

OPERATION CARTWHEEL

30 JUNE – 7 OCT 1943

“BREAKING THE BISMARCK BARRIER”

ASK ABOUT PRE & POST TOURS WHICH VARY BY YEAR

“It is right to be taught even
by your enemy.”
Ovid, *Metamorphosis*, 8 CE

SunBrew

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Welkam to PT 109

PT 109's encounter with IJN *Amagiri* on 1 Aug 1943 may be the most famous small-craft engagement in naval history. When asked how he had become a hero, Kennedy replied laconically, "It was involuntary. They sank my boat." JFK Presidential Library



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NEW GEORGIA 81ST ANNIVERSARY
12 AUGUST TO 15 AUGUST 2024



“The purpose of our move was to establish an airfield at Munda. Munda was blocking our path to Rabaul ... Rabaul was the keystone to Japanese defeat in the southern Pacific.” Admiral “Bull” Halsey

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS NEW GEORGIA CAMPAIGN BATTLEFIELD POST-TOUR

DATES: 12 AUGUST – 15 AUGUST 2024
(Final dates depend on your departure/return dates to FIJI)

TOUR GUIDE(S): Your tour guide(s) are some of the most knowledgeable subject matter experts (SME) on the Guadalcanal Campaign and have years of experience in the Solomon Islands. They have been walking the battlefield and doing extensive research and conducted interviews with veterans of the campaign. Their knowledge is not limited to history and

THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN IS TOUR SAFETY!

PRE & POST TOURS: To be announced and covered in a separate brochure. Pre and Post-Tours vary from year to year and might include one or more of the following TARAWA, MUNDA, VANUATU and NOUMEA (dependent on number of participants).

MAIN TOUR: This tour (GUADALCANAL) is set up as an immersion battlefield study and focuses on group participation. There is walking and hiking involved, but as previously stated SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT. Those who elect not to participate in all activities will be able to remain with the vehicle in a safe area with local security.

SCHEDULE AND DAILY EVENTS

The exact schedule depends on the participant's selection of air travel, and daily events can be modified at the tour leader's discretion due to weather conditions or safety constraints.

**DUE TO FLIGHT/ SCHEDULING CHANGES CONSULT TOUR GUIDE
BEFORE FINALIZING ALL FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

Day 1: Arrive from Honiara at Munda. Familiarisation with Barney Paulsen – WWII tour guide. Dinner.

Day 2: Breakfast. Visit the sites of the US advance camps in Rendova Harbour. Visit the site of the P.T. boat base at Lumbaria, Boat trip to Honavisu / Sasavele Passage where the US forces passed through en route to New Georgia Island. Follow the path of the US forces towards the Japanese built Munda Airstrip. Visit Sasavele to view WW2 remains and the American built road. Visit Zangana where the US forces first landed on New Georgia. (Short walks will be included in this program). Dinner.

Day 3: Breakfast. Travel the Munda Trail between Zangana and Ilangana. Visit WW2 sites around Munda. Visit Horseshoe and Bartley Ridges. Visit Munda Airstrip. Visit WW2 “Dump” with equipment and machinery from the war and WW2 Museum collections. Visit Site of the American cemetery. Visit Kindu Guns. (Short walks will be included in this program). Dinner

Day 4: Breakfast. Boat tour to Ondongo Airstrip. Visits to Japanese sites at Baeroko and Enoghae with its anti-naval guns, via Kula Gulf and Kolombangara. Visit the Stuart Tank on Kohinggo Island. (Short walks will be included in this program). Dinner.

Day 5: Breakfast. Boat trip to Gizo via Blakett Strait. Visit Kennedy Island. Return via Ferguson Passage, site of the sinking of PT 109. Continue through VonaVona Lagoon to Skull Island. (Short walks will be included in this program). Dinner.

Day 6: Breakfast. A ½ day land-based tour to revisit any Munda sites. Return flight to Honiara in the afternoon.
END OF MUNDA POST-TOUR.

COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

1: A small group tour like this is designed around a “staff ride” concept, and as such is designed to insure maximum interaction of tour participants and the tour guide(s).

2: The tour is set up for 12 participants. It can expand up to 24, but that entails coordination for another tour guide, another vehicle and another boat plus an additional hotel. So it's 12 or less or 24 or less depending on actual number of participants. This tour is not a traditional battlefield tour. Having said that, there is no substitute for walking the terrain. Therefore there will be at a minimum moderate walking on the tour. Those unable to walk will remain with the safety vehicle and local security.

3: Participants should expect to be “in the field” for eight hours a day. Lunch is “on the run” to conserve time.

4: Breakfast is generally included in the cost of the lodging.

PRICING AND PAYMENTS: All tour costs and payments are handled through Military Historical Tours (MHT), 13198 Centerpointe Way, Suite 202, Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285 (703) 590-1295. They provide the breakdown for all tour aspects.

TOUR GUIDE DOES NOT ENGAGE IN FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OR AIR SCHEDULING.

LODGING: Hotel(s) will be selected long before departure and will be selected based on price and comfort.

MEDICAL: Obtain a clean bill of health from your doctor before embarkation day. Guadalcanal is not the place you want a medical emergency. The tour guides can only stop the bleeding and start the breathing, treat for shock and get you to the local hospital.

INSURANCE, REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS: Check with MHT.

FORMAT: The tour is one tour designed for twelve participants, not twelve tours designed for one participant. Remember, you can always find a cheaper tour, but you can't find a better one, even if you pay three times the price.

POINT OF CONTACT (POC): Tour Guide, Joe Mueller (818) 815-8331; jnm21213@yahoo.com.



MHT patrons visit the M3 Stuart tank on Kohinggo Island. The 13,800 M3s built saw action extensively throughout all Allied operational theaters, from North Africa in 1942 to the Pacific in 1945.

The New Georgia Campaign was a series of land and naval battles fought in the Central Solomon Islands. It was part of OPERATION CARTWHEEL (the reduction of Rabaul). The New Georgia Campaign was a hard fought jungle war. The main fighting took place on New Georgia island itself, although significant actions also took place around the island chain throughout the campaign. Stubborn defense by the Japanese delayed the US advance on Munda and the Japanese mounted a strong counterattack before US force eventually captured Munda Point in early August. The campaign began on 30 June 1943, when US troops carried out landings in the Kula Gulf, in the north of New Georgia island, and around the Munda area on the western coast. In addition, smaller landings were undertaken at Viru Harbor on the southern coast of the island, Wickham Anchorage on Vangunu Island, and on Rendova. In the north, several actions were fought around Enogai and Bairoko throughout July, while in the west, the main US objective was the Japanese airfield on Munda Point.



COL Joe Mueller, USMC (Ret.) is one of the most knowledgeable subject matter expert on the New Georgial Campaign and has years of experience in the Solomon Islands. For 20+ years, he has been walking the battlefield, doing extensive research, and conducting interviews with campaign veterans of the campaign. His knowledge is not limited to history.

HIS PRIMARY CONCERN IS YOUR SAFETY!

Joe Mueller (818) 815-8331; jnm21213@yahoo.com.

TOPICS COVERED

- * Munda Trail, Munda and Ondongo Airstrips
- * WW2 “Dump” and Museum
- * American Cemetery
- * Japanese guns at Baeroko, Enogahae and Kindu
- * Kula Gulf and Kolombangara
- * M3 Stuart Tank on Kohinggo Is.
- * Gizo via Blackett Strait to Kennedy Is.
- * Return via Ferguson Passage, site of the sinking of PT 109

Munda Tour Price:	\$2,895
Based on Double Occupancy (BoDO)	
Single Room Supplement:	POR
Post-Tour Tarawa Tour Price:	POR
Post-Tour Single Supplement:	POR

Tour Price Includes:

- * All breakfasts, taxes, & tips are included (No hidden costs!)
- * 3-Star (Pacific Island) Hotel Accommodations
 - * Air-conditioned motorcoach
- * Trip Kit: tour ball cap, bag tags & name badge
- * MHT “Field Book” information map packet
- * All Admission fees to all sites, museums, and special attractions listed
- * Services of experienced MHT Tour Leaders & English-speaking local guides



AIR NOT INCLUDED OPTIONAL DISCOUNT AIRFARE AVAILABLE: MHT can book a round trip from your home city to Guadalcanal via MHT’s Airline Partners and save you domestic baggage fees! MHT’s discount airfare is available upon request. A Business Class upgrade is also available upon request.