



## **Best Defense Foundation Iwo Jima/Guam/Saipan/Tinian**

### **Itinerary for Guam Iwo Jima Saipan & Tinian 2019**

**Day 1 - 19 March** Depart for Guam (Cross dateline, lose a day)

**Day 2 - 20 March** Arrive Guam. Transfer to Outrigger Guam Resort. Enjoy a traditional "Chamorro" Welcome!

**Day 3 - 21 March** Today we tour the Naval Station Guam with the War Dog Memorial, the Park Service Museum with the southern sites at the Agat Invasion Beach and Fort Soledad with lunch at Jeff's Pirates Cove. This evening is the 73rd Ann Reunion of Honor Banquet, with honored Guests, Veterans, and Guam Military & Civilian Dignitaries.

**Day 4 - 22 March** Today, we participate in a full day Educational-Historical Symposium on the Battle of Iwo Jima, hosted by the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA.) American Historians and Veterans will offer their perspective on different aspects of the battle, including roundtable discussions and a luncheon. Additionally, a comprehensive pre-tour briefing on "Iwo Jima Today" will be conducted.

**Day 5 - 23 March** Chartered IJAA 737 Flight to Iwo Jima. Upon arrival, you will be briefed on the plan for the day and proceed on your tour of the island. Please note that vehicle transportation is limited to Iwo Jima Veterans and escorts only. We will visit Mt Suribachi and the "Black Sands" landing beaches. We will attend a joint IJAA Memorial Service overlooking the landing beaches. (\*\* USA Passports Only permitted on charter per Japanese Immigration. \*\*)

**Day 6 - 24 March** Today we visit the WWII sites mid-island including the Asan Invasion Beach, Asan Overlook and the Plaza de Espana historical sites and the Top of the Mar. We stop at the Japanese Peace Memorial before heading back to the hotel. Tonight is the Farewell Fiesta at the Pacific War Museum (Gerber Ranch.)

**Day 7 - 25 March** Departure Saipan and Tinian

Arrive Saipan in the morning with a traditional Saipan island welcome. A full day WWII history tour of Saipan beginning at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. Next, the 2d and 4th Marine Division beaches where you can feel how exposed the Marines were to Japanese observers on Mt Tapotchau towering 1500 feet above us. Follow the progression of the battle south to Aslito/Isley Airfield. Next proceed through the infamous "Death Valley," flanked on the east by "Purple Heart Ridge" and on the west by the ever-imposing Mt Tapotchau. Following the flow of the 1944 battle northward, pass the notorious site of the mass banzai attack. End the day at "Suicide Cliff" and "Banzai Cliff," the sites of mass suicides. Here, where the battle for Saipan ended, are impressive memorials to peace. Check into the Fiesta Resort for the duration of the post tour and Group dinner in the evening. (

**Day 8 - 26 March**

Depart to Tinian Island for a battlefield study of this island's liberation. Marvel at the small and narrow invasion beaches where the Marine landings surprised the Japanese defenders. See pillboxes and the rusted hulk of a landing craft. Explore the now abandoned North Field, which in 1944-45 was the world's most active airfield with hundreds of B-29 bombers and tens of thousands of airmen and support troops. Visit the "bomb pits" where the atomic bombs were loaded and see Runway Able where the Enola Gay took off for Hiroshima. Fly to Saipan late afternoon.

**Day 9 - 27 March**

Participate in a moving Liberation Ceremony & wreath laying at the American Memorial Park. Each veteran will be individually honored by Saipan. Today we will also visit the CMMI museum, spanning all periods of Saipan history, as well as recovered Spanish treasure. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to take care of any unfinished shopping, take a swim, and pack for an early evening flight to Guam. Evening at your leisure.

**Day 10 - 28 March** Departure for home to arrive morning of the next day.

*“Taking care of the ones who took care of us”*