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**Valor Tours, Ltd. presents....**  
**Cruise up The Slot -**  
**Solomon Islands**  
**May 13 to 22, 2025**



Accredited by



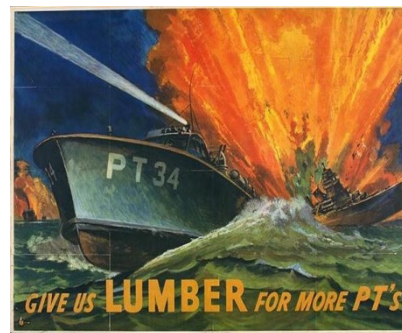
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**America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator**

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Cover: Image by Peter Helck, "Give us lumber for more PT's" [www.peterhelck.com](http://www.peterhelck.com).  
 Map on next page by Bradley Sheard, Wreck Diving Magazine, 2007.

**Escorted by John Shively**



**GUADALCANAL 1942 - 1943**



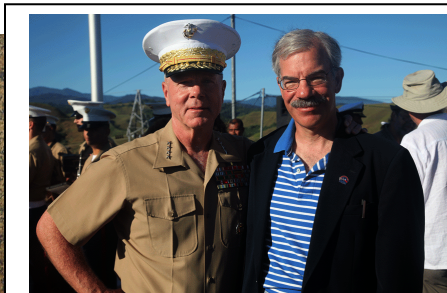
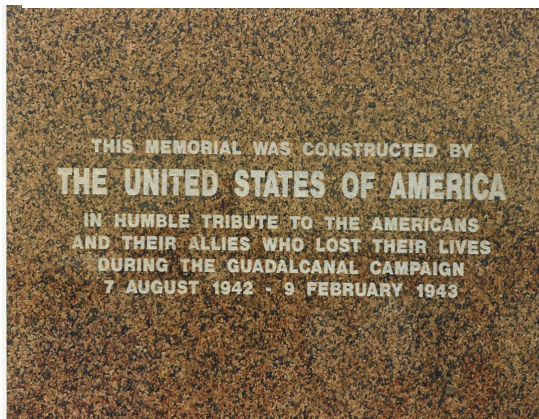
The U.S. offensive of WWII in the Pacific Theater began on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942 when U.S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal, Tulagi and Gavutu to establish a foothold upon enemy held territory. Thus began the Allied Advance on the road to Tokyo.



Previous cruise group on Plum Pudding Island Where Lt. JFK swam ashore from PT109. Photo by Heusser.

The Solomon Islands campaign lasted twenty months. It was a violent air, land and sea struggle with a determined enemy. This tour offers WWII history and ceremony with sightseeing among now peaceful and beautiful islands. Walk invasion beaches and airstrips – cruise through harbors once teeming with warships – explore villages and plant memorial trees in the Memorial Park. Relics still abound although the jungle now mostly conceals the wounds of battle.

The archipelago we will sail though is among the most beautiful in the World. Morovo Lagoon alone is considered an “Eighth Wonder”. Today it is difficult to image that such fierce battles swept through these islands. Relics still abound, although the jungle now covers the wounds of battle. Even though our concentration will be on WWII points of interest, the gentle people and their lovely islands will charm you.



Tour leader John Shively (right) with CMC Amos at American Memorial ceremony, August 2012. John has been escorting our land tour to Guadalcanal for many years.

Here, on and around these islands, in 1942/43,  
The tide of war in the Pacific was turned.  
The contest was hard....  
The cost was high. The valor was exemplary



### Application form for 2025

#### Cruise up The Slot – Solomon Islands

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504

I/we enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1000 per person) to reserve \_\_\_ places on the cruise/ tour – May 13 to 22, 2025 on a:

\_\_\_ Twin share occupancy or \_\_\_ single occupancy  
\_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_ Non smoking

Or please charge my credit card \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ for the deposit. Security code \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on your passport)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear on ID badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran of WWII (Branch, division, ship, etc.) or reason for participation: \_\_\_\_\_

Any places of special interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I/we would like to stopover in Nadi, Fiji Islands for \_\_\_ nights on the return leg of the tour. Please advise about hotels and cost.

*Facilities for the disabled in the Solomon Islands and Fiji do not exist. Please let us know if you have any disabilities that may prevent you from climbing on and off the boats, walking through the jungle, getting on and off buses, etc.* \_\_\_\_\_

I/we understand a second deposit of \$1000 per person will be due Dec. 1, 2024.

I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions as set forth in this brochure.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL INFORMATION, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS

Please complete the application form and return with a deposit of \$1000 per person. Reservations cannot be held without a deposit. Personal check or any credit card is accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Valor Tours, Ltd. and mail to 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965. A second deposit of \$1000 per person is due by Dec. 1, 2024. Final payment is due Feb. 1, 2025. All passengers on deposit will receive written confirmation, reading list and information on travel/cancellation insurance. Final travel documents will be sent Priority Mail to fully paid participants about two weeks prior to departure. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Cost based upon a minimum number of participants traveling together and current airfares and rates. Once deposit is received, current rates are guaranteed.

### CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All moneys are fully refundable for cancellations received by Dec. 1, 2024. Cancellations received between Dec. 1, 2024 and Feb. 1, 2025 subject to loss of deposits. Cancellations received after Feb. 1, 2025 or "no shows" non refundable. Cancellation and trip interruption insurance coverage is not included in the tour, but available upon request and is based on trip cost/age of passenger. Payments made by check will be refunded by check and may take up to 30 days to process. Payments made by credit card must be credited back to the credit card and may take up to 60 days to appear on your statement. Cancellation insurance available upon request.

### HEALTH & TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

Mosquitoes can be a problem on Guadalcanal, but not as much on the vessel as Mosquitoes do not cross the water. Anti-Malaria medication is available from your doctor; however, we find that roll-on insect repellents work very well on exposed skin in the evening and early morning hours when mosquitoes are most prevalent. Also, natural citronella wristbands and ankle bands are very effective and non-toxic, or clip on OFF. We recommend that passengers wear long sleeved shirts and long pants in the evening hours when ashore. We also recommend that all passengers get tetanus and hepatitis inoculations. Check with your doctor. For those prone to seasickness bring some Dramamine. We will spend most of the time in sheltered water, but between the Russell Islands and the New Georgia Islands we will be in open waters. You will need a passport valid six months beyond date of travel. Visas for U.S. citizens are not required. Covid vaccine proof may be required.

### WHAT TO BRING

Casual clothes such as shorts, bathing suit, wash n'wear, loose fitting clothing, comfortable walking shoes, beach (water) shoes, snorkel gear, brimmed hat, suntan lotion, wash clothe, bottle of Woolite, plenty of film, camera (water proof if possible), wind breaker, back pack, flask to carry water, binoculars. If you are a diver, bring your own fins and regulator. Other dive equipment is available on board vessel. Leave expensive jewelry and high-heeled shoes at home. Carry medications, airline tickets, and passport, cash and travelers checks on your person – do not pack in suitcase, as there are occasional delays. Travel light – one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Vessel has laundry facilities.

### AIR TRANSPORTATION

We will fly Fiji Airways Airbus Industrie A330-200 series aircraft non stop jet service from Los Angeles to Nadi, in the Fiji Islands, in economy class with 2 + 4 + 2 seating. From Nadi to Guadalcanal fly Solomon Airlines 767 jet service with 3 + 3 seating. Business class upgrade is available upon request at an additional cost of about \$5000 round trip with 2 + 2 + 2 seating. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of this tour. Deviations from the group air space may result in higher fares. Omit airfare and reduce cost by \$1000 per person, but passengers will be responsible for getting to/from Henderson Field (Honiara), Guadalcanal, in time for cruise departure.

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

When a tour member asks Valor Tours to seek a suitable roommate, we will do the best we can to oblige and find a colleague with common interests and habits. Valor Tours cannot be held responsible for incompatibility or guarantee a roommate. If a roommate cannot be found, the single supplement would apply.

### NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE COST

Foreign airport departure taxes, meals not indicated in itineraries, passport fees, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature, domestic airfare within the U.S., tips to crew, Travel cancellation insurance.

### PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES

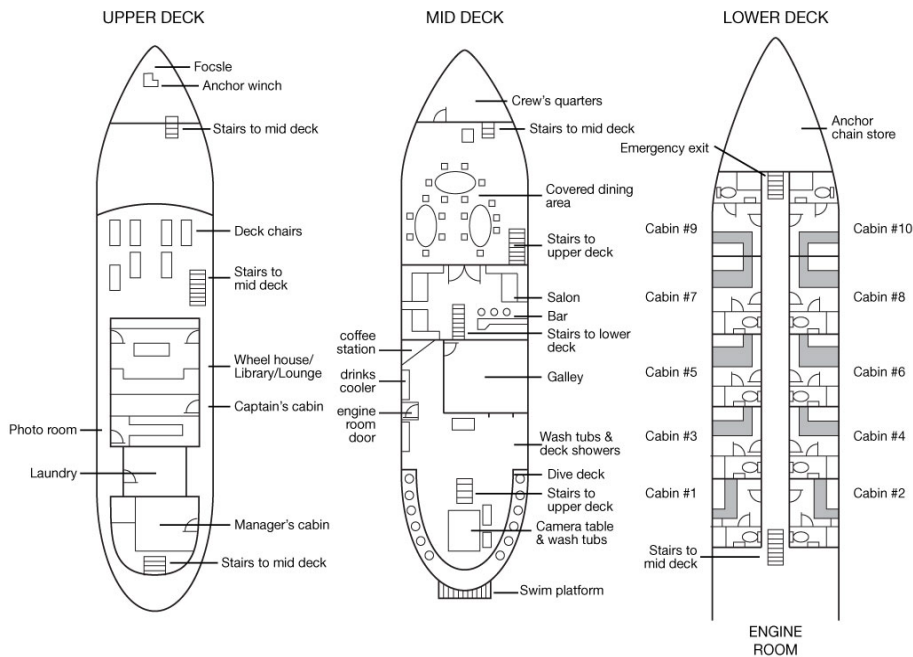
Due to the absence of handicap and disability laws in the countries we visit, and the expeditionary



2023 group aboard the Bilikiki



In 1989 MV Bilikiki sailed as the first full service luxury live aboard dive vessel in the Solomon Islands. She was also one of the first in the world to offer private showers and toilets in every cabin. MV Bilikiki has 10 identical cabins, all with a double bed below and single above. Her large size and a hull that was built for South Pacific seas are two main reasons why guests from around the world still say that "the Bilikiki" is one of the most spacious and comfortable vessels that they have traveled on.



## 2025 Itinerary in Brief

*Subject to change.*

### Tuesday May 13

Check in at the Fiji Airways counter in the International Terminal, Los Angeles Int'l Airport no later than 8:30pm for our 11:30pm FJ #811. Meet your tour director at the departure gate.

### Wednesday May 14

In-flight entertainment, friendly Fiji Airways staff and breakfast pass the time pleasantly on this non-stop 9-hour flight to Nadi, Fiji Islands, crossing Int'l Date Line and loosing this day.

### Thursday May 15

Arrive Nadi, Fiji Islands at 5:15am. Short layover until departure on Solomon Island Airways at 8:30am, arriving Henderson Field 12:10pm. Transfer to *Bilikiki* vessel. Set sail for the Florida Islands: Gavutu, Tulagi and Tanambogo. Drop anchor overnight in Tulagi Harbor

### Friday May 16

Sail past Savo Island to the Russell Islands: Puvuvu and Banika. Drop anchor overnight in the sheltered waters.

### Saturday May 17

Set sail this morning for Seghe. Walk the Seghe airstrip, a vital component in Operation Cartwheel. Dive on P38 wreck in the waters off the runway. Sail to Viru Harbor, Rendova and Kennedy's PT Boat Base at Lumbaria Island, and then continue to Munda.

### Sunday May 18

Today see Munda airstrip, the longest airstrip in the Southern Hemisphere at the time. Cruise to Kula Gulf through the Diamond Narrows with Arundal Island on the left. Enter Blackett Straits, famous for the Coastwatchers. Swim ashore at Kennedy Island

(Plum Pudding Island). Sail past Gizo with a great view of Kolombangara, onto Vella la Vella.

### Monday May 19

Morning set sail to Guadalcanal via Morovo Lagoon, with Prof Giles giving presentation about the battles that took place in these waters 75 years ago. Dock overnight at Pt. Cruz.

### Tuesday May 20

Drive up to the American Memorial on Skyline Drive, overlooking Iron Bottom Sound followed by visits to the Matanikau and Lunga Rivers. Overnight onboard vessel.

### Wednesday May 21

Cruise up the coast past the mouth of the Matanikau River to land on Red Beach. Board coach for tour of Edson's Ridge, Gen. Vandergrift's HQ, Mt. Austen. Return to vessel for overnight.

### Thursday May 22

Morning free before transferred to Henderson Field and mid-day flight to Nadi connecting to Los Angeles, arriving about 1:30pm same day.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Optional extensions at hotel on Guadalcanal possible. Flights back to Nadi twice a week. Stopovers at Nadi, Fiji Islands on the way home possible as well. Flights from Nadi to Los Angeles operate daily. Details in Travel Tips newsletter, which will be sent to those on deposit.**

**Cost \$6,200 per person, twin share.**

**Single occupancy \$11,400.00**

Includes round trip air fare economy class via Fiji Airways and Solomon Islands Airways from Los Angeles; U.S. Departure taxes; services of John Shively as historian/guide; airport/vessel transfers and baggage handling; seven nights aboard the *Bilikiki*; all meals onboard vessel; all shore excursions and ground transport (when available); entrance and land access fees; local taxes. Cost \$5,200 per person without airfare.

Based on a minimum of 14 persons traveling together and limited to 18 passengers. Reservations accepted on first come-first served basis. Itinerary and cost subject to change. Unused components are non-refundable. Valor Tours does not recommend that children under the age of 12 years of age participate on these tours. Changes, deviations, upgrades to your reservations within 45 days of departure may result in additional costs and administration charges. Schedule of activities and sightseeing may be shifted to accommodate local conditions, availability of services, ceremonies and other activities that may arise.



*Cruising through Rendova Harbor, 2014*

*"I recently came back from the Guadalcanal tour and would like to thank you for a terrific experience. The tour was in every way professional and the experience gave me greater insight into what took place at Guadalcanal...I would highly recommend this tour to anyone. The Solomon Islanders are wonderful hosts as well and added greatly to my enjoyment of the trip. I will be going on future trips with Valor Tours and look forward to another great learning experience." John Payne*



Skull Island, Don Robison, May 2012 and LST 342 in the mangroves near Tulagi, Andy Giles.

### Memorial Park of Honor

Valor Tours, Ltd. is pleased to draw attention to this unusual opportunity for family, friends or relatives of U.S. Servicemen and women who served in the Pacific during any of the major conflicts of the Twentieth century. As part of the Honiara Beautification Project, you may purchase a tree to be planted in the name of a Veteran, unit or ship in the Memorial Park. A plaque will be placed and dedicated when our group visits Application form available upon request. \$140 per plaque/tree.