



# PASSENGER ITINERARY

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## NORTH AFRICA TOUR

Fri 12 October - Tues 06 Nov 2012  
25 nights / 26 days

**PYRAMIDS • ANCIENT RUINS • COLOURFUL BAZAARS • NZ WWII WAR HISTORY •  
FAMOUS BATTLEFIELDS • AMAZING ARCHITECTURE • FABULOUS SHOPPING •  
EXOTIC CUISINE • EXPERIENCES OF A LIFETIME**

A special tour for those who've always wanted to travel the path of our WWII NZ soldiers - our Fathers, our brothers, our uncles... Experience modern day North Africa with all its spice, sights, markets and amazing experiences through a modern day lens. Absorb the magic of the desert and stand on soil in some of the most famous battlefields where our brave men fought.



This tour will follow the route of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ Expeditionary Force (2 NZEF) from the battle of El Alamein on 23 Oct 1942 to the final German surrender in Tunisia on 13 May 1943.

Explorations will be made of significant NZEF battlefields and visits will be made to Commonwealth War Cemeteries of relevance to NZ. The Kiwi Division gained the distinction of being the only division to reach their target on the opening night of El Alamein.

"With gratitude for the past and confidence in the future we range ourselves without fear beside Britain. Where Britain goes, we go; where she stands, we stand." *Michael Joseph Savage, PM, 05 Sept 1939. NZ Declares War.*

Visit such battles sites as **Alam Halfa, Ruwesait Ridge** (where Sgt Keith Elliott and Charles Upham both won the Victoria Cross), **Qattara Track** and **Miterayia Ridge, Mersa Matruh, Minqar Qaim, Sidi Aziez, Belhamed, Point 175, The Blockhouse, Sidi Rezegh, Tobruk, Derna, Benghazi, Tripoli, Tebaga Gap** (where Lt Kiwa Ngarimu won his VC), **Medenine, Enfidaville, Takrouna** (where L. Sergeant Manahi was denied his VC) and much more.

Tour participants will be invited to request visits to places of personal relevance to themselves and their family and, where possible, this will be included. (See Booking and Registration Form).

### ITINERARY

**Day 1** Frid 12 Oct 2012

Depart CHCH on Emirates EK 419 at 1655 (4.55pm) via Sydney and Bangkok.

Arrive Dubai 0545 (5.15am) on morning of Sat 13 Oct. (3½ hrs stopover). Change planes here.

**Day 2** Sat 13 Oct 2012

Depart Dubai at 0850 (8.50am) for Cairo, Flight EK 927, arriving at 1040 (10.40am). (*Flight time is 3 hrs 50mins*). Transfer to Hotel with rest of the day free. Rest of day free. Dinner this evening will be at the hotel with our host and Battlefields tour guide, Steve Hamilton, outlining the tour details and the programme for the next couple of days.

**Day 3** Sun 14 Oct 2012

Local tours of Cairo area organized by Steve Hamilton. O/N Cairo (B L D)

**Day 4** Mon 15 Oct 2012

Local tours of Cairo area organized by Steve Hamilton. O/N Cairo (B L D)

**Day 5** Tues 16 Oct 2012

FREE for pax to do their own local tours of Cairo area. O/N Cairo. (B L D)

**Day 6** Wed 17 Oct 2012

The day begins with a tour of the Pyramids and Sphinx, We then drive to the world famous Cecil Hotel in Alexandria where we stay for one night. Rest of the day at leisure. (B L D)

**Day 7** Thur 18 Oct 2012

Visits to Hadra and Chatby CWGC (Common War Graves Commission) cemeteries in Alexandria where casualties of both World Wars are buried, the Beys castle on the Corniche and site of the famous Alexandria Lighthouse. Your chance to have an "Ice Cold in Alex." We then drive to our hotel at Burg el Arab for three nights. (B L D)

**Day 8** Frid 19 Oct 2012

Visits to the El Alamein battlefield, Tel el Eisa, Springbok Road, Ruwesait Ridge where two Victoria Crosses were won, Miteirya Ridge, the Qattara Track, the minefields and much more. Picnic on the battlefield. (B L D)

**Day 9** Sat 20 Oct 2012

Today is dedicated to all those who fought and died at El Alamein. We shall visit the Alamein war museum and we will attend the Memorial Service as well as spend time at the cemetery. We will also visit the German and Italian Cemeteries at Tel el Eisa. The Memorial Ceremony will also be attended by members of the Royal Family and Ambassadors from around the world. (B L D)

**Day 10** Sun 21 Oct 2012

Drive to Mersa Matruh via Fuka, Sidi el Rahman and the Rommel museum, and free time in the town. Check into our hotel for two nights. Opportunity to visit Minqar Qaim site of the famous 1942 New Zealand "Breakout" and Sidi Hemza where Adam Wakenshaw of the Durham Light Infantry won the Victoria Cross. (B L D)

**Day 11** Mon 22 Oct 2012

8.00am start for our drive to our hotel in Bardia, via Sidi Barrani and Hellfire Pass War Cemetery, before driving up the 500ft Sollum escarpment and crossing the border into Libya. On the way we shall see where ANZAC's fought in World War 1. (B L D)

**Day 12** Tues 23 Oct 2012

Today we will have 4x4 desert vehicles for visits to Sidi Azeiz where the 5<sup>th</sup> NZ Brigade were overrun, and Belhamed where the Afrika Korps was fought to a standstill, before making our way to our hotel in Tobruk. Day includes a picnic lunch and dinner overlooking Tobruk harbour. (B L D)



**Day 13** Wed 24 Oct 2012

Again we have 4x4 vehicles to visit the Sidi Rezegh battlefield area, Point 175, the blockhouse and the airfield captured by New Zealanders in November 1941. Day will include barbecue on the battlefield. (B L D)

**Day 14** Thur 25 Oct 2012

A full day in Tobruk visiting the Commonwealth, German and French Foreign Legion war cemeteries, harbour area and Afrika Korps Headquarters. Lunch and Dinner will be at our harbour restaurant. (B L D)

**Day 15** Frid 26 Oct 2012

Drive through the Cyrene to our hotel in Sousa, via Fig Tree Hospital, Knightsbridge War Cemetery and the famous German field hospital known as the "Weiss Haus", and the impressive Derna Pass. Lunch will be taken on route. Day will include a tour of the ancient city of Appollonia. (B L D)

**Day 16** Sat 27 Oct 2012

Drive through the Green Mountains to Benghazi via Cyrene and the Temple of Zeus and Beda Littoria (site of the famous 1941 "Raid on Rommel"). Lunch will be taken in Benghazi before visiting Benghazi War Cemetery. Later this day we will fly to Tripoli and transfer to our hotel. (B L D)

**Day 17** Sun 28 Oct 2012

Visit to the magnificent Roman city of Leptis Magna. (B L D)

**Day 18** Mon 29 Oct 2012

Visit to Tripoli War cemetery and Victory Square, then on towards Zuara and the Tunisian border, check into our hotel in Medenine for one night. (B L D) 2 star hotel

**Day 19** Tues 30 Oct 2012

Morning visit to the March 1943 battlefield of Medenine, scene of Rommels last battle in Africa, and after lunch we visit the Mareth Line museum. We then drive to our hotel in Gabes for one night. (B L D) 3 star

**Day 20** Wed 31 Oct 2012

Leave Gabes for the El Hamma and Tebaga Gap battlefields where the New Zealand Division in a "Left Hook" manoeuvre forced the withdrawal of the Afrika Korps, and where 2nd Lt Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Ngarimu of the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion won a posthumous Victoria Cross. Then to Sfax war cemetery where 4 VC winners are buried. Check into our hotel in Sfax for one night. (B L D)

**Day 21** Thur 01 Nov 2012

Drive to the Enfidaville battlefield via the impressive Roman coliseum at El Djem, visit to the top of Takrouna, that rocky outcrop captured by a handful of Maoris in April 1943, visiting also the Commonwealth and French war cemeteries at Enfidaville. Check into our hotel in Tunis. (B L D)

**Day 22** Frid 02 Nov 2012

Visits to the Massicault and Medjez el Bab Memorial and war cemeteries where 2 VC winners are buried. Returning to Tunis by way of the Madjerda Valley and Longstop Hill. (B L D)

**Day 23** Sat 03 Nov 2012

Recovery day or optional tours i.e. Bardo Museum and/or Carthage. (B L D)

**Day 24** Sun 04 Nov 2012

Flight to Dubai. (B) Depart Tunis on Emirates EK 748 at 1430 (2.30pm), arriving into Dubai at 2255 (10.55pm) (Flight time Tunis to Dubai is 5 hrs 25 mins).



**Day 25** Mon 05 Nov 2012

Depart Dubai on Emirates EK 418 at 0905 (9.05am), travelling via Bangkok and Sydney.

**Day 26** Tues 06 Nov 2012

Arrive to CHCH Airport at 1520 (3.20pm) and travel by bus back to the West Coast.



## PRICING AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Price is **NZ\$13,495.00 per person, incl. GST, Nett to Kea Tours**

**This price is based on the following conditions:**

- Double or Share twin accommodation
- The full itinerary as outlined above. (Passengers requesting variations to the above will require re-costing)
- Subject to Currency fluctuations of the GBP (UK£) until paid in full
- Accommodation stated may be subject to change
- Travel Insurance is not included and is your own responsibility

**Price will include:**

- Transport from Hokitika/Greymouth to CHCH and return.
- Return airfares as described above. (CHCH to Cairo, Tunis to Dubai, Dubai to CHCH)
- All airport transfers.
- Visa and Passport registration.
- Services of internationally recognized WW2 Battlefield guide and expert, Steve Hamilton.
- All transport in air conditioned buses
- 4x4 desert vehicles
- All 4/5 Star hotels, except where stated.
- All meals (cf. Itinerary, B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner) except for 3 nights in Dubai
- All entrance fees
- Campaign booklet
- Battlefield Guide



**Not Included.**

- Travel Insurance. Refer to Booking and Registration Sheet.
- Souvenirs
- Spending of a personal nature – drinks, gifts etc

**Note:**

- All passports must be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry into each country.
- Anyone with an Israeli stamp or visa in their passport will not be allowed entry into Libya.

**Those committing to the tour will be provided with:**

1. Booking and Registration Form
2. Payment Plan details
3. Full passenger itinerary
4. Gear List, Travel Advice and Weather expectations
5. Recommended Reading – a list of books that background the role of 2NZEF's North African experiences.