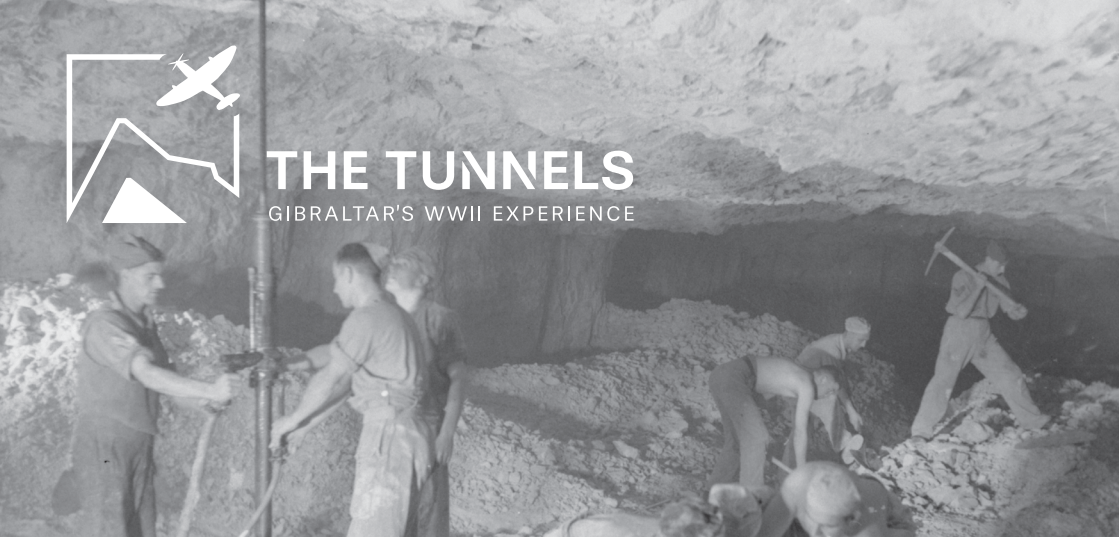




THE TUNNELS

GIBRALTAR'S WWII EXPERIENCE



The Tunnels Experience Brochure

Edition 4, September 2025



THE TUNNELS

GIBRALTAR'S WWII EXPERIENCE

An Underground City of Wartime Strategy

A FORTRESS BENEATH THE ROCK

During World War II, Gibraltar became a fortress of strategic importance. Beneath the surface, an extensive network of tunnels was carved into the limestone, creating an underground city. These tunnels stored essential resources, maintained military equipment, and were designed to withstand a prolonged siege with a garrison of soldiers. They also allowed for the monitoring of enemy activity in the Strait of Gibraltar and across to neutral Spain.

From military operations to civilian resilience, The Tunnels: Gibraltar's WWII Experience, offers a unique glimpse into the hidden city that kept Gibraltar fortified during WWII. Walk the corridors where history was made and uncover the stories of those who shaped Gibraltar's past.



WHAT AWAITS YOU?

➤ THE SPITFIRE HALL

Featuring a replica Spitfire suspended above, original artefacts, and video content showcasing Spitfire assembly in Gibraltar and its role in this theatre of war. This space is also available for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Events) rentals.

➤ STRATEGY ROOM

An immersive exhibit detailing the events leading up to World War II, including Prime Minister Chamberlain's declaration of war on Germany. Featuring wartime press, original footage, and a backdrop of period music from a replica wartime radio, this room highlights Gibraltar's critical role in key military operations.

➤ TUNNELLING OPERATIONS

Discover the engineering marvels behind the tunnel system, with original artefacts and historical footage showcasing the efforts of the Royal Engineers and Royal Canadian Engineers

➤ THE SAPPER'S SUITE

Dedicated to the contributions of the Royal Engineers and Royal Canadian Engineers, highlighting their essential work in expanding Gibraltar's underground defences.

➤ HALLWAY OF HEROES

A hallway dedicated to key individuals who played a significant role in Gibraltar's wartime history.



THE SPITFIRE HALL



WHAT AWAITS YOU?

➤ EVACUATION ROOM

Telling the civilian story of evacuation and resilience during the war. Follow the story of one young Gibraltarian on her evacuation journey.

➤ ESPIONAGE ROOM

Delving into the spy games in the region, this interactive space includes a spy academy where visitors can engage with a series of memory games, hand crank generators, and even uncover their own secret spy name.

➤ GUNNERS GALLERY

Showcasing the guns and artillery used to defend Gibraltar and paying tribute to the Gibraltar Defence Force who operated them, this room features original artefacts, all meticulously restored preserving Gibraltar's wartime history.

➤ THE TUNNELLER'S REST

A fully operational bar inspired by a 1940s officers' mess, providing a unique setting to unwind and reflect on history.

➤ THE TUNNELS SHOP

A newly added souvenir shop offering bespoke memorabilia and themed gifts to commemorate your visit.

➤ VICTORY WALK

Experience the spirit of VE Day, see wartime headlines, powerful photos, and hear Churchill's speech as you relive the celebrations in London and Gibraltar. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of a moment that changed history.

It wasn't easy being an evacuee, not all the Gibraltarians made land, some people died at sea, conditions were difficult with poor hygiene and rationed water onboard. Some passengers were newborns, delivered by other people onboard and would be raised on foreign soil. Those too frail to travel by sea were sent over the border to neutral Spain, London, Madeira, Jamaica, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland would all become home to the evacuees.

Many of the evacuees were sent to live in war zones, taking over houses that Londoners had left to escape the Blitz, or living for years in temporary Nissen hut camps. Those who went to Madeira found better as it was not bombed, whilst those travelling to Jamaica had to dodge U-boats during their crossing. Life was hard as an evacuee with many living in difficult conditions, without jobs and of course, without a deadline for their return home.

Yet, to this day there remains a strong bond between the evacuated families and the places they lived in and the people they lived among; it's a testament to the relationships the evacuees formed during their exile.



This moment, the resignation
 feeling that is universal
 about government since
 the 1960s, is now universal
 with greater personal malice.
 Personal animosity has
 moved from the streets
 to other locations.

JAMAICA

Another 1982 magazine best kept
 secret was this country, the poorest in
 the Caribbean. Surprisingly, people there
 have been able to get by on a little
 money and a lot of goodwill as a result.
 The country is a beautiful island.

Founded as a settlement and not as a colony
 in 1655, the country has a long history
 of independence. The country is
 a member of the Caribbean Community
 and the Americas.

A man in a military uniform, seen from the side, with 'UNITED STATES' and 'WGD' on his shoulder. He is looking towards the left. The background is dark and indistinct.

It would take up to seven years for all the evacuees to return home to Gibraltar. After the war housing, hospitals and education were all in short supply in Gibraltar, and along with post-war red tape, this meant huge delays in repatriating the Gibraltarians.

By 1944 the evacuees in Jamaica, Madeira and half of those in England had been repatriated to Gibraltar. Many of those last to arrive home were living in Northern Ireland, where there was a lack of jobs and living conditions left a lot to be desired. Many Gibraltarians left Northern Ireland for London chasing work, before they were eventually allowed home. Even their constitutional right to run for election and vote were on hold due to their evacuee status. Many protests were held and the evacuees would not give up the fight to be returned home. The last Gibraltarians would come back to Gibraltar as late as 1951, 11 years after their evacuation.

Some good would come from the evaluation, the committees formed to meet with government officials, would give the Gibraltarians essential knowledge and experience to form their own political parties and trade unions, which is in evidence in the governance of Gibraltar today.

...the place of the book after the long period
of its very natural silence. I have not yet
all written. There is a lot of work to do.





PLAN YOUR VISIT



Location

WWII Tunnels
Willis's Road,
Gibraltar Nature Reserve,
Gibraltar,
GX11 1AA



Opening hours

WINTER HOURS

October to April
0900 – 1815
(last entry at 1715)

SUMMER HOURS

May to September
0930 – 1915
(last entry at 1815)



Tickets

Entry to The Tunnels is included with a Gibraltar Nature Reserve ticket.

ADULT (11 years+)	£30
CHILD (5–11 years)	£22
INFANT (under 5)	Free

Tickets can be purchased on the day of your visit at the entry points to the Gibraltar Nature Reserve.

You can also book through authorised tour operators.

*Price subject to change at the discretion of HMGoG

PLAN YOUR VISIT



Duration

Between 30 and 60 minutes, although you are welcome to stay as long as you like.



Tours

Private and corporate tours can be booked directly with us

1 TO 10 PERSONS **£25** per person

11 TO 25 PERSONS **£20** per person

Tour groups also receive 10% discount at The Tunneller's Rest

Contact us for groups over 25 persons



Amenities

Toilets

Gift shop ★

Bar – The Tunneller's Rest ★

Wifi

Seating area

★Opening hours of the bar and gift shop may vary seasonally.



Accessibility

Fully accessible to visitors with limited mobility.

HOST AN EVENT



THE SPITFIRE HALL

Nestled within Gibraltar's historic WWII tunnels, The Spitfire Hall is a particularly unique events space. Originally an active REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) workshop during the Second World War, it now stands as a testament to wartime ingenuity.



HOST AN EVENT



THE TUNNELLER'S REST

Evoking the charm of a 1940s officers' mess, The Tunneller's Rest offers snacks and classic refreshments to visitors of The Tunnels, whilst also serving as a distinctive bar for events of all kinds







STRATEGY ROOM





THE TUNNELS





CONTACT US


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THE TUNNELS