

In collaboration with The National WWII Museum



Japan & Okinawa

Tokyo • Hiroshima • Kagoshima • Okinawa

September 30 - October 10, 2027



Featuring World-Renowned
Naval Historian and Author
Jonathan Parshall

Cover photo: Chureito Pagoda
with view of Mt. Fuji.

Join the US Naval Academy Alumni Association and Foundation along with The National WWII Museum's Educational Travel Program for an immersive 11-day exploration of the final chapter of the Pacific War. Accompanied by expert historian Jonathan Parshall who provides in-depth lectures and on-site interpretation, this powerful itinerary traces the military, political, and human dimensions of the war's closing months.

The journey begins in Tokyo, where travelers examine Japan's perspective on the conflict at the Yushukan War Memorial Museum and gain insight into civilian life during the war years at the National Showa Memorial Museum. Together, these experiences introduce the complexities of memory, responsibility, and national identity in postwar Japan.

From Tokyo, guests board the famed Shinkansen bullet train, speeding south to Hiroshima. Now a vibrant and beautiful city known for its cuisine and scenic setting, visits to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum travelers confront the reality of the world's first atomic bombing.

In the nearby port of Kure, guests visit the Yamato Museum, home to an impressive 86-foot model of the battleship Japanese battleship I, once the largest battleship ever constructed. The museum experience illuminates Japan's naval ambitions and the technological scale of the Pacific conflict.

Continuing to southern Kyushu, the tour explores Kagoshima and Chiran, site of the primary training base for kamikaze pilots who launched their missions during the Battle of Okinawa. This poignant stop offers insight into the ideology, training, and personal stories behind Japan's desperate final strategies.

The journey culminates on Okinawa, scene of the largest and most devastating land battle fought by American forces in the Pacific. Over two and a half months of brutal combat, nearly half of the island's 300,000 civilians perished. Guests visit storied battlegrounds including Kakazu Ridge, Hacksaw Ridge, and Shuri Castle, gaining a deeper understanding of why this ferocious campaign earned the nickname "The Typhoon of Steel."

Throughout the program, guests benefit from evening lectures and informal discussions that enrich the on-site experiences, fostering thoughtful reflection on the war's final months and its lasting global consequences. This carefully curated itinerary offers not only a powerful study of military history, but also a profound exploration of memory, sacrifice, and reconciliation in modern Japan.

Sincerely,



Amy Garwood
Director, Alumni Travel
U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation

*Hear their stories.
Learn their names.*

*Stand where
history was made.*



Lieutenant Colonel James "Jimmy" Doolittle
led the first raid against Tokyo.



Himeyuri students fought alongside and formed
into a nursing unit for the Imperial Japanese army
during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.



Visit the Atomic Bomb Dome ruins in Hiroshima,
the site where the first atomic bomb fell.

NOW ACCEPTING BOOKINGS

Let us help you plan your journey into history
by contacting us at 1-877-813-3329 X 257
or travel@nationalww2museum.org.



Background photo: Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial
Museum, dedicated to the victims of the Battle of Okinawa.

The Itinerary

Day 1 • Arrive in Tokyo

Arrive at Tokyo Narita Airport (NRT) | Transfer to Mesm Tokyo | Welcome Reception and Dinner followed by overview lecture with Jonathan Parshall

Accommodations: Mesm Tokyo (R, D)

Day 2 • Tokyo's Imperial History

Asakusa Senso-ji Temple | Lunch on your own | East Gardens of the Imperial Palace | Evening at leisure

Accommodations: Mesm Tokyo (B)

Day 3 • Japan's Wartime and Postwar Experience

After the War: Repatriation, Remembrance & National Memory
Memorial Museum for Soldiers, Detainees in Siberia, and Postwar Repatriates | The National Showa Museum | Included group lunch | Yushukan Museum and Yasukuni Shrine | Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery | Evening at leisure

Accommodations: Mesm Tokyo (B, L)

Day 4 • Hiroshima

Travel on the Shinkansen Bullet Train to Hiroshima | Included group lunch | Shukkeien Garden | Group Dinner and Special Presentation by Jonathan Parshall

Accommodations: Sheraton Hiroshima (B, L, D)

Day 5 • Ground Zero and Kure

Hiroshima Peace Gardens | Included group lunch | Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force Museum | Yamato Satellite Museum | Evening at leisure

Accommodations: Sheraton Hiroshima (B, L)

Day 6 • Hiroshima to Kagoshima

Optional morning touring: Miyajima Island and Itsukushima Shrine OR Relax OR Explore Hiroshima independently | Included group lunch | Shinkansen to Kagoshima | Included group dinner and lecture

Accommodations: Shiroyama Hotel Kagoshima (B, L, D)

Day 7 • Chiran

Chiran Peace Museum | Included group lunch | Bansai Peace Museum | MARS Whiskey Distillery | Evening at leisure

Accommodations: Shiroyama Hotel Kagoshima (B, L)

Day 8 • Kagoshima to Okinawa

Morning at leisure | Lunchtime lecture | Included flight from Kagoshima to Okinawa | Lunch on your own | Shuri Castle | Included group dinner

Accommodations: Hyatt Regency Naha (B, D)

Day 9 • Battle of Okinawa

Explore the landing beaches in Okinawa | Shimuku Gama Cave and Chibichiri Cave | Included group lunch | Kakazu Ridge and Hacksaw Ridge | Evening at leisure

Accommodations: Hyatt Regency Naha (B, L)

Day 10 • The Final Battles

Japanese Naval Headquarters | General Buckner Memorial | Included group lunch | Himeyuri Peace Memorial | Okinawa Peace Memorial and Museum | Farewell cocktail reception and conversation with the group and historian

Accommodations: Hyatt Regency Naha (B, L, R)

Day 11 • Flights home from Okinawa

Transfer to Naha Okinawa Airport (OKA) for your independently scheduled flights home (B)

Itinerary Map



Book early and save!

Book early and save up to \$1,000 per couple.

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\$10,999 **\$10,499*** per person based on double occupancy

\$12,899 **\$12,399*** single occupancy

*\$329 per person taxes and fees are additional.



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Scan the QR code to book online!

Tour Inclusions

Travel with Jonathan Parshall, one of the foremost experts on the War in the Pacific

Full-time logistical tour manager

Expert local battlefield guides

Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)

3 nights in Tokyo at Mesm Tokyo

2 nights in Hiroshima at the Sheraton Grand Hiroshima Hotel

2 nights in Kagoshima at the Shiroyama Hotel Kagoshima

3 nights in Okinawa at the Hyatt Regency Naha

Transportation on the shinkansen (high speed bullet train): Tokyo to Hiroshima and Hiroshima to Kagoshima

Flight between Hiroshima and Okinawa

Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation

VIP access to sites not offered on other tours

Video oral history presentations from the Museum collection

Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers

Personal listening devices on all included touring

10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 4 dinners, and 2 receptions (Welcome and Farewell)

Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners

Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey

Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge



Use your smartphone to scan the QR code and view the full digital brochure.