

Stephen Ambrose HISTORICAL TOURS



A BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2001

Tours Scheduled for 2001

*Weekend with
Stephen E. Ambrose:*
April 13-15, 2001

Civil War Tour:
April 19-25, 2001
October 4-10, 2001

D-Day to the Rhine
May 1-13, 2001
June 1-13, 2001
August 28 - Sept. 9, 2001
October 16-28, 2001

D-Day London-Paris
August 18-26, 2001

Corps of Discovery
July 3-13, 2001

* Tours are subject to cancellation
due to underbooking

Let me extend my regards to all our old and new friends. You hold in your hands not only our first newsletter, but the official announcement of our name change to Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours. We have great things in store for you, and as always we invite your input and participation.

In the past, I have spoken to a great many of you, and I know you will be as excited as I am about our upcoming tours and developments. Under the direction and guidance of my father, Stephen Ambrose, we have branched out from our highly successful D-Day to the Rhine tour. Please find information on our Civil War, Corps of Discovery and D-Day Youth Expeditions inside. Additionally, read profiles of veterans to be featured on next year's D-Day tours, and learn what publications are in the future for Stephen Ambrose and Captain Ron Drez.

I hope you choose to join us on an Ambrose designed historical adventure soon.

Yours,

Andy Ambrose
Director of Sales & Marketing
Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours

INVITATION TO “A Weekend in New Orleans”

Dear Friends and Tour Participants,


We are thrilled to announce an exclusive event for our customers in the Spring of 2001, something that we are announcing here first, but that we will eventually market to a larger audience. It is called “A Weekend In New Orleans,” and will feature a private tour of the National D-Day Museum and speech by Stephen Ambrose, followed by a reception and 1940s-style swing dance in the Museum’s Louisiana Pavilion.

Based at the Ritz-Carlton, the weekend will include other activities relative to the themes of our tours, including a tour of Chalmette Battlefield with Captain Ron Drez, panel discussions featuring Pacific War veterans and a private screening of *Andrew Higgins: The American Noah*. There will also be a New Orleans-style jazz brunch with Stephen Ambrose and the option of attending Easter Sunday Mass at St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square.

This event will be a reunion for old customers as well as an opportunity for new ones. We are very excited about it, and welcome the chance to share the Museum with all participants in Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours. Please mark April 13-15, 2001 on your calendars and also note December 7, 2001 as the date the Museum will open its D-Day Invasions in the Pacific” exhibition, a spectacular 5,000 square foot new wing. We look forward to seeing you here.

We are pleased to invite all of you to attend.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lynn Jennings

WEEKEND WITH STEPHEN E. AMBROSE ITINERARY

Friday, April 13, 2001

Arrive in New Orleans with all airport transfers provided. Check in at the Ritz-Carlton and meet up with friends in the hotel’s Hospitality Suite which will be at our disposal all weekend long. A cocktail reception with heavy hors’ d’oeuvres will begin at the hotel in the early evening, and Jerry Strahan, author of the definitive Higgins biography, will speak to the group prior to a private screening of *Andrew Higgins: The American Noah*.

Saturday, April 14, 2001

Following breakfast, Ron Drez will lead the group on a riverboat cruise to Chalmette Battlefield, where we will tour the site with the National Park Rangers. Lunch will be served on the return cruise. The afternoon will include a few hours of free time for which we encourage participants to visit the Confederate Museum.

A private walk through the National D-Day Museum exhibits will lead up to a speech by Dr. Ambrose himself and panel discussion including Ron Drez and several WWII veterans. The evening will conclude with a gala 1940s-style Swing Dinner Dance in the Museum’s Louisiana Pavillion. 1940s era attire is strongly encouraged at the dance.

Sunday, April 15, 2001

We will start off the day with a Jazz Brunch and lecture by Stephen Ambrose, followed by a walking tour of the French Quarter. There is also the possibility of watching a genuine New Orleans Easter Parade. You may opt to take in a gospel service or attend Easter Mass at St. Louis Cathedral in the heart of the French Quarter.

Stephen Ambrose Tours will provide outbound airport transfers.



LETTER FROM
Dr. Stephen E. Ambrose
President

Dear Friends:

World War II was the greatest event of the 20th century, which is one reason young people are fascinated by it. In addition, it was fought by very young men—many of them teens, only a handful over the age of 23, which is why students identify with the men who invaded France in 1944. And the leaders have names that roll like the thunder of a cannon: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, Churchill, Roosevelt and many others.

People of all ages, but especially youngsters, are inspired by visiting the battlefields. The favorite is Normandy. This is because D-Day, June 6, 1944, was the climactic battle not just of World War II, but of the century. I have been there every year for more than two decades. I lead tour groups which include veterans and students. Nothing can match being on the spot, seeing the field, reading about the battle and imagining what it was like.

The D-Day Youth Expedition Tour has been planned by me with young people in mind. I want them to see and appreciate what the men of D-Day did to protect their freedom. I want them to become familiar with the weapons of the war, where and how it was fought, and to become aware of the values of the GIs, starting with courage, optimism, teamwork and duty. I know, having been there so many times, that American youths respond positively and enthusiastically to visiting the D-Day sites. Indeed, I know of nothing that does a better job of encouraging and deepening their patriotism.

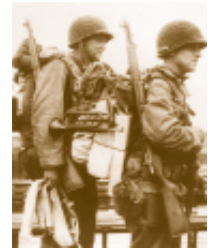
For more information on the D-Day Youth Expedition Tours, please contact my son Andy Ambrose through Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours, at (888) 903-DDAY (3329).

Sincerely yours,

Stephen E. Ambrose

EDUCATIONAL TOURS
DEPARTMENT

As a retired college professor, Stephen Ambrose recognizes the impact of continuing education outside the class-



room. This greatly contributed to the development of our new Educational Tours Department. Ultimately, the new department will mirror all of our existing offerings, presenting first quality tours designed specifically for teens and school-aged groups. We will construct the itineraries with adolescents and their families in mind, and they will become available in 2001—beginning with our most popular offering, the D-Day to the Rhine Tour.

IN THE FUTURE:

In our continuing effort to present tours of the highest quality, Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours is in the process of assembling our Vietnam War tour under the direction of Vietnam veteran/Bronze Star recipient Capt. Ron Drez.

Ron Drez will also begin work in conjunction with Stephen Ambrose on another new tour projected for 2002, the Battles of the Italian Campaign. This tour will draw from Ambrose's recent experience in Rome and Italy where he conducted extensive research for *Wild Blue*, his forthcoming book. We will release the details of these developments as they become available.



LETTER FROM
Captain Ron Drez
(USMC),
Vice President

Dear Fellow Travelers:

Several hundred enthusiasts have joined me for a step back in time to follow the path of the Allied Army during its crusade in Europe from 1944-45. To each of you, I promised that we would enter the Quantum Leap machine and set the dial to June 6, 1944, and enter history to discover the world of General Eisenhower and his victorious army.

Along the way we have told the story and visited some well known places, as well as some lesser-known battlegrounds. At every stop, it was a unique experience. The stories of paratroopers, rangers, infantrymen and warriors of every variety came alive as you walked in their footsteps. From Omaha and Utah Beaches to remote last stand battlegrounds in the Ardennes, you were there. On some occasions, you were there with the veteran himself, who accompanied us and regaled us with his story.

Memorial services at American cemeteries captured the essence of the men who gave their lives for our liberty, and it was indeed a sobering experience to walk in a German cemetery amongst the enemy dead.

Each tour has had its own distinct personality, but all members have found their fellow travelers to be of one kindred spirit. In just a brief time, new friendships have been forged. The most frequent comment I have received at the end of a tour is, "It was more than I ever imagined." To all my friends who have trekked this path with me, "We loved having you with us."

For those of you who we have yet to meet, we encourage your participation in the future. Please join me on the D-Day to the Rhine Tour or on one of our new adventures on the path of the great American explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, or on the trail of the troops of the Civil War along the Mississippi. Whichever you choose, I'd love to have you join a tour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Drez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ron Drez

UPCOMING NEW PUBLICATIONS

We are delighted to announce that both Stephen Ambrose and Capt. Ron Drez will be publishing new books in the coming months. Simon & Schuster will release *Wild Blue* by Dr. Ambrose, and Hyperion will publish Ron Drez, *10 Days in the Big War*. Both books will be made available for purchase on our website.

CONTACT US

Stephen Ambrose Tours can be contacted using the following information:

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VETERANS WE ARE EXPECTING ON UPCOMING TOURS

The most unique aspect of our D-Day to the Rhine Tour is the regular participation of WWII veterans. It is their voices which make these tours such a priceless experience. Ever since the first tour, our film camera has captured veterans speaking in various European village squares to our group and the local townspeople who gather to thank their returning liberators. With all the flags waving, reunions of family members and the oral histories themselves, these films are deposited in the archive at the University of New Orleans' Eisenhower Center.

Veterans who will join upcoming tours

MAY 2001

Jim Bruner, a member of the 1265th Combat Engineers' Battalion (1st Army) and a T-5 Corporal was in the Rhineland, most notably at Aachen and Remagen Bridgehead.

Charles Nau, US Air Force, stateside, 1942-1945. He was a Radar Officer on the Black Widows and then the B-29s, prepping to go to the Pacific.

JUNE 2001

Ken Russell of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment (U.S. 82nd Airborne) landed at St. Mere Eglise on D-Day, H-hour plus one, with a subsequent jump in Operation Market Garden where he helped take the Bridge at Nijmegen.

Harold Goodson was also in the 505th PIR (82nd Airborne). A member of Company I, he made all four combat jumps into Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Holland with his group. Mr. Goodson fought in the Battle of the Bulge and after an evacuation he joined his Company to meet the Russians at the Elbe River.

As 1st Sergeant of Company I, **Howard Melvin** fought through the entire war with the 82nd Airborne. Over a decade later, Mr. Melvin also completed a combat jump with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Vietnam War, making him the only man in the U.S. Army to make 5 combat jumps.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW WITH STEPHEN AMBROSE HISTORICAL TOURS?

Please see the enclosed brochures and forms for more information.

9 DAY TOUR:

If our 13 day D-Day to the Rhine tour does not suit your schedule, you might find our 9-day/7-night tour a viable option. Scheduled for August 18-26, 2001, the tour will be led by Ron Drez, and runs from London to Paris. Ideal for families with teenagers.

CIVIL WAR TOUR:

Stephen Ambrose began his career as a Civil War historian, and he remains an expert on the subject. Ron Drez also maintains a deep interest in the military history of the war, so they collaborated on the design of our new Civil War Tour itinerary. Beginning in New Orleans, the tour will continue up the Mississippi to Grant's Crossing, Vicksburg and other key points of interest including Tupelo, Shiloh and Chattanooga. Ron will lead this excursion into the battlefields and historic places of the Civil War along the Mississippi. We are looking forward to the first of these tours, scheduled for April and October 2001.

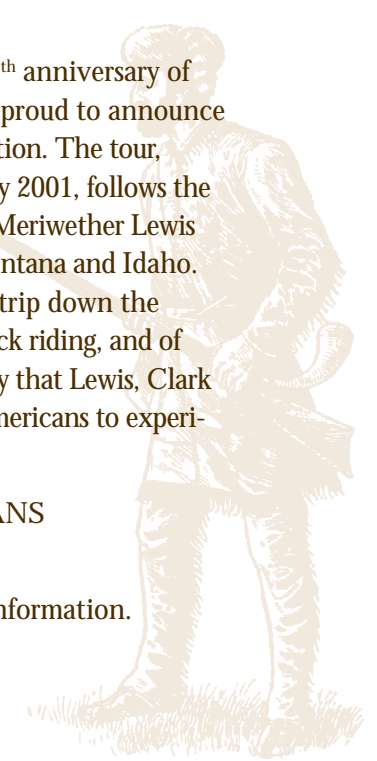
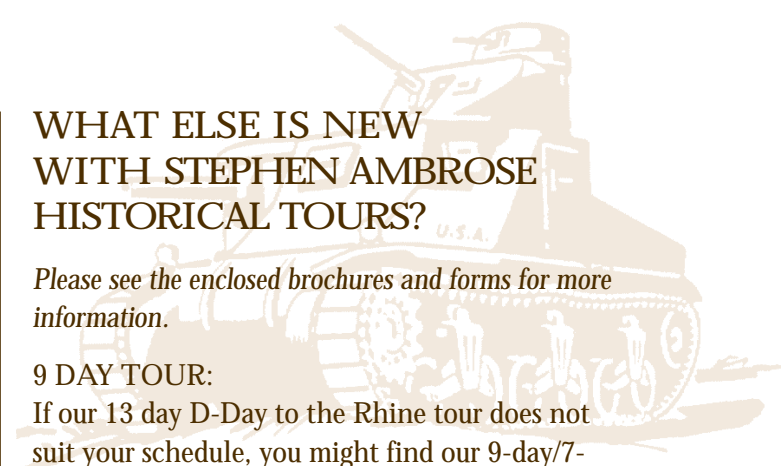
CORPS OF DISCOVERY:

In honor of the upcoming 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, we're proud to announce our Corps of Discovery Expedition. The tour, which will begin running in July 2001, follows the groundbreaking path taken by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark through Montana and Idaho. Our tour will include a canoe trip down the Missouri River, hiking, horseback riding, and of course, the breathtaking scenery that Lewis, Clark and their men were the first Americans to experience.

WEEKEND IN NEW ORLEANS

EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Call for tour dates and more information.





TO FRIENDS FROM THE TOURS:



Edie and Yakir on the Lewis and Clark Trail at Lemhi Pass

Since my work is interwoven through all of our products, it seems appropriate to introduce myself. My husband, Yakir Katz founded this company in 1998 with my cousin Andy Ambrose. Over a decade ago, Yakir started in the travel industry with his own bus business. He began operating tours in 1991. Before that, he served in the Israeli Paratroopers, 1976-1979. He was born and raised in Israel on a kibbutz founded by his parents. Yakir and I were married in New Orleans in 1993, and we have two daughters, Talia and Sivan ages 4 and 3.

My father Bill is Stephen Ambrose's younger brother. Like both of them, I have my B.A. in history from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. I also have my M.A. from the University of New Orleans and my Ph.D from Tulane University. Through my education and career, my Uncle Stephen has been a beloved mentor. In fact, it was my privilege to act as teaching assistant for a very special Vietnam War course Dr. Ambrose taught with Captain Ron Drez at the University of New Orleans in 1989-1990. Today I am an assistant professor of history at Xavier University of Louisiana. I specialize in Louisiana history and teach ancient world civilization.

Even with all of that, we still love to travel, and I will always spend my leisure hours either reading, writing, researching or just plain chasing history. The Stephen Ambrose Tours company is simply another expression of our family passion. It is gratifying to share that enthusiasm, and I thank you all for your interest, participation, letters and phone calls.

I look forward to meeting you all on the trail.

Sincerely,

Edie Ambrose



Dr. Ambrose reads from the Lewis and Clark journals. Note Yakir Katz, second from left around the campfire.

TESTIMONIAL

Dear Andy:

A sincere thank you to Clio Tours for getting Ken and I together on the trip to Normandy. You made it possible for questions that have haunted me for 56 years to be answered. Precious memories shall remain forever. I would like to think that newfound friends from all over the world will remain just that.

Sincerely yours,
Paula Guidry