

*This is a draft to gauge interest. Please give us feedback on your interest in attending or on the format:
lavarennnes@meuse-argonne.com.*

*Il s'agit d'un projet visant à évaluer l'intérêt. Donnez-nous vos commentaires sur votre intérêt pour
participer ou sur le format : lavarennnes@meuse-argonne.com.*



Small-Group Battlefield Walk Series: Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel 20-27 September, 2018

Proposed Schedule:

Thursday, 20 Sept., 2018	St. Mihiel, Eastern (1 st and 26 th Divisions and French)
Friday, 21 Sept.	St. Mihiel, Western (Other U.S. Divisions)

Break for the ABMC Ceremonies at St. Mihiel American Cemetery (22 Sept.) and Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (23 Sept.)

Monday, 24 Sept.	M-A I Corps (77 th , 28 th and 35 th Divisions, initially)
Tuesday, 25 Sept.	M-A V Corps (91 st , 37 th and 79 th Divisions, initially)
Wednesday, 26 Sept.	M-A III Corps (4 th , 80 th and 33 rd Divisions, initially)
Thursday, 27 Sept.	M-A Heights east of Meuse (33 rd and 29 th Divisions, initially)

Proposed Format:

- Tours are offered by long-time battlefield tour guides Randy Gaulke and Markus Klauer.
- Group size is limited to twelve participants to maximize participation.
 - Small group size also makes it easier to travel where a bus cannot go.
- Each day covers a specific Army Corps: Sign up for 1 day, multiple days, or every day.
- Each day will consist of two portions—morning and afternoon: Sign up for 1 or for both.

- After an intelligence briefing, the morning portion will cover key monuments and sites by car—aka “the monument tour.”
- The afternoon portion will include in-depth walk(s) in the field focused on taking participants to little-known remains of the battlefields—aka “the hike.”
 - The afternoon portion is designed for individuals fit enough for moderate walking for five hours with rest breaks—so start to get in shape today.
 - The distance travelled will likely be 8 km (about 5 miles); but it will include walking over uneven terrain at times.
- The area covered will begin at the jump-off lines and run to the Hindenburg Line.
- To the extent possible, the trip can be modified to cover sites where an ancestor fought.
- The tour will begin every morning at the Hotel du Commerce in Aubréville, France.
 - Participants are responsible for booking their own transportation and lodging.
 - Staying at the Hotel du Commerce is recommended, but not required.
 - Randy and Markus can suggest alternatives.

Proposed Pricing and Payment Details:

€75 per person per full day; €45 per half day

Minimum of four participants required on each tour portion.

Deposit and payment details forthcoming.

Sign-up:		Am Only	PM Only	Both
		€45	€45	€75
Thursday, 20 Sept., 2018	SM Eastern	_____	_____	_____
Friday, 21 Sept.	SM Western	_____	_____	_____
Monday, 24 Sept.	M-A I Corps	_____	_____	_____
Tuesday, 25 Sept.	M-A V Corps	_____	_____	_____
Wednesday, 26 Sept.	M-A III Corps	_____	_____	_____
Thursday, 27 Sept.	M-A Heights	_____	_____	_____

About Randy and Markus and the Tour Structure:

- Both Markus and Randy have been touring the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel battlefields for years: Markus since 1983 and Randy since 1994—the year he met Markus.
- Markus has self-published five books on the battlefields and he has led countless large and small group tours of the battlefields. He is a Bundeswehr Officer and speaks

German, English and French fluently.

(http://www.weltkriegsbuch.de/pages/ueber_mich.htm)

- Randy maintains a website and Facebook Group on the Meuse-Argonne. In 2017 he lived in France for six months, studying the battlefields and working as a freelance tour guide. He speaks, English and German fluently, and his French continues to improve. (<http://meuse-argonne.com/>)
- **Both guides agree that this region of France offers some of the best-preserved battlefields of WW1 AND both guides have a passion to share their knowledge with others OUT IN THE FIELD.**

Feedback from a few of Randy's 2017 Tour Customers:

- "Oh what a fantastic host. I came here expecting to get a better understanding of the Meuse-Argonne battle and oh how you did surpass yourself. I have travelled the Western Front for 35 years and I know how long it takes to find these places and you have done it! I am always looking for interesting things and new things to spur my interest and you have certainly done that. You gave me a good appreciation in two days, but as you would say, there is so much more." Rikki Williams, UK
- "...At the end of July 2017 Randy took me to many of those places [described in William Walker's "Betrayal at Little Gibraltar"] mentioned in the book and gave me a first hand account of what happened during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. We spent a good deal of time going through the field, forests and trenches (as well as a German bunker) which really brought to life what had happened during this most important time during WW1. I certainly have the "bug" when it comes to WWI and WWII history and while I have read quite a bit over the years, nothing compares to actually going to where the battles happened. Experiencing the Meuse-Argonne landscape (along with Randy's photos of then and now) had me realize on a deeper level how grateful I am for all those men who fought in WWI. I'm also grateful to Randy as he stepped out in faith and reorganized his (and his family's) life to make it possible for people like me that have an interest in WWI and/or know more about where family members have served..." Judy Karkhoff, Jacksonville, Florida.
- Randy's note: I have known Markus Klauer since 1994. We have explored the battlefields together numerous times, and I have seen him lead groups in German, French and English. He has a very strong understanding of both sides of this conflict. Having the advantage of living in Lille, France, he also knows the terrain very well. In short, I can't think of a better partner to introduce Americans to the region!