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PRESENTS...

The Battle for Rome in the Italian Campaign WWII

South

October 12 to 23, 2025



Valor Tours, Ltd. CST #2075156-50

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



Valor Tours, Ltd.

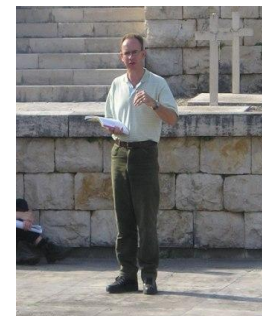
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Escorted by Frank de Planta

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

Early in September 1943, British and American armies invaded southern Italy, striking at the heart of a major Axis nation and breaching Hitler's "Fortress Europe." Behind the invasion lay long months of hard-won Allied victories. The Axis was cleared out of Africa in May, when British and American armies annihilated the German and Italian forces cornered in Tunisia. Sicily, the stepping-stone from Africa to Europe was next conquered in a 38-day battle, and on 17 August the last of its German garrison fled across the Strait of Messina to the Italian mainland. On 3 September, the British Eighth Army crossed the Strait in pursuit and drove up the Calabrian Peninsula. Coordinated with the Eighth Army's attack, the U.S. Fifth Army landed at Salerno on 9 September accompanied by 1 British Airborne Division at Taranto. In the Salerno landings, strong American forces were fighting on the continent of Europe for the first time since 1918.

Frank de Planta, guide/historian

Frank de Planta 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 British Army Reserves during which time he commanded East Midlands Officers' Training Corps in Nottingham. He remained in the Reserve until 2009.

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. The Italian Campaign is an enormous canvas and he has extended his guiding to now include the brutal battles of the Gothic Line at Pisa-Rimini, the Final Offensive that brought the war in Italy to a successful close and the US/French Op DRAGOON – the invasion of Southern France.

His projects have included advising film production companies on military issues for television series like 'Who Do You Think You Are?', 'My Grandparents' War' and 'Victoria'.

Application form
Battle for Rome Italy Campaign 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, October 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 July 6, 2024. 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 June 2024. 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 airfares and 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 July 6, 2024. Cancellations received between July 13 and September 13, 2025 subject to a \$600 per person penalty. Cancellation received after Sept 13, 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. 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.

Itineraries and hotels listed subject to change.

Itinerary in brief – subject to change

Sunday October 12 (D)

Independent arrivals Rome airport. Welcome dinner and overnight Rome Fiumicino Airport Hotel Isola Sacra

Monday October 13 (B, D)

Meet Frank de Planta and depart Rome for Salerno. Visit the Salerno Commonwealth Cemetery at dusk. Dinner and overnight at the Palace in Battipaglia.

Tuesday October 14 (B, D)

Drive to Castello di Arechi for a briefing on the background to the Italian Campaign and the decision to commit US Fifth Army at Salerno in Sep 43. Chart the progress of VI (US) Corps from its landings to the establishment of a secure beachhead. The tour will include 36th US ID's Yellow Beach and Monument at Paestum, La Cattedrale del Granato & Point 386, Altavilla & Point 424, the Tobacco Factory and the burned bridge at Borgo San Caesareo – all iconic locations for this epic US landing. Head to Cassino by way of the Italian Military Cemetery at Monte Lungo & San Pietro Infine. Dinner and overnight BW Hotel Rocca.

Wednesday October 15 (B, D)

Examine the first battles for the Gustav Line at Cassino with a visit to the coast where X (British Corps fought cross the Garigliano river and get into the Ausente valley. Return to the Cassino area to examine the II (US) Corps plan for drawing German reserves south from Rome by committing 36th US ID to cross the Rapido river at San Angelo. Dinner and overnight BW Hotel Rocca.

Thursday October 16 (B, D)

Examine 34th US ID's assault on the Gustav Line and study the development of the logistics arrangement as numbers in the Cassino area grew from three to nine Divisions in five months. Climb Monastery Hill to appreciate its defensive importance during the Second Battle of Cassino. in Feb 44. Examine II (NZ) Corps new plan for securing Cassino and see how it unfolds. Dinner and overnight BW Hotel Rocca.



Friday October 17 (B, D)

Return to Monastery Hill where 34th US ID fought so courageously and follow II (NZ) Corps in the Second Battle and Third Battles of Cassino. Examine the build-up and execution of the Fourth Battle of Cassino and the role of II (Polish) Corps in this epic battle. Dinner and overnight BW Hotel Rocca.

Saturday October 18 (B, D)

Drive into the Liri Valley and study the XIII (British) Corps plan to cross the Rapido river in the Fourth Battle of Cassino before pushing on to the Hitler Line to look at the 1 (Canadian) Corps plan to breach the next defensive line on the road to Rome. Drive to Anzio stopping on the way at the impressive Piana delle Orme Museum. Dinner and overnight at the Grand Hotel dei Cesari.



Valor Tours group at Monte Cassino

Sunday October 19 (B, D)

The day will start with a visit to American US Sicily-Rome Military Cemetery where the challenges of Op SHINGLE – the landings at Anzio by VI (US) Corps will be set out. The remainder of the day will examine the early attempts to breakout of the beachhead and reach Rome via the Albans Hills. It will include a look at the catastrophic Rangers’ infiltration up the Pantano Ditch in January 1944 as the spearhead of 3 US ID assault on Cisterna. Dinner and overnight at the Grand Hotel dei Cesari.

Monday October 20 (B, D)

The day will examine how the various Divisions of VI (US) Corps fended off constant German offensives that were trying to destroy the beachhead and how VI (US) Corps built up its strength in readiness for a breakout. It will include a look at the VI (US) Corps plan for the breakout and the controversial incidents that followed. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Relais Castrum Boccea.

Tuesday October 21 (B, D)

The day will be spent north of Rome looking out how Fifth Army advanced in the face of light German opposition but unable to capitalize on this advantage for lack of manpower. Earlier promises to mount Op DRAGOON in Southern France with seasoned American and French troops from Italy were now impacting Fifth Army progress. Dinner and overnight at the Antico Podere San France.



Anzio War Cemetery

Wednesday October 22 (B, D)

The day will start with the Fifth Army’s advance towards the Gothic Line at Pisa and the Arno river and include a look at the daunting Fiftyh Army plans to break the Gothic Line high in the Apennine Mountains above Florence in an effort to reach Bologna and the Po Valley. The tour will end with a visit to the American Florence Cemetery. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Isola Sacra.

Thursday October 23 (B)

Check out and transfer to Rome Fiumicino Airport for flight home.

Wish to stay in Rome longer? Not a problem. Just let us know.

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 – 12 days/11 nights
The cost of the tour includes arrival and departure airport/hotel transfers, private coach transport throughout, the services of tour historian/guide Frank de Planta, all hotel accommodations at 3/4 star hotels, meals as indicated in itinerary by B-Breakfast & D-Dinner, water daily on coach, local taxes and battle history tour book of maps and photos. Based on minimum of 10 passengers. If less than 10, some alternations may be made. \$4250.00 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$4595.00.
Not included are foreign airport departure taxes, meals not indicated in itineraries, museum entrance fees, passport fees, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature, airfare from USA to Rome, cancellation insurance coverage, tips to driver and guide.