

# WORLD WAR TWO BATTLEFIELD TOUR AND A TASTE OF ITALY

***Educational, Historical, Cultural and Culinary Experience – 12 to 19 May 2024***

*Organized in collaboration with the Canadian Military Police Association (CMPA)*

**MEETING POINT.** Pick-up at Rome Fiumicino (Leonardo da Vinci) Airport, Hilton Hotel reception area/parking lot, at 11:00 hrs on 12 May. Returning to Rome Fiumicino Airport at 10:00 hrs on 19 May.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS.**

- 12–14 May (3 nights) - Hotel & Spa Villa Ida, Via Caragno, 27, Ceprano, Liri Valley (Lazio)
- 15–16 May (2 nights) - Hotel Palma, Castropignano (Molise)
- 17–19 May (2 nights) - Hotel Canadian, L'Aquila (Abruzzo)

**TRANSPORTATION.** Participants are required to make and pay for their own flight arrangements to Rome. Participants will be picked up at the Rome Fiumicino Airport at 11:00 hrs, Sunday, 12 May (which means either flying during the evening of Saturday, 11 May or arriving earlier and staying on their own until meeting at the pick-up point on 12 May). The bus will return to Rome Fiumicino Airport at approximately 10:00 hrs, Sunday, 19 May. Ground transportation to and from the airport and hotels, on 12 May and 19 May, is included in the overall package cost.

**ACTIVITIES.** Each day will include a guided bus tour—via air-conditioned bus with dedicated driver, WIFI, free refreshments and snacks—to various locations, departing the hotel at 09:30 hrs and returning at approximately 18:00 hrs. Participants who do not wish to travel on the organized bus tours each day will have the option of enjoying the beautiful local town and amenities.

**PROGRAM.** Daily bus tours include:

Day 1, Sunday 12 May - Bus pick-up at Rome Fiumicino (Leonardo Da Vinci) Airport, Hilton Hotel, and travel to Hotel Villa Ida in Ceprano with occasional stops to historic locations in Liri Valley. Lunch and snacks on bus. Complimentary welcome reception on arrival and dinner at hotel.

Day 2, Monday 13 May - Visit the town of Torrice (Liri Valley, Lazio), the site of a violent Canadian and German battle that killed 9 Canadians in June 1944. This is also the site where a young Italian orphan was found and cared for by Canadian soldiers. The story of Gino and his Canadian guardian angels is now the subject of a Canadian-produced film. Visit Pontecorvo and/or Pofi. Free evening in Ceprano.

Day 3, Tuesday 14 May – Morning visits to the pre-historic Caves of Pastena and historic town of Castro Dei Volsci, with a light lunch. Local ceremony in afternoon honouring Tony

Scotti and his CProC Company, for their heroic actions in saving Italian girls from being sexually assaulted and brutalized. Local school children scheduled to participate. Tentative: Junior MP/MPO to lay a wreath at the ceremony unveiling of a commemorative plaque. VIP reception and hosted dinner at La Locanda del Ruspante in Castro dei Volsci.

Day 4, Wednesday 15 May - Hotel check-out. Visit Monte Cassino (Lazio), the Polish war cemetery and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Cassino—where six fallen CProC members are buried. Lunch on bus or local establishment (weather-permitting). Visit San Pietro Infine (Allied breach of the ‘Winter Line’). Check-in at Hotel Palma and hosted dinner.

Day 5, Thursday 16 May - Visit local cheese-making establishment and Roman ruins (Altilia). Visit Campobasso (Canada Town) and Castel Monforte (from where Robert Di Niro’s family fortress town of Ferrazzano can be seen). Shopping and free evening. Bus pick-up at 21:30 hrs in specified location and return to hotel.

Day 6, Friday 17 May - Hotel check-out. Travel to Ortona, visit the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery—where seven fallen CProC members are buried—and the city. Proceed to Hotel Canadian, L’Aquila. Reception and hosted dinner.

Day 7 Saturday 18 May - Morning local market (shopping), followed by visit to medieval Papal Jubilee Church (Santa Maria Di Collemaggio, where Pope Celestine V is buried), and local *trenino* (train-car) ride around the city. Lunch at Hotel Canadian. Afternoon visit to Tivoli Gardens (Lazio). Last dinner in Italy (location TBC).

Day 8, Sunday 19 May - Early breakfast and departure from hotel at 0700 hours. Arrival at to Rome Fiumicino (Leonardo da Vinci) Airport at around 10:00 hrs. End of tour.

**PACKAGE COST.** \$1700 (Cdn) PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY. Single occupancy will cost an additional \$40 (Cdn) per day. Included in the package cost: (7) hotel stays, (7) breakfasts, (7) lunches, (2) receptions, (4) dinners, guided bus tours and entry fees to specified locations, tips, taxes, beverages, bus transportation from and to the airport on 12 and 19 May, respectively. An initial deposit of \$700 is to be paid via e-transfer (preferred method of payment) to [tony.battista@me.com](mailto:tony.battista@me.com) by 15 February 2024. The remaining amount (\$1000) must be received by 1 May 2024. Cancellation by participants of the ground tour is permitted, with \$200 non-refundable. If the ground tour is cancelled by the organizers, participants will receive a full refund, except for airfare costs which are each participant’s responsibility (airfare cancellation insurance is recommended).

**COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS.** Vaccinations and any testing requirements are the responsibility of each traveller/participant. Currently there are no COVID-19 test requirements to enter Italy or to return to Canada.

**INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES.** Air travel to and from Rome, as well as air travel and medical insurance, is the responsibility of each participant. It is recommended that participants purchase airline tickets that allow for cancellation and/or free changes of dates.

**CONTACT.** For additional information, or if interested in participating, please contact TONY BATTISTA at [tony.battista@me.com](mailto:tony.battista@me.com).

**Addendum from the CMPA:**

**CMPA MEMBER DISCOUNT.** Members in good standing of the CMPA are entitled to a \$150 discount off the package cost, to be applied on the second payment. Those wishing to take advantage of this discount are required to provide the tour organizer (Tony Battista) with the serial number found on their CMPA membership card when they make their initial deposit payment (\$700). This will be used to verify eligibility for the subsequent discount, which would reduce the second payment from \$1000 to \$850.