



PRIVATE VIP TOURS OF

**IRELAND AND THE D-DAY BEACHES FOR AMERICANS**

**TRACE YOUR IRISH ROOTS AND EXPLORE THE D-DAY BEACHES IN THE SAME TRIP!**

PRESENTED BY RAY PFEIFFER, PRESIDENT



RAY PFEIFFER'S HISTORIC TOURS, INC.

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Few of the many Americans who visit Ireland realize that with the proper planning and guiding, they may combine their upscale Irish trip with the opportunity to also visit the D-Day beaches of Normandy and Paris with America's finest private tour guide. Those who wish to research their Irish family roots will do so with an Irish expert of the Historic Tours team. You'll then continue over to France with Ray and explore the D-Day beaches and the Battle of Normandy. These unique concepts have been developed by Ray Pfeiffer's Historic Tours, Inc. The company is headquartered in New Jersey with associate offices in Luxembourg and Ireland.

For 27 years Ray Pfeiffer has been "America's Most Respected WWII Tour Specialist". Ray is the only American WWII Tour Specialist to have actually lived in Normandy. He has been the Tour Director of choice for the White House, the Speaker of the House and was the driving force behind the US Navy Normandy Monument which was dedicated on September 27, 2008 on Utah Beach. He has guided over 8,000 Americans in Europe and has guided four tours for Easy Company, 506<sup>th</sup> PIR – the "Band of Brothers". His nearly 3 decades of experiences and the contacts he has gained enable him to share these with his clients. Ray is a US Navy Vietnam-era veteran and a member of American Legion Post #1 in Paris. Some of his clients over the years have been: The History Channel, Forbes American Heritage Magazine, The Naval Order of the US, The Fourth Armored Division Association, The 26<sup>th</sup> "Yankee Division" Association, The 20<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association, The 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Association, The 20<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion Association and many, many more.

Though Ray has been working in Normandy since 1983, he actually lived in Normandy from 2002 to 2008. Since then, Ray has been dividing his time between the Tampa Bay area of Florida and Ireland and he has developed a unique concept for upscale, private tours which combine the best of Ireland, Normandy and an optional stay in Paris. Ray personally guides the tour throughout and utilizes his knowledge of both Ireland and France to create a unique travel and historic experience. Ray drives his air conditioned, mini-van and meets his clients upon their arrival at the airport in Ireland. Through driving and walking tours, Ray shows his clients the best of

Ireland while staying in the finest of castles and hotels. Ray also presents the role of the Irish Free State (which preceded the Republic of Ireland) in World War II. The Irish were neutral in what they called “The Emergency” while playing a delicate balancing act between the Allies and the Axis.

If you wish to trace your Irish roots, our Irish genealogical experts will join with us and we can possibly meet some of your distant relatives and/or visit the towns from where your Irish ancestors lived.

Together with the mini-van, they take the overnight ferry from Ireland to Cherbourg. The ferry is actually a mini-cruise with upscale cabins and a fine restaurant. Upon landing in Normandy, they stay at the finest chateau hotels in the region. Ray presents the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy in a way only an American guide can do.

## SAMPLE ITINERARY

### DAY

1: Ray meets clients at Shannon International Airport and checks into one of Ireland’s most outstanding castle hotels - Dromoland Castle. Day free for relaxation. Evening dinner and show at Bunratty Castle.

2: Drive north to the spectacular Cliffs of Moher where we’ll board a boat and take in the best view, which is from the ocean. We’ll have lunch in a famous pub in the quaint fishing village of Doolin. We’ll continue through the haunting Burren region, passing Galway and check into another of Ireland’s leading castle hotels – Ashford Castle. Dinner at the castle.

3: Today we can relax – we can enjoy the facilities of the hotel including a beautiful boat ride on Lough Corrib. Ashford offers an array of activities including golf, horseback riding and even falconry hunting! We’ll visit the nearby village of Cong where *The Quiet Man* which starred John Wayne and Maureen O’Hara was filmed. Dinner at the castle.

4: We’ll explore the Connemara region with its unusual scenery and also take in the town of Galway where we can shop and stroll the quaint streets. Dinner at the castle.

5: We’ll drive to Dublin and check into the exclusive Merrion Hotel. Located directly across the street from the Irish Parliament, the hotel is perfectly located for exploring exciting Dublin. Ray will conduct an orientation walking tour and will point out the best of Dublin’s restaurants and pubs.

6: We’ll continue our exploration of Dublin but with time for relaxation and shopping. Independent dinner.

7: Drive along the east coast stopping at the beach where *Saving Private Ryan* was filmed (that was actually the Irish Army making the landings in the film!) and we’ll have lunch where the cast of movie dined and where *Saving Private Ryan* memorabilia may be found. We’ll continue to the harbor in Rosslare where we’ll take our mini-van onto the ship and take the overnight crossing to Cherbourg. We’ll enjoy a Deluxe Class cabin and a gourmet dinner. The ship also offers a pub and shopping.

8: Upon arrival in Cherbourg, we’ll drive directly to the Normandy American Cemetery on Omaha Beach. Ray will make an in-depth presentation on the European Theatre of Operations and the Battle of Normandy while utilizing the huge battle maps. He will also explain the Battle of the Atlantic and the war against Japan. He will guide us through the Garden of the Missing and then we’ll proceed to visit some individual graves of the 9,387 found at the cemetery. Ray will explain the graves of the Niland brothers about whom *Saving Private Ryan* was based. We’ll have a detailed tour of Omaha Beach with stops at the various “draws” where Ray will explain the actions of the V Corps. We’ll walk on the beach and Ray will relate the battle. We’ll check into the Chateau de Cheneviere in Port-en-Bessin. Dinner at the chateau.

9: We’ll begin at the harbor in Port-en-Bessin where the US Navy supported the Royal Marines in their assault on the harbor which was featured in *The Longest Day*. We’ll continue to Pointe du Hoc where gallant US Rangers scaled the cliffs to engage the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. We’ll explore Utah Beach and the Utah Beach Museum. Ray will explain the history of the beautiful US Navy Normandy Monument which he initiated. A five year effort culminated in a large dedication ceremony here in 2008. We’ll have lunch in a unique restaurant and get the “insider’s view” of a former US Navy Communications Station in what had been a Nazi bunker. We’ll visit Brecourt Manor where the “Band of Brothers” first went into action. Ray will explain the actions of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division here and we’ll continue to Ste.-Mere-Eglise where the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division liberated and held this strategic town. Dinner at the chateau.

10: We'll visit the "Artificial Harbor" at Arromanches and *Pegasus Bridge* where brave British paratroopers captured and held this important site. We'll continue on to Paris. Here clients have two options – we can spend the night in the city. Ray will include a driving tour of the city and the evening will include one of Europe's most delightful experiences –a deluxe dinner cruise on the Seine River where the lights of Paris' monuments, bridges and the Eiffel Tower shine. We'll spend the night at the deluxe Hotel Meurice, the former HQ of the German Commandant during the Occupation.

The other option is to go directly to an airport hotel in order to be ready for a flight from Charles de Gaulle International Airport the next day. In this case Ray will transfer us to the airport the next day for our flight back to the USA. Before departing, he will see that we are checked in for our flight.

11: We'll have a full day in magnificent Paris and Ray will show us the city with driving and walking tours. He will explain the role the city played in the American War of Independence, the American role in the Liberation and show us many American related sites. We can visit museums, shop or just relax. Dinner will be at a bistro on the Ile St. Louis. We'll spend the night at a hotel near the airport.

12: Ray will transfer us to the airport for our flight back to the USA. Before departing, he will see that we are checked in for our flight.

THE ABOVE ITINERARY IS ONLY AN EXAMPLE, A TOUR MAY BE PLANNED SPECIFICALLY TO YOUR NEEDS.  
PRICES AND DATES WILL BE BY REQUEST ONLY.