



# RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

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## ITINERARY

### Italy Battlefield Tour 2011

14 days / 12 nights  
From March 19 to April 01, 2011

March 31, 2010

*This unique tour will attempt to cover most of the areas Canadian troops fought for during WW II in central Italy. Famous battle sites such as Cassino, the Moro River, Ortona and the Gothic Line will be visited along with the grave sites of those "D-Day Dodgers" who gave their all and stayed in "Sunny Italy." While the focus of the trip is battlefields, there is a tourism component where travelers will have the opportunity to explore areas such as the Amalfi Coast and Florence. In addition to viewing the beautiful countryside, we will experience the food and culture of Italy.*

**Day 1:**  
**March 19**

**Saturday,**

Departure for our overnight flight to Rome

**Day 2:**  
**20**

**Sunday, March**

Upon arriving in Rome, we will board our coach for a brief orientation tour of the city before arriving at our hotel for dinner and an early night.

**Day 3:**  
**21**

**Monday, March**

This morning our local guide will meet us at the hotel for a full day tour of Rome. We will be visiting the sites of the Old City, including the Forum, Coliseum, Piazza Navona, the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. Our day's traveling will be by foot and Metro. Dinner will be at a restaurant near our hotel.

**Day 4:**  
**22**

**Tuesday, March**

After breakfast, we tour south of Rome by coach, towards 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 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 traveling to the town of Cassino, destroyed by the 1943 fighting, and rebuilt on higher ground, where we will have dinner and stay overnight.

**Day 5:**  
**March 23**

**Wednesday,**

This morning we travel to Cairra, a small community to the north of Cassino and the

gravesite for nearly 24,000 German troops who died in the area. From here we visit the Commonwealth Cemetery in the town of Cassino before driving up the mountain above town to the Abbey on Montecassino. This famous landmark, built in 529 was destroyed in 1943, then rebuilt in the 1960's and houses a beautiful chapel. While on the mountain we will visit the Polish obelisk and Sherman tank monument at Albaneto Farm before paying respect to the Polish soldiers buried in a scenic cemetery nearby. Tonight's dinner will be at our hotel in Cassino.

**Day 6:  
March 24**

**Thursday,**

We tour south after breakfast to Caserta, to visit the gravesite of 100 Canadians, then tour the famous Caserta Royal Palace and Gardens, built by the Bourbons in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century to rival Versailles. In the afternoon we will be met by an alpine guide to accompany us up Vesuvius, the mountain whose top blasted off in 79 A.D. and destroyed the ancient city of Pompei. After our hike we travel a short distance to the resort town of Sorrento for dinner at or near our accommodation.

**Day 7:  
25**

**Friday, March**

Our day begins with a short ride by coach to Naples to visit the little-known Underground City, a unique network of tunnels and cisterns begun in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century A.D. and used as a bomb shelter by thousands during WW II. Illustrated to visitors are the rough infrastructure of a city under siege as well as experimental botanical gardens, artwork and graffiti of the day. Pompei is our afternoon destination where we will walk about this fascinating city, re-discovered 1,700 years after it had been destroyed by rock and ash. We return to Sorrento, the town of orange and lemon trees, for dinner and overnight.

**Day 8:  
March 26**

**Saturday,**

We travel along the scenic Amalfi Coast this morning, setting for many movies, to the town of Amalfi. From here we travel through the mountains to the Adriatic, where the Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> Division spent most of 1943 and 1944 attempting to push the German Army out of Italy. Dinner will be at our hotel near Ortona.

**Day 9:  
March 27**

**Sunday,**

Early in the day we view the Moro River battlefield, the church at San Donato, (a field ambulance station for wounded Canadian soldiers) and the infamous Gully. From here, we take a circular route to Sterlin's Castle, then Casa Berardi where Paul Triquet of the "Vandoo" Regiment won his Victoria Cross and to Cider Crossroads before entering Ortona. This town was the scene of terrible fighting involving the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the Seaforth Highlanders carrying out their "mouseholing" technique against the 1<sup>st</sup> German Parachute Division. This evening we will have dinner at our hotel near Ortona.

**Day 10:  
28**

**Monday March**

This morning we 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 vaunted Gothic Line. Visits to Casinina to view old bunkers and a museum commemorating the Gothic Line, the cemetery at Montecchio, the Italian monument dedicated to Canadians at

Tavullia and the cemetery at Gradara will make a full day. We will overnight with dinner at Rimini.

**Day 11:  
29**

**Tuesday, March**

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

**Day 12:  
30**

**Wednesday, March**

Our coach will take us into the Po Valley which was the last area of fighting for the Canadian 1<sup>st</sup> Division before being moved to France late in 1944. Visits to the villages of Piangipane and Villanova followed by a trip into the Futa Pass to see the 30,000 graves of the German Cemetery will round out our day. This evening we will have dinner at our hotel in Montecatini Terme near Florence.

**Day 13:  
March 31**

**Thursday,**

This morning we will meet our guide before embarking on a half day walking tour of the City of Florence, where the Duomo, Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio will be sites well-remembered. From Florence we travel south to a large American cemetery, the result of the fighting on the western part of the Gothic Line, for a brief visit. From here we continue south to our hotel near the airport in Rome in order to catch our early morning flight.

**Day 14:**

**Friday, April 01**

After breakfast we take our coach to Fiumicino Airport for the return trip to Calgary.

## INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THIS TOUR

- Airfare Calgary/ Rome via scheduled airlines such as Air Canada/Lufthansa/
- All transportation as stated in the day-to-day itinerary
- Full time bi-lingual tour escort.
- Continental Breakfast, and dinners daily
- 12 nights Tourist Class Accommodation in multi bedded rooms (mostly triples) with individual beds and bathrooms
- Entrances and guided sightseeing tours as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of the RAINBOW educational consultant before departure including materials for the students, meetings with parents,
- Tips and Gratitude's for Bus Driver, Escorts and Guides
- Airport Tax
- Entrance to the Coliseum including booking fee
- Entrance to Museo delle Battaglie
- Entrance to the Montecassino Abbey
- Entrance to the Royal Palace Caserta
- Entrance to the Mount Vesuvius National Park
- Entrance to the Napoli Sotterranea
- Entrance to the Pompeii excavations
- 1 Full Day Ancient Rome and Baroque Rome
- 1 half day guide in Vesuvius
- 1 half day guide in Naples
- 1 half day guide in Florence
- 1 half day guide in Pompeii

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THIS TOUR:

- Expenses of a personal nature
- Lunches
- Passport and Visa Fees (if necessary)
- Extra Beverages with meals other than what is supplied
- Optional tours, excursions and activities
- Single supplements for any single hotel room accommodation required
- **Fuel surcharges imposed by airlines or any new taxes**
- **Any drastic shift in the exchange rate.**
- **Any additional taxes imposed by any authority before departure**

## RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

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## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION & MEALS:**

**Mar. 20-22 2011 (2 nights) Rome**

**3-star hotel centrally located like Hotel Aberdeen [www.hotelaberdeen.it](http://www.hotelaberdeen.it) or similar**

**2 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners at a local restaurant near the hotel with a 3-course menu, drinks are not included, taxes and service charges are included.**

**Mar. 22-24 2011 (2 nights) Cassino**

**4-star hotel like Hotel Rocca [www.hotelrocca.it](http://www.hotelrocca.it) or similar**

**2 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners at hotel's restaurant near the hotel with a 3-course menu, drinks are not included, taxes and service charges are included.**

**Mar. 24-26 2011 (2 nights) Sorrento area**

**3-star hotel located in the Sorrento area like Hotel La Pergola [www.lapergolahotel.it](http://www.lapergolahotel.it) or similar**

**2 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners at hotel's restaurants with a 3-course menu, drinks are not included, taxes and service charges are included.**

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**Mar. 26-28 2011 (2 nights) Ortona**

**4-star hotel like Hotel Mara [www.hotelmara.it](http://www.hotelmara.it) or similar**

**2 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners at hotel's restaurant near the hotel with a 3-course menu, drinks are not included, taxes and service charges are included**

**Mar. 28-30 2011 (2 nights) Rimini**

**4-star hotel like Hotel Derby [www.hotel-derby.it](http://www.hotel-derby.it) or similar**

**2 continental breakfasts, 2 dinners at hotel's restaurant near the hotel with a 3-course menu, drinks are not included, taxes and service charges are included**

**Mar. 30-31 2011 (1 night) Montecatini Terme**

**3-star hotel like Hotel Arnolfo [www.hotelarnolfo.com](http://www.hotelarnolfo.com) or similar**

**1 continental breakfast, 1 dinner at hotel's restaurant near the hotel with a 3-course menu, drinks are not included, taxes and service charges are included**

**Mar. 31 – April 01 2011 (1 night) Rome airport area**

**3-star hotel like Park Hotel Ostia Antica [www.ostiaanticaparkhotel.it](http://www.ostiaanticaparkhotel.it) or similar**

**1 continental breakfast, 1 dinner at hotel's restaurant near the hotel with a 3-course menu, drinks are not included, taxes and service charges are included.**