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VALOR TOURS, LTD.
 Focused Expeditions
 Incorporated 1977

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Questions? Call 800-842-4504

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Valor Tours Ltd. is the only military history tour operator bonded and insured in the U.S. with 40 years experience taking WWII Veterans and their families to the Philippines.

"...The tour brought back a flood of memories; some pleasant and some not so pleasant – some good ones before the war, and some dreadful ones during the war, and the horrible experience of being captured by the Japanese. Many thanks to Valor Tours for all you have done to assist and encourage the preservation of the battle sites. Keep up the good work!"
Everett Reamer, POW

Cover picture: America in WWII magazine.



presents...

Ghost Soldiers of Bataan & Hellships tour to the Philippines

April 4 to 13, 2025

Escorted by Dean Armstrong



**Manila - Corregidor - Bataan - Subic Bay
 - Camp O'Donnell - Cabanatuan
 with optional extension to Leyte**



America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator



In the early months of WWII in the Pacific, it was one defeat after another. But in the Philippine Islands American commanders thought the jungles on the peninsula of Bataan could withstand any enemy assault. And surely the heavily armed island of Corregidor in Manila Bay would be impregnable. The enemy thought otherwise, and in April and May of 1942, they proved their point. It was not for lack of determination by our men on Bataan, (or any lack of courage from the nurses who were right there with them) that defeat was followed by a ghastly death march to nightmare years of imprisonment. The nurses were evacuated at the last moment to Corregidor. Incessantly pounded by heavy guns from the now captured Bataan Peninsula, Corregidor itself surrendered on May 6th. In war, legendary battle sites are not always honored for a victorious outcome. If ever there was hallowed ground from the conflict and horror of war, it is the ground we will once again tread in 2021, as we have done for the past 40 years.

Top left: 2024 group at Santo Tomas, Manila.

Memorials on Corregidor's Topside.

Accommodations in Manila will be at the World class Manila Hotel on Manila Bay. We will obtain permission to visit the MacArthur suite located in the hotel.

Bottom: 2023 group on Corregidor.

Application Form

Ghost Soldiers of Bataan & Hellships tour to the Philippines - April 4 to 13, 2025

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Name _____ Name _____
(as it appears on your passport)

Name _____ Name _____
(as you would like it to appear on ID badge and passenger list)

Address _____
(where confirmation and documents should be mailed)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (days) _____

Email (if any) _____

Please reserve ____ spaces on this tour. Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of _____ (\$600 per person) in the form of a check ____, or credit card account _____ exp _____ for accommodations based on a ____ twin share basis or ____ single occupancy or ____ triple share (subject to availability).

____ I am traveling alone and wish to share with another tour member

____ Smoking ____ Non smoking

What is the reason for your participation on this tour, i.e. Veteran, family member of a Veteran/POW, history buff? _____

____ I/we would like to participate on the Leyte extension, April 13/15

Handicap facilities are very limited in the Philippines. If you have any disabilities, which cause you to require any physical assistance of any kind, please describe them here: _____

Valor Tours, Ltd. requires passengers with handicaps to bring a traveling companion responsible for assisting with all your needs. ____ I/we do not require any assistance.

I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions set forth in this tour brochure _____

Signature

Date

Next of kin: _____

General Information & Terms/Conditions

Reservations & Cancellations

A reservation can only be held with a deposit of \$600 per person and on a first come-first served basis. Please fill out, sign and return the application form with your check or credit card number. Final payment is due January 5, 2025. Cancellations received in writing by January 5, 2025 are fully refundable. Cancellations received in writing between January 5, 2025 and March 4, 2025 subject to loss of deposit. Cancellations received after March 4, 2025 or “no shows” are non-refundable. Changes to your reservations within 30 days of departure may result in administrative fees and/or penalties. Reservation deadline is March 4, 2025 however we will do all we can to accommodate based on space availability. Space is limited to one busload. Late bookings can be accepted provided space is available and full payment is received right away. Cost is based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Tour itinerary and costs subject to change. We do not recommend participation on tour by children under the age of 12 years.

Travel documents

Passports must be valid six months beyond date of travel. Visas are not required unless you extend your stay in the Philippines beyond 21 days. Inoculations are not required. Travel documents such as airline tickets, passenger list, ID badge, baggage tags and final instructions will be sent Priority Mail about two weeks prior to departure or by Express Mail ten days prior to departure.

Health

Vaccinations are not required at this time, but consult with your physician about Hepatitis A or B shots, which are now recommended for all travel. Also check to see if your Tetanus is up to date. As with all third world tropical climates, malaria-carrying mosquitoes exist. Use common sense precautions such as insect repellent or wearing long sleeved shirts and long pants in the evening hours when the mosquitoes are most prevalent. Drinking unboiled tap water is not recommended. Bottled water is available for purchase. We suggest keeping a bottle in your backpack at all times. Use caution when drinking beverages with ice. Good restaurants, bars and cafes use purified or boiled waters, while local establishments often use tap water. Currently a Covid vaccine certificate is required but this mandate may be dropped by next year.

Air transportation

We use Philippine Airlines as they offer non-stop service from both San Francisco and Los Angeles to Manila on Boeing 777-300ER series jet with 3 + 4 + 3 seating. Flight time is 17 hours. Business class with 2 + 3 + 2 seating upgrade available, but air fares are constantly changing so request a quote at the time of booking tour. Boeing 777 does not offer first class or premium economy.

Travel Emergency Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected, so you can relax and enjoy your trip. For your convenience, we offer a travel protection plan thru Travelex Insurance Services that helps provide coverage for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, theft or damage, medical expense and emergency evacuation coverage and more. The plan must be purchased at time of full payment to avoid preexisting conditions. Details of coverage are sent to each participant upon signing up for tour along with reading list. Underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Insurance Services.

Itinerary - subject to change

Friday April 4

Late night departure from the U.S. (San Francisco or Los Angeles) via Philippine Airlines for Manila, Philippines. Meet tour host Dean Armstrong if flying from San Francisco. Cross the Date Line lose Monday.

Sunday April 6 (D)

Arrive Manila Int'l Airport. Immigration (passport required), baggage collection and customs. Meet local guide and board private air-conditioned coach for transfer to the Manila Hotel. Rooms ready for early check in. Visit to MacArthur archives (and suite if available). Afternoon tour of Intramuros (the old walled city), and Fort Santiago and handicrafts shop for souvenirs. Group dinner in Mabuhay Palace in the Manila Hotel.

Monday April 7 (B, L, D)

After breakfast, transfer to vessel to cross Manila Bay to Corregidor, at the mouth of Manila Bay. Morning tour in private Tranvia to 92nd Garage, Monkey Point, Kindley Field, and Malinta Tunnel Light and Sound show. Box Lunch break, then afternoon tour continues Bottomside, Middleside and Topside to include Wainwright Park, Army Dock, Navy Dock, Batteries Way and Hearn, gun batteries, Mile Long Barracks, Pacific War Memorial and Museum, Batteries Crockett and Geary, Malinta Tunnel. Due to the closure of the Corregidor Inn, we will return to Manila Hotel for the night.

Tuesday April 8 (B, L)

After breakfast head by coach to the Bataan Peninsula and Kilometer Marker Zero, beginning of the Death March. Continue north with stops at select Death March markers as we follow parts of the actual Death March route, sites of Field Hospitals #1 and #2, and Angels of Bataan Marker at Limay. Visit the Balanga Elementary School and Bataan WWII Museum, the site of surrender negotiations. Overnight at Crown Royale, Balanga, Bataan.

Wednesday April 9 (B, L)

Drive to Mt. Samat and the Altar of Valor for museum and battlefield views. Stop at Pantingan River massacre site. Proceed to Subic Bay via Morong, site of “Last Cavalry Charge”. Segara Suites, Subic Bay.

Thursday April 10 (B, L)

Visit Hellships memorial, Jungle Survival Training, and Olongapo Museum (subject to reopening). Overnight at Segara Suites, Subic Bay.

Friday April 11 (B, L)

Check out of hotel and drive to Jose Calugas monument at Layac Junction. San Fernando Railway Station Museum where the POW's were packed into railroad boxcars for the ride to Capas. Then on to Clark Field to see Fort Stotsenberg gates, Parade Ground, Civilian Cemetery, Clark Field Museum and lunch at Clark VFW Canteen. On to Capas RR Station, Battling Bastards of Bataan Memorial and Camp O'Donnell. Overnight Microtel Inn, Luisita, Tarlac.

Saturday April 12 (B, D)

Check out of hotel. Morning visit to Pajota's Bridge and the American POW Memorial at Cabanatuan, site of former POW camp and location of “The Great Raid” as told in “Ghost Soldiers” by Hampton Sides. Return to Manila with lunch en route. Check into the Manila Hotel. Evening farewell dinner at Mall of Asia, once and future “largest mall in the world.” Overnight at the Manila Hotel.

Sunday April 13 (B)

Santo Tomas University (site of civilian and nurses' internment camp), Bilibid Prison (subject to permission), drive through the Philippine business district in Makati including site of Nichols Field, visit the American Cemetery at Forbes Park (possible private wreath laying). Return to hotel to freshen up before transfer to airport for flight back to the U.S.

'REUNION FOR PEACE'



Robert F. Reynolds, right, president of Valor Tours, Ltd., San Francisco, Calif., was commended by Northern California PATA Chapter for his creation and implementation of the "Reunion for Peace," a World War II Veterans Program to the Philippines. Lang Manning, left, of the New Zealand Government Tourist Office, chapter chairman, presented the award.

THE TRAVEL AGENT

Optional Leyte extension

Sunday April 13 (B)

Transfer to domestic terminal for Philippine Airlines mid-afternoon flight. After 1 hour flight, arrive Tacloban, Leyte. Transfer to Oriental Hotel in Palo on the beach.

Monday April 14 (B)

Full day sightseeing to invasion sites and memorials including Hill 120 with 96th Inf. Div. Memorial, landing beaches, MacArthur Memorial and Peace Park, and Palo Cathedral (site of first invasion hospital).

Tuesday April 15 (B)

Half-day tour including San Juanico Bridge to Samar, city tour of Tacloban including Provincial Capitol Building and Sto Nino Shrine. Afternoon depart Tacloban via Philippine Airlines. After 1 hour flight, arrive Manila for transfer to the international terminal for flight to U.S. Tour ends.

April 13 to 15 Leyte extension cost \$900 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$200. Includes air fare between Manila and Tacloban economy class via Philippine Airlines; round trip airport/hotel transfer; two nights hotel accommodations; breakfast daily; sightseeing as indicated; local guide; local taxes. Based on minimum of 6 paying passengers.



Malcolm Amos, Corpsman and POW, visiting Death March marker in his name.



Dean Armstrong, tour leader, at Fort Stotsenburg in April 2023

Main tour - April 4 to 13, 2025

Tour Cost \$4000.00 per person, twin share

Single supplement \$700.00

Includes airport/hotel round trip transfers and baggage handling; services of tour leader; seven nights hotels accommodations; meals as indicated in itinerary by B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner; entrance fees; all ground transport by private coach, banca and ferry; services of local guides and drivers; local taxes; air fare via Philippine Airlines economy class, round trip from San Francisco (or Los Angeles) including taxes.

Business class upgrades - request rate.

Doing your own air to Manila? Air credit \$1000 per person.

Disabilities

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany and be completely responsible for persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home.