

The Italian Campaign Canadian Battlefield & Remembrance Tour

SICILY to ROME to VENICE

OCTOBER 5-19, 2026 (15 DAYS)

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The Italian Campaign Canadian Battlefield Tour

Historic Sites of World War II
& the Amazing Culture of Italy

October 5-19, 2026

Follow in the footsteps of the Canadians and retrace the 1943-1945 Italian campaign - the fierce battles that set the Canadians apart as the superior fighting force even in the most difficult conditions of war.

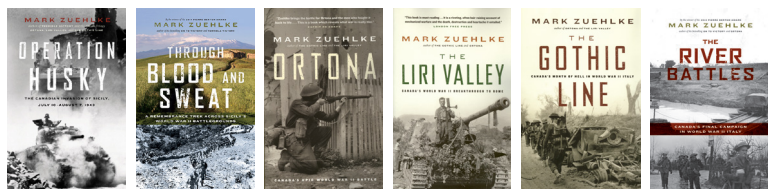
It was here, long before the Normandy campaign, where our soldiers - affectionately called the 'D-Day Dodgers' - fought in legendary battles at such places as Agira, Monte Assoro, the Liri Valley, Ortona, The Moro River, Coriano Ridge, The Gothic Line and more.

Liberation Tours is an all-Canadian company specializing in escorted, high quality coach tours to the battlefields of Europe including Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, the UK and more.

Your journey pays homage to the young men who sacrificed their youth in the mountains and valleys of this beautiful Mediterranean country. Your tour begins on the shores of Sicily and extends all the way to the northern frontier:

*Bark West Beach Pachino Grammichele Agira
Monte Cassino Aquino Pontecorvo Melfa River
Kingsmill's Bridge Ortona Sterlin's Castle Casa Berardi
The Gully Point 204 Coriano Ridge The Savio River
plus Rome & Venice, and more ...*

Mark Zuehlke has written extensively on
Canada's contribution to the Italian Campaign:



Your guide and host
for this amazing tour is
Mark Zuehlke, one of
Canada's leading historians
and author of the award-
winning Canadian Battle
Series, each volume of
which focuses on a battle
or campaign fought by the
Canadians in WWII.





Sunday October 4

For many of our travelers it is departure day, for the overnight transatlantic flight to Italy. Some travelers may choose to leave for Europe sooner to extend the start of the trip - let us know if we can quote you on pre-tour accommodations. Guests who have other travels already in progress will meet the start of the tour on Day 1 in Sicily.

Day 1 - Monday October 5

In the mid-afternoon all clients can check into the group hotel. In the meantime, you are free to explore Syracuse and its amazing Greek and Roman history stretching back millennia. Overnight Syracuse.

Day 2 - Tuesday October 6

Enjoy a full free day at leisure in Syracuse, including some time by the hotel pool. In the evening we gather for our Welcome Dinner, to share a glass and set the stage for our special journey. Overnight Syracuse. [B,D]

Day 3 - Wednesday October 7

This morning we begin our tour of the battlefields in earnest, appropriately where it all began on July 10, 1943 ... at the landing site code named Bark West Beach. We visit the town of Pachino nearby, and then move inland following the route of the Canadian 1st Division with a lunch stop in Grammichele and points nearby, where the Canadians first encountered heavy resistance from the German army. Overnight Catania. [B,L]

Day 4 - Thursday October 8

Today we head back inland, and take an inspired walk up Monte Assoro to see where the Canadians made their legendary climb to the top - and where you will take in the commanding view of the battlefields in the countryside below. After lunch we make our way to a not often visited solemn location, the Agira Canadian War Cemetery and the final resting place of 489 Canadians. Overnight Catania. [B,L]

Day 5 - Friday October 9

We set out again on a path following the Canadian Army, crossing the Strait of Messina to recount the first battles on mainland Italy as we make our way 'up the boot.' Overnight Salerno. [B,L]

ITINERARY

Day 6 - Saturday October 10

On Day Six we approach our destination of Cassino from the south, passing in the shadow of the famous Monte La Difensa and recalling the legendary achievements of the First Special Service Force. From the little mountain village we hold a breathtaking view across the floor of the Liri Valley, the scene of heavy fighting for Canada in 1944. Overnight Cassino. [B,L]

Day 7 - Sunday October 11

Our focus today is the Liri Valley and Canada's attack upon the formidable Hitler Line. We stop at the monument at Kingsmill Bridge and also at the Rapido River outlook. Then it's down to the valley floor and the battleground at Forme d'Aquino. The morning concludes with the 25-lb. monument atop the village of Pontecorvo. In the afternoon we pay our respects at Melfa River, the site where Canada was awarded the second of three Victoria Crosses. Overnight Cassino. [B,L]

Day 8 - Monday October 12

We make a couple of short stops at points of interest at the exit of the Liri Valley, then it's onward to the historic city of Rome for two nights. Overnight Rome. [B]

Day 9 - Tuesday October 13

Explore the incredible city of Rome at your leisure for the full day. Overnight Rome. [B]

Day 10 - Wednesday October 14

We depart Rome for an amazing trip through the Apennine Mountains, to the Adriatic Coast and the small town of Ortona where Canadians made a significant sacrifice. We'll walk in the footsteps of the soldiers who fought in the streets of Ortona, visit Sterlin's Castle, and also Casa Berardi where Capt. Paul Triquet earned a Victoria Cross. We stop at 'The Gully', one of Canada's infamous battlefields, before concluding the day at the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, our largest cemetery in Italy where 1376 young men patiently await our visit. Overnight Ortona. [B,L]

Day 11 - Thursday October 15

We continue our journey north, along the Adriatic coast visiting the Canadian monument at Point 204 and a discussion of the fighting on Coriano Ridge. Here we can take in a long and wide view of the battlefields. Following lunch we visit a nearby Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, concluding the day in the beautiful and historic Ravenna, the last capital city of the Roman Empire. Overnight Ravenna. [B,L]

Day 12 - Friday October 16

This morning we gather where the third and final Victoria Cross was earned in Italy, awarded to 'Smokey' Smith for his exploits at the Savio River. Later we discuss the overall importance and costs of Canada's almost two years of campaigning in Italy with a visit to the Villanova War Cemetery, before returning to Ravenna. The afternoon is free to visit Ravenna's UNESCO World Heritage mosaics, including an optional private tour with our local expert guide. Overnight Ravenna. [B,L]

Day 13 - Saturday October 17

The coach departs early morning and takes us to our final destination and yet another world famous cultural centre - Venice. We arrive mid-day so you will have the full afternoon to discover this incredible city on the lagoon. Venice in its entirety is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overnight Venice. [B]

Day 14 - Sunday October 18

Your final day of this grand tour of Italy is yours to discover Venice at your leisure. In the early evening we gather for our Farewell Dinner, to share the good company of new friends and raise a toast to the D-Day Dodgers. Overnight Venice. [B,D]

Day 15 - Monday October 19

This morning is departure day - buffet or box breakfast is included depending on departure time from the hotel. Some travelers may choose to remain in Europe longer to extend the end of the trip - let us know if we can quote you on post-tour accommodations to enjoy extra time in Venice. [B]

Itinerary is subject to minor change prior to departure. Minor variances are also possible during the actual tour based on the need to adapt to circumstances we may encounter during our travels.

additional details and pricing at
www.LiberationTours.ca



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Reg No. 50025639



THE TOUR.

Sicily

For the 1st Canadian Division the invasion of Sicily was the first major campaign of the war. After a relatively easy landing against Italian coastal units at Pachino the Canadians were engaged by increasingly determined German troops who fought tough delaying actions from vantage points of towering villages and almost impregnable hill positions. Grammichele, Leonforte, Assoro, Agira and Adrano were finally overcome but at a cost - 562 young Canucks would not be coming home.



The Liri Valley & Cassino

In the spring of 1944 the Germans constructed two formidable lines of defense against the Allied Armies intent on liberating the Italian capital - the Gustav Line and the Adolf Hitler Line. After massive bombing attacks the Abbey of Montecassino was captured by the victorious Poles and the Canadians, having hurled themselves at the enemy under heavy enemy mortar and machine gun fire, finally breached the German defences. The road to Rome was open.



The Moro River Valley & Ortona

The medieval town of Ortona, overlooking the beautiful Adriatic Sea, is now a pleasant place to visit but in 1944 it was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the war. Along the Moro River Canadian troops inched forward against repeated and determined German counter-attacks. Finally entering Ortona, they had to literally blast their way from house to house in this battle that would come to be known as 'Little Stalingrad'.



Coriano Ridge & The Gothic Line

In the summer of 1944 the Germans were determined to hang on to the industrial north of Italy. To stop the Allies they constructed the formidable Gothic Line, composed of machine-gun posts, anti-tank guns, mortar and assault-gun positions as well as mines, wire obstacles and anti-tank ditches. Months of hard fighting, following on from the ferocious struggle for Coriano Ridge, would take place before the Germans relinquished their hold.



THE TRIP.

Rome

It is called The Eternal City and with good reason - it has been a center of culture for two thousand years and it endures to this day. While in Rome you might wish to visit the Vatican Museums, the Colosseum, or perhaps the Pantheon or the Trevi Fountain. There is much to see in this amazing capital city.



Venice

It is perhaps the most magical city in all of Europe, built on 100+ islands in a lagoon connected by scenic canals and pedestrian bridges. No trip to Italy would complete without a visit to this beautiful city, the standard by which many others are compared. A ride in a gondola on the grand canal is a must!



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INCLUDED

- An expert Canadian Historian, and an expert Canadian Tour Director, both of whom will accompany you on the full tour
- Fourteen nights accommodation in twin or double rooms with private facilities
- Travel by luxury air-conditioned coach with reclining seats, on-board facilities and free mobile Wi-Fi
- Buffet breakfast (cold and/or hot) at the hotel each morning, plus select meals as outlined in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner); group lunches and dinners typically include a glass of wine/beer!
- All service charges and local taxes, plus entry fees to sites as outlined in the itinerary
- One coach transfer at each end of the tour: pick-up from Catania Fontanarossa Airport on October 5, 2026 in coordination with the arrival of ITA Airways AZ1745 from Rome; and drop-off to Venice Marco Polo Airport on October 19, 2026 in coordination with the departure of Air Canada AC817; travelers flying on different flights/days and not utilizing these transfers will be responsible for their own arrangements
- Gratuities to coach driver and local guides (note: these gratuities are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$200 CAD or more, be sure to compare!)
- Tour package which includes select daily detailed historical battle maps, period photographs, original audio recordings, and more; a complete digital copy of all this is also given to you at the conclusion of the tour!
- Liberation Tours will donate on your behalf to Forest Recovery Canada, to minimize the carbon footprint of your trip

EXCLUDED

- Airfare - we can provide a quote for flights from any gateway in Canada, to match your own individual preferences based on dates, routes, class of seating, etc; you can go over early, stay later at the end, carry onward to other destinations - whatever air travel arrangements work best for you
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour accommodations - ask for a quote and extend your stay!
- Travel Insurance Protection - ask us for a no-obligation quote from Manulife!
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary, any optional excursion not specifically stated
- Passport & related fees, items of a personal nature

NOTATIONS

- As with all our trips, this tour will feature walks of some distance, ascending stairs, walking up or down hills or slopes of varying degree, walking on sand or rough pathways, etc, in order to reach some of the amazing locations on the tour; good personal mobility is key to a positive experience. We regret those who use walkers would not be successful on this trip. If you use a cane or walking sticks and your mobility is reasonably good, you should be fine. If you are not sure about your particular situation, please do not hesitate to give us a call first at 833-252-0001, we would be happy to discuss it!
- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change
- Non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person due upon booking
- Read Liberation Tours' [Terms & Conditions](#) prior to booking

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE @

www.LiberationTours.ca

ground transportation by:

TRAFALGAR

\$8220

Land Only, per person, based on double occupancy (two people sharing a room)

Sorry, Single Rooms SOLD OUT.

\$750

deposit per person upon booking (all prices in Canadian dollars)

Balance due by the booking deadline:

July 3, 2026



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