



PLANNING GUIDE

GROUP TOUR RESOURCE KIT

An Insider Look...

Get a closer look inside the National Museum of the U.S. Army with this helpful group tour planning guide. Discover more about this newest addition to the Museum community.





We Are America's Army Museum

The National Museum of the United States Army is a joint effort between the U.S. Army and the Army Historical Foundation, a non-profit organization. The Museum is free to the public, timed ticketing is required. The Army Historical Foundation supports revenue generation activities for the Museum in addition to Group Tour coordination and Special Events.

The Museum is located at 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, Va., 22060
The Museum will be open daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. except December 25.



For more Group Tour information contact:

The Army Historical Foundation

Jessica Conforti

Groups Sales Manager

groupstours@armyhistory.org

[armyhistory.org /group-ticketing](https://armyhistory.org/group-ticketing)



*Note: images shown this kit may not reflect current health and safety protocol in place.
Museum guidelines subject to change and are for representation only.

YOUR MUSEUM

The National Museum of the United States Army is located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Va.

As the Army's front door, the Museum is an enduring effort to tell the Army's story and honor the accomplishments, sacrifices and commitment of American Soldiers. The Museum is the first comprehensive and truly national museum to capture, display and interpret more than 246 years of Army history. The Museum brings to life that history in times of war and peace as told through the eyes of Soldiers. The Museum also offers educational experiences illustrating the Army's role in building and defending our nation, as well as Army humanitarian missions and technological and medical breakthroughs built on Army ingenuity.

The Museum is a joint effort between the U.S. Army and The Army Historical Foundation. The Foundation supports the Museum with group sales, tourism sales efforts and attraction promotions for special events, retail, cafe, and Army Action Center paid opportunities.

The educational programming at the Museum aligns its innovative and experiential spaces with widely recognized curriculum. The Museum experiences offer a special emphasis on educational themes related to Army values, history, and innovation. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students of all ages, will make connections across subjects and recognize themes tied to the exhibits.

The Museum also offers digital resources that can be used for study in and out of the classroom. While currently in its early stages, curated content is added each month and includes free resources and activities to support a range of subjects and age groups.





"America's Soldiers are among the finest of our citizenry and have been instrumental in forming, advancing, and protecting our nation. The Museum tells these stories through the very eyes and voices of our Soldiers."



Tammy Call
Director, National Museum of the United States Army



Museum Hours

Open daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed December 25.

Ticketing

Free timed-entry tickets are required and can be reserved at [theNMUSA.org](https://www.theNMUSA.org).

Parking & Transportation

Parking is free with dedicated spaces for buses and oversized vehicles. The Fairfax County Connector bus route 334 includes a stop at the Museum.

Design

Site Area: 84 acres

Indoor space: 185,000 sq. ft.

Number of Stories: 5

Building Height: 100 ft.

Number of Galleries: 11

Number of Artifacts: 1389

Macro-Artifacts: 19

Micro-Artifacts: 1370

Number of Cast Figures: 70



Location

1775 Liberty Drive,
Fort Belvoir, Va. 22060

- 15-minute drive from Mount Vernon
- 25-minute drive from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
- 30-minute drive from the Washington Monument

FAST FACTS



Stepping Inside the Museum

The Lobby

The Lobby measures 8,600 square feet. The illuminated glass panels overhead represent the Army's campaigns and corresponding streamers. The rear of the Lobby is framed by the black granite Campaign Wall, engraved with every Army campaign throughout history. A 21-foot Army emblem is inlaid into the center of the Lobby's terrazzo flooring.

The Circles of Distinction, The Army Historical Foundation's exclusive group of committed individuals, foundations, and corporations, has their names displayed on the massive granite wall in the Museum Lobby (pictured here above).



Soldiers' Stories Gallery

Stainless-steel pylons—each with an etched image of a Soldier's face and accompanying biographical information—are aligned in a formation, stretching from just outside the Museum's entrance, through the Lobby, and to the Army Concourse. Forty-one pylons tell the personal accounts of Soldiers from all historic periods to offer Museum visitors a unique window into the Soldier's experience. The backdrop of the formation is a wall etched with the text of the Soldier's Creed.



Army Concourse

Stretching the entire length of the exhibit wing, the concourse provides access to the Theater, the Army Action Center and all the historical period galleries.



Fighting for the Nation Galleries

Founding the Nation Gallery (1607-1835)

The *Founding the Nation Gallery* covers the Army's history from the colonial period through the War of 1812. Visitors explore the origins and formation of the Continental Army, its role in the Revolutionary War, and the Army's development as a professional force. This gallery also covers key events of the War of 1812 such as the Battle of Chippewa, the burning of Washington, the assault on Fort M'Henry and the Battle of New Orleans.

Preserving the Nation Gallery (1861-1890)

The *Preserving the Nation Gallery* gives visitors an understanding of the Army's part in the defining American event of the 19th century, the Civil War. This gallery also documents the Army's role in westward expansion, including the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Indian Wars and the Mexican War.

Nation Overseas Gallery (1898-1918)

The *Nation Overseas Gallery* explores the Army's first venture onto the world stage. Operations in China and the Spanish-American War are exhibited, as are the Army's operations along the Mexican-American border. The remainder of the exhibit focuses on the Army's role in World War I and the changing face of warfare. Visitors also encounter an immersive exhibit, portraying the Army's advance during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive which prominently features the FT-17 Renault "Five of Hearts" Tank.

The FT17 Renault tank, "Five of Hearts," and a Coast (Heavy) Artillery Officer greet the visitor entering the World War I immersion experience.



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Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin C. York wore this steel helmet in World War I during his famous capture of 132 Soldiers, on October 8, 1918.



Global War Gallery (1919-1945)

The *Global War Gallery* portrays the Army's role in the Allied victory during World War II. Visitors learn about both the European and Pacific Theaters, the technology of the conflict, the Army's air war, and the development of the atomic bomb. Key artifacts include the M4 Sherman "Cobra King" Tank and a Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP), also known as a "Higgins Boat," that took part in the Normandy beach landings.

The Higgins assault boat, known officially as a Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP), landed more Allied troops on beaches in Europe and the Pacific than all other types of landing craft combined. Designed by Louisiana boat builder Andrew Higgins, these small boats could carry 36 combat-loaded troops, or a jeep and 12 men.

Cold War Gallery (1945-1991)

The *Cold War Gallery* recounts a time when the United States faced numerous global challenges during the Cold War. American Soldiers manned a defensive line in Europe that deterred a potential attack, while on the other side of the world, the U.S. Army fought wars in Korea and Vietnam. Suspended from the gallery's ceiling is the iconic UH-1B "Huey" Helicopter.



The M4 Sherman tank was the iconic American tank of World War II. It was employed in all theaters of operation where its reliability and mobility allowed it to spearhead armor attacks, provide infantry support or serve as artillery.

Changing World Gallery (1990 - Present)

The *Changing World Gallery* chronicles one of the most dynamic and global periods in U.S. Army history, from the fall of the Soviet Union through our nation's most current conflicts. The Global War on Terror portion follows the progression of operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq. The theme, Changing World, sets up an interesting dichotomy indicating that while the last two decades have been a time of near-constant conflict, it is the individual Soldier who must, as always, endure the challenges of war.



U.S. Special Forces Soldiers in the 3rd, 19th, and 20th Special Forces Groups (Airborne) used this saddle and others like it during operations in northeastern Afghanistan in 2001.

Special Features & Exhibitions

Army Theater

The *Army Theater* provides visitors with an immersive introduction to the U.S. Army and to the Museum. The film, "Of Noble Deeds," explores what it means to truly be an American Soldier. It includes footage of Soldiers and current Army operations along with re-creations of some of the Army's most significant battles. The Theater's 300-degree screen and external sensory elements envelop the viewer in sight, sound and movement. "Of Noble Deeds" is shown multiple times throughout the day and does not require a ticket. Some showings will offer limited sensory elements and closed captioning.



Army and Society Gallery

The *Army and Society Gallery* examines the relationship between the Army and the American people. It is here that visitors discover the Army's role in shaping the national character. Key artifacts, such as the Wright Flyer and the AN/FPN-40 Radar set, illustrate the Army's contribution in driving the development of critical technologies, some of which are reflected in our daily lives today.



Medal of Honor Experience

The Medal of Honor Experience, located on the Museum's third floor, invites visitors to explore the history of the Medal of Honor and learn about the award recommendation process and hierarchy of Army awards that recognize heroic actions. The adjacent Medal of Honor Garden, overlooking the Museum Campus, identifies and honors Army recipients of the nation's highest award for valor. Names of Army recipients are permanently etched in granite along the south wall of the garden. This space provides visitors the opportunity to contemplate the values exemplified by the Medal of Honor recipients—valor, gallantry, and intrepidity.



World War I Immersive Experience *Nation Overseas Gallery*

In a theatrical setting, visitors set foot into a “trench” environment with cast figures, lighting effects, imagery, and sounds of distant battle based on a famous photograph of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Viewed by visitors atop a glass and steel bridge, splintered trees and advancing American Soldiers maneuvering amidst the battle wreckage convey the bleak situation. The film shown here pulls visitors into scenes of trench warfare and relays the U.S. Army’s contribution to the war effort.



Special Exhibition Gallery – “The Art of Soldiering”

In the Museum’s rotating exhibit space, the fihe Art of Soldiering showcases highlights from the U.S. Army’s Art Collection. It visually depicts the experiences of the American Soldier from the Civil War to the present through art produced on the front lines. Visitors encounter a new perspective, learning about warfare through the artistic expression of those who were present.



Special Exhibition Gallery – “Nisei Soldier Experience”

The Museum will dedicate the first temporary exhibit to showcase an unprecedented collection of Japanese American artifacts that capture the rarely told story of the Japanese American Nisei Soldier during World War II. The exhibit highlights their struggles both at home and abroad, their courageous acts on the battlefield and their long-awaited recognition culminating in the Congressional Gold Medal awarded in 2011.



Army Action Center – Virtual Reality and Motion Theater Experiences

The cutting-edge features of the simulator space will transport visitors into Army experiences through the power of virtual reality, motion platforms, and state-of-the-art systems. The experiences include stepping inside a World War II tank, participating in a marksmanship challenge, and taking flight in historic aircraft. Simulator tickets can be purchased when reserving Museum general admission tickets online or on site.





EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CENTER



Experiential Learning Center

The Experiential Learning Center (ELC) offers a unique and immersive learning space where all visitors can develop skills and have fun with Geography, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (G-STEM). By focusing on Army history and innovations, the ELC provides a state-of-the-art, interactive experience for all ages.

Assembly Area

The ELC adventure begins in the Assembly Area, where visitors are greeted by two video highlights about Army Families: “Growing Up Army” gives firsthand accounts from Army Brats across generations that reveal the adventures and challenges of a life defined by their parents’ new duty station or next deployment; “Brats to Boots” highlights Soldiers who grew up in Army families and then joined the service when they became adults.



The Assembly Area also features interactives about the Army’s innovations in developing critical infrastructure, and the people who support our Soldiers and make their service possible.

Learning Lab

The Learning Lab enables visitors to apply skills learned in the Training Center and work collaboratively on Operation Safe Passage. Facilitated by a Museum educator, participants use their new skills with G-STEM to work as a team to respond to a humanitarian crisis.



The Learning Lab can be reserved for field trips and groups. The Operation Safe Passage program must be reserved by groups in advance.



Fort Discover

In Fort Discover, the Museum’s younger visitors can use imaginative play to climb the Army tower, radio friends, drop cargo supplies, launch a rocket, drive a jeep, serve up chow in the dining facility, and check out different uniforms with Camo Camera. The Museum’s animated Army mule mascots, Buckshot and Blackjack, use age appropriate interactive games to teach children about Army innovations across history—such as interstate highways, the Panama Canal, and satellite communications.

Training Center

In the Training Center, visitors simulate the work of Army Soldiers in the fields of Geography, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (G-STEM). This interactive environment contains five stations: Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) operations, geospatial intelligence, aviation cargo drops, engineering bridge building and medical support.





GET MORE
FROM YOUR **VISIT**



Cafe & Retail

The Museum's café offers a wide range of food offerings. For groups, the café offers lunch options ranging from \$10 to \$22 which can also include the rental of a dedicated lunch space. Boxed lunch options include a variety of sandwiches, snacks, and treats depending on your group's budget and dietary needs.



The Museum has designated areas on site for groups to enjoy their meal as part of their visit. The Army Historical Foundation can assist with your lunch planning needs through a member of the Group Sales Team.

Leave with more than just memories by choosing from a variety of National Museum of the United States Army and Army souvenirs. The store has an online counterpart at

shop.armyhistory.org, featuring Army and Museum apparel, souvenirs, gifts and other select merchandise. Your group can shop and enjoy products that promote and preserve the spirit and history of the U.S. Army with a variety of price ranges to fit any budget.

Rental Event Spaces

The Museum offers a variety of event spaces during or after-hours, indoor or outdoor, for occasions of all sizes, you can visit **armyhistory.org** for more information on available special event rental spaces to include the Lobby, Veterans' Hall, Medal of Honor Garden, Outdoor Event Spaces, and more.



Dedicated rental space is available for your group meal plans or for an exclusive after hours event. Options can be explored with additional special event costs in mind.

Event space opportunities will follow current COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. The Foundation staff can provide the most up to date information.





Virtual Reality & Motion Theater

The Army Action Center, the Museum's Virtual Reality and Motion Theater Experience will be open during daily visitor operation hours and offer three experiences. Special cleaning and COVID measures are in place for this interactive attraction. The Army Action Center is managed by The Army Historical Foundation, tickets are available for purchase on site or may be purchased in advance a part of your group tour coordination.

Holdout! Bunker Defense VR- This arena experience uses state-of-the-art VR and 4D technology for an immersive presence inside a digital world while engaging in simulated rifle target practice.



VR Transporter- In this experience, patrons wear a high-tech head-mounted display while an elevated motion platform pitches and rolls to mimic movement in the virtual world.

Army Action Pod- This Motion Capsule Theater is a futuristic movie experience that seats up to 8 people at a time. Various movie features play throughout the day.

Learn More on the Army Action Center, Virtual Reality and Motion Theater Experiences from a member of the Group Sales team or visit armyhistory.org/army-action-center to learn more.

Let's start planning ahead...



If you have any questions about Group Tours, or if you need help deciding which tour options are right for your group, contact **Jessica Conforti**,
Group Sales Manager.

703-562-4167

group tours@armyhistory.org



Looking for ideas?

SAMPLE VISIT:

If your group has a goal to learn more about World War II, an itinerary may include 8 total 30-min stations that include specific exhibits related to that topic. You can then make time to visit the Virtual Reality and Simulator Experiences, Store, and Café, which would be a total estimated visit time of 4 hours.

Time	Group
09:00-09:30	Army Theater
09:30-10:00	Global War
10:00-10:30	Army & Society
10:30-11:00	ELC - Training Center
11:00-11:30	Nisei Experience & Medal of Honor Garden
11:30-12:00	Museum Café
12:00-12:30	Museum Store
12:30-1:00	Army Action Center*

This example can be easily modified for a group's needs by working with Group Sales. These modifications could include a shorter visit time, different exhibits, or allowing your group some time to self-guide the Museum. Please note that depending on the size of your group, rotations may be added to help promote physical distancing and safe operating procedures inside the Museum.


*If you plan on visiting the Army Action Center, plan for at least 30 mins for groups of 10-15 participants.

Itinerary Planning



“There are so many great destinations in our region, and we are proud to now be a part of the history market with our peer tourism partners. We add to the family of museums that are a great fit for your itinerary to the DMV.”

Jessica Conforti
Groups Sales Manager
The Army Historical Foundation



The National Museum of the United States Army Photos.
Photographers, Duane Lempke and Scott Metzler.

National Museum of the United States Army

theNMUSA.org

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The Army Historical Foundation

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