

In collaboration with The National WWII Museum

# Italy: 1944

FROM ANZIO TO THE GOTHIC LINE

October 10-16, 2021







Rome • Anzio • Florence • Lucca



Howdy, Ags!

We are pleased to partner with The National WWII Museum on a unique, custom-curated tour exploring the Italian Campaign of World War II, specifically all that happened in 1944.

The year 1944 was remarkable for the Allies. The Normandy landings had thrown the Germans into retreat and resulted in the liberation of most of France by year's end. In the Pacific, hard-fought campaigns in the Mariana Islands yielded airfields close enough to Japan to support continuous B-29 raids on the Japanese home islands.

Lost in the middle of these decisive events was the Italian campaign. The fighting in Italy after the liberation of Rome on June 4, 1944, has become a footnote in most histories of the war, which unfortunately does little to recognize the supreme effort it took to reach "The Eternal City." Still, to understand the progress made in France, one must understand Italy and the battle-scarred men who crossed this formidable terrain.

After more than a year of fierce battles in Italy and Sicily, Allied forces landed in Anzio on January 22, 1944. At first, the operation seemed to be a success. By the end of the first day, over 36,000 men were ashore with 3,200 vehicles and fewer than 150 casualties. The Allied commanders squandered their initial advantage, however, failing to advance inland. Within a week, tough German reinforcements had arrived in the sector and had gone on the offensive. Brutal fighting ensued, as the Allies tried to advance while the Germans repeatedly tried to shove them back into the sea. For months, Allied troops sat in a shallow beachhead, under constant German observation and artillery fire. This bloody stalemate lasted until May, when the men at Anzio finally linked up with those coming from the Gustav Line to the south.

Following the liberation of Rome, the focus of the war shifted to Normandy. The Italian campaign, however, continued. German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring deployed his forces in the mountains north of Florence in an attempt to delay the Allied advance. Italian laborers, working under German supervision, dug a dense network of fortifications known as the Gothic Line. With the defensive positions etched directly into the mountains, the Allies had no choice but to maneuver their way through a virtual labyrinth of German strongpoints.

Sincerely,

Jermifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, PhD Director of Travel Outreach & Engagement Traveling Aggies The Association of Former Students Marisa Liles

Marisa Liles, Director of Travel Operations & Customer Service Traveling Aggies The Association of Former Students



#### Mud, Mountains, and Mules

The campaigns in Italy from the first landings in September 1943 through May 1945 tested Allied soldiers to the limit.

Following the initial landings in the south, the Allies found themselves bogged down facing the formidable Gustav Line, a network of German defenses in the mountains between Naples and Rome. Attempting to outflank this line, the 36th and 45th Infantry Divisions achieved a successful amphibious landing in Anzio on January 25, 1944, but sluggish commanders failed to move rapidly enough, resulting in another stalemate. The destruction of Monte Cassino by the Allies in 1944 served mainly to generate headlines and fodder for German propaganda. The spring thaw in the mountains found the Allies once more on the advance, liberating Rome on June 4, 1944, creating brief headlines around the world that would soon be outshined by the June 6 landings in Normandy. Meanwhile, German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring retreated to the northern Apennines to establish yet another defensive position known to the Allies as the Gothic Line. General Mark Clark's Fifth Army faced a desperate enemy and unforgiving terrain, and it was here he coined the phrase that defined the Italian campaign: "Mud, Mountains, and Mules."

PHOTO: African American soldiers lead mules to the front in Italy and pass a wrecked German tank lying by the roadside. A Signal Corps member films them with a camera in the lower right corner, May 21, 1944. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum collection.





## Stand where history was made *Lucca, Italy*



A 92nd Infantry Division Patch

Courtesy of The National WWII Museum collection.

Battles along the Gothic Line featured a multinational force made up of several segregated units. The US 92nd Infantry Division "Buffalo Soldiers" consisted exclusively of African American soldiers. The 92nd Division entered combat in Naples, and continued through Rome and into the North Apennines. On September 5, 1944, soldiers from the 92nd entered the city of Lucca, finding it intact. The local population heard that the Americans were approaching, and were initially surprised to see the black soldiers entering their city. The Italians celebrated, showering the soldiers with affection and gratitude. Soon after, troops from the Brazilian Expeditionary Force passed through the area, creating a multicultural atmosphere in the town. The 92nd Division soon moved out of Lucca to fight the Germans in the Serchio Valley. Today the local population of Lucca fondly remembers the arrival of the "Buffalo Soldiers" who liberated them from German occupation.



## Hear their stories 10th Mountain Division

Before 1941, the US Army did not have specialized mountain troops. Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole, founder of the National Ski Patrol, lobbied Pentagon officials and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to create specialized mountain units. Activated in 1943, the nucleus of the 10th Mountain Division trained under brutal conditions in the mountains of Colorado. Their training was put to use immediately when the division landed in Italy in January 1945. In the months that followed, the 10th Mountain Division fought its way through the northern Apennine Mountains, helping to break through the formidable Gothic Line. On April 23, 1945, after four months of fighting, the 10th Mountain Division became the first American unit to enter the Po River Valley. The division deactivated in 1945, but reactivated in the 1980s.

PHOTO PAGE 6: Italian partisans on the street, Italy. Courtesy of MARKA / Alamy Stock Photo. Eugene Calò portrait, Courtesy of @GhettoFightersHouse. PHOTO PAGE 7: 86th Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, pause to put on their snowshoes. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum, McWhirter, January 10, 1945

# Learn Their Names *Eugenio Calò*

When the Germans occupied Italy in September 1943, many Italians became partisans, working with the Allies during their march north. One such fighter was Eugenio Calò, a Sephardi Jew, second in command of the Pio Borri Brigade, which operated in the mountains in Tuscany. Not only did the Fascists take away Calò's livelihood, but in May 1944, they rounded up his wife and three children and sent them to Auschwitz, where they were gassed on arrival (including a fourth son who was born en route to the camp). In July 1944, Calò's men captured thirty German soldiers. Despite his devastating personal loss, he refused to execute them, instead taking them as prisoners of war and handing them over to the Allies.

When General Mark Clark asked for two of Calò's partisans to cross back into the German-held town of Arezzo to coordinate with the incoming Allies, Calò volunteered for the mission. He was captured along with a group of forty-eight civilians, partisans, and prisoners, who were tortured and made to dig a mass grave for themselves. When the group was in the hole, the Germans strapped explosives to the partisans, and set the bombs off. The following day, a British tank unit discovered the grisly scene, now known as the San Polo Massacre. In 1947, Eugenio Calò posthumously received Italy's highest military medal, the Gold Medal for Military Valor, for his actions against the German occupiers, and for his humanity towards captives. To this day, he is a hero in Italy, with numerous streets named after him around Arezzo and Florence.



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Italy: 1944

FROM ANZIO TO THE GOTHIC LINE

October 10-16, 2021

\$5,195 \$4,695\* per person, based on double occupancy

\$7,495 \$6,995\* single occupancy

When booked by May 29, 2021. \$199 taxes and fees per person are additional.

#### Tour Inclusions

- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local battlefield guides
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers (when arriving & departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- scrieduled group tour dates)
- 3-nights in Rome at the Rose Garden Palace Hotel
- 4-nights in Florence at Grand Hotel Baglioni
- Private, first-class, air conditioned motor coach transportation
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours
- Video oral history presentations from the Museum's collection

- Included gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 reception, and 3 dinners
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinner
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge

#### Our Pledge to You

Your Safety is our Priority

Together, we are facing an unbelievable global pandemic impacting our families, businesses, and communities. The Travel Team continuously monitors updates from global health authorities and local governments in the US and around the world. The health and safety of our travelers and staff remain our highest priority. We work closely with our international partners to provide the highest level of quality and assurance to our esteemed guests.

We are committed to delivering the best and latest sanitation protocols throughout your journey.

For more details on the guidelines in each country we visit, contact Educational Travel Programs at 877-813-3329 x 257 or email travel@nationalww2museum.org







Day One: October 10, 2021

#### Arrival in Rome / Colosseum

Upon arrival at Rome-Fiumicino International Airport (FCO), transfer to the Rose Garden Palace Hotel in the center of Rome. This afternoon, explore the Roman Colosseum before a welcome reception and dinner.

Accommodations: Rose Garden Palace Hotel (R, D)

PHOTO PAGE 10: American troops entering Rome-ITALY, CIRCA 1944. Courtesy of Carl Mydans/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images.





Day Two: October 11, 2021

#### Anzio

Today, visit the Anzio Beachhead, where an initially successful Allied landing turned into a brutal stalemate. On January 22, 1944, the Allies initiated a surprise landing behind the German defensive positions known as the Gustav Line. Once ashore, the Allies paused for several days to reorganize, allowing the Germans to move reinforcements to the beachhead. Throughout February, Allied attempts to break out of the beachhead were met by German counterattacks. The unforgiving terrain hindered movement, and the scene soon resembled the trench warfare of World War I. A month of German counterattacks failed to dislodge the Allies, but casualties mounted. By March, both sides had dug into defensive positions. Tour the Anzio BeachHead Museum, the Caves of Aprilia, and the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery to gain a more comprehensive appreciation of one of the most vicious campaigns of World War II.

Accommodations: Rose Garden Palace Hotel (B, L)

PHOTO PAGE 12: Brothers in Arms statue at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Rome, Italy. PHOTO PAGE 13: Upon arriving at an evacuation hospital in Anzio, two American nurses, 2nd Lt. Mary H. Fischer of Strassburg and 2nd Lt. Margaret L. Gallagher of Hibbing, Minnesota, take turns digging a foxhole on February 1, 1944. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum, Signal Corps Radio Photo.



#### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

#### Field Marshal Albert Kesselring





Among the German High Command during World War II, few generals caused more problems for the Allies than Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, also known as "Smiling Albert" by Allied forces. Between 1939 and 1941, Kesselring commanded various *Luftwaffe* units in Poland, the Netherlands, France, and the Soviet Union in the opening months of Operation Barbarossa. However, it was in the Mediterranean that Kesselring showed his true skill as a commander. In November 1941, he became the Commander-in-Chief South, and immediately moved his staff to Italy, taking control of the war being waged in North Africa against the British.

Two years later, Kesselring saw the war come to the Italian mainland. With the Allies back on the European continent and his Italian allies out of the war, the Germans needed to form a plan. Kesselring managed to convince Hitler that a defensive war in Italy could drain the Allies of troops and material, allowing Germany to focus on the Eastern Front. Kesselring managed to hold back the Allies in Italy for 20 bloody months, using the mountainous Italian countryside to his advantage. The resulting conflict saw the Allies slog up the Italian peninsula in what was, essentially, a repeat of World War I. After the war, Kesselring went on trial for war crimes against the Italian people and was sentenced to death. However, he was released in 1952 due to health reasons. He died eight years later in West Germany.



Day Three: October 12, 2021

#### Rome

After the Allied breakout from the Gustav Line and the linkup with the Anzio Beachhead in May 1944, the Allies successfully liberated Rome on June 4, 1944. A tour of the Eternal City features a mix of architectural styles. From the ruins of the ancient Romans to the "new city" of Benito Mussolini, witness the changes in Rome since its founding.

Benito Mussolini ordered a major construction project in a district of Rome to be called EUR (*Esposizione Universale Roma*, or Universal Exposition of Rome) to celebrate Fascism and serve as the host of the 1942 World's Fair. The neoclassical architecture of the area still bears Mussolini's image in several locations. The planned World's Fair and the celebration of 20 years of Italian fascism never took place. Continuing to the south, visit the Ardeatine Caves where the Germans murdered 335 Italian citizens in revenge for a partisan bombing that killed 33 SS police officers in Rome.

Accommodations: Rose Garden Palace Hotel (B, D)

PHOTO PAGE 14 (LEFT): Albert Kesselring on the Italian front, 1944. Courtesy of Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo / Alamy Stock Photo. PHOTO PAGE 14 (RIGHT): Albert Kesselring and Heinrich von Vietinghoff in Italy. Courtesy of Süddeutsche Zeitung Photo / Alamy Stock Photo. PHOTO PAGE 15: Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana (Square Colosseum), designed for the 1942 Universal Exposition and now the symbol of modern EUR district.

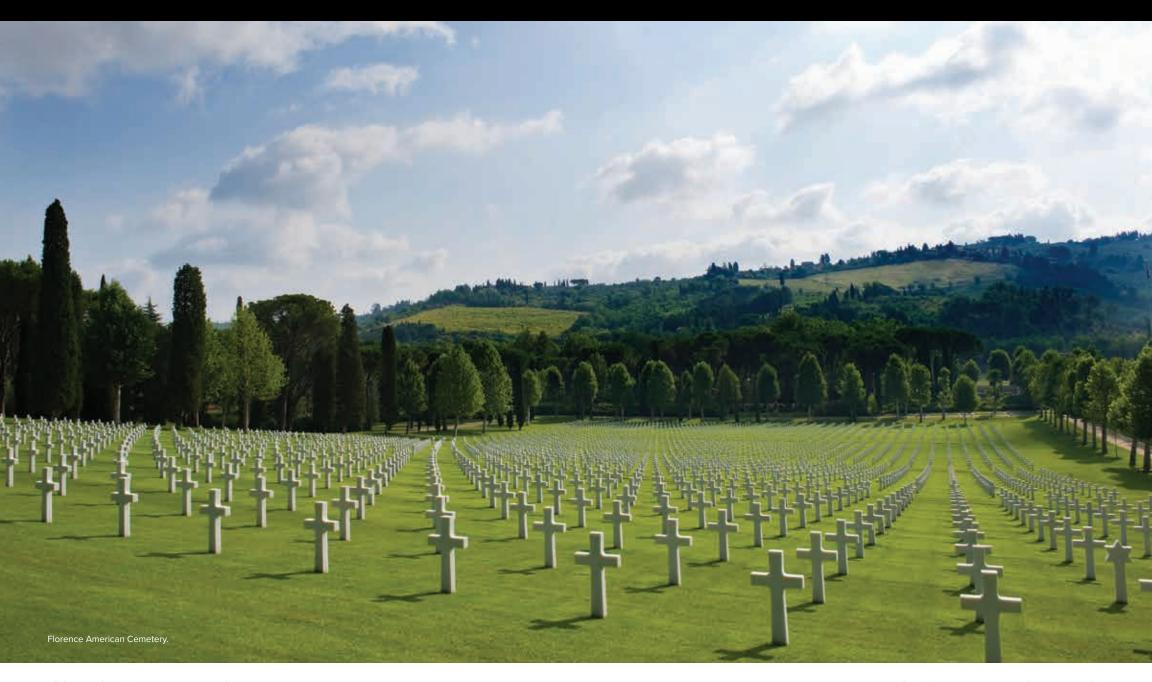
#### Day Four: October 13, 2021

#### Florence American Cemetery

Following the liberation of Rome, the Allies continued north to push the Germans completely out of Italy. During the fighting in the next series of German positions, the Allies coined the term "Mud, Mountains, and Mules" to describe the conditions of battle. Well-hidden German positions in the

mountains, and the difficulty of keeping the troops supplied, resulted in a monthslong battle of attrition. As the tour moves to Tuscany, stop at the Florence American Cemetery where the remains of 4,393 Americans are interred along with an additional 1,409 names on the Tablets of the Missing. The cemetery serves as a permanent reminder that the war in Italy did not end with the liberation of Rome. The evening is free to explore Florence on your own.

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Baglioni, Florence (B, L)





#### Day Five: October 14, 2021

#### The Gothic Line

The morning starts in the picturesque walled city of Lucca. On a walk through this Tuscan city, the guide leads a discussion of life under fascism, the harshness of the German occupation, and the celebrations accompanying the liberation. Spared from destruction, Lucca retains its ancient charm. The walking tour of the city center includes stops at the fascist headquarters, buildings occupied by the German administration, and a balcony on which Mussolini delivered a speech to the local citizens. After lunch on your own, continue to the Gothic Line fortifications near the town of Borgo a Mozzano. Local associations dedicate time and funding to preserve the bunkers, antiaircraft emplacements, communication trenches, and antitank ditches that serve as ever-present reminders of the battles. During the visit, descend into the bunkers and tunnels constructed by Italian laborers under the orders of Organization Todt. Return to Florence for an evening to enjoy the city independently.

Accommodations: Grand Hotel Baglioni, Florence (B)



PHOTO ABOVE: View of Borgo a Mozzano. PHOTO BELOW: First German prisoner taken by patrol of the 92nd Infantry Division after crossing the Arno River at the Gothic Line is shown being questioned by 1st Lt. Lawrence D. Spencer, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, September 2, 1944. Courtesy of the collection of The National WWII Museum, US Army Signal Corps photograph, Gift of Regan Forrester.

#### Honoring our Heroes

SENATOR DANIEL INOUYE 1924 - 2012



Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Medal of Honor Recipient



PHOTO: US President Bill Clinton congratulates US Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, after awarding him the Congressional Medal of Honor on June 21, 2000, at the White House in Washington, DC, for his service in World War II. Courtesy of George Bridges/AFP/Getty Images.

Daniel Inouye was born on September 7, 1924, in Honolulu, Hawaii, the son of a Japanese immigrant father and Japanese American mother. On the morning of December 7, 1941, Inouye witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor by Imperial Japanese forces. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the confinement of over 110,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast in internment camps. After petitioning the government to let them fight, Japanese Americans were given the opportunity to show their country that they too were loyal patriots, even while their families lived in internment camps around the country.

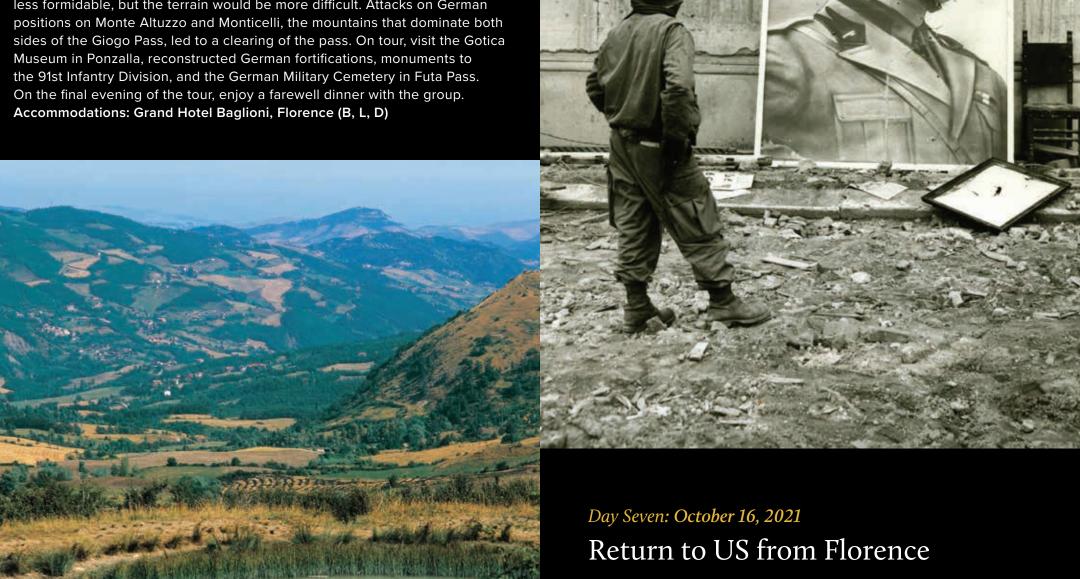
Inouye joined the all Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In 1945, the 442nd found itself in northern Italy fighting to break the defensive position known as the Gothic Line. On April 21, 1945, Inouye led an assault against a German position called *Colle Musatello*. During the assault on three German machine gun nests, Inouye was pinned to the ground. When he stood up to lead an attack, Inouye was hit in the stomach. Despite the bullet passing through his abdomen, Inouye continued forward, destroying the first nest with grenades and his Tommy gun. He continued to fight, destroying the second machine gun nest. Under orders, his squad kept moving towards the third machine gun nest. Losing blood, Inouye slowly crawled to within 10 yards of the German position. As he lifted himself up to throw his last grenade into the bunker slit, one of the occupants spotted him and shot a rifle grenade, which hit Inouye in the arm holding the grenade, shattering his arm.

Inouye yelled to his men to stay away, fearing the mangled remains of his hand would release the live grenade at any moment. Taking the grenade with his left hand, Inouye threw it into the slit, destroying the last machine gun nest, and allowing his men to continue forward. He took one more bullet to the leg before passing out. Inouye lost his right arm, and his actions earned him the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Distinguished Service Cross—later upgraded to the Medal of Honor by President Bill Clinton in 2000. He spent 49 years as a public servant. When Hawaii became the 50th state, Inouye became one of its first representatives in the US Congress, then won election to the US Senate in 1962 where he served until his death in 2012.

#### Day Six: October 15, 2021

#### Giogo Pass

As the Allies reached Florence, the options to move through the mountains were limited to two mountain passes: Futa and Giogo. The Futa Pass, along the main road from Florence to Bologna, was heavily fortified, but offered a guick route to Bologna. The defenses in the Giogo Pass were less formidable, but the terrain would be more difficult. Attacks on German On the final evening of the tour, enjoy a farewell dinner with the group. Accommodations: Grand Hotel Baglioni, Florence (B, L, D)



Bid farewell to Italy this morning and transfer to Florence Peretola Airport (FLR) for individual flights back to the United States. (B)

PHOTO: Passing soldiers made a target of a giant portrait of the ousted dictator Benito Mussolini taken out of the former fascist headquarters in Anzio, February 7, 1944. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum/Signal Corps Radio









#### Rose Garden Palace

#### Rome, Italy

The Rose Garden Palace is housed in a nineteenth-century building featuring a classic architectural design with a limestone exterior and an elegant glass awning. Ideally located just off Via Veneto, in the heart of one of Rome's most popular neighborhoods, the Rose Garden Palace Hotel is a short walk to historical sites like the Spanish Steps, Colosseum, and Borghese Gallery. In addition to a stunning setting rich with history, the Rose Garden Palace provides guest access to its spacious L'Oasi Fitness Center, complete with spa, sauna, and whirlpool, and II Roseto Restaurant, a classic Italian dining experience on the hotel's indoor/outdoor garden patio. Room amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, satellite flat-screen TV, bathrobe and slippers, soundproofed walls, and rainfall showerheads.

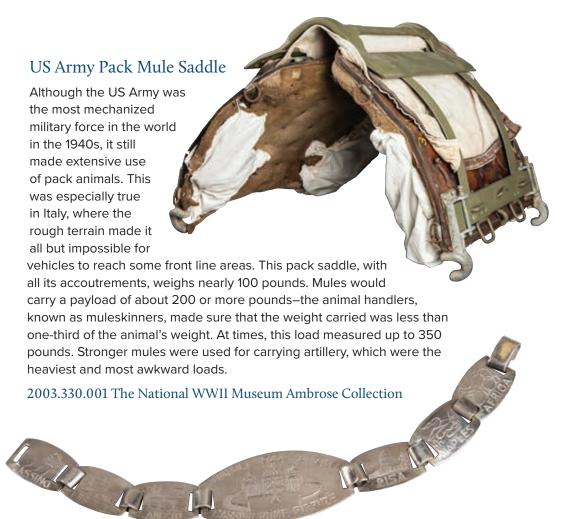
#### Grand Hotel Baglioni

#### Florence, Italy

Opened on August 12, 1903, the Grand Hotel Baglioni has hosted kings, heads of state, artists, and intellectuals, carving out its place as a true landmark of the cultural and economic life of the city of Florence. The building that houses the hotel was built in the late 1800s by Prince Carrega di Lucedio. The hotel's prime location and close proximity to the Santa Maria Novella station contributed to its transformation into the luxury hotel it is today. The Grand Hotel Baglioni is synonymous with elegance and sophistication, offering the most exceptional services. Room amenities include room service, free Wi-Fi, satellite TV, stocked mini bar, safe, telephone with 24-hour reception, laundry service, and air-conditioning.

#### From Our Collection

Featured here are artifacts from the Mediterranean Theater of Operations that the Museum has in its collection. Other documents and materials from the Museum's archive will be reproduced and shared with tour participants.



#### Trench Art Bracelet

When not fighting the enemy, soldiers throughout history have fought boredom. Some men discovered talents at crafting items, while others perfected existing skills. Some of their handiwork, commonly known as "trench art," was rudimentary, while other pieces show exceptional craftsmanship. This bracelet contains several discs, each of which presumably displays a place that the soldier-craftsman visited. The locations include Naples, Monte Cassino, Rome, Florence, Anzio, Pisa, and Africa.

2011.009.300 The National WWII Museum Collection



#### V-42 Stiletto of Sgt. Irving Becker

Initially envisioned to descend on and destroy strategic targets in occupied Europe, the First Special Service Force (FSSF) was the first and only unit of its kind. It was a joint US-Canadian outfit where all members were qualified parachutists, trained in mountaineering, winter warfare, demolitions, and hand-to-hand fighting. Also superbly equipped, the men of the Force carried a custom dagger to silently eliminate enemy personnel. Sgt. Irving Becker, an original member of the Force, carried this formidable knife throughout the campaign in Italy and southern France. Becker and the men of the First Special Service Force are the direct ancestors of the present-day US Army Special Forces. The signature "Black Dagger" carried by the men of the Force in World War II still adorns the US Army's Special Forces patch.

2017.248 Gift in Memory of Sergeant Irving Becker

#### Eisenhower Jacket

Philip Lunday wore this "Ike" jacket while serving in D Company, 126th Engineer Mountain Battalion, 10th Mountain Division in Italy. During an audacious assault on the Riva Ridge in February 1945, Lunday's unit rapidly constructed a tramway down the mountain pass. The tramway allowed wounded men to be carried down on cables within 10 minutes, rather than facing a four-hour trip down the ridge on foot.

2004.156.001 The National WWII Museum Collection





#### Plan a visit before you go.

Ranked TripAdvisor's #1 attraction in New Orleans, the Museum brings history to life with moving personal stories and powerful interactive displays.

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#### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

To reserve your participation, submit an initial deposit of \$1,000 per person within five (5) days of booking. A \$200 per person deposit is due for any pre and/or post program options that you select. Final payment must be received no later than 90 days prior to departure (Monday, July 12, 2021). Payment by check is preferred in order to reduce costs to the Museum. VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are also accepted.

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CANCELLATION NOTICE RECEIVED BEFORE TOUR START DATE FEES	TOUR CANCELLATION FEES	PRE & POST CANCELLATION			
121 days or more	\$200 per person	\$50 per person			
120-91 days	\$1,000 per person	\$200 per person			
90-61 days	60% of full tour cost (incl Pre and/or Post Tour)*				
60 days or less, No Show or Early Return	100% of full tour cost (incl Pre an	d/or Post Tour)*			
	ation fees for confirmed additional hot se, land, or air element purchased fror	, , , ,			

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

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Because our cancellation policy is strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement.

#### HEALTH, MEDICAL AND TOUR REQUIREMENTS

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- Any condition that may pose a risk to one's self and/or other participants on tour;
- Any condition that may require health aids, i.e.; oxygen, walkers, crutches, etc., or any intention or need to use a wheelchair while on the tour.

By booking passage the guest represents and warrants that he/she is physically and otherwise fit to travel and that guests will comply at all times with applicable rules and regulations of the Museum. The Museum reserves the right without liability to require a passenger to leave the tour or to refuse to accept a guest as a tour participant who, in the sole judgment of the Museum, is unfit to travel, is a danger to himself or herself or to others, does not follow instructions of the tour leader, may distract from the enjoyment of the trip by others, or may require care beyond that which the Museum is reasonably able to provide.

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Luggage will be limited to one (1) suitcase and one (1) carry-on per person to ensure that there is enough room on the motor coach for all passenger luggage. All luggage must be securely packed and clearly labeled. We recommend that all participants secure baggage loss and damage insurance that may be purchased for this tour.

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#### TERMS & CONDITIONS

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I agree that any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Louisiana law and will take place in New Orleans, LA. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, you (and we) are waiving our right to a trial by jury. The Museum is not responsible for misprints in tour promotional material.

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