



**LiberationTours**  
THE CANADIAN LEGACY

# The Italian Campaign 2017 Canadian Battlefield Tour Historic WWII Sites & the Culture of Italy

**Follow in the footsteps of the Canadian Army** as we 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.

Embark on a journey of wonder and discovery as you set out on a pilgrimage to learn first-hand of Canada's legacy of service and sacrifice in the defense of freedom. Your journey begins on the shores of Sicily and extends all the way to the northern frontier:



- Pachino • Grammichele • Leonforte • Monte Assoro*
- Agira • Anzio • Pontecorvo*
- Melfa River • Kingsmill Bridge • Cassino*
- Ortona • Sterlin's Castle • Casa Berardi • The Gully Point 204 • Coriano Ridge • Savio River • Ravenna*
- ... plus ...*
- Syracuse • Pompeii • Rome • Florence • Siena • Venice*

**September 14 - 30, 2017  
Seventeen Days!**

**\$5549**

Land Only, based on Double Occupancy,  
includes all Taxes and Gratuities!





# Itinerary

## Day 1 - Thursday September 14

Depart from Canada for your overnight transatlantic flight to Rome, except for those who may choose to depart sooner to extend their trip.

## Day 2 - Friday September 15

Upon arrival at Fiumicino Airport we will transfer to Rome for the first of two days in this incredible, historic city. Hotel rooms are pre-booked and available for immediate morning check-in. We will tour the city in the afternoon, following which we will gather together with our fellow travelers for our evening Welcome Reception Dinner. Overnight Rome - Mercure Rome Corso Trieste. [D]

## Day 3 - Saturday September 16

Free day at your leisure in Rome. Overnight Rome - Mercure Rome Corso Trieste. [B]

## Day 4 - Sunday September 17

We transfer to the airport, for a brief flight to Catania on the island of Sicily where we will spend the next three nights. Free leisure time in the afternoon. Overnight Syracuse - Mercure Siracusa Prometeo. [B]

## Day 5 - Monday September 18

This morning we begin our tour of the battlefields, appropriately where it all began on July 10, 1943 ... at the landing site code named Bark West Beach at Pachino. We visit the Syd Frost Monument near Ispica, 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 Enna - Grand Albergo Sicilia. [B,L]

## Day 6 - Tuesday September 19

Today we head north, and up, ascending 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 - Sheraton. [B,L]

## Day 7 - Wednesday September 20

We make a brief morning flight from Catania back to Fiumicino Airport, and then head south down the coast to Anzio to discuss the Canadian contribution to the allied landing here in January 1944. We then travel into the mountains of Italy. Overnight Cassino - Best Western Hotel Rocca. [B]

## Day 8 - Thursday September 21

This morning we make an excursion to visit the historic town of Pompeii, and return in the afternoon to take in a tour of the Abbey at Montecassino. Each visit features our local expert guide. Overnight Cassino - Best Western Hotel Rocca. [B,L]

## Day 9 - Friday September 22

The battlefield tour resumes in earnest, beginning with a visit to the Canadians' battles at Aquino and Pontecorvo, as well as stops at the Melfa River where Maj. John Mahoney earned a Victoria Cross, and Kingsmill Bridge, before concluding the day at the Cassino Commonwealth War Cemetery. Overnight Cassino - Best Western Hotel Rocca. [B,L]

## Day 10 - Saturday September 23

We depart Cassino 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, then visit Sterlin's Castle, and 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 1,376 young men patiently await our visit. Overnight Ortona - Hotel Mara. [B,L]

## Day 11 - Sunday September 24

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 - NH Hotel. [B,L,D]

## Day 12 - Monday September 25

This morning we gather at the place where the third and final VC was won 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 no-charge private tour with our local expert guide. Overnight Ravenna - NH Hotel. [B,D]

## Day 13 - Tuesday September 26

We now travel to the world famous city of Florence, birth place of Europe's Renaissance of the 14th century. Enjoy the afternoon to explore this amazing city of art, architecture, museums and monuments. Overnight Florence - Mercure Florence Centre. [B]

## Day 14 - Wednesday September 27

Enjoy a full free day at your leisure in Florence. You can also choose to join the no-charge day trip to see the incredible UNESCO World Heritage town of Siena in the heart of Tuscany. Overnight Florence - Mercure Florence Centre. [B]

## Day 15 - Thursday September 28

The coach departs Florence and takes us to our final destination and yet another world famous cultural centre - Venice. We arrive before lunch so you will have the full afternoon to discover this amazing city on the lagoon. Venice in its entirety is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overnight Venice (Lido) - Best Western Biasutti. [B]

## Day 16 - Friday September 29

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 meal. Overnight Venice (Lido) - Best Western Biasutti. [B,D]

## Day 17 - Saturday September 30

Return flight from Venice, except for those who may choose to extend their stay or travel onward to further destinations. [B]

*Itinerary and hotels are subject to change prior to departure. Minor variances are possible during the actual tour based on the need to adapt to circumstances we may encounter.*



**LiberationTours**  
THE CANADIAN LEGACY



## The Battlefields.

### 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.



### Anzio

The sea-borne invasion of Anzio in January 1944 was to have quickly opened up the road to Rome by out-flanking the German forces wintering on the Cassino defensive line. Instead, the Germans quickly sealed off the beachhead and turned what should have been a successful campaign into a debacle. It would be four months before the Allied forces would break-out from the steel ring that held them.



### 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 & 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 Culture.

### 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.



### Pompeii

Pompeii is a vast archaeological site in southern Italy's Campania region. Once a thriving and sophisticated Roman city, Pompeii was buried in meters of ash and pumice after the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 C.E. It has been a tourist destination for over 250 years and is the most visited place in all of Italy.



### Ravenna

Ravenna has a long history of prominence ... the last capital city of the Roman Empire before its fall in 476 CE and the capital city of several kingdoms thereafter. It is renowned for its beautiful mosaics and is host to annual classic music concerts of international acclaim.



### Florence

It's the birthplace of the Renaissance and the capital city of the region of Tuscany. It is famous for its art, architecture, monuments and museums. It's a center for culture, politics and fashion. It's Florence, a city of treasures guaranteed to delight.



### 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!



**LiberationTours**  
THE CANADIAN LEGACY



## Included in your Package

- Fifteen nights accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in Trafalgar First Class Hotels (*European standards*)
- Guests will enjoy gathering at a premium departure lounge (where available) ... *an exclusive benefit not offered by other battlefield tours*
- Immediate early morning check-in available at your hotel in Rome ... *an exclusive benefit not offered by other battlefield tours*
- 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 selected lunches as outlined in the itinerary
- All hotel service charges, local taxes, baggage handling of one bag per person
- Gratuities to Coach Driver, Trafalgar Agent and Local Guides are **included!** (*important note: these costs are extra on most other tours and can add up to \$150 CAD or more at the end of your trip, be sure to compare!*)
- Group pick-up from Rome Fiumicino Airport on September 15/17 and return group transfer to Venice Marco Polo Airport on September 30/17 (*individual transfers would be the traveller's responsibility*)
- Liberation Tours Lapel Pin

## Excluded

- Airfare to/from Italy, Airfare between mainland and Sicily; see prices above (which include estimated departure taxes); contact Uniglobe for a quote on alternate points of departure from Canada
- Meals other than stated on the itinerary
- Travel / Cancellation / Medical Insurance
- Passport & related fees
- Any optional excursion not stated
- Items of a personal nature



## Notations

- Prices are subject to change based on currency fluctuations, to be confirmed at time of final payment.
- This tour requires a minimum of 25 passengers.
- Hotels have been pre-booked but are subject to change.
- This tour will occasionally feature a walk of some short distance, and the need to ascend stairs, hills or slopes of varying degree in order to reach some of the amazing locations on the tour - good personal mobility is key to a positive experience.
- **Final payment is due no later than June 30, 2017.**
- **All deposits & payments are non-refundable.**
- Download our Terms & Conditions from [www.liberationtours.ca](http://www.liberationtours.ca).

**Reserve Your Seat Today!**

Land Only Package, Based on Double Occupancy:

**\$5549**

Air Canada between Toronto and Rome/Venice and Alitalia between Rome and Sicily:

**\$1189 + \$420**

Single Supplement: Triple Reduction:

**\$1300 \$200**

Non-Refundable Deposit at time of Booking:

**\$500**

Exclusive Booking Agent:

**Debbie Baggley**

UNIGLOBE Travel Innovations Ltd.

1-800-565-7999

[debbie@travel-til.com](mailto:debbie@travel-til.com)

**UNIGLOBE**  
Travel

Ground Travel Handled By

**TRAFALGAR**



**LiberationTours**  
THE CANADIAN LEGACY