



MONUMENTS MEN EUROPE

JUNE 14 - 27, 2016



Officially called the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section (MFAA), the Monuments Men were a group of 345 men and women – museum directors, curators, art historians, architects, archaeologists and educators – tasked with the location, protection, conservation, and repatriation of European art, architecture, and material culture of nations during and after World War II. These men and women quite literally saved Western civilization's treasures.

Day 1 ~ Tuesday, June 14, 2016**HOUSTON/EN ROUTE**

Depart the **United States** flying overnight to **Paris, France**.

Day 2 ~ Wednesday, June 15, 2016**PARIS**

Bienvenue à Paris! Arrive **Paris**. Meet private guide and travel by private motor coach for a panoramic **half day tour of classical Paris** (pending flight schedules). Afternoon **check-in to hotel**, with some time spent at leisure. Evening **Welcome Dinner** at the hotel or local restaurant. **Overnight: Paris**

Day 3 ~ Thursday, June 16, 2016**PARIS**

Following breakfast at the hotel, board private motorcoach for a day dedicated to **fine art of France during World War II**. Adolf Hitler had long planned the systematic looting of the great museums and private art collections of Europe. In large part thanks to the Monuments Men, his efforts were not entirely successful. Begin at the **Musée du Louvre**, the most visited museum in the world where, in advance of the Nazis, the Monuments Men evacuated 400,000 works of art. Included is the **Mona Lisa**, which the MFAA transferred to safety six different times. Continue to the **Jeu de Paume**, headquarters and storage facility for the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) during the Nazi occupation of Paris. Headed by Hitler's leading ideologue Alfred Rosenberg, the ERR was engaged in the theft of paintings, works of art and cultural valuables stolen from private – mostly Jewish – French collectors. **Overnight: Paris**

Day 4 ~ Friday, June 17, 2016**NORMANDY/PARIS**

Full day excursion to the **Normandy** region. Travel to the town of **Saint-Lô**, location of the first Monuments Men meeting on August 13, 1944. As a strategic crossroads, Saint-Lô was nearly completely demolished during the Battle of Normandy, aptly named "The Capital of the Ruins" by Irish novelist Samuel Beckett. Continue to **Rouen** to understand the initial task of the MFAA, protecting monuments. Though not responsible for restoring these buildings, the Monuments Men did oftentimes implement crucial temporary repairs and made key assessments of the extent of damage to important structures. A prominent example is the 13th century **Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Rouen**, severely damaged by Western Allied bombing in April 1944, and again two months later during the D-Day invasion. Repaired after the war, it remains one of Europe's great gothic cathedrals. **Evening return to Paris**, with **dinner en route**. **Overnight: Paris**

Day 5 ~ Saturday, June 18, 2016**REIMS/PARIS**

This morning, meet guide and travel by high speed rail for a **full day excursion to Reims**, located about 80 mi/130 km northeast of Paris. Begin a walking tour at the magnificent **Gothic cathedral**, where most of the kings of France were crowned. Enter the chapel, with its beautiful **stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall**. In reaction to the huge international protests resulting from the shelling of Reims cathedral, the German government implemented the Kunstschutz, an office for the protection of monuments. Headed by art historians and architects, the Kunstschutz became a model for the Monuments Men. Next, experience the **Surrender Museum**, site where the Germans under General Jodl surrendered unconditionally to General Eisenhower on May 7, 1945, marking the **end of World War II in Europe**. View the museum's **film and photographs, press cuttings and models**. The signing room remains untouched, with battle maps of the Allies displayed on the wall. **Late afternoon return to Paris**. **Dinner** at the hotel or local French restaurant. **Overnight: Paris**

Day 6 ~ Sunday, June 19, 2016**PARIS/AACHEN**

Depart Paris by high speed train and journey to **Aachen, Germany** located at the juncture where the Netherlands meets Germany. Upon arrival, visit the 8th century **Cathedral of Aachen**, one of the most famous examples of **occidental architecture**. View the **bust of Charlemagne**, donated in 1349 by Charles IV and one of the most highly prized Charlemagne relics, thought to contain a piece of his skull. Monuments Men **George Stout** and **Walker Hancock** went behind enemy lines under artillery fire to reach the Aachen church treasury hidden in the Siegen copper mine. Other items recovered in the operation include the Virgin Mary's robe and paintings by Rembrandt and Rubens. **Dinner** this evening at the hotel or a traditional German restaurant. **Overnight: Aachen**

Day 7 ~ Monday, June 20, 2016**COLOGNE/MAASTRICHT/AACHEN**

Full day excursion by private motorcoach to **Cologne, Germany** and **Maastricht, Netherlands**. First stop is the **Kölner Dom**, a stunning 13th century Gothic cathedral that was severely damaged by Allied bombing raids during World War II. Allied pilots made considerable efforts to avoid damaging this remarkable church that took more than 600 years to build. Monuments Man **Kenneth Steer** considered his largest achievement procuring just enough building material to prevent further deterioration of the Cologne Cathedral. Following **lunch** in Cologne or en route to Maastricht, visit the **Netherlands American Cemetery**, the only American war cemetery in the Netherlands, burial site of 8,301 American soldiers who lost their lives for the freedom of others during World War II. Continue to the **Northern Caves at St. Pietersberg**, former repository of the Nazis' stolen plunder. At the beginning of the war, Rembrandt van Rijn's masterpiece **The Night Watch** was removed from Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum and spent two years in hiding, moving around Holland. In 1942 it was found by the Nazis and transported to the 300 year old St. Pietersberg repository in the Dutch mountainside. Following a tip in October 1944, the MFAA found the repository and returned the painting to the Rijksmuseum. **Afternoon return to Aachen**, with **dinner** at the hotel or a nearby restaurant. **Overnight: Aachen**

Day 8 ~ Tuesday, June 21, 2016**SIEGEN/MERKERS**

After breakfast, depart Aachen to the Germany towns of **Siegen** and **Merkers**, learning of the hundreds of repositories that were discovered as American troops crossed Germany en route to Berlin. Begin in **Siegen**, a remarkable place in regards to World War II history. In 1941, Siegen's "**Hainer Stollen**" copper mine was turned into a bomb shelter. During the last months of the war the facility was used primarily to store and protect art works valuing 3 to 4 billion gold marks (approx. \$750million to \$1 billion), including the relics of Charlemagne, 600 paintings, 100 sculptures and the original manuscript of Ludvig van Beethoven's sixth symphony. A commemorative plaque honors the Monuments Men who discovered the repository in 1945 and ensured the return of these important looted items to their places of origin. Onto the "**Kalibergwerk**" in **Merkers**, a former salt mine complex including more than 35 miles of tunnels and a dozen entrances where art treasures, money and gold from the Reichsbank were found and recovered by US troops. One-fourth of the major holdings of fourteen of the principal Prussian state museums were transported to the facility, including Ancient Egyptian papyri in metal cases, ancient Greek and Roman decorative works, Byzantine mosaics, Islamic rugs, original woodcuts of Albrecht Dürer's famous **Apocalypse** series and crates of paintings by Rubens, Goya, Cranach. **Overnight: Merkers**

Day 9 ~ Wednesday, June 22, 2016**MERKERS/MUNICH**

Morning departure from Merkers by private motorcoach, traveling to **Munich, Germany**, one of the two central collecting points within the U.S. Zone in Germany during World War II and the point of origin for excursions during the last few days of the journey. The third largest city in Germany, Munich thrives with haute-couture shopping, grand churches, opulent palaces, and vigorous music and art scenes. **Overnight: Munich**

Day 10 ~ Thursday, June 23, 2016**MUNICH**

This morning, board private motor coach for a tour of Munich, one of the **central collection points** for recovered art stolen during World War II. Monuments Man **Craig Hugh Smyth** was responsible for opening and running the **Munich Collecting Point**, housed in the former offices of Hitler and the Nazi Party Headquarters. Monuments Man **George Stout** joined Smyth to assist with proper unloading and art handling procedures. A critical part of the recovery process, collecting points stored and sorted the hundreds of thousands of works of art found in repositories throughout Germany. View the facades of the **Central Institute of Art History** and **University of Music and Performing Arts Munich**, currently locations of these historic facilities. Following lunch, embark upon a half day excursion to the **KZ Memorial Dachau**, with a guided tour in English on site; the camp served as a model for all later concentration camps and as a "school of violence" for the SS men under whose command it stood. **Overnight: Munich**

Day 11 ~ Friday, June 24, 2016**NEUSCHWANSTEIN/MUNICH**

Travel out of Munich to the hilltop **Neuschwanstein Castle**, a 19th century Romanesque Revival palace on a rugged hill above the village of Hohenschwangau Commissioned by "mad" King Ludwig II of Bavaria, the structure was the inspiration for Disneyland's castle. Aiming to realize Hitler's dream of a "**Führermuseum**", the Nazis stashed thousands of world-class paintings inside the castle during World War II. When the war ended, priceless masterpieces by Michelangelo, da Vinci and Vermeer were recovered. **Afternoon return to Munich**, with **dinner** at the hotel or a local restaurant. **Overnight: Munich**

Day 12 ~ Saturday, June 25, 2016**EAGLE'S NEST/MUNICH**

The day is spent at **Eagle's Nest** in **Berchtesgadener Land**. "Kehlsteinhaus" in German, Eagle's Nest was Adolf Hitler's Third Reich era mountain-top home, presented on his 50th birthday as a retreat and venue for entertaining friends and visiting dignitaries. **Return to Munich** after the day's excursion. **Dinner** at the hotel or a local restaurant. **Overnight: Munich**

Day 13 ~ Sunday, June 26, 2016**ALTAUSSEE/MUNICH**

Embark upon the final touring day with a drive to Austria for a visit to the **Altaussee Salt Mine**. This extensive complex acted as both a repository for Nazi-stolen art and contained holdings from Austrian collections. During his last phase of madness, an order was sent from Hitler's Berlin bunker: if the Third Reich was to be defeated, the German people and everything they had created should be destroyed too. This included the masterpieces housed in the salt mines in Altaussee. Yet, thanks to the daring local miners, the works were already safe when the American Monuments Men arrived. More than 6,500 paintings alone were discovered, with the most notable recovered pieces Michelangelo's statue **Madonna of Bruges** and Jan van Eyck's **Ghent Altarpiece**. **Afternoon return to Munich**. Enjoy a special **Farewell Dinner** at a local restaurant this evening. **Overnight: Munich**

Day 14 ~ Monday, June 27, 2016**MUNICH/EN ROUTE/USA**

Transfer to **Munich airport** for departure to the **United States** (on group flight). Arrive home later today.

FROSCH INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

LAND TOUR PRICE: \$7,375.00 per person, double occupancy
Single Supplement: \$1,595.00

AIR RATES PER PERSON: \$TBD (Economy class)

All prices quoted are based on a specific number of participants traveling together in the group, on single or double occupancy at hotels, and on land rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change. FROSCH reserves the right and if warranted, will increase tour prices to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets, or increased in government rail or airline taxes and/or fuel charges should they come into effect at any time prior to departure.

DEPOSITS & PAYMENTS

DEPOSIT \$500.00 per person to reserve space at time of reservation. FINAL PAYMENT due on **FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016.**

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 12 nights' accommodation at four star hotels with private facilities
- Meals: 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 8 dinners
- All sightseeing as outlined on the itinerary by private motorcoach with driver and English speaking guides according to program
- Tour manager-guide to accompany the group throughout the trip
- Entrance fees to all sightseeing venues outlined on itinerary
- Intra-Europe transportation according to itinerary; rail Paris-Reims-Paris, Paris-Aachen
- All transfers on group flights
- Gratuities to drivers, local guides and tour manager

◆ **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS** are provided on the basis of single or double occupancy rooms with private bath, in the hotels selected for the tour. FROSCH Travel and its subagents reserve the right to substitute hotels of the same category when necessary for the proper handling of the tour.

◆ **MEALS** included are 12 breakfasts/1 lunch/8 dinners.

◆ **PERSONAL TIPS** to your guides, drivers, and tour manager.

◆ **TRANSFERS AND TOURING IN EUROPE** is provided by modern heated/air conditioned motorcoaches, and includes the full touring program outlined in the itinerary. All entrance fees to the places listed in the itinerary are included.

◆ **TOUR MANAGER** provided by government-licensed, English-speaking manager who will accompany the tour throughout the program and will provide assistance with all formalities.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- ◆ **AIR TRANSPORTATION** from home city to Paris & from Munich to home city is not included in tour price. For assistance with international air, kindly call Jessica Sussman at FROSCH Group Department, (212) 784-0269, or email groups@frosch.com.
- ◆ **PERSONAL ITEMS** such as laundry and telephone calls.
- ◆ **PASSPORTS** must be carried by each tour member and must be valid 6 months beyond tour date.
- ◆ **AIRPORT TRANSFERS** on independent flights.

Prices and Arrangements: Quoted tour prices include planning, handling and operational charges are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs and taxes as of this printing. **FROSCH Travel reserves the right and if warranted, will increase tour prices to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets, or increases in government airline taxes and/or fuel charges should they come into effect at any time prior to departure.**

CANCELLATION PENALTIES

Land arrangements: Cancellation of land arrangements incur the following penalties:

08JAN – 11MAR: \$500.00 per person
12MAR – Departure: Non-refundable

Air tickets: Cancellations and refunds are governed by the tariff applying to the Super Apex airfare and/or other tariffs of the airlines concerned. Deposits on contractual air blocks are non-refundable. Airfares are non-refundable once ticketed.

TRAVEL INSURANCE IS RECOMMENDED AND IS AVAILABLE THROUGH FROSCH TRAVEL.

Contact Nancy Barr at (713) 590-8152 or email groups@frosch.com for further assistance.

RESPONSIBILITY

This tour is arranged by FROSCH Travel, One Greenway Plaza, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77046 and Holocaust Museum Houston. All tickets and coupons governing transportation and other services and facilities furnished are issued by FROSCH Travel, only as agents for such other companies furnishing such services and facilities, and neither they nor their sub-agents shall be held liable for loss or damage to property or injury to person caused by reason of any defect by any transportation company, agent, or any such party providing such services. FROSCH Travel, Holocaust Museum Houston and its sub-agents reserve the right to withdraw services and make changes and alterations in the itinerary as may be necessary in their judgment for the proper handling of the tour. The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchasers of this tour.