

Fall of the Third Reich

10 Nights 22 June-2 July 2012

This unique tour follows the rise and fall of one of the most infamous regimes of all time – Nazi Germany. Over ten days the tour traces one of the darkest chapters in history, from the origins of the National Socialist Party in 1930s Munich, to the plunge into World War Two and the horrors of the Holocaust. The tour will also explore the collapse of this brutal empire, which culminated in the destruction of Berlin and the Nuremberg War Trials in 1946. This tour will not glorify the actions of this sinister regime, but seeks to shed light on this terrible time by walking the ground where these world-changing events occurred. The tour is escorted by WW2 expert Mike Peters.



DAY 1 22 June – Munich

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Central Munich hotel** ★ **Welcome drink** ★ **Welcome dinner**

Welcome to our Fall of the Third Reich tour, and a fascinating study of one of the world's most evil empires. This evening the group will come together in Munich. We will enjoy a welcome drink in our hotel followed by dinner, an opportunity to get to know our travelling companions, Historian and Tour Manager better. (D) **Overnight: Munich**

DAY 2 23 June – Munich

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Munich orientation tour** ★ **Walking tour of Munich's Third Reich sites** ★ **Dinner at the Hofbräuhaus beer hall, in the room where Hitler held public meetings**

Munich was known as the birthplace of the Nazi Party, and we will spend the day exploring this famous city. In the morning we will enjoy an orientation tour around the city's historic sites, learning more about Munich's rich history. After free time for lunch, Mike Peters will take us on a walking tour of some of the key sites in Munich associated with the early days of the Nazis. We will see the Odeonsplatz, the central square

in Munich, where a young Adolf Hitler was photographed in 1914 amongst a huge crowd that had assembled to celebrate the declaration of the First World War. We will also visit the scene of the street fighting that ended the 1923 'Beer Hall Putsch', Hitler's failed attempt to overthrow the German government. We will also visit the beer hall where the Putsch began, and the former headquarters of the Nazi Party in Munich. Tonight we will enjoy dinner at the Hofbräuhaus, the most famous beer hall in the world. It was here in 1920 that Adolf Hitler held several important public meetings, including one in which he outlined his 25-point plan that formed the basis for the Nazi Party. We will dine in the very room where Hitler held these public meetings. (B, D) **Overnight: Munich**

DAY 3 24 June – Munich

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Tour of Dachau concentration camp**

Today we will leave Munich and travel to Dachau, the first official concentration camp established by the Nazis. The camp was built in 1933 and over the next 12 years was mainly used to house political prisoners and prisoners of war. Despite not being an extermination camp, it is estimated that more than 40,000 inmates died in the camp,

mostly from disease and malnutrition. During this sobering visit we will see the remains of the camp where prisoners were housed, the chambers where prisoners were disinfected and the crematorium where the bodies of inmates were disposed of. We will then return to Munich where our afternoon and evening is free. (B) **Overnight: Munich**

DAY 4 25 June – Munich to Berchtesgaden

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Tour and lunch at the Eagle's Nest**
★ **Central Berchtesgaden hotel**

This morning we farewell Munich and drive into the Bavarian Alps to the picturesque town of Berchtesgaden. From the 1920s Berchtesgaden was the holiday retreat of the key leaders of the Nazi Party and Hitler, Goering, Bormann and Speer all had houses here. The stunning mountain town was where many of the crucial decisions that shaped the direction of World War Two were made and we will spend two days exploring key sites that still remain in the area. On arrival at Berchtesgaden we will climb a narrow alpine road to the Eagle's Nest, the mountaintop retreat that was given to Hitler as a gift for his 50th birthday in 1939. Ironically, Hitler was afraid of heights and only visited the Eagle's Nest about 20 times. The building



OPPOSITE: The Bavarian Alps; Hitler addresses the Reichstag in 1938.
 ABOVE: The Hofbräuhaus, Munich; Brandenburg Gate, Berlin.
 NEXT PAGE: The Eagle's Nest, Berchtesgaden.

is an engineering marvel, built on a rocky mountain outcrop in only 13 months. A bronze lift travels 130 metres to reach the house, which is almost unchanged since the war. On arrival at the Eagle's Nest we will enjoy a guided tour and lunch in the restaurant, the same room where Hitler hosted visiting dignitaries. In the afternoon we will return to Berchtesgaden where we will check in to our central hotel and enjoy a free evening to explore the town.

(B, L) **Overnight: Berchtesgaden**

DAY 5 26 June – Berchtesgaden

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Tour of the Obersalzberg complex**

Today we will explore the compound known as the Obersalzberg, where Hitler, Goering and other Nazi leaders had houses. This was one of the most exclusive retreats in the Nazi empire and was not open to the public during the war. Only the most senior members of the Nazi Party and visiting VIP guests were allowed access. The compound was badly damaged during the war and the remaining ruins were destroyed by order of the Bavarian government in 1952, however there are still a number of interesting sites associated with the Nazis to explore. We will begin with a visit to the Documentation Centre, an excellent museum that chronicles the Nazi association with the region. We will also visit the remains of key buildings from the former Nazi complex including a series of underground tunnels and bunkers, and the site of Hitler's holiday house, the Berghof. Following this fascinating visit, we will return to Berchtesgaden in time for lunch and a free afternoon. (B) **Overnight: Berchtesgaden**

DAY 6 27 June – Berchtesgaden to Nuremberg

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Tour of the Nuremberg War Crimes trials rooms** ★ **Lunch** ★ **Central Nuremberg hotel**

This morning we farewell the Alps and drive onwards to our next destination, Nuremberg. The Nazis saw Nuremberg, with its rich Germanic history, as a city that represented all the ideals of the regime, and it was therefore selected as the site of the huge Nazi Party rallies of the 1930s. Hundreds of thousands of visitors would descend on the city for a week-long celebration of National Socialism, during which Hitler and other key leaders of the Party would deliver stirring speeches. To accommodate the crowds, Hitler instructed his key architect, Albert Speer, to build the huge Nazi Party Rally Grounds that came to symbolise the ideals of the Third Reich. After the war, Nuremberg was a fitting site for the War Crimes trials that condemned many of the Nazi leaders to death. On arrival in Nuremberg we will enjoy lunch, before touring the chambers where the War Crime trials were held in 1946. During these proceedings the full horror of the Holocaust was revealed to the world. In the afternoon we will check into our central hotel. Our evening is free. (B, L)

Overnight: Nuremberg

DAY 7 28 June – Nuremberg

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Walking tour of the Nazi Party Rally Grounds**

Today we will visit key sites associated with the Nazi Party in Nuremberg. A highlight of

the day will be a walking tour around the Nazi Party Rally Grounds, taking in the sites where Hitler and other senior Nazis were filmed leading the famous rallies of the 1930s in front of tens of thousands of adoring citizens. The buildings that remain are only a fraction of the dozens of pavilions, stadiums and arenas that were once here. We will also visit the museum on the site that details the history of the rallies. We will return to Nuremberg and enjoy a free afternoon exploring the city. (B)

Overnight: Nuremberg

DAY 8 29 June – Nuremberg to Berlin

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Sightseeing tour of Berlin** ★ **Central Berlin hotel** ★ **Dinner**

This morning we farewell Nuremberg and drive to Berlin, the capital of both the Third Reich and modern Germany. On arrival we will check into our hotel and enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city's key attractions including the Brandenburg Gate, the Tiergarten, Checkpoint Charlie, Potsdamer Platz and more. This evening we will enjoy dinner in our hotel. (B, D) **Overnight: Berlin**

DAY 9 30 June – Berlin

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ **Tour of Wannsee Villa** ★ **Tour of Sachsenhausen concentration camp** ★ **Dinner**

This morning begins with a drive to Wannsee Villa, on the outskirts of Berlin. In January 1942 a conference was held by senior members of the SS at this lakeside retreat to determine how best to implement the 'Final Solution', the rounding up and transporting



of Jews to extermination camps. Today the villa houses an excellent interpretive centre that details the conference and other aspects of the Holocaust. In the afternoon we will see the results of this terrible conference when we visit Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Opened in 1936, the camp was originally intended to house political prisoners, but by the early-1940s was also housing prisoners of war, homosexuals and Jews, as well as 'traditional' prisoners including murderers and rapists. Even though the camp was not designated as an extermination camp, mass murders were carried out in Sachsenhausen throughout the war and in 1943 the commandant installed gas chambers which were used to kill Jewish prisoners. More than 30,000 prisoners died at Sachsenhausen. Following the war the camp was used by the Soviets to house political prisoners and Germans who had been captured during the war. The camp was finally closed in 1950, after a further 12,000 prisoners of the Soviets had perished. At the end of this sobering day we will return to our hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Overnight: Berlin

DAY 10 1 July – Berlin

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ Topography of Terror museum ★ Walking tour of Berlin Third Reich sites ★ Farewell dinner

Our final day in the footsteps of the Nazis will take in many of the key sites in Berlin associated with the Third Reich. We will begin with a visit to the Topography of Terror Museum, which details life under the Nazis and the crimes committed during the war in occupied Europe. In the afternoon Mike Peters will take us on a walking tour of the historic centre of Berlin where we see key sites associated with the Third Reich including the Brandenburg Gate, the Holocaust Memorial, the Reichstag and the site of the Fueherbunker, where Hitler committed suicide in April 1945. This evening we will come together for a farewell dinner.

(B, D) **Overnight: Berlin**

DAY 11 2 July – Berlin

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ Assistance with hotel check out

Sadly our tour ends this morning after breakfast. (B)

YOUR HISTORIAN

(see page 41 for more information about our leading War Historians)



Mike Peters

Mike Peters is a British Army officer with more than 30 years of military service in the Army Air Corps. He is the Vice Chairman of the Guild of Battlefield Guides and has written for some of the world's most prestigious military publications. He is an expert on the European Theatre of World War Two and published his first book, *Glider Pilots at Arnhem*, in 2009.



Your tour includes

- ★ The best guide in the business – Mike Peters is a military historian and an expert on the rise and fall of Nazi Germany. There is no better guide to travel with on this unique journey
- ★ All excursions, scenic drives and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- ★ 10 nights' 3- and 4-star accommodation
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- ★ Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 5 dinners
- ★ Welcome drink in Munich
- ★ Services of a Tour Manager, Driver, War Historian and experienced local guides
- ★ Extensive touring of Munich, Berchtesgaden, Nuremberg and Berlin
- ★ All entrance fees as per the itinerary
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