

Guadalcanal and HMAS Canberra 75th Anniversary

6 DAYS 5-10 August 2017

This exclusive 6-day tour explores the battlefields from one of the most famous conflicts of the Pacific War, the Battle of Guadalcanal. Our tour commemorates the anniversary of the Allied landings, as well as the loss of HMAS Canberra two days later.



Day 1 5 August arrive Honiara

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ Welcome dinner

Welcome to our exclusive anniversary tour! On arrival in Honiara we will be picked up from the famous WWII Henderson Airfield and then transferred to our central hotel. We will then visit the US Memorial on Hill 73, which offers panoramic views over the battlefield. This evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner, an excellent opportunity to get to know our travelling companions and Historian better. (D)

Day 2 6 August Guadalcanal Battlefields

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ Visits to the battlefields of Alligator Creek ★ Edison's Ridge ★ The Gifu ★ Mount Austen

Today we will explore the key battlefields

from the campaign in and around Honiara. We will begin by visiting the Japanese Memorial on Hill 34 and also the Japanese stronghold known as the Gifu, on the slopes of Mount Austen, where relics from the fighting abound. In the afternoon we will visit Alligator Creek, scene of the first major battle on Guadalcanal, and also the famous Bloody Ridge, where a small band of marines held off a strong Japanese attack in September 1942. (B)

Day 3 7 August Guadalcanal 75th Anniversary

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ Attendance at anniversary commemoration services ★ Visit to Red Beach and the amrac graveyard ★ Visit to Vilu outdoor museum

Today is the 75th anniversary of the Allied landings and a significant day of ceremonies. We will first attend a commemorative service

at the US Memorial, built to honour the more than 7000 men who were killed capturing the island. In the afternoon we will drive east and visit Red Beach, where Allied troops first landed on Guadalcanal, plus the 'amrac graveyard', where dozens of World War Two amphibious tractors remain in the jungle. We will also see the amazing outdoor museum at Vilu, which features wrecks of aircraft, tanks and guns. (B)

Day 4 8 August Tulagi

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ Boat transfer to Tulagi Islands
★ Full day touring the islands of Tulagi, Gavutu and Tanambogo

Today we man the boats. We will travel across the twenty miles of Iron Bottom Sound to the island of Tulagi. At 7.40am on August 7, 1942, US marines made the first landing of the Guadalcanal campaign at Hallett on Florida Island. We will re-enact what can



be regarded as the first step taken by US forces on the long road Tokyo. The 1st Raiders and the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines then pressed on with their Tulagi landings at Blue Beach. Later in the campaign Tulagi was an important Patrol Boat base, and this is where John F. Kennedy was originally stationed in 1943. During our day on Tulagi we will see the site of the Resident Commissioner's house and the fiercely fought over cricket pitch. In the afternoon we will see the smaller nearby islands of Gavutu and Tanambogo, which were also attacked by the Marines on August 7. The Japanese fiercely resisted all these landings, and we will walk the ground where the Marines fought their way ashore. We will then travel on to Purvis Bay where we will see the wreck of the American landing ship LST-342, which broke in half after being hit by a Japanese torpedo in 1943. The floating front half was towed to Purvis Bay and beached. In nearby Tokyo Bay we will see the sunken wreck of the Japanese destroyer Kikutsuki. The Kikutsuki was used during the original Japanese landings on Tulagi on May 3, 1942 and was sunk the next day by planes from Admiral Fletcher's carriers Yorktown and

Lexington, in what can be regarded as the opening shots in the Battle of the Coral Sea. Late in the afternoon we will return across Iron Bottom Sound to Guadalcanal. (B)

Day 5 9 August HMAS Canberra Anniversary & Departure

STAR INCLUSIONS

★ HMAS Canberra memorial service

Today is the anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Canberra during the naval Battle of Savo Island. We will conduct a memorial service and lay a wreath in honour of the 193 Australian sailors killed or wounded during the battle. The remainder of the day is free at leisure. (B)

Day 6 10 August Departure

Our last morning in Honiara is free, time for last-minute shopping or sightseeing. In the afternoon we will be transferred to the airport for our flight back to Australia. (B)

Please note: This itinerary is an indication of the sites visited on the tour. The order of each day may be adjusted to allow for local events, weather conditions, etc.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ★ Services of an expert WW2 Historian
- ★ 5 nights' 4-star accommodation
- ★ Airport transfers
- ★ Extensive touring of the battlefield sites at Guadalcanal
- ★ All excursions, scenic drives and sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- ★ Full day tour to Tulagi including boat transfer
- ★ Anniversary commemorations at the US Memorial and HMAS Canberra Memorial
- ★ Welcome dinner and breakfast daily
- ★ Services of a Tour Manager, Driver and experienced Local Guides
- ★ All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- ★ Travel by comfortable air-conditioned touring vehicle
- ★ All tips to your Historian and Driver
- ★ Souvenir cap, document wallet and luggage tag

\$3297 per person, twin share (land only). Single supplement: \$854

Extend your tour to the island of Gizo, where John F. Kennedy was marooned after his patrol boat was sunk in 1943. Ask us for details.

