



## **Battle of the Bulge** **October 5 – 14, 2010** **Tour Escort: Jeff Driscoll**

*This tour begins and ends in Brussels, Belgium*

Join Jeff Driscoll on this ten-day trip to Belgium and Luxembourg to visit some of the most intriguing battlefields in our history: **Waterloo**, the **Hürtgen Forest**, and the **Battle of the Bulge**. We'll start our journey in Brussels, spending a day seeing a bit of this beautiful city. The following day we'll go to Waterloo and see where, on June 18, 1815, French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated for the last time. The next day it's off to Germany, where we'll visit the Hürtgen Forest, scene of some of the worst fighting ever experienced by American forces during World War II. Over the next four days we'll follow in the steps of German and U.S. forces as they battled each other in America's biggest fight of the war – in the Ardennes, in what we now call the Battle of the Bulge. Included in our trip will be visits to some of the best museums at those sites. While in the Ardennes, we'll be staying in the picturesque town of Clervaux, Luxembourg, where on December 17, 1944, heavy fighting took place between U.S. and German forces during the opening stages of the Bulge.

We're limiting the numbers for this trip, so act early!

### **Tour Includes**

- 8 nights accommodations
- Breakfast daily
- 3 dinners
- Deluxe motor coach for transfers and sightseeing
- Luggage handling
- Admissions to all sightseeing as listed
- Services of tour escort Jeff Driscoll throughout
- Bilingual guides for sightseeing and transfers
- Reading List
- Pre tour packet with city and historical information

**Not Included:** Air, meals not indicated, travel insurance.

*This tour has been designed for a small group to maximize the experience. Jeff Driscoll has led many tours in Europe and has personally been to these sites. His background as an educator and tour guide will greatly enhance the group experience. While this tour will concentrate on the historical sites there will be leisure time in the cities for personal activities and enjoyment.*

A \$350 per person deposit is required to reserve your place on this tour. Early registrations will ensure hotel confirmations and the overall operation of this group.

Final payment for this tour is due on August 1, 2010.

*We are considering a pre-tour package for Oktoberfest- let us know if you are interested.*

**Tour Cost: \$2795 per person double occupancy**  
**Single Supplement: \$450**

**For more information contact: Charlene Corris:**

**Custom Travel Concepts**  
**P. O. Box 80391**  
**Springfield, MA 01138**  
**Toll-free: 866-956-4440**  
**Email: [histours@aol.com](mailto:histours@aol.com)**

## Itinerary

**Tue/ Oct. 5** – Depart the U.S. on your transatlantic flight to Brussels, Belgium.

**Wed/Oct 6** - After an early arrival in Brussels, we'll head in to the beautiful city and enjoy a tour before checking in to our hotel, **Hotel Bedford**. Welcome Dinner tonight. (D)

**Thu/Oct.7** –Depart for Waterloo stopping at the Wellington Museum before heading to the battlefield. We'll climb Lion Hill, tour the museum, or take in the outstanding cyclorama picturing the French cavalry charges. We'll also visit Hougamont, La Haye Sainte and view the field before returning to Brussels. Dinner on our own. (B)

**Fri/Oct. 8** – This morning we drive into Germany, to the area of the dreaded Hürtgen Forest. Here, before the Battle of the Bulge, U.S. troops attempted to wrest this piece of difficult terrain from German forces- an eerie landscape of German bunkers and remnants of World War II evident everywhere. We'll visit the Museum devoted to this battle seeing some examples of "dragon's teeth," concrete obstacles forming the "Siegfried Line." We'll continue to our hotel in the charming town of Clervaux, Luxembourg to enjoy dinner together. (B, D)

**Sat/ Oct. 9** – Today begins our tour of the Battle of the Bulge. We'll follow the route taken by "Kampfgruppe Peiper," the spearhead of Sepp Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Arm. Lieutenant-Colonel Jochen Peiper led this heavily-reinforced mechanized column, a force that came close to accomplishing its goal, but was halted in and around the town of La Gleize, We'll visit the small but interesting museum, and admire the "Tiger" tank outside. Dinner is on your own! (B)

**Sun/ Oct. 10**– We continue with the Battle of the Bulge driving along the Schnee Eifel, where nearly 2/3's of the U.S. 106<sup>th</sup> Division was surrounded and captured in the early days. We continue to St. Vith where German forces took several days before breaking through the stubborn U.S. defenses, threatening the Germans' timetable for the entire campaign. We'll continue to Vielsam and return to Clervaux. Dinner on your own (B)

**Monday, October 11** – Our third day in the Ardennes will follow in the steps of German General Hasso von Manteuffel's Fifth Panzer Army in its drive over the River Our, through the town of Clervaux, and on to Bastogne where U.S. forces, including the famous 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, put up a tenacious and determined defense before being relieved by units of Patton's Third Army. We'll visit the American Memorial and the excellent museum there, and see the foxholes actually used by members of the "Band of Brothers" (Company E, 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne), as well as other important sites around the town. Return to Clervaux, for dinner on your own. (B)

**Tuesday, Oct 12** – Today is our final day in the Bulge. After breakfast, we'll drive south to Luxembourg City, the capital of this small European nation. We'll stop at the U.S. cemetery outside the city where U.S. General George Patton is buried. We'll also see some lesser-visited sites including Baraque de Fraiture ("Parker's Crossroads"), where a small U.S. rearguard force held off a larger German force for most of the day; Manhay, where German panzers clobbered an American mechanized column as it was retreating north; and Houffalize, where in mid-January 1945, U.S. troops advancing from the north met up with other American forces coming up from the South. Following our final day in the Ardennes, we return to Clervaux for our final night in Luxembourg. (B)

**Wednesday, Oct 13** – This morning we'll say goodbye to Clervaux, Luxembourg and the beautiful region of the Ardennes, and return to Hotel Bedford in Brussels. The rest of the day is yours to pack, rest, or explore on your own. Just don't be late for our Farewell Dinner that night! (B, D)

**Thursday, Oct 14** – Today it's Au Revoir to Belgium and Brussels and back to the USA!

(B)

**Our Hotels(or similar) :**

**Brussels, Belgium - Hotel Bedford (3 nights)**

**Clervaux, Luxembourg - Hotel des Nations (5 nights)**