

SSUSA's 2025 Softball/WWII Tour



June 12-24, 2025

Paris, Normandy & Verdun, France – Battle of the Bulge - Luxembourg

Join Senior Softball USA on a very special European Tour in June 2025 that includes both softball games and an in-depth tour of World War II from Normandy to the Nazi surrender room, with insights from one of the foremost European WWII experts.

The 36th Annual SSUSA International Tour, from June 12-24, 2025, features not only a 2-day City of Lights Championships in Paris tournament against French teams, but also games against teams in the tiny country of Luxembourg.

After 5 days in Paris, one of the top experts on World War II, Dennis Ross, will take the group to the beaches of Normandy, then to Compeigne and the Armistice carriage, where Germany surrendered in World War I – and where the French surrendered to the Hitler. From there it's on to Reims, where the Germans surrendered in 1945 and to Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge.

Don't miss this tour, which offers not only the opportunity to meet and play with players from other countries, but a unique insight into World War II.

Thursday, June 12 (D)

USA - Charles De Gaulle Airport - Paris

Upon arrival to Charles De Gaulle International Airport (CDG) and clearing customs (see booking form for more information regarding customs), please make your way to the Hotel Mercure Philharmonie. Located in Paris, this hotel is near many of Paris' most beloved attractions, including the Paris Philharmonic orchestra as the name suggests.

The Welcome Dinner for players and companions will be hosted at the hotel's restaurant and bar, L'Entrepôt (photo right). The restaurant and its chef, William Cottier, was recently featured in Le Monde as one of Paris' top eateries of French cuisine.



Hotel: Mercure Philharmonie - 216 Av. Jean Jaurès, 75019 Paris, France (5 nights)

Friday, June 13 (B, D)

Complexe Didier Pironi - Paris

After breakfast at our hotel, you'll have time to relax and explore.

This afternoon, our motorcoach will take us to the nearby softball fields at Didier Pironi Complex for softball practice in preparation for the two-day City of Lights Championships on Saturday and Sunday.



Paris earned the nickname "the City of Lights" for its very early and extensive use of street lighting in the mid-1600s for crime prevention, long before most European cities had public street lighting.

After practice, we'll transport back to our hotel where dinner will be provided.

Hotel: Mercure Philharmonie - 216 Av. Jean Jaurès, 75019 Paris, France

Saturday, June 14 (B)

Complexe Didier Pironi - Paris

LET THEM PLAY SOFTBALL! Saturday kicks off the first half of the City of Lights Championships in the Limeil-Brevannes community of Paris. After breakfast at our hotel, our motorcoach will take us to the fields. Join the opportunity to play against 2-3 local Parisian teams and mingle with their players.

After the games, our motorcoach will take us back to our hotel.



Hotel: Mercure Philharmonie - 216 Av. Jean Jaurès, 75019 Paris, France

Sunday, June 15 (B)

Complexe Didier Pironi - Paris

Sunday is the final day of the City of Lights Championships.

After the games conclude, there will be an awards ceremony and a chance to exchange gifts and contact information with the French players.

Our motorcoach will transport us back to our hotel. The rest of the night is yours to enjoy!



Hotel: Mercure Philharmonie - 216 Av. Jean Jaurès, 75019 Paris, France

Monday, June 16 (B, D)

Paris

After breakfast, we will depart for an extensive guided city tour of Paris, including some of the most importance historical sites of Paris. You'll be introduced the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, the Opera House, Napoleon's Tomb and our tour ends with a one and a half hour River Seine Cruise. The entire tour will take about 7 hours.



River Seine

Upon completing the tour and cruise, our motorcoach will drop us back off at the hotel in the late afternoon where a group dinner will be served at our hotel.

Hotel: Mercure Philharmonie - 216 Av. Jean Jaurès, 75019 Paris, France (last night)

Tuesday, June 17 (B, D)

Paris – Normandy - Caen

After breakfast, we check-out of our hotel and board our motorcoach to Normandy, the site of the famous WWII Allied Forces coastal invasion of Western Europe on June 6, 1944 (D-Day), marking the opening operations of Operation Overload.

We first arrive at the beach heads in which British and Canadian forces were charged with taking: Sword, Juno and Gold, respectively.

The tour will also include Pegasus Bridge. American and British forces on D-Day parachuted down near the bridge to secure it from the Germans, which crippled an anticipated German counterattack. The Bridge was renamed after the invasion to honor the allied forces who took the bridge; British airmen wore a shoulder emblem which included an image of a Pegasus.

Our motorcoach will then continue the nearby city of Caen and our hotel where a group dinner is arranged.

Hotel: Novotel Cote de Nacre Caen - 155 Rue de la Délivrante, 14000 Caen (2 nights)



American Forces invading the beaches of Normandy.

Wednesday, June 18 (B, D)

Caen – Normandy - Caen

After breakfast, we head back to Normandy to visit the American landing beaches of Utah and Omaha. Omaha resulted in the most allied casualties out of the 5 beaches, due to its infamous high cliffs.

Located on Omaha Beach are St. Mere Eglise, La Piere and St. Laurent American Military Cemeteries with overlook the shores.

After the tour of the beaches and cemeteries, we return to our hotel in Caen where a dinner at our hotel is prepared for the group. The rest of the night is yours.



German Gun Battery Bunder on Normandy Cliffs.

Hotel: Novotel Cote de Nacre Caen - 155 Rue de la Délivrante, 14000 Caen

Thursday, June 19 (B, D)

Caen – Compeigne – Reims

After breakfast, we check-out of our hotel and make our way to Compeigne, France to visit the historic Armistice Carriage and museum. This is where the Armistice of 1918 was signed to cease all combat for WWI on November 11, 1918. The same carriage was also used by Hitler to officially accept the surrender of France's government in 1940.

From Compeigne, we travel to Reims. Reims where Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered on May 7 (May 8th in the US), 1945. We visit the surrender room, which has remained unchanged since 1945 and the surrender museum. VE or Victory in Europe Day is celebrated every year on May 8.

Afterwards, we will check-in at our Reims hotel where a group dinner will be prepared.

Hotel: Hotel Continental Reims – 93 Pl. Drouet d'Erlon, 51100 Reims, France (1 night)

Friday, June 20 (B, D)

Reims – Verdun – Luxembourg

After breakfast in our hotel and checking-out, we depart for Verdun for a short tour of the WWI battlefield.

The Battle of Verdun was one of the war's bloodiest, most ferocious and longest battles, lasting from February 1916 to December of the same year. French casualties amounted to about 400,000, Germany casualties about 350,000 while about 300,000 total were killed. Ultimately, the French were able to repel the major German offensive.



Verdun Ossuary – burial site of the soldiers killed in the Battle of Verdun.

After Verdun, we cross over into the tiny country of Luxembourg to check-in to our hotel. Dinner will be provided at our hotel.

Hotel: Alvisse Parc - 120 Rte d'Echternach, 1453 Dommeldange Luxembourg (4 nights)

Saturday, June 21 (B, D)

Luxembourg – Bastogne/Ardennes – Luxembourg

After breakfast at our hotel, we travel north to the Bastogne area near neighboring Belgium for a tour. Bastogne is the site of the famous Battle of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Bulge was a major German offensive during WWII. It took place from December 16, 1944, to January 25, 1945 in the Ardennes region between Belgium and Luxembourg. The Germans aimed to split the Allied Forces and prevent an invasion of Germany. The “bulge” refers to the wedge that the Germans drove into the Allied lines. The offensive failed and the Allies continued their march towards Nazi Germany.

We will return to our hotel by early evening where dinner will be provided.



Luxembourg City and Neumunster Abby on the Alzette River.

Hotel: Alvisse Parc - 120 Rte d'Echternach, 1453 Dommeldange Luxembourg

Sunday, June 22 (B)

Luxembourg

After breakfast at our hotel, we travel to local softball fields for a full day tournament: the Green Heart of Europe Championships!

Play against local a Luxembourg ball club.

After the games, a motorcoach takes us back to our hotel.

Hotel: Alvisse Parc - 120 Rte d'Echternach, 1453 Dommeldange Luxembourg



Monday, June 23 (B, D)

Luxembourg



After breakfast at our hotel, we meet our local guide for a city tour of Luxembourg, finishing at the American Military Cemetery.

The Luxembourg American Military Cemetery (photo left) is the final resting place for 5,070 soldiers, most of whom were killed during the Battle of the Bulge and crossing the Rhine River into the heart of Germany in WWII. It is also the

resting place of General George S. Patton and members of the 101st Airborne, featured in HBO's Band of Brothers mini-series.

After the tour, we return to our hotel for our Farewell/Award Dinner.

Hotel: Alvisse Parc - 120 Rte d'Echternach, 1453 Dommeldange Luxembourg

Tuesday, June 24 (B)

Luxembourg – LUX - USA

After breakfast in the hotel, there will be a group motorcoach transportation to the Luxembourg Airport for your convenience.

Tour Highlights:

- Welcome Dinner.
- 5 and 4-star hotels and accommodations.
- Motorcoach and other transportation as listed.
- 12 breakfasts, and 9 dinners as listed.
- Half day Softball Practice in Paris as listed.
- 2-day Paris "City of Lights Championships" Tournament as listed.
- 1-day Luxembourg "Green Heart of Europe Championships" Tournament as listed.
- USA uniforms for all players and guest jerseys for all guests or spouses.
- 1-Hour River Seine Cruise in Paris.
- 1 and a half days tour of the Normandy Beach landing areas.
- Visit Pegasus Bridge and museum.
- Visit Omaha & Utah Beaches.
- Visit the Airborne Museum in St. Mere Eglise.
- Visit Omaha's St. Laurent American Military Cemetery.
- Visit Compeigne Armistice Museum and Rail Carriage.
- Visit Reims Surrender room and museum.
- Tour of the Verdun WWI Battlefield area.
- Full day tour of Bastogne.
- Visit the Bastogne "Nuts" museum and war rooms.
- Visit Foy and the trenches of the 101st Airborne/Band of Brothers.
- Half day city tour of Luxembourg City.
- Visit General Patton's grave in the Luxembourg American Military Cemetery.
- Farewell Dinner.
- Transport to airport for departure flights as listed.

What's not included:

- Round-trip airfare to Paris and back to the USA.
- All items of a personal nature: i.e., telephone calls, laundry, pay TV, hotel mini bars, etc.
- All meals not specified in the itinerary.
- All entrances to museums, art galleries, etc. not specified in the itinerary.
- All private excursions not specified in the itinerary.
- Any public transport, taxi, local bus or motorcoach, ferry, rail or flights not specified in the itinerary.
- Luggage handling at airports and hotels.
- Travel insurance (medical, travel delays and lost baggage).
- Tipping (tips for tour guides and motorcoach drivers are included).
- Currency exchange supplement, (if required).
- Any required COVID tests to enter or leave Europe.

For more information, email Nic Francois at: nic@seniorsoftball.com.

We look forward to seeing you on the trip!