

# Battlefield tour

## Operation Market Garden

### 82nd Airborne Market Garden

*Follow in the footsteps of brave soldiers and experience the history of Operation Market Garden in the Groesbeek-Grave-Nijmegen region. Accompanied by an expert guide full of stories, you will discover the military backgrounds and interesting facts of Operation Market Garden.*

#### Map



#### Start

The route starts at the Freedom Museum, where a short introduction will be given. The Freedom Museum was built in a strategic location: between the Dropzone Nan and Landingzone Tare. This is where the famous General James Gavin landed with the 82nd Airborne Division. Naturally, you will hear more about this. The guide will also tell you about the plan behind Market Garden, led by General Montgomery.

### **Nijmegen Kleve railway line, Browning Monument and Dropzone Nan**

Good information about the area of an operation like Market Garden was crucial. This was immediately apparent when, soon after leaving, we passed the railway line between Nijmegen and Kleve. Here a passing train surprised the landed soldiers. Driving on, we see the monument to General Frederick Browning, whose job it was to secure the landing area. He had a lot of trouble with the inadequate communications, which cost the Allies dearly. The next, longer stop is Little America. Here we walk a little way to a replica WACO glider. Right in front of the forest edge behind it, General Gavin landed with his paratroopers on 18 September.



### **Lock Bridge Heumen, Bridge at Grave, the Oversteek and the Waal Bridge**

For the operation to succeed, it was essential to take control of a number of bridges. This would allow the ground forces to advance further towards the north-west. We stop at the lock bridge near Heumen and then drive past landing zone Oboe, where a memorial sculpture of three parachutes stands for the three units that landed here on 17 September. We continue on to the John S. Thompson Bridge, named after the lieutenant who, with his platoon of 15 men, managed to capture the



bridge with a surprise attack on 17 September. Finally, we drive on to the Crossing, the new bridge built 150 metres from the 'real' crossing. Here, on 20 September, 26 wood-and-canvas boats with 10 men each crossed the river under heavy fire from the Germans. This allowed the Waal Bridge, which you can clearly see from this viewpoint, to be captured. Every evening, Veterans walk across the Oversteek the Sunset March to remember the fallen at this Waal crossing. We then drove into Nijmegen via the Waal Bridge and continued our way back to the museum.