



THE  
ITALIAN  
CAMPAIGN

TOUR 2027

SEPTEMBER 1 - 12 2027

12 Days / 11 Nights Italy Tour

With Option for Extension

Start: Rome, Italy

End: Venice, Italy

- ROME - CASSINO - SICILY - FRANCAVILLA AL MARE  
- ORTONA - RIMINI - SAN MARINO - VENICE -

You keep the history that comes with  
this monumental journey alive.

the  
**Battlefield**  
tours '86



**The Battlefield Tours** is Canada's first and official leading tour operator for Canadian battlefields and the country's longest-running, all-Canadian specialist in battlefield travel. For more than 30 years, we have proudly escorted Canadian veterans and their families, honouring their service, preserving their stories, and connecting generations to the places where history was made.

[thebattlefieldtours.ca](http://thebattlefieldtours.ca)

1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)

[info@thebattlefieldtours.com](mailto:info@thebattlefieldtours.com)

# The Italian Campaign Tour 2027

Walk in the footsteps of heroes—through the Italian Campaign, where Canadian courage shaped the course of history.

Over 12 unforgettable days, we trace the Canadian journey through Italy. From Rome, also known as the Eternal City, we move south to the shattered towns of Cassino, across the fierce battlegrounds of Sicily, through the Adriatic front and the Gothic Line, and onward into the Po Valley before reaching Venice, a city of canals and culture that stands in peaceful contrast to the battlegrounds of the past.

This is more than a sightseeing trip, it is a pilgrimage in remembrance of the Canadian and Allied soldiers whose valor and sacrifice shaped history here in 1943 and 1944.

Throughout this carefully guided itinerary, our expert historians and local guides will bring the stories of these battles alive: from museum exhibits and cemeteries to the ruins and rebuilt landmarks that bear witness to both destruction and renewal. Together, we keep their legacy alive.

## THIS TOUR SPANS:

Major Locations of Italy:

Rome, Cassino, Sicily, Francavilla al Mare, Ortona, Rimini, San Marino, Venice



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### Ancient Rome

- Explore Ancient Rome with a local guide

### Vatican, Sistine Chapel, and Colosseum

- Visit the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, and Colosseum

### Battlefields of Cassino and Liri Valley

- Walk the battlefields of Cassino and the Liri Valley

### Montecassino Abbey

- Tour Montecassino Abbey and Polish Memorials

### Sicily: Leonforte, Agira, and Pachino

- Fly to Sicily and visit Leonforte, Agira, and Pachino

### Canadian War Cemetery in Agira

- Pay respects at the Canadian War Cemetery in Agira

### Campobasso: The Maple Leaf City

- Stroll through Campobasso, the Maple Leaf City

### Ortona and Casa Berardi

- Discover Ortona's battlefield sites and Casa Berardi

### Gothic Line, Rimini

- Trace the Gothic Line near Rimini

### Coriano Ridge, Gurkha Cemetery

- Visit Coriano Ridge and the Gurkha Cemetery

### San Marino

- Wander the mountaintop republic of San Marino

### Venice's Historic Canals

- Enjoy a walking tour through Venice's historic canals

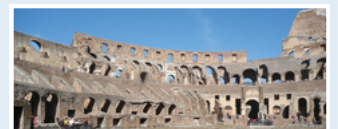
## Italy and the Canadian Story

Italy is a land shaped by centuries of civilization, art, and conflict. From the rise of Ancient Rome to the cultural power of the Renaissance, Italy has long stood at the centre of European history. Its geography, marked by mountains, rivers, and long coastlines, has both connected and divided the peninsula, influencing how wars were fought and how communities endured them. During the Second World War, this complex landscape became one of the most demanding battlefields faced by the Allied forces.

In 1943 and 1944, Italy was the stage for a grinding campaign unlike any other. The German Army constructed a series of defensive lines that stretched across the country, anchored in high ground, rivers, and fortified towns. Progress was slow and costly. Canadian soldiers, fighting alongside Allied partners, faced steep hills, narrow valleys, flooded plains, and heavily defended urban centres. These conditions tested endurance, adaptability, and leadership, which forged a legacy that remains deeply respected in both Canada and Italy today.

For Canadians, the Italian Campaign holds particular significance. It was here that Canadian divisions proved themselves in sustained combat far from home, earning international recognition for their determination and professionalism. Battles at places such as Sicily, Cassino, Ortona, and along the Adriatic and Gothic Line demanded courage under relentless pressure. The cemeteries scattered across Italy stand as quiet witnesses to that sacrifice, tended with care and gratitude by local communities.

Today, Italy is a country at peace, where rebuilt towns, preserved ruins, and carefully maintained memorials coexist. Walking these landscapes offers more than historical insight; it provides a deeper understanding of the human cost of war and the enduring bond between Canada and Italy. This journey is both an exploration of a remarkable country and an act of remembrance for those Canadians who helped shape its modern history.



# Itinerary

Day 1: Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Arrival in Rome**

Upon arrival in Rome and after clearing customs, you will be met by your tour manager and transferred by private coach. Enjoy a brief panoramic orientation of the Eternal City before arriving at your hotel. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner, followed by an early night to rest after your journey.

**Overnight:** Rome

**Meals Included:** Dinner

Day 2: Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Introduction to Rome**

This morning, a local guide will meet us at our hotel for a full day tour of Rome. You will be visiting the **Vatican Museum**, view the **Sistine Chapel** and **St Peter's Basilica** before touring on to visit **Ancient Colosseum**. Dinner will be at a favourite local restaurant of ours, near your hotel.

**Overnight:** Rome

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3 Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Anzio to Cassino**

After breakfast, we will tour south to **Anzio**, with a visit to the **Anzio Beachhead Museum**, before continuing on to the infamous **Gustav Line** and into the **Liri Valley** - where Allied troops fought vicious battles while on the march to liberate Rome. Our first stop will be in a museum atop the **Monte Leuci**, a strategic point captured by Canadian troops in 1943. After a brief stop in **Pontecorvo**, near the old Hitler Line, we complete our day by travelling to the town of **Cassino**. Destroyed by the 1943 fighting, the town has been rebuilt on higher ground. Here, we will enjoy our dinner and overnight.

**Overnight:** Cassino

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner



Day 4: Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

## **Exploring Cair & Cassino**

This morning we tour onto **The Winter Line Museum** and the curator will give us a personal tour. We will then visit the **Commonwealth Cemetery** in the town of **Cassino**, before driving up the mountain above to the **Abbey on Montecassino**. This famous landmark, built in 529 was destroyed in 1943, then rebuilt in the 1960's, now housing a beautiful chapel. While on the mountain you will visit the **Polish Obelisk on Point 593** before paying respect to the Polish soldiers buried in the scenic cemetery nearby. Tonight's dinner will be at your hotel in Cassino.

**Overnight:** Cassino

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

Day 5 Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

## **Travelling to Catania**

This morning, we fly from **Napoli** to **Catania** where we will then explore the terrain and visit the scenes of the First Division taking **Leonforte** and **Agira**, in one of the toughest campaigns in the toughest of conditions - a harrowing and captivating tale. We will also pay our respects at the **Canadian CWGC Cemetery** outside Agira before finishing our day at our hotel in Catania.

**Overnight:** Catania

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner



Day 6 Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

## **Pachino & the Canadian Landings - Operation Husky**

This morning, we travel south to **Pachino**, where Canadian forces came ashore on 10 July 1943 as part of Operation Husky, Canada's first major combat operation in the liberation of Europe. The landings marked a decisive moment for the 1st Canadian Infantry Division, establishing a firm foothold in Sicily and paving the way for the Allied advance through Italy. We will visit key locations associated with the Canadian landings before returning to Catania to further explore the city's ancient Roman heritage. Dinner will be enjoyed this evening.

**Overnight:** Catania

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

Day 7 Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

## **The Maple Leaf City**

Today, we fly back to Napoli, crossing over the mountains and touring towards the Adriatic Coast to Campobasso. In the 1940 & 1939s this was the **Maple Leaf City**, a place where the Canadian Troops were able to enjoy a bit of R & R. Both our team at the Battlefield Tours and the local communities of **Campobasso** highly encourage this tradition to continue! Tonight, we arrive in Francavilla al Mare where we enjoy our dinner and overnight.

**Overnight:** Francavilla al Mare

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner



Day 8 Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

## **Ortona**

Today we visit the **Moro River Canadian War Cemetery**, the **Church at San Donato** and the infamous Gully. We will take a circular route to **Sterlin's Castle**, then **Casa Berardi**, where Paul Triquet of the "Vandoos" Regiment won his Victoria Cross. We then pass through to **Cider Crossroads** before re-entering into **Ortona**. This town was the scene of terrible fighting involving the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the Seaforth Highlanders who carried out their "mouseholing" technique against the 1st German Parachute Division.

**Overnight:** Francavilla al Mare

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

Day 9 Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

## **North to Rimini**

This morning you will head north along the Adriatic Coast past **Pescara**, **Ancona** and **Pesaro** to **Rimini**. Along the way, we will turn west to follow what was the German Army's haunted Gothic Line. Visits to **Casinina** to view the old bunkers, a museum commemorating the Gothic Line, the Italian monument dedicated to the Canadians at **Tavullia**, the Cemetery at **Montecchio**, and the Cemetery at Gradara will make for a full day. Tonight we will overnight and savour our dinner in Forli.

**Overnight:** Rimini

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

Day 10 Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>

## **San Marino**

After breakfast, we will visit the **Coriano Ridge Cemetery** - a mute testament to the fighting along the **Gothic Line**. The nearby tiny nation-state of **San Marino** offers a scenic panorama which we will view from the mountaintop of the old, walled town. After a brief visit to the **Ghurka Cemetery**, you will have some time in the afternoon to roam the beaches of Rimini or shop in town.

**Overnight:** Rimini

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

Day 11 Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

## **Po Valley to Venice**

Our coach will take us into the **Po Valley** and the **Ravenna CWG Cemetery**, Ravenna was taken by the Canadian Corps at the beginning of December 1944, and the burials in the cemetery there reflect the fighting for the Senio line and the period of relative quiet during the first three months of 1945 and before being deployed to join the 2nd and 3rd Divisions for the Liberation of Holland. We continue on to **Venice**, where we will explore the heart, enjoying a walking tour of **San Marco**, **Rialto** and the **Ducal Palace**. After what will be a dream of a day, let us join together for our final dinner at a favourite local restaurant in the heart of the city.

**Overnight:** Venice, Mestre

**Meals Included:** Breakfast & Dinner

Day 12 Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

Departure home (or) Option to Extend

# Tour Pricing

## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Questions? We are here to help:

1 - 833 - 828 - TOUR (8687)

[info@thebattlefieldtours.com](mailto:info@thebattlefieldtours.com)

## INCLUSIONS

- An expert **Canadian historian** and a professional Canadian **tour director** will accompany the group for the full duration of the tour.
- **Transportation throughout** the tour is provided by a premium, air-conditioned motor coach featuring spacious reclining seating, facilities, and complimentary mobile Wi-Fi for passenger convenience.
- **Accommodations** in Superior Tourist Class Hotels throughout (4-5\*) 11 Nights.
- **All Entrances** as per your Itinerary
- **Meal Inclusions**
  - 11 Breakfasts
  - 11 Dinners
- A specially curated tour **resource package** is included, Custom Itinerary (PDF Printable), featuring detailed daily battlefield maps, period photographs, original archival audio recordings, and additional historical materials.
- **All service fees**, surcharges, fees, and departure taxes

## EXCLUSIONS

- **International Airfare** from Canada
- **Lunches & extra meals** and drinks not specified on the itinerary
- **Gratuities** (may we suggest 10 CAD per person, per day). Gratuities for the coach driver and guides are not included in the tour cost and should not be assumed. We believe gratuities are a personal gesture, offered at the traveler's discretion and based on the level of service and experience received, rather than a fixed or automatic charge built into the program, as is often the case with other tour operators.

### Not Included / Available Upon Request

- **Airfare:** We are happy to arrange flights from any Canadian gateway, customized to your preferred dates, routing, and class of service. Travellers may choose to depart earlier, extend their stay at the end of the tour, or continue onward to additional destinations-air arrangements can be tailored to suit your individual travel plans.
- **Pre- and Post-Tour Accommodation:** Optional hotel nights before or after the tour are available upon request.
- **Travel Insurance:** Comprehensive travel insurance is not included; no-obligation quotes are available through Manulife upon request.
- **Extra Meals:** Meals not specifically listed in the itinerary.
- **Optional Activities:** Any optional excursions or activities not explicitly outlined in the itinerary.
- **Personal Expenses:** Items of a personal nature, including laundry, beverages, and souvenirs.

### PLEASE NOTE

- **Physical Activity Level:** As with all our tours, the focus is on experiencing the battlefields firsthand. While we do include select museum visits, much of our time is spent outdoors, often walking on sandy beaches, grassy fields, and cobblestone streets. Please be prepared for a moderate amount of walking throughout the tour.
- If you use a wheelchair or have mobility concerns, we kindly ask that you review our Wheelchair Policy in advance.
- Hotels have been pre-booked; however, should a change be required, accommodations will be of the same star rating or higher.
- A minimum of 8 passengers is required for the tour to operate.
- A non-refundable deposit of \$500 CAD per person is required at the time of booking.

## 2027 Pricing

### \$7045 CAD

Land Only, per person, based on **Double Occupancy** (two people sharing a room Double or Twin bed configuration available)

### \$8030 CAD

Land Only, **Solo Traveller**, the additional cost if traveling on your own (one person in the room)

### \$500 Deposit

per person upon booking (non-refundable)  
Payable by Credit Card, Interac e-Transfer, Cheque

All prices are in Canadian Dollars

Balance due 60 days prior to the tour: July 1<sup>st</sup> 2027