Operation Market Garden – The Battle of Arnhem  
**Wednesday 16th – Monday 21st September 2015**

**Van Der Valk Hotel, Arnhem – West End**  
Set in wooded surroundings, close to Arnhem and the nature conservation area, de Veluwe you will find this lovely hotel. All bedrooms have fully equipped bathrooms with a bath, separate walk in shower, toilet, TV with free Wi-Fi, telephone, safe and balcony or terrace. The ‘de Veluwe’ restaurant serves excellent cuisine with extensive buffet style breakfast and dinner, three course menus with choices. The Sun Terrace and Bar are the perfect spot to relax with that pre dinner drink. There are fitness and wellness facilities, which include sauna, steam cabin, foot bath, lairs to relax on, which are complimentary to hotel guests at set times and for an additional payment you can use the solarium.

**P&O North Sea Ferry**  
The cruise ferry is a wonderful floating hotel with superb on board facilities including en-suite cabins, restaurants, cafes and bars, live entertainment in the Sunset Lounge and The Sky Deck Lounge, Cinema, Casino and a choice of shops for on board retail therapy.

**Wednesday 16th September**  
We depart Nottingham area mid-morning and travel to Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre depicting the story of RAF Woodhall Spa and its squadrons together with Civilian Life in Lincolnshire during WWII. Here there is “Arnhem in Lincolnshire” a collection of memorabilia and photographs until recently housed in Fulbeck Hall, which was General Urquhart’s headquarters for the 1st Airborne Division prior to “Operation Market Garden” – the air and ground attack on the Rhine Bridge at Arnhem. Many of the troops were based in Lincolnshire before going into action at Arnhem by glider and parachute. The battle is the main theme of the display, which includes genuine photographs of those men fighting for the “Bridge Too Far”. A light lunch will be provided for us in the NAFFI.  
We continue to Hull Port where we board our P&O North Sea Ferry sailing to Rotterdam (Europort) this evening. Once settled into your cabins a buffet dinner is served in the restaurant.
Thursday 17th September
On arrival at Rotterdam and after your buffet breakfast again in the restaurant we disembark and travel to Ysselsteyn the only German War Cemetery in the Netherlands, close to the German border. There are 85 soldiers killed from the WWI and almost 3,200 from the WWII that are buried here. For each soldier one cross has been placed with the data written on in white (name, grave location, dates of birth and death, rank – if known). We will be met with a guide to relate the history of this cemetery.

We continue to the British cemetery at Venray. The Netherlands fell to the Germans in May 1940 and were not re-entered by Allied Forces until September 1944. The town of Venray was liberated by Allied Troops in the middle of October 1944 and the burials in the cemetery date from October 1944 – March 1945, there are 692 Commonwealth burials of WWII, 30 of them unidentified and one polish burial.

Our next visit is the National Liberation Museum set in a beautiful area near Nijmegen, Arnhem and near the German border at Groosebeek. Operation Market Garden, the largest airbourne operation in history took place here in September 1944 and Operation Veritable, the Rhineland Offensive, the final road to freedom in Europe started from here in February 1945. The museum brings the historical events of the liberation by the British, American, Canadian and Polish troops back to life. In the museum you live through the period preceding the war, experience the occupation, celebrate the liberation and witness the rebuilding of the Netherlands and Europe after the war. There is a café where light lunches and refreshments are available.

We continue to the nearby Canadian Cemetery with 2,610 Commonwealth burials of World War II and nine war graves of other nationalities. Most buried here are Canadians, many of whom died in the Battle of the Rhineland, when the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division took part in the drive southwards from Nijmegen in February and March 1945. We move on to the Jonkerbos War Cemetery on the out skirts of Nijmegen, which was a frontline town from 17th September 1944 until February 1945. The cemetery was created by No 3 Casualty Clearing Station, it is in a wooded area known as Jonkers Bosch, from which it took its name. Jonkerbos War Cemetery is mainly British and contains 1629 Commonwealth burials of World War II, 99 of them unidentified and 13 war graves of other nationalities.
We now travel to Arnhem and our hotel the Van der Valk and after check in you have time to relax before dinner this evening.

**Friday 18th September**

Today a local guide joins our coach and escorts us relating the story of “Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Arnhem”; at several places we will leave the coach to see the battlefields.

**The programme:** Visit drop zone X Wolfheze 1 Parachute Brigade, Drop zone Y Ede 4 Parachute brigade, advance 1 Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron with action of SS-Panzergrenadier Ausbildungs and Ersatz Battalion 16 Hollow of Brigadier Hackett at Oosterbeek. Lunch will at Oosterbeek at Restaurant Schoonoord (at own cost).  

**After lunch:** St Elisabeths Hospital and hiding place of Major-General Urquhart and battle of Onderlangs/Bovenover on 19th September, Rhine bridge, Old Church at Oosterbeek-Laag, Airborne cemetery at Oosterbeek.  

**Saturday 19th September**

Throughout today many events will be staged and we will be transporting you too them, (scheduled programme and times to be announced at a later date). We will be visiting, when the above times are known, the Airborne Museum “Hartenstein” located in Oosterbeek. The monumental Hartenstein Villa was the headquarters of the British Airborne Division during the Battle of Arnhem 1944. Here, stories of British, Polish and German soldiers come to life. Civilians also play an important role. Come and see the collection of authentic weaponry, documents, footage and photographs. We highly recommend a visit to our underground, Airborne Experience; you will be transported into the very midst of battle. There is a shop selling many books and DVD’s regarding Operation Market Garden and World War II, take time browsing the maps, badges and other souvenirs.

**Sunday 20th September**

Today there will be several commemoration services in Churches in Arnhem, Nijmegen, Oosterbeek and Driel with many events throughout the day. This morning we will attend the Memorial service at Oosterbeek Cemetery and visit the Church at Driel and the Polish Monument. The remainder of the day is free for your own pursuits before we re-join our coach mid- afternoon to travel to Rotterdam (Euro-Port) where we board the P&O North Sea Ferry sailing to Hull Port. Once settled into your cabins a buffet dinner is served in the restaurant this evening.
Monday 21st September
A buffet breakfast will be served on board in the restaurant before arrival at the Port of Hull. We disembark and after passport control travel back to Nottingham area, arriving late morning.

Tour includes: Door-door taxi/minibus pick up, Executive coach travel with hostess/courier service, return P&O North Sea Ferry crossing from Hull – Rotterdam with en-suite two berth (side by side beds) outside cabins, two breakfasts and two dinners buffet style, admissions to all museums listed on the itinerary, services of local Arnhem guide on our coach tour, three nights bed, buffet breakfast and three course choice dinner at Van Der Valk Hotel Arnhem. (Any fees, fares, lunches or refreshments en-route and are not included in the above tour)

Tour cost from: £690.00 per person 2 x sharing twin/double room
Single room supplement hotel and Single cabin supplement: £245.00
Deposit: £60.00 per person

PLEASE NOTE: The above itinerary may be subject to change – terms and conditions are available on request and we recommend that as our clients you take out insurance against any eventuality, medical or otherwise on all our holidays on booking.

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