This exciting tour studies the Italian Campaign and visits the British, Italian and American sectors of the Italian battlefields. Through a series of stunning walks and visits to remote spots in the region, we not only immerse ourselves in the most spectacular scenery but also draw upon some of the most iconic memoirs of the Great War which tell the story of this forgotten front.

The Tour is limited to thirty (30) spaces to ensure quality, to register your interest please contact Patrick Raymond atpraymond@theworldwar.org

10 September 2016 - Day 1

Meet in Venice before travelling to our hotel in Asiago, on-route we visit the lovely cemetery of Montecchio Precalcino for an introduction to our tour before climbing up onto the Asiago plateau. (Overnight in Asiago)
11 September 2016 - Day 2

Starting the day with a visit to the remote Cavaletto Cemetery we begin our walk at Tattenham Corner with its stunning views over the Venetian Plains. We continue to the small hamlet of Granezza, once a hive of activity when it formed a British Divisional HQ and supply areas for the troops in this sector. We visit the memorial to 143 (Warwickshire) Infantry Brigade placed here by the family of Lt Col James Meldrum Knox DSO & Bar, commanding the 1/7 Warwick's who was killed on the San Sisto Ridge in September 1918.

The adjacent CWGC is also visited containing many men from the June 1918 fighting including Captain Edward Brittain MC. Continuing forward we pass a surviving RAMC Dressing Station alongside an underground Italian Field Hospital and the sight of many of the artillery batteries located at Pria Dell Acqua.

Next is the stunning Barenthal Cemetery deep in the forest before we follow the trenches held by the Sherwood Foresters where Vera Brittain's beloved brother, Edward was killed and Lt Col Hudson VC, DSO & Bar, MC led a counter attack by remnants of 11 Sherwood's, saving the situation and earning his Victoria Cross. Passing the sight of small chapel we break out if the woodline and forward to the strongpoints and outposts held by the 9/York & Lanc's in front of the main 23rd Division positions, we then arrive back at our hotel. (Overnight in Asiago)

12 September 2016 - Day 3

In the morning we visit the Museo di Canove di Roana before visiting Magnaboschi to start our walk. Here we see the stunning CWGC and the grave of Captain Lister RAMC, DSO, MC & 2 Bars. Alongside is the evocative previous site of a joint Italian/Austrian Cemetery, though the bodies have been removed the spirit of this spot remains and is completed with a small chapel containing a splendid carved South Staffordshire Regiment Badge. We climb gradually up to the foothills of Mount Lemerle and soon discover trenches and machine gun posts held by the Italian troops from 1915 and then the 48th Division in the last year of the war.

We learn of the Valle Gap and the problems to defence it caused in June 1918. Next we make a
slight diversion upwards to visit the site of the 9/South Stafford’s HQ, an impressive cave complex littered with debris from 1918. We next reach Handley Cross, an important junction and supply area it was scene of an exploding ammunition dump early on the 15 June 1918 denying the forward troops essential ammunition. As we continue towards the firing line we reach the isolated Boscon Cemetery deep in the forest before reaching the site of Pelly Cross where infantry men and gunners fired over open sights in a desperate effort to hold the line. Finally we climb the railway embankment (now a peaceful pathway) and discover the intact defences of the 1/4 Ox & Bucks LI including a Machine Gun position carved out of rock. Following Pelly trench we arrive at the infamous Ghelpac Fork where we meet our coach. We end the day with a visit to the imposing Sacrario Militaire, overlooking the battlefield it contains the remains of 54,000 Italian and Austro Hungarian soldiers. (Overnight in Asiago).

13 September 2016 - Day 4

We drop down onto the Venetian plain to visit the lovely cemetery of Giavera with the memorial to the Missing. We then focus on the Piave River including the memorial set at the point where the British 7th Division forced the crossing in Oct 1918. We also focus our time on the Piave by looking at the experiences of the 332nd Infantry Regiment, the only American fighting unit to see action on the Italian Front in the First World War. (Overnight in Piave di Cadore).

14 September 2016 - Day 5

Today we focus once more on American involvement in the Piave region, this time by walking in the footsteps of a certain Ambulance Driver named Ernest Hemmingway and his comrades in the American Red Cross. Leaving the Piave in the afternoon we head north, climbing into the spectacular mountain ranges around the beautiful town of Cortina (Overnight in Piave Di Cadore).
15 September 2016 - Day 6

After visiting the museum at Tre Sassi we take the cable car to the summit of Lazaguoi (2,700m) to examine this unique theatre of war where the two sides fought on vertical cliffs. The lunar landscape of shattered limestone has numerous trenches and blockhouses which we will visit on our way to the foot of Tofana de Rozes and the extraordinary story of the fight for Il Castelleto (Overnight in Piave di Cadore).

16 September 2016 - Day 7

Today we head back out into the mountains around Cortina where we explore the bitter summer fighting alongside the unique ‘live and let live’ policy that existed throughout the winter months when both sides fought the harsh natural elements rather than each other. Leaving Cortina we had back south to Venice where we end the tour.

The tour is inclusive of
- Pick up and drop off in Venice, coach, driver and 2 guides throughout
- 6 nights half board accommodation (3 nights Asiago/3 nights Cortina)

The tour is not inclusive of
- Flights to and from Venice
- Lunches

Clive Harris
Read what past tour participants have said about their experience:

“In ten days on the tour, we learned more of the geography, topography, strategy, tactics, and history than we could have done if we had spent two months on our own. Our guides were wonderful, convivial people—and world-class experts on the battles of the Great War. They knew the ground like we know our back yard. And they knew local people and institutions, resources that we couldn't have found ourselves. Our traveling companions were also wonderful—and because many of them were connected with the WWI Museum, either as staff members, volunteers, or active supporters, many of them were also very knowledgeable.”

– Robert Inkster

“We have traveled a lot and taken many tours; this was one of our best.”

– Kelton and Marilyn Smith

“Over the top with organization, good company, exact information and excellent planning.”

– Larry Faeth

“As a volunteer at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, the Battle Fields tour was a trip of a lifetime. It was top-drawer from the accommodations to the tour guides. I have made lifetime friends through this shared experience. The knowledge I gleaned and the firsthand look at the trenches and battle sites have enhanced my appreciation for what the participants endured. And, the trip has made me a more knowledgeable tour guide for our visitors.”

– Michael Boothe

“This was the most memorable and meaningful trip of the many I've made in the past 30 years.”

– Nancy Cramer

“The Battle Honours team brought history to life for us with their access to historical sites not ordinarily open to tourists and stories of individual soldiers in the fights of their lives.”

– Jerry Schmidt

“We recently returned from an outstanding WW I battlefield tour, “Liege to the Vosges” hosted by the National WW I Museum and Memorial at Kansas City, Mo., and conducted by Battle Honours, Ltd. The tour group of thirty-one, including 10 members of the World War I Historical association, four members of the museum staff, including the Museum Chair and other first time tour members. The museum staff did an excellent job putting the tour together. Doran Cart, Senior Curator, came with letters and diaries that he read to us at each of the major sites which further enhanced our experience. Clive Harris of Battle Honours and Mike Shield were outstanding tour guides providing well researched historical incite at each stop of the tour. Based on my prior experience Clive Harris and Battle Honours is the premier battlefield tour company and the National WWI Museum and Memorial can be counted on to provide meaningful tours in the future.”

– Major General Thomas Jones, USA