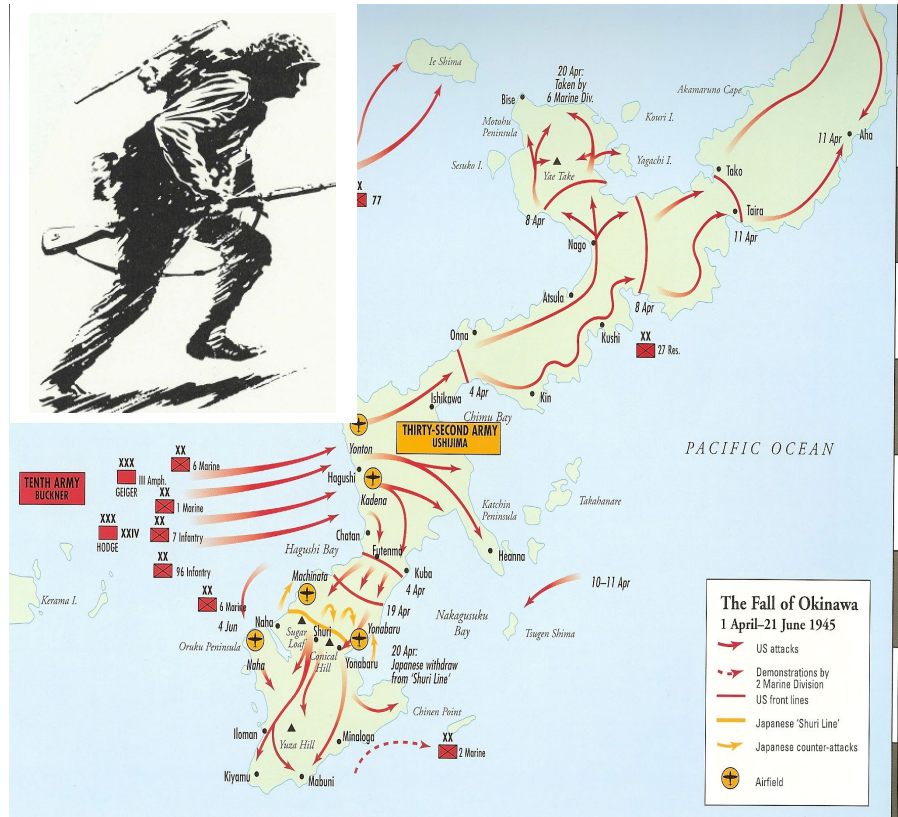
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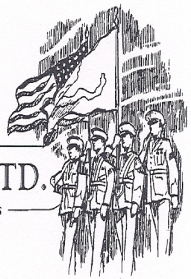
Battle for Okinawa Tour

80th Anniversary

April 1 to 7, 2025



10 Liberty Ship Way, Suite 110, Sausalito, CA 94965
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 E-Mail: valortours@yahoo.com Website: www.valortours.com
 CST #205156-50 IATA #05-911791



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 Focused Expeditions
 Incorporated 1977



CST#2075156-50

IATA #05-911791

Revised/Printed May 15, 2023 Questions?

Call 1-800-842-4504

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator



Escorted by John Shively and Jack Letscher

Cornerstone of Peace Memorial

Okinawa
Colorful...Fascinating...
Hospitable...


But in 1945 American soldiers, sailors and marines didn't quite see it that way...The U.S. wanted Okinawa as a springboard for Japan. Securing it would cost the U.S. more casualties than had been incurred in the taking of any other island in the Pacific during WWII.

The U.S. Army 10th Support Group Commander, Torii Station will host our group during our visit to Okinawa.



2010 Veterans at ceremony





John Shively at Ernie Pyle Memorial, Ie Shima

John Shively is a retired physician who Has studied the Pacific War for 17 years. He is a world traveller, amateur historian, and author. He joined the Valor Tours family as a tourist in 2003 when he went on his first Ghost Soldiers tour to the Philippines. Since then he has travelled with Valor Tours to nearly every island battlefield in the Pacific. In 2010 he began escorting tours to Guadalcanal, the Philippines, Okinawa and Tarawa. He is the author of *The Last Lieutenant* (Iwo Jima) and *Profiles in Survival* (Philippines). His father-in-law, Malcolm Amos, was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He met his wife Blythe in Manila on our 2006 tour. When he is not studying the War or travelling, he participates in Triathalons all over the country.



Left: Ken Dolan, 96th Infantry Division, 383rd Regt. M Co., retracing his steps on Okinawa. Above: Previous group at Stone Lion.

Application form – Okinawa Battle tour
April 1 to 7, 2025

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, Calif. 94965
 Questions: Call 1-800-842-4504 or email: valortours@yahoo.com

Name _____ Name _____
 (as it appears on your passport)

Name _____ Name _____
 (as you would like it to appear on list)

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (days) _____

I/we wish to reserve _____ spaces on a _____ single basis, _____ twin share basis.
 Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of \$ _____ (\$600 per person) in the form of a check _____, or charge my credit card _____
 exp _____ (security code) _____

WWII service information, i.e. unit served, history buff, family member or other reason for taking tour _____

Areas of interest on Okinawa _____

I am traveling alone and wish a: _____ single supplement
 _____ twin share with another tour member.
 _____ smoking _____ non smoking

Special needs, requirements (wheelchair at airport, dietary, etc.) _____

_____ Please arrange domestic flights from/to _____
 to coincide with tour departure and return at San Francisco.
 _____ I/we will arrange our own domestic air.
 _____ I/we need a hotel room at San Francisco Int'l Airport for the nights of: _____

_____ I/we would like the post-tour Taipei stopover, or

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

Signature _____ Date _____

ITINERARY - subject to change

April 1 to 7, 2025

Monday March 31
check in China Airlines

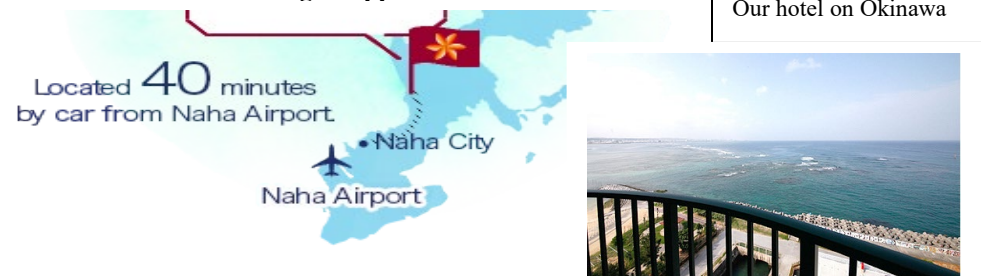
Tuesday April 1
1:00am Depart West Coast in the morning.

Wednesday April 2
Arrive Naha in the morning. Our Okinawan hosts meet you and provide transfer to the Vessel Hotel Compana near Naha, our HQ's for the duration of visit to Okinawa. Welcome dinner and introductions.

Thursday April 3 to 7
Tour of Shuri Line Outer Defenses, Cactus Ridge, Kakazu Ridge Battle Park, Tombstone Ridge, Urasoe Mura Escarpment Park (Hacksaw Ridge), Needle Rock, Shuri Outer Defenses, Shuri Line Inner Defenses, Sugar Loaf Hill, Zebra Hill, Dick Hill, Flat Top Hill, Oboe Hill and Tom Hill, location of Japanese artillery fire control bunker, restored Shuri Castle and site of Japanese 32nd Army Underground HQ's (no entry), Charlie Hill and Conical Hill, full day trip to the Motobu Peninsula and ferry to Ie Shima (Ernie Pyle Memorial) with its great view from the Pinnacle, Nakamura House or Nakagusuku Castle, Cornerstone of Peace Monument and Park where the names of those who died in the Battle of Okinawa are etched in elegant granite walls, Okinawa Battle Museum and Mabuni Hill where Japanese Commanding Generals committed suicide, U.S. Army Torii Station for weapons display and retreat ceremony, White Beach and monument, Southern battlefields where the Japanese Army made their last stand including Tomori Stone Lion Dog, Japanese Underground Hospital, Yaeju Dake (Big Apple) and Yuza Dake Escarpments and Kunishi Ridge, General Buckner site, Brig General Easley and Col. May Monuments, and Japanese Navy Underground HQ's.

Monday April 7
Day free until check out of hotel and transfer to airport for later afternoon flight back to the West Coast, arriving 8:00pm. Tour ends.

April 7 to 10 - Optional Taipei stopover, 4 days/3 nights: \$790.00 per person, twin share. \$190 single supplement.



Our hotel on Okinawa

Reservations and Final Payment

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$600 per person accompanied by the Application form. Deposits can be made by sending check or credit card. Final payment is due 90 days before departure. Reservations deadline is 30 days prior to departure or first come, first served. Space limited. Valor Tours, Ltd. does not recommend that children under the age of 12 participate on this tour. Passport required. Visas and inoculations are not required. Early booking discount policy applies to this tour.

Cancellations and Changes

If Valor Tours, Ltd. receives cancellation more than 90 days prior to departure your deposit is fully refundable. Cancellations received between 90 and 30 days prior to departure will result in loss of deposit. Cancellations received within 30 days of departure and "no shows" are non refundable. Refunds may take up to 30 days to process. Cancellation charges also apply to additional travel arrangements made prior to and after the tour such as domestic airfare. If flight changes are requested after airline tickets are issued, revision fees will apply. Emergency travel and cancellation insurance is available upon request. Tour cost based on minimum of 10 participants.

Airline services and seating

Tour cost includes round trip economy class air travel via China Airlines from San Francisco on 777 jet service between San Francisco and Taipei with 3 + 4 + 3 seating. Smaller aircraft is used between Taipei and Okinawa. Upgrade to business class available – cost upon request. Premium economy upgrade is also available on China Air for much less, about \$600 per person additional. Valor Tours, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute airlines should schedules or increased airfares warrant it. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of the air segment of this tour, but can be earned. It is the responsibility of the passenger to obtain these awards. China Airline's Dynasty Flyer frequent flyer club works in cooperation with Delta Airlines. Every attempt will be made to accommodate your seating requests aboard the aircraft. However, Valor Tours, Ltd. cannot guarantee seating assignments made by the airlines or airport staff.

Baggage allowance

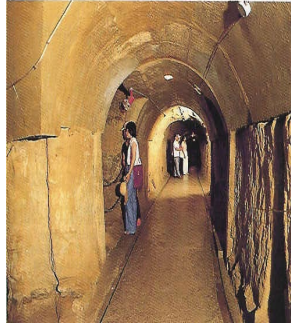
We recommend one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Portage for one bag per person is included in the tour cost; however there may be times when you will be responsible for your baggage, so it is to the benefit of the passenger to travel light. Passengers are responsible for carry-on bags, purses, camera bags, briefcases, etc. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to baggage, or any of the passenger's belongings.

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. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home.

Single travelers

When a tour member traveling alone asks Valor Tours to seek a suitable roommate, we will do the best we can to oblige and find a colleague with common interests and habits. Valor Tours cannot be held responsible for incompatibility or guarantee a roommate. If a roommate cannot be found, the single supplement will apply.



Far left: Atop Ie Shima during Okinawa tour in 2010.

Left: The former Japanese Naval Underground Headquarters Shelter

Comments from previous tour members:

“The tour to Okinawa was planned to perfection, was thorough, well conducted, and, all in all, a wonderful experience. I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Claudius M. Easley, Jr., 1995

“We had a wonderful time. We thought it was the best organized and most closely focused tour we had ever been on.”

Mary and Ed Brubaker, 2000

“Our trip to Okinawa was most meaningful...we were very touched by the service at Torii Station...your guidance throughout the tour was extraordinary...I was happy to be with such a spirited group of Vets and their families.”

Albert Goldstein, 2001

“Everything was excellent...Valor Tours did an outstanding job of making the arrangements...Don Dencker was terrific historian guide and helper...one of the most memorable moments was seeing where my Dad fought at Kakazu West and attending the retreat ceremony at Torii Station.”

Craig Fouts, 2002

“...A privilege to return and see the changes and growth of a country that I remember as nothing but rubble and devastation...”

Harold Bree, 2004

“...the Okinawa Battle tour in April was great. Not only were we presented with interested information, but also the exposure to Okinawan culture was fascinating. I could have spent a month there...”

William St. Clair, 2004

“...Thanks for showing my Dad and I all the sites from the last battle. Lot’s of memories. I wish Mom could have been with us, but she will at least hear our stories and see my pictures.”

Bill Cooper, Jr. 2005

“...I’m so happy to have had this wonderful opportunity to be with members of the Greatest Generation...”

Lois Shestack and Linda Bailey, 2005

“...Thanks very much for the great tour. The narration and history provided made it exceptional...”

Aroell Sherban, 96th Infantry Division Veteran, 2010

“...The knowledge

“I had recovered old Da On a high good!

**Tour cost \$4200 per person, twin share
Single occupancy \$600 extra**

Includes round trip economy class air fare via China Airlines from San Francisco; U.S. Departure taxes; round trip airport/hotel transfers with baggage handling for one suitcase per passenger; six nights hotel accommodations with breakfast daily; five lunches and one dinner; entrance fees; services of local guide/historian and driver; private coach for sightseeing and transport to ceremonies and events



*g fathers name on the Cornerstone of Peace Memorial
Veterans gather at Cactus Ridge on 2005 tour*

Travel Insurance

Excellent travel insurance thru Travelex. Coverage should you become sick or injured; accidental death and dismemberment; trip delay; cancellation and repatriation; baggage and personal effects; trip interruption coverage. A description of coverage for everyone on deposit.



Itinerary subject to change. Revisions can be made to accommodate the needs of participating Veterans and family members. Valor Tours reserves the right to substitute the hotel with a hotel of similar or better quality.