



★ AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT ★

WWII EXPEDITION TO MALTA, SICILY—OPERATION HUSKY & ITALY— FOR OPERATIONS AVALANCHE & SHINGLE



44 Mine Road, Ste 202 #177, Stafford, VA 22554 Tel: 77-HISTORY-1 (774-478-6791)
E-mail: notify@americanhistoryproject.org Website: www.americanhistoryproject.org

EXPEDITION ITINERARY

Day 1, Friday, 24 April:

Our Historical Partners arrive at Luqa International Airport. We experience a walking excursion of Malta's historic capital, a fortified UNESCO World Heritage city built by the Knights of St. John in the 16th century. Valetta is widely known for its stunning Baroque architecture, grand churches, palaces, and fortifications. As Europe's southernmost capital, it's best explored on foot as a compact, walkable city brimming with culture, museums, shops, bars, and restaurants. Group dinner at Zero Sei Trattoria Romano.

RON in Valetta, Malta at The Manoel Boutique Hotel (Meal: Dinner)

Day 2, Saturday, 25 April:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we visit the Upper Barrakka Gardens are located on the upper tier of Saints Peter and Paul Bastion, which was built in the 1560s. The bastion's lower tier contains the Saluting Battery. The Saluting Battery was mainly used for firing ceremonial gun salutes and signals marking the opening and closure of the city gates, but it also saw military use during the blockade of 1798–1800 and World War II. The battery remained an active military installation until its guns were removed by the British in 1954. It was restored and opened to the public in the early 21st century, and it is now equipped with eight working replicas of Smooth-Bore

Breech Loading 32-pounders which fire gun signals daily (except Sunday) at 1200 & 1600. The origins of the Saluting Battery go back to the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. During the siege, Ottoman forces mounted cannon on the Sciberras Peninsula to bombard the Knights from the Order of Saint John within Fort St. Angelo.



Detail from a map of the Great Siege of Malta in 1565, showing various Ottoman batteries. The battery at the top left of the image, flying a blue standard, was firing on roughly the site of the Saluting Battery.

Close by is the Lascaris War Rooms below the Upper Barrakka Gardens and Saluting Battery. The British built this secret underground complex in 1940, during the WWII siege of Malta. The tunnel complex was completed in early 1943. The site takes its name from the nearby Lascaris Battery, which was itself named after Giovanni Paolo Lascaris, a Grandmaster who had built a garden on the site later occupied by another harbor defense battery. It contained operations rooms for each of the fighting services, from where both the defense of Malta and other Mediterranean operations were coordinated. Lascaris was used as the advance Allied HQ where General Eisenhower directed the Allied invasion of Sicily (Operation Husky) in 1943.

Our final visit is to the informative "Malta at War" Museum which receives overwhelmingly positive reviews for its immersive experience, especially the guided tours of the extensive underground air-raid shelters. It provides a powerful insight into civilian life during the WWII Axis bombing campaign during the "Battle of Malta." The guides are known for their passion and insights, make it a highly recommended, moving, and essential visit for AHP history buffs

RON in Valetta, Malta at The Manoel Boutique Hotel (Meal: Breakfast (B))

Day 3, Sunday, 26 April:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we head off to visit the National War Museum in Fort Saint Elmo Valetta. It is one of the most popular museums in Malta. Its collection mainly focuses on WWI and WWII but also include exhibits ranging from the Bronze Age through conquests by Carthaginians, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Knights Hopitalier, French and the English before independence in 1974. We also tour the UNESCO Megalithic Temples at Hagar Qim & Mnajdra site of prehistoric monumental buildings constructed during the 4th and the 3rd millennium BC. They rank amongst the earliest free-standing stone buildings in the world and are remarkable architectural masterpieces.

RON in Valetta, Malta at The The Manoel Boutique Hotel (Meal: Breakfast (B))

Day 4, Monday, 27 April:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we checkout and take the ferry from Valetta to Pozzallo, Sicily. Take our bus from Pozzallo to Scoglitti to walk the landing site of the 45th Division during Operation HUSKY. We have a group lunch at Don Panino Tinghino. Next it is onto Gela and the landing beach of the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) on Sicily. Outside of Gela is the 82nd Airborne Division Memorial in Ponte Dirillo the scene of the vicious fighting that took place on 10 July 1943. Our final invasion point is Licata where the 3rd Infantry Division's amphibious landing crossed the beaches of Torre Di Gaffi, Mollarelea and Falconarn. Our final stop is to view the UNESCO Valley of the Temples featuring some of the best-preserved Greek Doric temples in Agrigento.

RON in Agrigento, Sicily at Hotel Costazzurra Museum & Spa (Meal: B)



Tour Price



Basic Tour Price \$ 7,690

(Based on double occupancy)

Tour Includes:

- Deluxe Hotel accommodations
- Deluxe air conditioned motor coach
- Meals: 5 Breakfasts; Lunches & Dinners
- Military historical sites and battlefield study

Airfare Not Included: American History Project will book Roundtrip Air Available Upon Request: Air Travel Price Quotes from your hometown available at approximately \$2,500 for planning purposes actual cost upon registration. These quotes available from any city serviced by United.



Day 5, Tuesday, 28 April:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we load the bus for Segesta. After lunch, we see the Temple of Segesta & shuttle to the wonderful limestone amphitheater with its epic view of the valley below. We head to Palermo with free time to see the mix of Phoenician, Carthaginian, Arab, Norman, Byzantine, Roman, Greek architecture via on-off bus or the excellent downtown (small train) tram routes.

RON in Palermo at The NH Collection Palermo Palazzo Sitano (Meal: B)

Day 6, Wednesday, 29 April:

After Breakfast in the hotel, Visit Palazzo dei Normanni (site of General George Patton's HQ in Palermo) is a must see due to the Palatine Chapel with its stunning gold mosaics, a significant UNESCO World heritage site.

RON in Palermo at The NH Collection Palermo Palazzo Sitano (Meal: B)

Day 7, Thursday, 30 April:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we load the bus to follow the northern coastal road (route of Patton's 7th Army 45th Division and then relieved by the 3rd Division as they pushed the 29th Panzergrenadier Division back towards Messina.) General Patton reached Messina before his British 8th Army rival Field Marshal "Monty" Montgomery (site of Operation LEHRGANG (the Axis Dunkirk where 40,000 German Wehrmacht troops & 62,000 Italians plus 9,000 vehicles, 27 tanks, 94 artillery pieces, 1,100 tons of ammo & 970 tons of fuel were evacuated from Sicily to mainland Italy.) We move on to Mount Etna that covers an area of 459 sq mi making it by far the largest of the three active volcanoes in Italy, being about two and a half times the height of the next largest, Mount Vesuvius near Naples. We return to Messina for the evening.

RON in Messina at the Garibaldi R & B (Meal: B)



Day 8, Friday, 1 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we conduct our own Op Lehrgang by ferrying across the Straits of Messina to Reggio di Calabria the evacuation port in 1943. We head up the boot towards Salerno where the Allies in an effort to bypass the rugged Axis defenses planned Op-

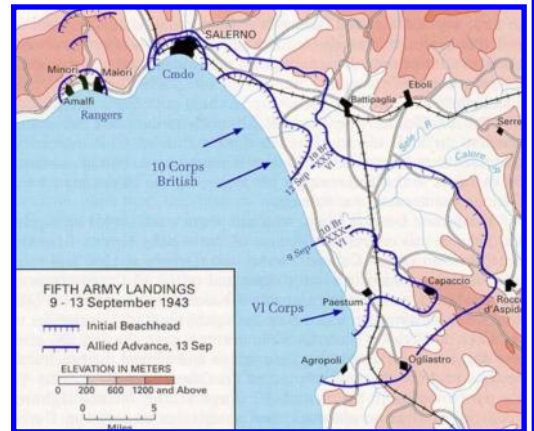
eration AVALANCHE an amphibious landing to quickly capture Naples & cut off the retreat of enemy forces in Southern Italy.

RON in Salerno at The Hotel Marad (Meal: B)

Day 9, Saturday, 2 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we walk the Operation AVALANCHE invasion beach at Salerno and visit "The Museo dello sbarco e Salerno Capitale" with a nice collection of memorabilia from the landing. Right behind the Southern Landing Beach that the Army's 36th Infantry Division are the Greek temples at Paestum running headlong into the 16th Panzer Division. After seeing Paestum, we travel five miles North to the "Tobacco Factory" battle site at Persano where this compound changed hands in savage attacks and counter-attacks. Afterwards we head North past the famous Mount Vesuvius Volcano to the beautiful port of Naples.

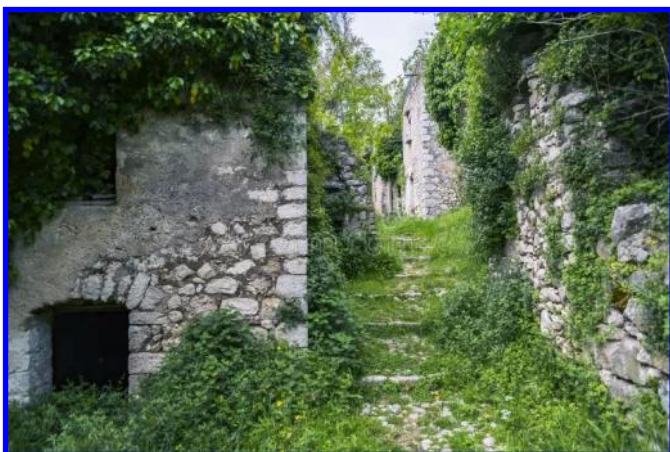
RON in Naples at Hotel Paradiso, BW Signature Collection (Meal: B)



Day 10, Sunday, 3 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we will tour the fascinating city of Pompei that was buried under thick layers of ash & pumice from a catastrophic eruption by Mt. Vesuvius freezing it on that day in 79 A.D. This vast UNESCO archaeological park gives our participants the preserved streets, homes, shops, frescoes, mosaics and sadly the citizens casts where they fell in the descending cloud of ash and toxic gases. (Note: "Those who do not want to tour Pompei can visit the Archaeology Museum in Naples.") After lunch we head back to enjoy Naples' nightlife.

RON in Naples at Hotel Paradiso, BW Signature Collection (Meal: B)



Day 11, Monday, 4 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we board the bus for Caserta for the huge Baroque Royal Palace with the famed fountain-filled park. The Royal Palace of Caserta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site was erected in Europe during the 18th century by the House of Bourbon-Two Sicilies as their main residence as The Kings of Naples. The palace is the largest former royal residence in the world and has been described as "the swan song of the spectacular art of the Baroque." After lunch, we walk the San Pietro Infine War Ruins, an Italian village destroyed during the battle for Italy (Left)

RON in Cassino at the Best Western Hotel Rocca (Meal: B)



Day 12, Tuesday, 5 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we head up to the rebuilt Benedictine Monastery on top of Monte Cassino. The Allies influenced by erroneous intelligence that the Germans were using it, bombed the Monastery to rubble killing 230+ Italian civilians. Monte Cassino anchored the German Gustav Defense Line that frustrated the Allies advance for four months and four costly attacks. Following the bombing, the ruins of the monastery were occupied by German Fallschirmjäger paratroopers of the 1st Parachute Division, due to the ruins providing excellent defensive cover. Behind the new Monastery is the Polish Cemetery behind Monte Cassino. Afternoon we explore the War Exposition Gustav Line Cassino 44 with great artifacts. If time permits, we swing past the Cassino War Cemetery. RON in Cassino at the Best Western Hotel Rocca (Meal: B)

Day 13, Wednesday, 6 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we depart for Nettuno site of the American Battle Monuments Commission's beautifully maintained Sicily-Rome American Military Cemetery. From Nettuno we see the main Anzio battle sites in Aprilia such as The Factory. After lunch, we continue into Anzio to visit the Operation SHINGLE landing beaches. While in Anzio we tour the Anzio Beachhead Museum (Museo dello Sborca di Anzio) located in the lovely Villa Adele. RON in Anzio at the Lo Scoglio dei Volsci B & B (Meal: B)

Day 14, Thursday, 7 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel, we travel from Anzio to Rome. In Rome our first stop is St. Peter's Basilica within Vatican City. We enjoy the big three of the Roman Empire, the Coliseum, the Roman Forum, and Palatine Hill. Our afternoon ends with a visit to the Ardeatine Caves (Ancient Christian catacombs) where 335 Italians were executed by SD-Security Service (more feared than the Gestapo) and SiPo-Security Police led by two SS Captains in retaliation for a resistance bombing in Rome. RON in Rome at the Best Western Hotel Astrid (Meal: B)



Day 15, Friday, 8 May:

After Breakfast at the hotel our expedition ends with participants flying home or spending additional time in Rome on their own. (Meal: B)

JOIN AHP EXPEDITION TO MALTA, SICILY & SOUTHERN ITALY TO UNDERSTAND WWII IN THE MEDITERRANEAN!



Stafford, VA 22554

STE 202 #177

44 Mine Road

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