



Photo: Jaleesa Dorlsen

FLETCHER HOTELS



Liberation
ROUTE
EUROPE



Photo: Maaikje van Helmond

Reservations can be made via www.fletcher.nl/liberation

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Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands, is known for its beautiful nature with hills and forests. However it is also one of the heaviest damaged cities during the Second World War. No wonder the history of WWII in this region is still very alive.

The collaboration between Fletcher Hotels, the National Liberation Museum 1944-1945, Gilde Nijmegen, Sunset March, Grenzland-Draisine and Liberation Tour let you experience the impressive history in a unique and cross-border way. Every location or activity has its own story which we like to share with you. Will you be visiting the highlights in the region with our basic package or opt for an extensive experience with the royal package? The choice is yours! Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands, is known for its beautiful nature with hills and forests. However it is also one of the heaviest damaged cities during the Second World War. No wonder the history of WWII in this region is still very alive.

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1 Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant Erica****



Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant Erica can be found right in the centre of the woods in Gelderland. We are located in the village of Berg en Dal, just a few kilometres from Nijmegen, the oldest city of the Netherlands, and the German city of Kranenburg. The surrounding area has more to offer than you might expect at first glance.

The hotel, originally a manor, has 60 traditional rooms in which you can completely unwind. There is a bar and an excellent à la carte restaurant in which you can sample local food and drinks. Looking for ultimate relaxation? Take a dip in our indoor pool or let yourself go completely in the comforting warmth of our sauna. Do you prefer more active pursuits? The nearby tennis court is available for your own leisure.

Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant Erica has a special connection with the WWII history. In front of the entrance you will find a listening spot. This listening spot has been realized due to the input of Hotel Manager Marcel Hoogenboom, whose grandfather participated in the Dutch resistance group 'van Beest' in Middelburg. In the beginning of August 1942 his grandfather was betrayed by his own neighbour. This resulted in his transportation and him staying in several concentration camps. He lived to experience the liberation, but unfortunately died before he got to come home.

His grandson Marcel Hoogenboom honours the work of his grandfather by committing himself to the Liberation Route. On request, a personal tour is available.

Facilities

- 60 quiet hotel rooms
- Cozy à la carte restaurant
- Rural location near Nijmegen and the German border
- Indoor swimming pool and sauna
- Bar and lounge with pool/billiard table
- Several outdoor seating areas and playground
- Free Wi-Fi and parking
- Wheelchair accessible



Leendert Hoogenboom

2 Fletcher Parkhotel Val Monte****



In the village of Berg en Dal, near the bustling city of Nijmegen and close to the German city of Kranenburg, you will find Fletcher Parkhotel Val Monte. It is surrounded by hills, forests and has a magnificent view over the Ooijpolders nature reserve in Gelderland. Our 4-star hotel offers numerous facilities to make your stay a relaxing one. Enjoy our à la carte restaurant, bar, brasserie, terrace and large garden. Looking for ultimate relaxation? Take a dip in our indoor pool and then visit our beauty and massage parlour. Or if you would prefer, walk down to our recreation room and try a game of pool, snooker, table tennis and table football.

Until 17th September 1944 the van Aalst family, the inhabitants of the former Villa Val Monte, didn't notice much of the war. On this day, the beginning of Operation Market Garden, the allies dropped thousands of parachutists over Groesbeek. That same day they managed to reach Val Monte. After eighteen days they descended to the village of Beek, but because of the strong German opposition they soon returned. The inhabitants of Val Monte helped the injured soldiers carry their equipment. Due to heavy grenade fire in November 1944, the village of Berg and Dal was evacuated. When the van Aalst family returned to acquire some of their belongings, it turned out the Allied soldiers were stationed in Val Monte. They made a lot of havoc: all the windows were broken, small tanks were parked in the orangery and the furniture was partly burned and thrown out of the window.

In May 1945, a section of the mining service took over in Val Monte. Lieutenant P. Wertheim set up the salon in Val Monte as a demonstration room, where new employees learned how to work safely. Because third parties could take a closer look, the legend arose that Val Monte was housing a mining museum.

On 5th December 1946, Val Monte got a new purpose when the Van Vliet family established Parkhotel Val Monte. Since that period, the hotel has grown to the hotel it is now. However, one can still find a large piece of history in the authentic details in the property there.

Facilities

- 126 comfortable hotel rooms
- Pleasant à la carte restaurant
- Friendly bar and terrace
- Rural location near Nijmegen and the German border
- Indoor swimming pool
- Beauty and massage salon
- Recreation room with pool/billiards, table tennis and foosball, etc.
- Panoramic view of Ooijpolders from the terrace
- Free Wi-Fi and parking
- Wheelchair accessible

3 Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant De Gelderse Poort***



In one of the greenest villages of the Netherlands, Gelderland Ooij, you will find 3-star Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant De Gelderse Poort. Ooij is located in a nature reservation with major cities in the area, such as Nijmegen and Kranenburg (Germany). With the combination of nature and urban life, this hotel has an ideal location for an unforgettable stay.

Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant De Gelderse Poort is a cozy hotel where you can relax and enjoy the facilities the hotel has to offer. Dine in its à la carte restaurant or on its terrace at sunny weather. Spend a few moments on the hotel's rooftop terrace, which offers a magnificent view of the surroundings.

The Ooijpolder plays a modest but horrifying part in the Second World War. After conquering the Nijmegen bridge over the Waal/river by the Allies in September 1944, a German unit - mainly aged 16-17 year old - withdrew in the Ooijpolder. A horrible trench war arose near the Thornsche mill. The Germans blew up the dike in January 1945 to submerge the area. One month later however their resistance was broken. Due to low water levels in spring, dozens of German bodies appeared. To this day on rumours continue that at least one hundred soldiers are still buried in the pastures.

One week after the liberation of Nijmegen, a last war raid took place in the Ooijpolder. A German bomber was hit by the Allied Liberation Army. In his attempt to reach his home base in Germany, the pilot dropped his bomb load over the Ooijpolder. A local cafe was completely destroyed and 25 people lost their lives. A monument to commemorate this tragedy is within walking distance of the hotel.

Facilities

- 43 spacious threshold-free hotel rooms
- Attractive à la carte restaurant
- Cozy outdoor seating area
- Welcoming lounge with bar
- Near nature reserve Millingerwaard and the German border
- Entire hotel suitable for the disabled
- Free Wi-Fi and parking

LIBERATION EXAMPLE ARRANGEMENT



2-DAY LIBERATION PACKAGE BASIC

- 1 overnight including half board
- 1 three course meal
- Guided Liberation Nijmegen walk
- Entrance National Liberation Museum 1944-1945
- Sunset March

3-DAY LIBERATION PACKAGE BASIC

- 2 overnights including half board
- 1 three course meal
- Guided Liberation Nijmegen walk
- Entrance National Liberation Museum 1944-1945
- Sunset March

Sunset March



Photo: Jaleesa Derksen



Photo: Maaike van Helmond

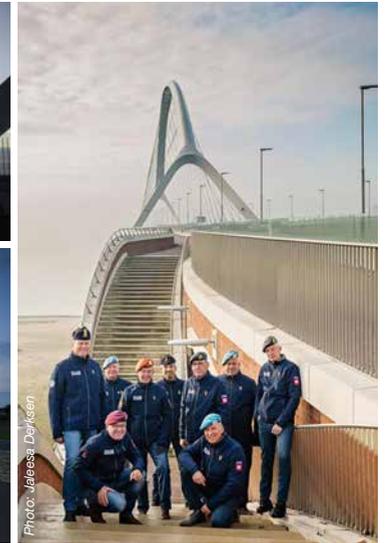


Photo: Jaleesa Derksen



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The Sunset March is a tribute to the Allied soldiers who fought for the liberation of the Netherlands. A new bridge, 'the Crossing' ['De Oversteek'], was recently built in Nijmegen, and has already been awarded several prizes for its architecture and construction. The Crossing has been erected very close to the site where soldiers of the US 82nd Airborne Division crossed the River Waal on September 20, 1944. The Waal Crossing, which this action is known as, cost 48 soldiers their lives.

The bridge is lit by a special light installation. Along the bridge are 48 pairs of street lights, Lights Crossing, in commemoration of those who lost their lives. At twilight, the streetlights are illuminated one pair at a time, at the pace of a slow march.

The Sunset March is performed every evening by a veteran, starting when the first pair of lights are being lit, then continuing at the pace at which the lights are illuminated. This tribute is gaining in popularity and these veterans are often joined by interested members of the public.

Join the Sunset March to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice for OUR freedom.

Come and walk with us!

Gilde Nijmegen



Like confetti falling from the heaven. That is what it looked like when a thousands of paratroopers were dropped from numerous airplanes over the fields of the village of Groesbeek.

Three attacks from the East and South didn't succeed. Many thousands of Allied solders lost their lives during this operation. On German side there were as many casualties to be accounted for.

On September 20th the Allied soldiers decided to cross the river to attack the German soldiers as well from the South- as from the North at the same time. An historical heroic action. In 26 canvas boats they crossed the river. 48 soldiers didn't make the crossing.

The walk goes along the places where the fighting took place and shows you the remaining buildings and other places, including a visit of a real German bunker. In two hours you can hear and see what happened in this part of the country and how the citizens had to survive all of this.

Let us guide you!

National Liberation Museum 1944-1945



From the Second World War history a modern museum was built, situated between hills and woods and located in one of the most beautiful areas of the Netherlands. South-east of Nijmegen and Arnhem, history is brought back to life again at the National Liberation Museum 1944-1945. Operation Market Garden, the largest airborne 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 American, British, Canadian and Polish troops back to life. In this 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. Fragrances, interactive presentations, diorama's, models, original films and sound fragments captivantly depict the liberation. The museum shows to both young and old the current value and importance of democracy, freedom and human rights.

Experience Freedom!

Grenzland-Draisine



The Grenzland-Draisine is a unique cross-border experience on the old railway to freedom between Groesbeek and Kleve.

In the year of 1842 Karl Drais invented a vehicle on rails with mechanical foot drive, which is later called 'Draisine' or in English 'cycling'. Nowadays, recreators between Kleve, Kranenburg and Groesbeek can roll over the old railway line by lorry, just like on a bicycle. Steering is not necessary, so you can enjoy the beautiful landscape of the region as you go. Discover with the 'bike lorry' for 4 people or a 'club lorry' for 14 people the German-Dutch border region from a completely different perspective.

The cross-border lorry trip is about 5.5 km long and runs between Groesbeek and Kranenburg. You reach the German border, almost unnoticed, after about 2.5 km. The journey continues through the characteristic landscape of the Niederrhein region. Enjoy, while crossing the border the unique view over the German-Dutch border region. Discover the historical events surrounding Operation Market Garden, the evacuation of the Kranenburg inhabitants in October 1944 and the flood areas of the village in February 1945.

Liberation Tour



In 2013, I, Bert Eikelenboom, started the company Liberation Tour. The tour you are going to enjoy is not only great fun, but it is also very informative. As an Accredited Guide (no: 79) from the Guild of Battlefield Guides I completely endorse the motto of the guild; 'Investigate, Develop and Improve the Understanding and Implementation of Battlefield Guidance'. With this tour I take you back to the last war year where Groesbeek was hit so hard.

During the tour with an Authentic World War 2 vehicle, you will drive past the landing fields operated by General Gavin and his men during Operation Market Garden. You will be sitting on the couches of a replica WACO, you will see concrete bombs and monuments and find out the reason why the Canadian Ere Cemetery was built in Groesbeek. Finally you will look out over the viewpoint used

by General Horrocks during Veritable which was the start of the liberation of the Netherlands.

The movements of the Dodge, the engine's smell, the songs of the war, the soundtrack and original video footage will guarantee you to have a complete experience and will give a good impression of the fierce battle that has taken place. The impact on the population will also be clear during the tour.

I look forward to your arrival!

Liberation Route Europe



Liberation Route Europe lets you experience what has happened during the final stage of World War II. The memory route runs through eight countries and is fully visible in the Nijmegen region. Here you will find various listening spots, each featuring a personal story. Like the 6-year-old, who saw parachutists in September 1944, she ran to her mother and shouted, “God is throwing people out of heaven”. Her mother replied, “Do not worry my child, it’s only confetti.”

The National Liberation Museum 1944-1945 in Groesbeek has been a partner since the establishment of Liberation Route Europe. They are only one of many partnerships. For example, Liberation Route requests attention for the Sunset March in Nijmegen and a close connection has been established with Fletcher Hotels.

Since 2016, it is possible to get a preview of the Liberation Route in Gelderland in Virtual Reality. On the website www.lre-thetour.nl you can download this free application and find an explanation on how to use it. This app will take you on a virtual journey along Arnhem, Nijmegen and the drop zone of the Allies on the Ginkelse Heide.

For a full overview, visit www.liberationroute.com. Or download the free Liberation Route Europe app.

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