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Member of the San Francisco Better Business Bureau

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**PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES**

Due to the absence of handicap and disability laws in the countries we visit, and the expeditionary nature of our tours, we must require tour participants with disabilities be accompanied by a companion legally responsible for assisting throughout. There is absolutely no wheelchair access.

Photos by John Shively and Peter Flahavin

**America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator**

**Valor Tours, Ltd. presents....**  
**Return to the**  
**GUADALCANAL**  
**July 29 to August 7, 2025**



*Photo by Peter Flahavin*



**Escorted by John Shively**

**GUADALCANAL 1942 - 1943**

The U.S. offensive of WWII in the Pacific Theater began on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942 when U.S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal, Tulagi and Gavutu to establish a foothold upon enemy held territory. Thus began the Allied Advance on the road to Tokyo.



Tour leader John Shively (right) with CMC Amos at American Memorial ceremony, August 2012. John has been escorting this tour for the past six years.

The Solomon Islands campaign lasted twenty months. It was a violent air, land and sea struggle with a determined enemy. This tour offers WWII history and ceremony with sightseeing on this now peaceful and beautiful island. Walk invasion beaches and airstrips – cruise across Iron Bottom Sound past Savo Island, remembering the tremendous losses suffered by the Japanese response to the land invasions. Relics still abound although the jungle now mostly conceals the wounds of battle.



LST 342 in Tokyo Bay near Tulagi



80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary wreath laying, Tulagi

### Memorial Park of Honor

Valor Tours, Ltd. is pleased to draw attention to this unusual opportunity for family, friends or relatives of U.S. Servicemen and women who served in the Pacific during any of the major conflicts of the Twentieth century. As part of the Honiara Beautification Project, you may purchase a tree to be planted in the name of a Veteran, unit or ship in the Memorial Park. A plaque will be placed and dedicated when our group visits each August. Cost \$140. Application form available upon request.

**Here, on and around these islands, in 1942/43, the tide of war in the Pacific was turned. The contest was hard....**

**The cost was high.... The valor was exemplary.**

## Application form for 2025

### Return to Guadalcanal tour – 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504

I/we enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person) to reserve \_\_\_ places on the Guadalcanal tour – July 29 to August 7, 2025 on a:

\_\_\_ Twin share occupancy or \_\_\_ single occupancy

\_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_ Non smoking

\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and would like to share with another single traveling tour member.

Or please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (until Nov. 4, 2020 we only accept AX or check)

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

(As it appears on your passport)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

(As you would like it to appear on ID badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran of WWII (Branch, division, ship, etc.) or reason for participation:

Any places of special interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements on aircraft? \_\_\_\_\_

Optional extensions:

\_\_\_ I/we would like to stopover in Nadi, Fiji Islands for \_\_\_ nights on the return leg of the tour.

\_\_\_ I/we would like the Tarawa extension

*Facilities for the disabled in the Solomon Islands and Fiji do not exist. Please let us know if you have any disabilities that may prevent you from climbing on and off the boats, walking through the jungle, getting on and off buses, etc.* \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions as set forth in this brochure.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL INFORMATION, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS

Please complete the application form and return with a deposit of \$600 per person. Reservations cannot be held without a deposit. Only forms of payment accepted at the moment are check or credit card. Make checks payable to Valor Tours, Ltd. and mail to 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, and CA 94965. Final payment is due May 3, 2025. All passengers on deposit will receive written confirmation, description of insurance coverage (included in the cost) and newsletter with further details. Final travel documents will be sent Priority Mail to fully paid participants about two weeks prior to departure. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Cost based upon a minimum number of participants traveling together and current airfares and rates. Once deposit is received, current rates are guaranteed. Late bookings are accepted subject to space availability. Call 1-800-842-4504.

### CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All moneys are fully refundable for cancellations received up to April 30, 2024. Cancellations received between April 30 and June 25, 2024 subject to \$600 per person penalty. Cancellation received after June 25 "no shows" are non-refundable. Cancellation insurance is not included in the cost of the package, but is available upon request for additional cost. Personal deviations and extensions to tour are subject to the same penalties. Payments made by check will be refunded by check and may take up to 30 days to process. Payments made by credit card must be credited back to your credit card and may take up to 60 days to appear on your statement.

### HEALTH & TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

Malaria can be a problem on Guadalcanal. Anti-Malaria medication is available from your doctor; however, we find that roll-on insect repellents work very well on exposed skin in the evening and early morning hours when mosquitoes are most prevalent. Also, natural citronella wristbands and ankle bands are very effective and non-toxic. We recommend that passengers wear long sleeved shirts and long pants in the evening hours and keep the air-conditioning on in your room. We also recommend that all passengers get tetanus and hepatitis inoculations. Check with your doctor. For those prone to seasickness bring some Dramamine for the day trip to Tulagi and Gavutu and the waters can get choppy in the afternoon. You will need a passport valid six months beyond date of travel. Visas for U.S. citizens are not required. A Covid19 vaccine certificate may still be required.

### WHAT TO BRING

Casual clothes such as shorts, bathing suit, wash n'wear, loose fitting clothing, comfortable walking shoes, beach (water) shoes, snorkel gear, brimmed hat, suntan lotion, wash clothe, bottle of Woolite, plenty of film, camera (water proof if possible), wind breaker, back pack, flask to carry water, binoculars. If you are a diver, bring your own fins and regulator. Other dive equipment is available at the dive shop in the hotel. Leave expensive jewelry and high-heeled shoes at home. Carry medications, airline tickets, passport, cash and travelers checks on your person – do not pack in suitcase, as there are occasional delays. Travel light – one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Hotel has excellent 24-hour laundry facilities.

### AIR TRANSPORTATION

We will fly Fiji Airways new Airbus Industrie A330-200 series aircraft non stop jet service from Los Angeles to Nadi, in the Fiji Islands, in economy class with 2 + 4 + 2 seating. From Nadi to Guadalcanal fly Solomon Airlines 767 jet service with 3 + 3 seating. Business class upgrade is available upon request at an additional cost with 2 + 2 + 2 seating. Frequent flyer awards cannot be used toward the purchase of this tour. Deviations from the group air space may result in higher fares. Omit airfare and reduce cost by \$1000 per person, but passengers will be responsible for getting to/from Henderson Field (Honiara), Guadalcanal.

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

When a tour member asks Valor Tours to seek a suitable roommate, we will do the best we can to oblige and find a colleague with common interests and habits. Valor Tours cannot be held responsible for incompatibility or guarantee a roommate. If a roommate cannot be found, the single supplement would apply.

### NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE COST

Foreign airport departure taxes, meals not indicated in itineraries, passport fees, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature, and domestic airfare within the U.S., travel/cancellation insurance.

## 2025 Itinerary in Brief

Itinerary – subject to change – we can alter or arrange touring sites to fit the needs of our customers.

### Tue July 29

Check in at the Fiji Airways counter in the International Terminal, Los Angeles Int'l Airport no later than 8:00pm for our 11:55pm flight on FJ #811.

In-flight entertainment, friendly Fiji Airways staff and breakfast pass the time pleasantly on this non-stop flight to Nadi, Fiji Islands, crossing both the International Date Line and loosing this day.

### Thursday July 31

Arrive Nadi, Fiji Islands at 5:45am. Short layover until departure for Guadalcanal at 1:20pm, arriving Henderson Field 3:25pm. Transfer to and spend the next seven nights at Mendana Hotel. Afternoon visit to the American Memorial on Skyline Drive, overlooking Iron Bottom Sound.

### Friday August 1 to Thursday August 7

On these days of touring, we will visit the Japanese Memorial on Mt. Austen; Galloping Horse Ridge; the Matanikau River; the National Parliament Building (a gift from the American Government on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary); the Gifu; Fighter 1 and Fighter 3 and the Crash Strip; wartime front lines and position where John Basilone won his Medal of Honor; Henderson Field and its Heroes Wall; Alligator Creek; Beach Red; Carney Field; Koli Point area, scene of the November actions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Marines and 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry; Amtrack dump; California village, home of Sgt. Major Sir Jacob Vouza, the Solomon Islander who gave such valued service to his American friends; evacuation beaches used by Puller's 7<sup>th</sup> Marines and retrace Puller's move from Hill 66 to the coast where he destroyed the majority of the Japanese 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry. On one of these days we will make the 20-mile crossing over Iron Bottom Sound by boat to Tulagi. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, B Co. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines made the first landing on the Florida Islands. First stop visit to the rusting remains of LST 342. Then onto a Japanese destroyer in Tokyo Bay. The 1<sup>st</sup> Raiders and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 5<sup>th</sup> Marines pressed on with the Tulagi landings at Blue Beach. Later that day the 1<sup>st</sup> Parachute Battalion and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines attacked the smaller nearby islands of Gavutu and Tanambogo. Visit school Marine Raiders dedicated on Tulagi in 2014. Box lunch provided on this day only. On August 7<sup>th</sup> we attend a small ceremony at the American Memorial in the early mornng. During our time on Guadalcanal we will also visit the Coastwatchers Memorial, Sir Jacob Vouza's Monument and Memorial Park to take pictures of newly dedicated trees/plaques.

### Thursday August 7

Day free for any last minute shopping in Honiara before transfer to the airport for our 4:25pm FJ 268 flight to Nadi, arriving 8:30p....connecting to FJ 810 at 9:40pm arriving Los Angeles 12:55pm same day.

Optional stopover at Nadi, Fiji Islands possible.

We do not recommend participation of children under the age of 12.

Guadalcanal, then and now, by Peter Flahavin: <https://au.blurb.com/b/7247610-guadalcanal-revisited-ii> (We use his images in this brochure)

*"I recently came back from the Guadalcanal tour and would like to thank you for a terrific experience. The tour was in every way professional and the experience gave me greater insight into what took place at Guadalcanal...I would highly recommend this tour to anyone. The Solomon Islanders are wonderful hosts as well and added greatly to my enjoyment of the trip. I will be going on future trips with Valor Tours and look forward to another great learning experience."*

John Payne, Guadalcanal 2006

*"The most memorable moment was the visit to Red Beach and knowing that my Dad walked this very same beach..."*

John Willis 2003

*"...I enjoyed my return to my old ship, or what's left of it (USS LST 342) and standing on the rusty deck, and thinking back 55 years to the days of my youth..."*

Theron MacKay, U.S. Navy Vet (who has made eight trips with us back to his LST)

*"Every day my Dad begins his emails from Guadalcanal with the words "This is the best day yet." You and Valor Tours have really shown my Dad honor and respect and a very life-changing experience. Many thanks to you!"*

Susan Layman, 2009

*"The tour was inspiring. John (Shively) does an outstanding job. He loves his mission and is devoted to client service."*

Louis Scatena, 2019

*"...remarkably well planned and executed tour. John Shively is a remarkably well informed and extremely warm and inclusive person."*

John Rees, 2019



Grounds of our hotel located on Iron Bottom Sounds overlooking Savo Island.



Found Japanese flag on Gavutu during 2004 tour



## Cost \$4,200 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$600 extra

Includes round trip air fare economy class via Fiji Airways from Los Angeles; U.S. Departure taxes; services of John Shively as historian/guide; airport/hotel transfers and baggage handling; six nights hotel accommodations in standard rooms at the Mendana Hotel with private bathroom facilities and air conditioning; hotel taxes; all transportation by boat and bus; box lunch on day trip to Florida Islands; entrance and land access fees; local taxes.

Based on a minimum of 10 persons traveling together. Transportation on Guadalcanal is limited so reservations will be accepted on first come-first served basis. Itinerary and cost subject to change. Unused components are non-refundable. Valor Tours does not recommend that children under the age of 12 years of age participate on these tours. Changes, deviations, upgrades to your reservations within 45 days of departure may result in additional costs and administration charges. Schedule of activities and sightseeing may be shifted to accommodate local conditions, availability of services, ceremonies and other activities that may arise. Passengers coming from Europe or Australia may take an air credit of \$1000 and arrange their own flights to and from Henderson Field, Guadalcanal.

### Travel Insurance

To ensure worry free travel, we recommend emergency travel and cancellation insurance be purchased. This coverage is provided by TRAVELEX Insurance Services. Coverage includes sickness and accident medical expense; trip delay or missed flight connections; medical evacuation and repatriation; baggage and personal effects loss or delay; assistance services worldwide. Description of travel coverage will be sent to everyone signed up along with confirmation and reading list.

## Optional stopover in Fiji

### Nadi, Fiji Islands

*Fiji Airways now flies daily from Nadi to Los Angeles, so a stopover for any length of time is possible.*

\$150 per night single occupancy or \$100 per night per person for twin share. Includes airport/hotel transfers round trip transfers, hotel accommodations and taxes. Does not include airline stopover fees and/or added air taxes imposed by airlines for stopover – about \$80 to \$100 per person.

Tokatoka Hotel or Tanoa Hotel near Nadi airport or similar. Beachfront hotels also available upon request, but quite a bit more expensive and require special transfer or car rental.