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PRESENTS...

# The Italian Campaign WWII

## May 21 to June 1, 2025

### North



Valor Tours, Ltd. CST #2075156-50

Member of ASTA and the S.F. Better Business Bureau



**Valor Tours, Ltd.**

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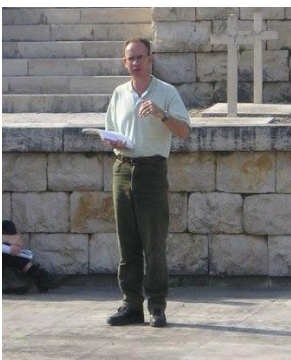
Website: [www.valortours.com](http://www.valortours.com)

Revised/printed January 23, 2025

Escorted by Frank de Planta

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

After the fall of Rome in Jun 44, the Allies continued their push north in pursuit of the Germans who had escaped the trap set by Operation DIADEM - the breakthrough at Cassino and the breakout of Anzio: both intended to destroy the right wing of the German Tenth Army at Valmontone. However, the Allied forces in Italy were a shadow of their former power after the fall of Rome. In accordance with agreements previously made between the Americans and the British, US Fifth Army was all but neutred with the departure for France and Operation DRAGOON of the 100,000 men of the French Expeditionary Corps and the three Infantry Divisions of VI (US) Corps - 3, 36 and 45 US Infantry Divisions. With these fighting troops went a large part of Fifth Army's artillery, transport and supply - and with it American ability to adminster the coup de grace. We will follow a much reduced US Fifth Army up the west coast towards Pisa and see how it coped with these new limitations on its ability to destroy the Germans. We will follow in the footsteps of US Fifth Army as it pushed into the High Appennines in Sep 44 in an attempt to crash through the mighty Gothic Line above Florence. The terrain was appalling, the conditions dreadful and yet the American soldier did what was asked and overcame. We will travel over to the Adriatic coast at Rimini to follow the British Eighth Army's part in the assault on the Gothic Line. We will see US Fifth Army stall in very challenging mountainous terrain and endure the harsh winter of '44 before examining the Final Offensive in Apr 45 that carried them out of the High Appennines and into the Po Valley and the British Eighth Army through the Argenta Gap. Along the way, we will pay our respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice with visits to both American and British military cemeteries.



**Frank de Planta, guide/historian** has had an interest in military history since childhood and has been running battlefield tours to Spain, France and Italy for years. Commissioned into The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1984, he retired in 1991 and joined the Territorial Army during which time he commanded East Midlands Officers' Training Corps in Nottingham. Fred Majdalanay's personal account of Cassino sparked an intense interest and he now devotes much of his free time to this fascinating and highly controversial series of battles that, ultimately, led to a costly breakthrough in May/June 1944. His interest then shifted to include Anzio, a part of the Italian Campaign that is inextricably linked to Cassino. In 2010, his projects included working with Wall to Wall, the production company for the BBC 1 series 'Who Do You Think You Are?' His current project is researching the route of 1/6 Surreys from the fall of Rome in June 1944 to the capture of Forli, in northern Italy, in October 1944.



**Application form  
WWII Campaign to Italy 2025**

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965 Questions?  
Call 1-800-842-4504

Please reserve \_\_\_ spaces on the Italy Campaign tour, May 2025.

Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person, per tour) in the form of a check\_\_\_, or credit card:  
account \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_

For accommodations based on a \_\_\_ twin share basis or \_\_\_ single occupancy:

\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and wish to share with another tour member, or  
\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and do not wish to share and will pay the single supplement.  
\_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_ Non smoking

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, family member, history buff: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dietary requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I/we require assistance with air fare/arrangements from \_\_\_\_\_ to coincide with tour.

\_\_\_ I/we would like to arrive Rome \_\_\_ days early and/or stay \_\_\_ days later.

*Facilities for the disabled are non-existent. Please let us know if you have any disabilities that may prevent you from climbing on and off aircraft, buses or walking. 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. We accept credit cards or personal checks. Make checks payable to Valor Tours, Ltd. and mail to 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, and CA 94965. Payment can also be made by calling or email or snail mail. Final payment is due Feb. 21, 2025. All passengers on deposit will receive written confirmation and information travel/cancellation insurance coverage. A reminder of final payment and newsletter with further details will be sent in early February 2025. 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. Components of the tour cannot be purchased separately. Cost based upon a minimum of 10 fully paid participants travelling together and current rates. Changes to itinerary may be necessary if group falls below 10 participants. Early reservations are recommended. If tour operator cancels tour, a full refund will be made. Not recommended for children under the age of 12.

### CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All moneys are fully refundable for cancellations received up to February 21, 2025. Cancellations received between February 21 and March 21, 2025 subject to a \$600 per person penalty. Cancellation received after March 21, 2025 or "no shows" are non-refundable. Travel cancellation insurance is available upon request. Payments made by credit card will be refunded back to credit card and may take up to 60 days to process. Payments made by personal check will be refunded by check and may take up to 30 days to process.

### HEALTH & TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers must be in possession of a passport valid at least six months beyond date of travel. No visas or inoculations are required for Italy however there is talk about all of Europe requiring visas in 2025. This can be done online and is inexpensive. More on this new development next year. Ask your physician about Hepatitis which is recommended to ALL travelers to any part of the world. Final travel documents including any requested airline tickets, ID badge, baggage tags, list of passengers and final instructions will be sent Priority Mail about two weeks prior to tour departure.

### DISABILITIES

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home and our coaches do not have lifts. Passengers should be somewhat mobile.

### 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.

## Itinerary in brief – subject to change

### Wednesday May 21 (D)

Independent arrivals Rome airport. Welcome dinner and introductions with tour leader Frank de Planta. Overnight Hotel Isola Sacra, Rome airport.

### Thursday May 22 (B, D)

After breakfast visit Italian Air Force Museum on Lake Bracciano, a WWII flying boat air base, and then drive up the west coast following the advance of the US fifth Army. Visit Magliano in Toscana and see the action of SSgt Homer L Wise for which he was awarded the MOH servicing with the 142<sup>nd</sup> IR. Understand the reasons why 15 Army Group struggled to overwhelm the Germans in the Weeks after the fall of Rome June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1944. Overnight Hotel II Parco, Grosseto

### Friday May 23 (B, D)

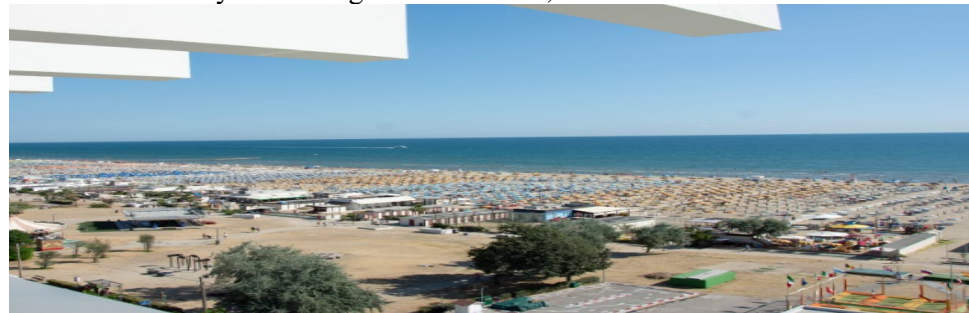
Breakfast at hotel. Today push beyond Grosseto to study the IV (US) Corps decision to drive through the Tuscan Hills to Livorno, then onto Pisa and the River Arno. Overnight the Gate Hotel, Sesto Fiorentino.

### Saturday May 24 (B, D)

After breakfast drive to the north east of Florence into the foothills of the Apennines to learn about the preparations made by Fifth Army for the break into the Northern Apennines in an effort to cut through the Gothic Line. Museum. 336<sup>th</sup> Infantry Memorial – II (US) Corps attack beyond the Sieve Valley. Seize the II Giogo Pass and open the road to Firenzuola; Study the 91<sup>st</sup> US Inf. And 85<sup>th</sup> US Inf. Div. Combined assault the Hill features that dominated the II Giogo Pass. Overnight Hotel Musolesi.

### Sunday May 25 (B, D)

After breakfast visit the Futa Pass Germany Cemetery. II (US) Corps advance to secure the Radicosa Pass and the ground beyond in order to open the road to Bologna. After lunch drive to the dominating and spectacular mountain features at Santuario del Monte delle Formiche to study the 85 US Inf Div Assault on Monte delle Formiche. Then onto Monte Grande to study the defensive actions of the US Fifth Army. Overnight B&B Faenza, Faenza.



**Monday May 26 (B, D)**

After breakfast drive to Montefabbri to examine the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army’s operation on the Adriatic coast. Then onto the Iconic town of Tavoleto. Follow the 4 Indian Division’s advance over the San Pietro Ridge and to Montefiore Conca. Overnight Eurhotel, Rimini

**Tuesday May 27 (B, D)**

Today drive to San cleme4nte to study the 1<sup>st</sup> British Armoured Division attack towards the River Marnao and Croce. Then onto the small village of Gemmano known as the “Cassino on the Adriatic”. Visit the Gurkha Rimini Cemetery. Return and overnight Eurhotel, Rimini.

**Wednesday May 28 (B, D)**

Visit the British cemetery on Coriano Ridge before spending the rest of the day following the progress of 1Canadian Corps as they push toward the River Marecchia. After lunch visit the Queen’s Bays Memorial. Overnight Unaway Hotel, Cesena.

**Thursday May 29 (B, D)**

Visit the Indian Army Cemetery at Forli. Then onto picturesque Lake Comacchio. Then to La Fossa Marina to assess the 24 Guards Brigade assault to secure the bridges that were needed to break into the Argenta Gap. Then onto the Argenta Gap British Cemetery, ending the day at Zappi Cycling Hotel in Riolo Terme.

**Friday May 30 (B, D)**

Today a look at the US Fifth Army’s action in the Northern Apennines and onto Monte Battaglia to study the 88 US Inf. Div. advance. After lunch visit Senator Bob Dole’s stele at Cfastel d’Ariano where he served with the 10<sup>th</sup> US Mountain Inf. Div. Then onto Sasso Marconi to study Truscott’s controversial decision to shift away from Route 65 to Route 64. Overnight Agriturismo Rio Verde, Sasso Marconi.

**Saturday May 31 (B, D)**

After breakfast visit the famous Santuario Madonna de San Luca above Bologna and study the US Fifth Army’s rapid advance to the west of Route 643 and their entry into Bologna in April 1945. Visit the American military cemetery in Florence before heading back to Rome. Overnight Hotel Isola Sacra Roma Airport.

**Sunday June 1 (B)**

After breakfast, check out of hotel and transfer to Rome airport using free hotel shuttle, for flight home.

Additional nights at the Hotel Isola Sacra Rome: \$220 per night for a twin room, \$200 per night for a single room. Free hotel/airport shuttle. For a more detailed itinerary, call or email Valor Tours and one will be provided.



**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. Disabled participant must be somewhat mobile. There is absolutely no wheelchair access.

**WWII Italian Campaign tour – 11 days/10 nights**

Arrival and departure airport/hotel transfers; private coach transport throughout tour; services of tour historian/guide Frank de Planta; 11-nights hotel accommodations at 3 or 4 star hotels; breakfast and dinner daily; local taxes; battle history tour book. Based on minimum of 10 passengers. If less than 10, some alternations may be made.

**\$4250.00 per person, twin share. Single occupancy \$4595.00.**

*Not included; air fare from US to Rome; any foreign airport departure taxes; Lunches; passport fees; alcoholic beverages; phone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature; travel/cancellation insurance; tips to guide; museum entrance fees.*