

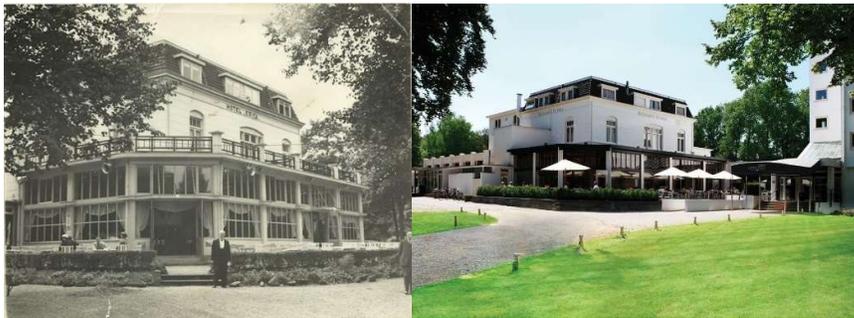


Press trip ‘Operation Market Garden’ (September 2018)

Thursday September 20th 2018:

08:45 AM | Morning arrival in Holland. The journalists will be met at Nijmegen Central Station.

12:00 PM | Check-in at Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant Erica, Molenbosweg 17, 6571 BA Berg en Dal
After Nijmegen was bombed on 22nd February 1944, Hotel Erica in nearby Berg en Dal became a refugee centre for those who had lost their homes. When Operation Market Garden commenced seven months later, the then seven-year-old Julia van Vliet and her father, watched in surprise as thousands of coloured parachutes fell from the skies. The largest airborne operation in history had begun!



12:30 PM | Lunch with 20 veterans from World War II |
Introduction on Operation Market Garden and Europe Remembers 2019-2020 (75 years of freedom) by the Liberation Route Europe Foundation (LREF).

2:00 PM | Battlefield tour with Liberation Route Europe Guides Wybo Boersma and Joël Stoppels.
During this battlefield tour 20 veterans from World War II will accompany us and LRE guides will tell about the fighting on the Betuwe in 1944 and the battles for the Waalbrug in Nijmegen during Operation Market Garden.

There will be a new visitorcenter nearby the Waalbrug in 2019 with the story of the Nijmegen region during WW II in headlines. It will be a starting point for exploring the POI's of WW II in this region.

4:00 PM | End of the battlefield tour and visit National Liberation Museum Groesbeek
Welcome and guided tour by mr Wiel Lenders, managing director of the museum. Including preview of the new museum in 2019: explanation on the development of a common dutch-german WW II storyline.

The Liberation Museum is set in the beautiful landscape near Nijmegen, Arnhem and the German border, a unique location: Operation Market Garden, the largest airborne operation in history took place here in September 1944 and Operation Veritable, the Rhineland Offensive, the final road to freedom in Europe, started from here in February 1945. The museum brings the historical events of the liberation by the American, British, Canadian and Polish troops back to life. In the museum, you live through the period preceding the war, experience the occupation, celebrate the liberation and witness the rebuilding of Holland and Europe after the war.

5:00 PM | Departure Nijmegen for dinner and Sunset March



6:00 – 7:00 PM | dinner at skybox ‘Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent’ Welcome by the Lord Mayor of the municipality of Nijmegen, Hubert Bruls.

7:15 PM | Departure to the bridge “De Oversteek” Sunset March (exactly 7:40 PM)

Sunset March is a daily tribute by veterans of all ages to the Allied soldiers who fought for the liberation of Holland, especially for those soldiers who lost their lives. In 2013 the city of Nijmegen finished the construction of a new City bridge called the Crossing (Oversteek). It was constructed close to the area where US 82nd Airborne crossed the river the Waal on September 20, 1944 as part of Operation Market Garden. 48 Allied soldiers lost their lives during this “Waalcrossing”. On the bridge are 48 pairs of street lights. At sunset these sets of street lights are, pair by pair, ignited at a slow marching pace. The total duration of igniting all streetlights involved lasts 12 minutes.

8:15 PM | Departure Hotel Fletcher Erica, Berg en Dal for overnight stay.

Welcome cocktail by our hotelhost mr. Marcel Hoogenboom.

Friday September 21th 2018

**8:30 AM | Departure to Oosterbeek
TAKE LUGGAGE WITH YOU**

9:15 AM | Short visit living history field hospital - EventTheater Concertzaal in Oosterbeek
On the occasion of the commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem a fully equipped British field hospital can be seen as it looked at the time of the Battle. This field hospital from the Battle of Arnhem in 1944, is equipped with authentic medical equipment and has a realistic decoration.

9:45 AM | Departure Airborne Museum

10:00 AM | Visit Airborne Museum Hartenstein in Oosterbeek

The Airborne Museum is dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem in which the Allied Forces attempted to form a bridgehead on the northern banks of the Rhine River in September 1944. Hartenstein served as the headquarters of the British 1st Airborne Division. In the museum an extensive and diverse collection is displayed consisting of original weaponry, genuine uniforms and equipment used in the battle.

11:00 AM | Coffee & Tea Airborne Museum

11:30 AM | Departure to Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery

Visit on your own the Commonwealth War Cemetery Arnhem Oosterbeek, also known as the Airborne Cemetery. It contains the graves of most of those killed during the September landings, and many of those killed in later fighting in the area.

12:15 PM | Departure to Otterlo

12:45 PM | Kröller-Müller Museum & Operation Market Garden

On the 24th of September 1944 all residents must leave the city of Arnhem within two days. Kröller-Müller Museum was asked to install an emergency hospital of the Red Cross in the museum for the patients of the Arnhem civil hospitals. The first sick and wounded arrive before 11 am. They have traveled 20 kilometers on foot or by horse and wagon through wind and rain.

- **12:45 - 01:30 PM | Lunch at ‘Monsieur Jacques’;**

- **01:30 - 02:30 PM | Kröller-Müller Museum, museum in wartime – explanation, tour.**



2:30 PM | Departure Hotel Sterrenberg in Otterlo for check-in and some free time

4:30 PM | Departure to Arnhem for evening programme

5:00 PM | Start evening program. Visitorcenter Airborne at the Bridge; Explanation on the commemorations – and celebration activities in the Arnhem-Nijmegen region in 2019-2020 by the Regional Board of Tourism.

With its phenomenal view of the world-famous John Frost Bridge, Airborne at the Bridge tells its visitors the personal stories of a British lieutenant, a German Hauptsturmführer and a Dutch who fought and died here during the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944.

5:30 PM | Departure to the city hall Arnhem (Airborneplein) – for supper and evening program

Meet and greet British veterans Battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden.

7:00 PM | Airborne ceremony

During this Airborne ceremony with an international contribution at the Airborne Square at Arnhem, all Allied soldiers are commemorated, who fell in battle whilst trying to conquer and hold the Arnhem bridge (John Frost bridge) in the 17 – 26 September 1944 period. The event is preceded by the 'March over the Bridge' whereby massed Pipes and Drums Market Garden 2017 and standard bearers cross the John Frost Bridge in a slow march at Arnhem.



8:30 – 11:00 PM | Visit Bridge to Liberation Experience at Arnhem



Standing with thousands of people at a historical place to remember what war does to people and realize together what freedom means. From a personal perspective, the public is taken in a story about war and freedom. Bridge to Liberation Experience is a multimedia public commemoration for the Battle of Arnhem: reflecting on the past and taking this to the present and the future by using different art forms.

11:00 PM | Departure Hotel De Sterrenberg, Houtkampweg 1, Otterlo for overnight stay

Saturday, September 22th 2018

9:00 AM | Departure from Hotel De Sterrenberg. Transfer to Ede

Verlengde Arnhemseweg 101, Ede (Juffrouw Tok)

TAKE LUGGAGE WITH YOU

9:45AM – 1:30 PM | Visit Airborne commemoration and Parachutes at Ginkel Heath



At Ginkel Heath approx. 350 parachutists from all NATO countries will jump from Hercules and Dakota airplanes. After the first Mass Drop at approx. 10.00 hrs the official commemoration starts. After this, the parachute drops will continue from 12.30 hrs until 16.30 hrs.

12:30 PM | Lunch at Ginkel Heath

1:30 PM | Departure to the province of Brabant

2:30 PM | Visit the War Museum Overloon – battle of Overloon

The largest war museum in the Netherlands. Personal stories provide insight into the problems that the population, but also the occupier, had to deal with during World War II. In a military hall, the size of no less than two football fields, there are more than 150 vehicles, planes and guns from the World War II.

The battle of Overloon - As a result of the failed Operation Market Garden, a very large battle took place in Overloon and the surrounding area. When the Allies could not have taken the bridge near Arnhem, they were looking for another route to invade Germany. At Overloon it came to a tank battle.

4:00 PM | Departure to hotel la Sonnerie, Nieuwstraat 45, 5691 AB Son the province of Brabant for presentation Brabant Remembers, dinner and overnight stay



La Sonnerie was a monastery and a girls' school at the time, but was converted into a hotel / restaurant around 1993. Between 17 and 19 September 1944, this building was the headquarters of the American 101st Airborne Division.

Sunday September 23th September 2018

**09:00 AM | Check-out hotel and transfer to Best (via Sonniuswijk)
TAKE LUGGAGE WITH YOU**

On 17 September 1944 more than 4500 paratroopers landed in the meadows of Sonniuswijk. It was the start of Operation Market Garden. The 'Paulushoeve' became the centre of the airborne landings.

09:30 AM | Visit Wings of Liberation Museum in Best

In September 1944 the main operation for Holland of World War II occurs, Operation Market Garden, which eventually led to the liberation. In the Museum, the occupation, the oppression and the final



liberation are extensively exposed. Travel in time with authentic military equipment and beautiful dioramas. Also explore the vehicles, displays, a 3D movie, pictures and experience how it feels like to be a pilot during a flight simulation.

11:00 AM | Departure and visit 'Eerdse molen' – Veghel

Eerde is the first village to be liberated by American paratroopers on the 17th of September 1944. But the village still suffers substantially. During heavy fighting on the 24th of September, the mill at Eerde ('Eerdse Molen') and the St. Anthony Church tower are destroyed.

12:00 PM | Transfer to National Monument Camp Vught

12:30 PM | Lunch and visit National Monument Camp Vught

Camp Vught National Memorial (Nationaal Monument Kamp Vught) is located on part of the former SS camp Konzentrationslager Herzogenbusch, also known as Camp Vught (January 1943 – September 1944). The combined memorial centre and museum features various exhibitions, a memorial room and wall of reflection. The museum is spread out over several buildings and outdoor areas. A model of the camp, made of natural stone, shows the extensive size of the camp and the many buildings it included. The watchtowers, which were built a hundred meters apart, have been reconstructed. The barrack, rebuilt at half the original size, shows how the prisoners lived. The Children's Memorial lists the names and ages of the 1,269 Jewish children who were deported in June 1943.

3:00 PM | Departure for train station 's-Hertogenbosch/ Schiphol Airport. End of Programme