



BEACHES & BUNKERS

Golf & Military History Tour of Italy

Venice – Villanova – Ravenna – Rimini – Florence –
Assisi – Ortona – Cassino – Anzio – Frascati/Rome

September 13–28, 2022 (16 days)



Acqua Santa Golf Club



Memorial at Ortona



Tuscan hills © La Gazzetta Italiana

Highlights:

- Explore the beautiful cities of Venice, Padova, Rimini, Bologna and Assisi, as well as the Chianti and Frascati wine regions.
- Join in the “Beaches & Bunkers Golf Championship”; five rounds will take place throughout the tour in or near Abano Terme/Venice, Florence and Rome, with Golf Pro Ryan Anderson from The Glencoe Golf & Country Club.
- Follow in the footsteps of our Canadian soldiers during the 1943-45 Italian Campaign with Military Historian Karen Storwick; honour the contributions of the D-Day Dodgers in their fight against tyranny at the key battle areas of Coriano Ridge, Ortona, Monte Cassino, the Liri Valley and Anzio.



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

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A WORD FROM SPECIAL TRAVEL

KAREN STORWICK, Military Historian



Dear Traveller(s),

We have arranged military history tours to Italy, Holland and Normandy since 1995. And I have arranged golf tours for groups and friends to great places from Costa Rica to South Africa.

When the idea of combining these two rather different interest fields was brought to us, it did not take much to get us excited about being part of this project. What a great opportunity to create this unique journey, bringing Canadian history to you in combination with playing some scenic golf courses in Italy.

We have chosen golf courses for their beauty and their geographic location, so we can combine military history with the game we love to play. The Mediterranean atmosphere and history of some of the courses, which have hosted National and International Championships, will make for a truly special golfing experience.

Our historian will enrich our appreciation of all the significant sites we visit, and our golf tour is in great hands with The Glencoe Golf & Country Club's Head Teaching Professional Ryan Anderson. Congenial expertise, incredible scenic and historic locations, and like-minded travellers with whom to share the whole experience... it will be unforgettable.

For those who want to make the most of their time overseas, we will happily arrange for you to extend your stay in the Eternal City. Cosmopolitan, venerable, and full of ancient wonders and breathtaking artistry, Rome has something to offer everyone each time you visit.

You will learn about the special places we visit, enjoy a few great rounds of golf and all that while travelling with like-minded fellow Canadians.

We are truly excited for the Glencoe Golf & Country Club to be part of this project. We know that you will be in the best hands on this journey which is being accompanied by Military Historian Karen Storwick, as well as Golf Pro Ryan Anderson.

We look forward to having you join us!

Gery Valtiner, Program Director



Inspired by the death of her great-uncle in Italy during World War II, Karen Storwick has become passionate about the preservation of Canadian military history, honouring Canadian veterans and raising awareness of their dedication and sacrifice.

Karen is the Founder and Director of the Mural of Honour at the Military Museums in Calgary and through the mural teaches students and community groups about Canadian history and the importance of Remembrance.

Karen belongs to a group of Canadian and European historians working toward the common goal of commemorating unmarked battlefields in Europe with plaques and monuments. Since 2006, through her involvement with battlefield tours and pilgrimages with Special Travel International, she has travelled with over 70 veterans and their families, coordinated six plaques and monuments honouring Canadians in Italy and partnered in the unveiling of five others with her Italian colleagues.

In a continuing effort to preserve the experiences and memories of veterans, Karen has an ongoing Oral History project, having completed over 500 oral histories of Second World War, Korean War and Afghanistan War veterans. Together with Robert Curtin, she is currently producing *Fallen Heroes – Their Journey Home*, a film about the Ramp Ceremony to be released in 2022.



Karen Storwick's Meritorious Service Decoration, Feb 28, 2018

In 2012 Karen was awarded the Veterans Affairs Commendation Medal for her work in the development of the Mural of Honour and the preservation of Canadian history in Italy. In 2017 Karen was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for her work to honour veterans of Canada.

When not occupied with military history, Karen immerses herself in her other passions; her family, her dogs, golf and music.



Karen Storwick and a veterans group on the Italian Campaign tour, 2007



Karen Storwick at the Cassino War Cemetery

RYAN ANDERSON, Golf Pro



Ryan Anderson is the Head Teaching Professional of The Glencoe Golf & Country Club. Ryan is devoted to sharing his passion for the game with everyone.

He loves helping players learn the game and bestowing upon his students golfing ability that exceeds their goals and desires. Ryan is committed to continual education and has attended many seminars

and lessons with some of the best instructors in golf, with the goal of honing his teaching skills to provide the best possible instruction.

Currently he is one of the Top 50 US Kids Instructors, and the 2016 PGA of Alberta Teacher of the Year. He has been twice honoured with the PGA of Alberta Junior Leader of the Year Award and has additionally been a PGA of Canada finalist for Teacher and Junior Leader of the Year. He is also a certified AimPoint Instructor, a method that specializes in green reading using your feet.

In his career as a golfer, Ryan has competed in the World Junior Championships, won tournaments, and participated at a national level as a Junior, Amateur and Professional. As a coach, Ryan has successfully coached the University of Calgary Golf Team for six years, garnering four Mens and two Ladies provincial titles along the way.

Over the course of his career he has coached over 20 juniors to university scholarships.

Ryan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and is really excited to help make the "Beaches and Bunkers" tour to Italy a reality and a success.



Karen Stonwick's husband Jason, looking for new golf adventures in Italy after a wonderful tour to Normandy in 2018

The "Beaches & Bunkers Championship" will be played over **five rounds**. We will have a Net and Gross category. If you do not carry a handicap, you may prefer to only play leisurely rounds.

Golfers of any level welcome.

You may choose to bring your **own clubs** or **rent** them for the duration of the tour. Please contact our office for assistance.

GOLF SCHEDULE (golf course line-up subject to change)

Fri, Sep 16	To be advised	Abano Terme area
Tue, Sep 20	Golf Club Poggio dei Medici	Scarperia e San Piero
Wed, Sep 21	Circolo Golf dell'Ugolino	Impruneta
Mon, Sep 26	Acqua Santa Golf Club	Rome
Tue, Sep 27	Country Club Castelgandolfo	Pavona

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Tue, Sep 13: DEPART CANADA

Depart for Italy.

Day 2 / Wed, Sep 14: ARRIVE VENICE – ABANO TERME

After arrival in **Venice**, transfer to your hotel in **Abano Terme**. Free time to relax until dinner. (D)

Day 3 / Thu, Sep 15: ABANO TERME

Proceed to **Venice**, also known as La Serenissima, for a tour of the historic centre, including the splendid Doge's Palace and Basilica San Marco, which both display spoils of the Crusades from an era when Venice was one of the great Maritime Republics. Enjoy a gondola ride through the canals. Option to play a **round of golf** at a local course for those who have been to Venice.

— GOLF —

Optional; course to be confirmed

Return to your hotel in the afternoon and rest, or enjoy the resort's facilities until dinner. (B,D)

Day 4 / Fri, Sep 16: ABANO TERME – PADOVA – ABANO TERME

First Golf Game of your "Beaches & Bunkers Championship".

— GOLF —

To be confirmed

Short visit to the historic city of **Padova**. Tucked away within its ancient heart lies one of the greatest artistic treasures in Italy – the precious Giotto frescoes of the Cappella degli Scrovegni. (B,D)

Day 5 / Sat, Sep 17: ABANO TERME – VILLANOVA – RAVENNA

Today explore the battles of the Rivers. Travel south to **Villanova**, where the Regiment fought bloody battles to cross the Lamone River and Naviglio Canal in November and December 1944. Meet with



Late Rosalia Fantoni and our wonderful Italian friends, keeping the memories alive in Cassino and Villanova

locals as you visit sites around the **Bagnacavallo** area and **Cesena War Cemetery**. Late afternoon arrival in **Ravenna**, the last capital city of the Roman Empire. (B,D)

Day 6 / Sun, Sep 18: RAVENNA – RIMINI – RAVENNA

After a brief tour of **Ravenna**, most famous for its dazzling collections of mosaic artworks, proceed to Rimini. Visit **Coriano Ridge Cemetery** and view **San Fortunato Ridge**. Free time to explore the beautiful beaches of **Rimini** or enjoy some shopping in the historic centre. (B,D)

Day 7 / Mon, Sep 19: RAVENNA – BOLOGNA – FLORENCE

Today proceed to ancient **Bologna**, home to the oldest university in the world (1088) and known for its typical brick terracotta-roofed architecture and porticos.

Continue to Tuscany and the irresistible city of **Florence**, on the banks of the Arno river. (B,D)

Day 8 / Tue, Sep 20: FLORENCE

Start the day in the best way possible, with the Second Golf Game of your "Beaches & Bunkers Championship" at the **Golf Club Poggio dei Medici**. Once game reserve of the Medici, this course in the heart of the Mugello valley offers spectacular natural surroundings.

— GOLF —

Golf Club Poggio dei Medici

This afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of **Florence**, exploring the historic centre around the Duomo, Piazza Signoria, the iconic Ponte Vecchio and Santa Croce, final resting place of some of the city's fabled luminaries, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli and the composer Rossini. (B)

Day 9 / Wed, Sep 21: FLORENCE

Third Golf Game of your "Beaches & Bunkers Championship" at the **Circolo Golf dell'Ugolino**.



Moro River Canadian War Cemetery, Ortona

— GOLF —

Circolo Golf dell'Ugolino

Then visit Tuscany's famous **Chianti** region to enjoy some wine tasting and dinner. (B,D)

Day 10 / Thu, Sep 22: FLORENCE – ASSISI – ORTONA

Proceed to the hilltop village of **Assisi**, home of several saints and monastic orders, first amongst them the Franciscan. Visit the basilica, which is endowed with art by some of the greatest medieval artists.

This afternoon, drive to the Adriatic Coast and visit some of the sites around **Ortona**, site of a bloody battle known as "Western Stalingrad". (B,D)

Day 11 / Fri, Sep 23: ORTONA – CASSINO

Explore more of the sites in and around **Ortona**, including the Peace Museum, the Church of San Tomaso, which houses the bones of St. Thomas the Apostle, and the Church of Santa Maria di Constantinopoli where the Seaforths famously contrived to hold Christmas dinner in 1943. There are a number of significant war cemeteries in the region, including Moro River, Ancona and Gradara.

In the afternoon, drive to **Cassino** and discover the historic abbey of Monte Cassino overlooking the Liri Valley, which was captured by Allies in a Polish-led initiative May 17-18, 1944. (B,D)

Day 12 / Sat, Sep 24: CASSINO

Today visit the battlefields of the Hitler Line and the memorial in **Pontecorvo**. Then it is on to the **Melfa River Crossing**, where Major Jack Mahony of the Westminster Regiment was awarded the Victoria Cross, and Roccasecca.

In the afternoon you will have time to tour some additional battlefields on the Advance to Rome. (B,D)

Day 13 / Sun, Sep 25: CASSINO – ANZIO – FRASCATI/ROME

Depart Cassino, following the Allied advance toward Rome. Stop at **Anzio** and explore the events around Operation Shingle, a crucial



landing by the First Special Service Force during the Italian Campaign. Visit the local museum and enjoy some free time in the port town.

End the day in **Frascati**, an elegant wine town in the Alban hills south of Rome, famous for its aristocratic villas, built as summer retreats by rich Roman families in the late Renaissance and early baroque period. (B,D)

Day 14 / Mon, Sep 26: FRASCATI/ROME

Fourth Golf Game of your "Beaches & Bunkers Championship" at the **Acqua Santa Golf Club**.

— GOLF —

Acqua Santa Golf Club

Drive to Tivoli and visit the **Villa d'Este**, famous for its terraced hillside Italian Renaissance garden and especially for its profusion of fountains. It is now an Italian state museum, and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy dinner in the area before returning to Frascati for the night. (B,D)

Day 15 / Tue, Sep 27: FRASCATI/ROME

Fifth and final Golf Game of your "Beaches & Bunkers Championship" at the **Country Club Castelgandolfo**.

— GOLF —

Country Club Castelgandolfo

This afternoon, visit **Castelgandolfo**, the scenic hill town overlooking Lake Albano which is home to the papal summer residence. The famous gardens in which the palaces sit were once the site of Emperor Domitian's villa. (B,D)

Day 16 / Wed, Sep 28: FRASCATI/ROME – CANADA

Transfer to Rome-Fiumicino Airport for your flight(s) home, or extend your stay in Rome. (B)





Lt. I. Macdonald (binoculars) and Canadians of the 48th Highlanders in Ortona on December 10, 1943



Interior of Montecassino Abbey © Stefano Costantini

TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, twin-share	\$5,990
Single supplement	\$1,190
Reduction for non-golfers	-\$600

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in superior tourist class hotels
- Meals as per itinerary
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Five rounds of golf including carts
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Hotel portorage
- Gratuities for guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Travel insurance
(please contact our office for a quote)
- Drinks with meals
- Club rental
- Items of a personal nature

AIR OPTIONS

Please contact our office for a quote.

You may also purchase your own flights (book on points etc.) and meet us at the hotel.



Golf Club Poggio dei Medici

RESERVATION FORM

BEACHES & BUNKERS: Golf & Military History Tour of Italy

September 13-28, 2022

Please complete this form and return it to us with your deposit of \$600.00 per person. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill'). Travel insurance is optional but strongly recommended.

	TRAVELLER #1	TRAVELLER #2 <small>(if different address/payment method than Traveller #1, please fill out a separate booking form)</small>
Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms etc.)		
First name		
Middle name(s)		
Last name		
Date of birth (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
City + country of birth		
Passport #		
Passport expiry (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
Passport issuing country		
Preferred first name (for name tag)		
Dietary restrictions		

ADDRESS

Street:	
City:	Province/State:
Postal code:	Country:
Cell #:	Home #:
Email:	

TRAVEL PREFERENCES

Accommodation: Single* Double Twin Sharing with:

*Please contact us if you would like to be paired up with another traveller and we will do our best to assist.
If we are unable to arrange a twin-share, you will be accommodated in a single room and invoiced accordingly.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Next of kin's name:	Next of kin's phone #:
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TRAVEL INSURANCE

I/we would like to receive a travel insurance quote. I/we have arranged my/our own travel insurance.

PAYMENT

Please make cheques payable to: **SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**

Visa / MasterCard / American Express (a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card)

Card #:	Expiry date:
Name on card:	Amount to be charged: \$

I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$600 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1,000 pp due by April 13, 2022
Balance due by July 13, 2022
Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI).

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, we have put in place a special scale of charges in case of cancellation, to protect the traveller as much as possible:

Until Apr 12, 2022	\$600
Apr 13 – July 12, 2022	\$1,000
July 13 – Aug 12, 2022	50%
From Aug 13, 2022	100%

(a cancellation/interruption insurance policy should be purchased to cover these cancellation charges)

We are also offering the following consideration: if you cancel PRIOR to April 13, 2022, YOU may find a traveller to take your place on the tour, and only forfeit \$300 (instead of \$600).

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels. Travel insurance companies are offering packages that include Cancellation and/or Medical coverage should you fall ill before or during your trip. Premiums are based on the age of the traveller(s). Should you be unable to travel because of contracting COVID-19, or ANY other insurable reason, you will be entitled to compensation by your travel insurance company.

COVID-19 consideration: Some insurance companies offer an optional add-on benefit allowing you to cancel for ANY reason. These specific CANCEL FOR ANY REASON (CFAR) policies will reimburse you up to 80% of your monies, depending on when you cancel. Cost of the premium is usually about 25% higher than a standard insurance policy. CFAR policies can only be purchased at the time of booking your trip. Standard policies (All Inclusive / Cancellation / Medical) can be purchased later – at the time the 2nd payment is due, for instance. Please note travel insurance does not cover everything. It is designed to cover losses arising from sudden and unforeseeable circumstances due to emergencies. For further details, please call our office or an insurance company specialized in travel insurance.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



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