



Canadian WWII History: The Italian Campaign

12 days | 16 days with Sicily extension

Modern metropolitan life intertwines with the past as you learn about the role of Canadian forces during the Italian Campaign. Make your way through the small towns and waterfront cities of Monte Cassino, Ortona, and Rimini to see the backdrop for some of the most important events of WWII. Experience deep history and endless beauty on this tour through Italy.



Your tour package includes

10 nights in handpicked hotels
10 breakfasts
5 dinners with beer or wine
Expert Tour Director
Private deluxe motor coach
Guided sightseeing and select entrance fees

Included highlights

Anzio Beach
Abbey of Monte Cassino
Museo della Battaglia di Ortona
Gothic Line Q204
San Marino
Florence War Cemetery

Tour pace

You will walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including cobblestone streets and unpaved paths, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15-35

Canadian WWII History: The Italian Campaign

12 days | 16 days with Sicily extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Rome today.

Rome → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Italy

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Italy! Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Rome

Included meals: breakfast

Follow in the footsteps of the ancient Romans on a guided tour of the Eternal City.

- Soak up over 2,000 years of history in Imperial Rome, viewing the Arch of Constantine and the Arch of Titus
- Enter the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater of the Roman Empire
- Stop at the ruins of the Forum, once the setting of parades, elections, and trials
- Pass Palatine Hill, see where ancient Romans raced chariots at Circus Maximus, and view the Baths of Caracalla

Enjoy a free afternoon in Rome or add an excursion.

+ Iconic Sights: Vatican City

Day 4: Anzio battlefields

Included meals: breakfast

Take a half-day excursion to Anzio Beach, an important Allied Forces landing spot during the Battle of Anzio.

- Visit Anzio Beachhead Museum to learn about the battle and view the museum's many artifacts and memorabilia
- Stop to visit Anzio War Cemetery
- Enjoy free time for lunch before heading back to Rome

Spend another free evening in Rome or add an excursion.

+ Dinner with Tenors

Naples → 2 nights

Day 5: Naples via Monte Cassino

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

En route to Naples, stop at Monte Cassino to tour sites used during the battle that took place here during WWII.

- Enter the Abbey of Monte Cassino, which was completely destroyed during an American-led air raid and rebuilt after the war
- See the Cassino War Cemetery and the land that was used during the Battle of Monte Cassino

After, continue on to Naples and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Naples

Included meals: breakfast

This morning's guided sightseeing tour introduces you to the highlights of Naples, a beautiful bayside city.

- Enjoy a panoramic tour with a scenic drive along the Naples waterfront
- Pass Castel dell'Ovo, the seaside castle on a peninsula in the Bay of Naples
- Visit the National Archaeological Museum and see relics of Roman history

Enjoy a free afternoon and evening or add an excursion.

+ Royal Palace of Caserta & Gardens

Ortona → 1 night

Day 7: Ortona via Moro River Canadian War Cemetery

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Today, visit the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery. When you arrive in Ortona, enter the Museo della Battaglia di Ortona to learn about the conflict that took place here between Canadian troops and Nazi Germany. This evening, sit down for an included dinner.

San Marino → 2 nights

Day 8: San Marino via Battle of Rimini Sites

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel along Italy's Adriatic Coast en route to San Marino and stop to see sites from the Battle of Rimini.

- Visit the Gradara War Cemetery
- See the Gothic Line Q204, a memorial which remembers the Canadian lives lost during WWII

After, continue on to San Marino and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of San Marino

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, set off on a guided tour of the Republic of San Marino, a mountainous state located near the Adriatic Sea.

- Stroll along the cobblestone streets through the city of San Marino, known to the locals as Città
- Walk through the walled, medieval old town to see Palazzo Pubblico and the Basilica of San Marino

Enjoy free time to eat lunch and visit the Three Towers of San Marino, located on top of Mount Titano.

Florence → 2 nights

Day 10: Florence via Florence War Cemetery

Included meals: breakfast

Transfer from San Marino to Florence stopping at the Florence War Cemetery en route.

Then, spend a free afternoon in the city or add an excursion.

+ Fiesole Villa Dinner

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Florence

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Set off to see Florence, the city at the center of the Renaissance, with a local guide.

- Visit the legendary Florence Cathedral, known as the Duomo
- Pass Giotto's Campanile, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture
- See the medieval Ponte Vecchio and the Piazza della Signoria, the center of Florentine life
- Step inside the Basilica of Santa Croce, the burial site of Michelangelo, Machiavelli, and Galileo

This evening, join your group for a farewell dinner.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

+ Sicily extension

After an overnight flight to Catania, spend three days learning how WWII shaped the history of Sicily during visits to the interactive Museo Storico dello Sbarco and the Canadian War Cemetery in Agira.

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Catania today.

Catania → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Sicily

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Italy! Meet your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Catania & Agira

Included meals: breakfast

Meet your local guide and set out to discover Catania, which sits at the base of Mount Etna.

- Explore Sicily's WWII history at the Museo Storico dello Sbarco, an interactive museum featuring striking photographs and a life-size model of a war-era bunker
- Discover Catania's historic city center and the world-famous fish market held near the Baroque Catania Cathedral

This afternoon, enjoy free time for lunch before heading to Agira to visit the town's Canadian War Cemetery.

Day 4: Free day in Catania

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Catania or add excursions.

+ Taormina

+ Mount Etna Wine Region Tasting & Dinner

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/DDI | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Iconic Sights: Vatican City

\$175CAD (3.5 hours, departure time varies)

This guided tour takes you inside Vatican City—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most sacred places in Christendom. This independent city-state within Rome serves as the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and is home to the Pope. Upon arrival, turn on your pre-distributed headset and dive into the Vatican's rich history with your local guide. First, visit the Vatican Museums, which are more than 500 years old and house many of the world's most important Classical- and Renaissance-era sculptures. Next, step inside the Sistine Chapel, whose frescoed ceiling is arguably Michelangelo's greatest masterpiece. Finally, pay a visit to the enormous St. Peter's Basilica, the epicenter of the Roman Catholic faith. The artists who have contributed to its glory are some of the best Italy has ever known—Bramante, Peruzzi, Raphael, and Michelangelo. Masterpieces await at every turn, from Bernini's magnificent bronze canopy to Michelangelo's Pietà.

Please note: Should this excursion fall on a Sunday, it'll be moved to another day of the tour. Backpacks aren't allowed in the Vatican, and shorts and sleeveless shirts are strictly prohibited. Due to closures of certain entrances and pathways, wait times may extend to several hours during busy travel months. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

Day 4: Dinner with Tenors

\$105CAD/\$115CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

End your day with an elegant, four-course dinner at a local restaurant. While you dine, you'll be treated to some of opera's best-loved arias, sung by professional tenors, and you might even join the singers on stage. Don't miss this lighthearted evening of food and fun! Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from March through November. Please note: Due to restaurant closures, all 2021 departures of the Dinner with Tenors experience will feature live music at a historic osteria in the Trastevere neighborhood.

Day 6: Royal Palace of Caserta & Gardens

\$145CAD/\$155CAD* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Join a local guide for a walking tour of 18th-century, Royal Palace of Caserta and its acclaimed English Gardens. The UNESCO-listed, Baroque-style palace is one of the largest in Europe and was used as the headquarters for the Allied troops during WWII. In addition, the palace was where Germany signed the terms to their surrender on the Italian front, and where the first Allied war crimes trial took place. After touring the palace, discover the accompanying gardens, which were inspired by the landscapes of Versailles. Stroll through the flora-filled paths to see the park's many fountains, baths, and statues.

Day 10: Fiesole Villa Dinner

\$129CAD/\$139CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Head just outside Florence to Fiesole, a historic Tuscan town perched on a hill overlooking the Renaissance city. Tonight's dinner is set in a picturesque villa with panoramic views of the city below. Start your evening with an aperitif and then enjoy a refined Italian dinner with local wine. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from April to October. Additionally, the aperitif may be enjoyed inside in the case of inclement weather.

Extension excursion options

Day 4: Taormina

\$105CAD/\$115CAD* (5 hours, departs in the morning)

Head to Taormina where a local guide will introduce you to this scenic city perched high above the sea. Enjoy views of Mount Etna, Taormina Cathedral, and Palazzo Corvaia, seat of the first Sicilian parliament. Then, visit the town's 2nd-century Greek theater and enjoy free time in the area, before returning to Catania.

Day 4: Mount Etna Wine Region Tasting & Dinner

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Travel to the Etna wine region for a traditional Sicilian dinner and wine tasting on the grounds of a local vineyard estate. The area's volcanic soil and distinctive climate infuse the wines with an intense and pleasing minerality that perfectly complements traditional Sicilian cooking. You'll sip on Etna Rosso blends made of the sleek nerello mascalese and nerello cappuccio grapes while in view of the majestic Mount Etna.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms