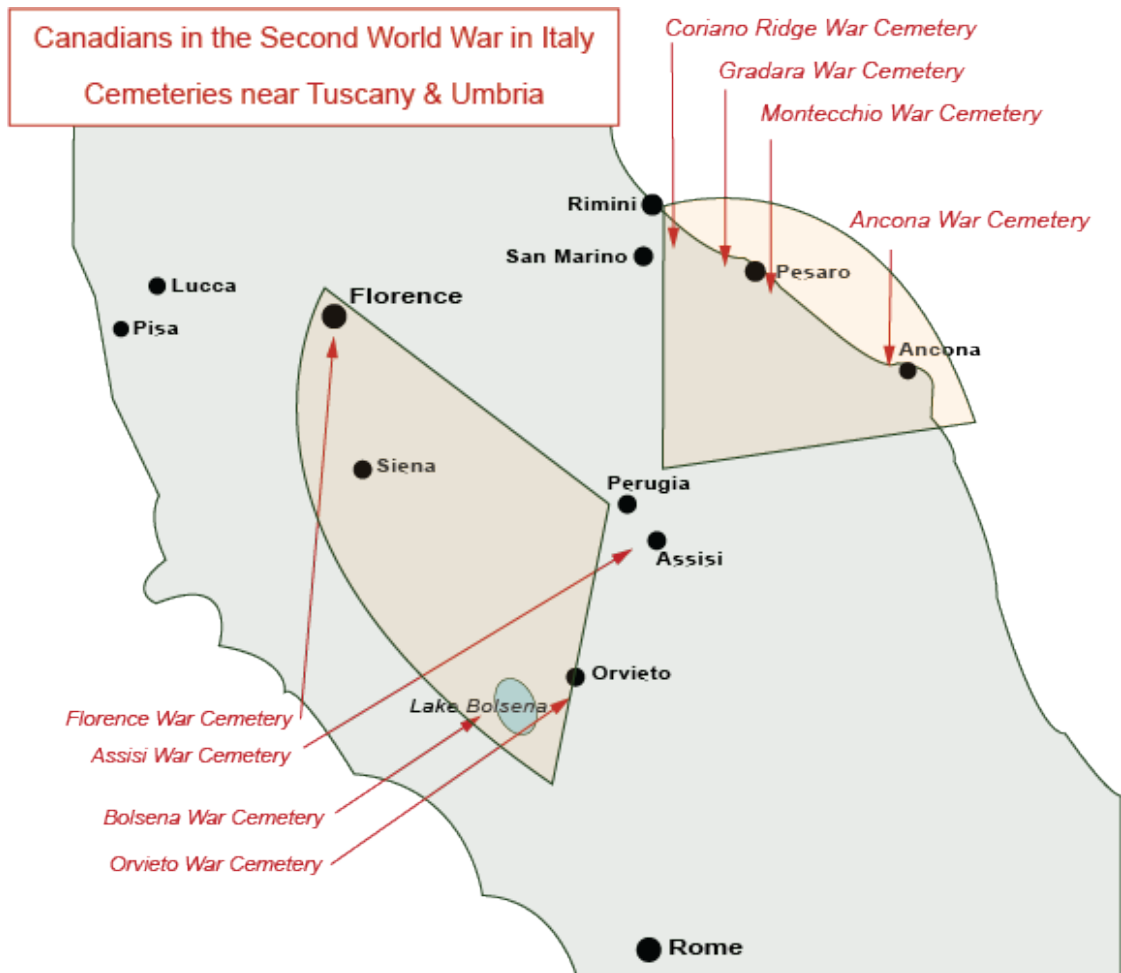




CANADA REMEMBERS GUIDE

WWII from Tuscany and Umbria

The next time you are visiting Tuscany or Umbria, consider taking a side daytrip to visit one of the many towns Canadians helped to liberate in the Second World War. For example from Siena, Assisi or Perugia, you can lay a flag at a Canadian headstone in Florence and Bolsena or you can travel to the east coast where many Canadians lost their lives fighting with the Allies to break through the heavily-defended Gothic Line.





CANADA REMEMBERS GUIDE

WWII from Tuscany or Umbria

A note to the traveller: This itinerary is actually two itineraries! Both originate in Perugia, a beautiful town in Umbria. But, you can pick and choose all or parts of these itineraries if you are staying in different places in Tuscany or Umbria. The good news is that this is your trip so you can make alternations to customize it. You can email me at CanadaRemembersGuide@gmail.com if you have questions, need help, or have suggestions. Feel free to send me an email to let me know how the trip went.

Cemetery names in this itineary match the ones used by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) on their website (cwgc.org). However, it's not necessarily the name used by search engines so I have also provided the name that comes up on GPS map searches. Sometimes the addresses are a bit different too, so I have provided both. The CWGC maintains all Commonwealth cemeteries and the website has good descriptions of each location. If you are looking for a particular person or regiment, this website is invaluable. If there is a padlock on the gate after hours, check the CWGC site for the code.

These drives are quite long but well worth it. Note that, in Italy, when you enter an "Autostrade" – that is, an "A" road -- you will take a ticket at the automatic toll booth; make sure you keep the ticket somewhere safe and at hand because you need to use it to pay upon exiting the highway! Gas stations on the autostrade have excellent restrooms and food, which you should use because the small towns you will be travelling through do not always have facilities. I tried to build in a bit of time for quick coffee and lunch stops.

Don't forget to sign the Visitors Book. Bring small Canadian flags with you to lay at the headstones of our Canadian soldiers. If you are with kids, maybe they can paint a small rock with a flag or a message, which they can then lay at a headstone. Pack water and snacks in the car. Maps in this guide are for illustration and are not to scale. Safe travels! KW



CANADA REMEMBERS GUIDE

WWII from Tuscany or Umbria

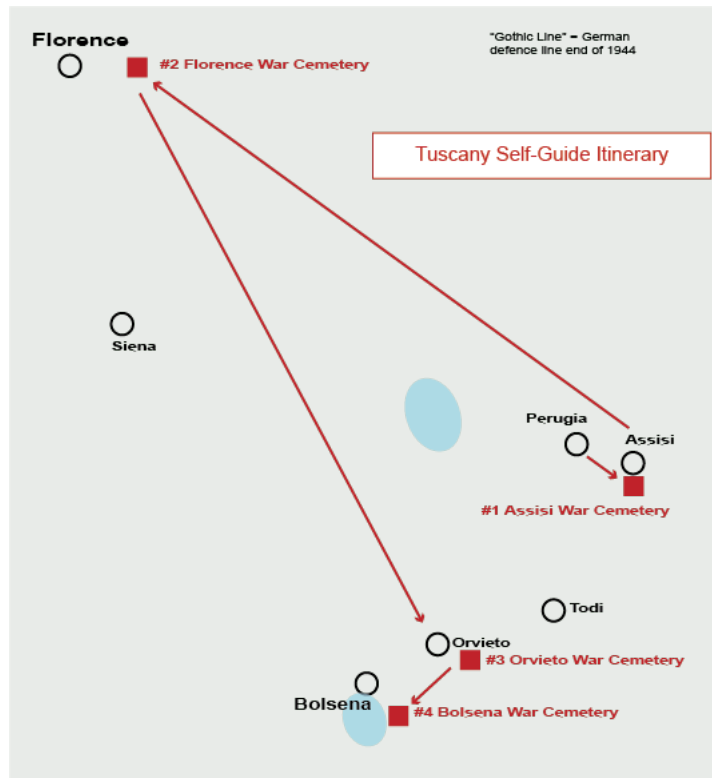
SELF-GUIDED ITINERARY #1 from Perugia into Tuscany

Note to the traveller: This first loop takes you from Perugia to Assisi and Florence, then down to Orvieto and Bolsena.

9.00am **#1** Set GPS [26km] from Perugia to **ASSISI WAR CEMETERY**. The cemetery is just south of Assisi in a town called Rivotorto and there's a beautiful view of the city from there. Search by name or use "Via del Sacro Tugurio 14, 06081 Assisi. *Note: the address on the CWGC is missing a bit of information.* Assisi War Cemetery is beautiful with lots of very tall Italian Cypress trees. When you enter through the gates, you will

be standing at the Cross of Sacrifice and you will see the Registry on the right. There are 10 plots here and the Canadians are all in Plot 5 in the last four rows. There are 949 burials here of which **49 are Canadians**. (*Spend 15-30 minutes here.*)

10.00am **#2** Set GPS [168km] to **FLORENCE WAR CEMETERY** (map search shows: "CWGC Florence War Cemetery"), located 10 km to the east of central Florence [Address: Via Aretina, 38, 50061 Girone]. There is a parking lot in front of the entry gates, which looks down and over this large and beautiful cemetery. When I visited, I had Canadian flags in one hand and was juggling two cameras in the other. Two gardeners came rushing over and, although we could not understand each other's languages, they gestured and led me to the resting places of several Canadians in this cemetery. They made sure I found the Canadians. Very emotional. Of the 1,637 burials here, **50 are Canadians**. It is well worth the visit. (*Spend 15-30 minutes here.*)





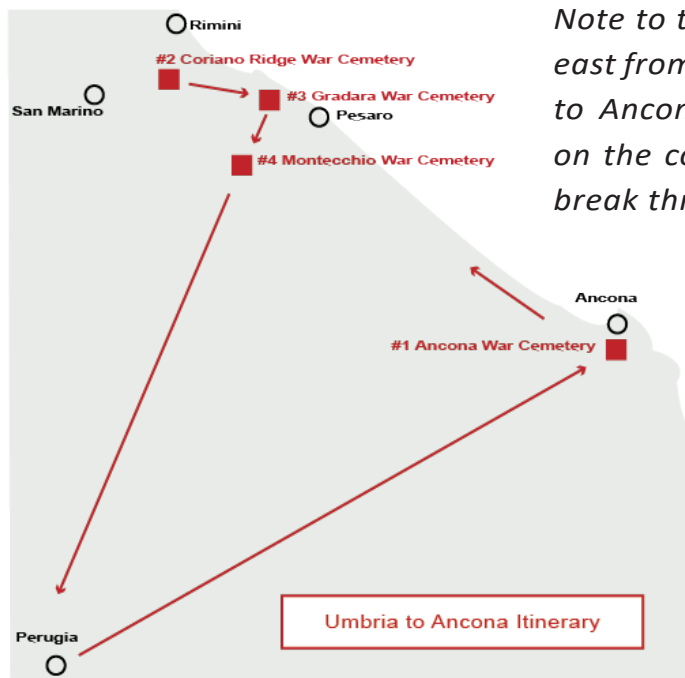
CANADA REMEMBERS GUIDE

WWII from Tuscany and Umbria

2.00pm **#3** Set GPS [162km] to **ORVIETO WAR CEMETERY** which is located east of the old city on the other side of the Autostrade del Sole from Orvieto just south of the town of Ciconia. Address on CWGC website is different than a map search by name, which shows: Strade Comunale di Corbara 888, 05018 Orvieto. (The Strade seems to be co-named “Localita Sette Martiri”). I didn’t know about this cemetery until after I got home from my Italy trip, so I cannot give you advice about this one. It is relatively small, with 188 burials, of which **3 are Canadians** who died in June 1944.

4.30pm **#4** Set GPS [33km] to **BOLSENA WAR CEMETERY** (Note map search shows: “Cimitero degli Inglesi, Bolsena”) is located on the eastern edge of Lake Bolsena, not far from Orvieto [Address: SS2 Cassia Nord or “Via Cassia Nord”, 01027 Bolsena]. There is parking in front of the entry gates. From the car park, you walk down a wide, descending pathway with old stone steps to another gate. Just inside is the Registry shelter building. The cemetery has beautiful views and is very peaceful. Of the 600 burials here, **12 are Canadians**. They are in Plot 4, Row A. [RETURN TO PERUGIA]

SELF-GUIDED ITINERARY #2 from Umbria to Ancona & East Coast



Note to the traveller: This second loop takes you east from Perugia to the Italian region of Marche, to Ancona and then north to three cemeteries on the coast where Canadians helped the Allies break through the Gothic Line.

9.00am **#1** Set GPS (132km) to **ANCONA WAR CEMETERY** which is a couple of kilometers south of the town of Ancona (Note map search shows “commonwealth world war ii cemetery” [Address: Via A. Ninchi - Passo Varono, 60131 Ancona]. This lovely, very symmetrical cemetery is set on a gentle slope so, from the entry, you see all the headstones in neat

rows all the way up the hillside. Of the 1,019 Commonwealth burials here, **161 are Canadians**. They were laid to rest in Plot 1, which is the first plot on left after entering this cemetery. (Spend 15-30 minutes here.)



CANADA REMEMBERS GUIDE

WWII from Tuscany and Umbria

Note: From Ancona, you will go all the way to Coriano Ridge and then work south to Gradara and Montecchio before heading back to Perugia.

11.15am **#2** Set GPS (110km) to **CORIANO RIDGE WAR CEMETERY** which is just inland from the coastal resort town of Rimini [Address on CWGC website is Via Piane, 4, 47853 Coriano and my map search yielded “xv d, 4, 47838 Coriano. Both work.] This is a large cemetery, with nearly two thousand burials. Of the 1,940 men laid to rest here, **428 are Canadian**. There are twenty plots; Canadians are in Plots 1, 2, 9, 10, 13 & 14. (*Spend 15-30 min here.*)

2.00pm **#3** Set GPS [20km] to **GRADARA WAR CEMETERY** ((map search shows “CWGC Gradara War Cemetery”), located east of the town of Gradara. [The address on the CWGC website is Via Pesaro, 61012 Gradara which did not work for me. A search by name got me there and showed the address as “61121 Pesaro”.] It is on a small road off the Via Pesaro on the east side of Autostrade E35/A14, well marked with a dark green CWGC arrow sign. Inside the gates, you will see the Registry/ Visitors Book shelter and the Cross of Sacrifice and then, if you look up the hillside, you will see long rows of graves ranging from A at the bottom to H, at the top. Of the 1,192 burials here, **369 are Canadians** and they are laid to rest in Rows G & H. (*Spend 15-30 min here.*)

11.15am **#4** Set GPS [12km] to **MONTECCHIO WAR CEMETERY**, which is just inland from the coastal town of Pesaro in the town of Montecchio (map search shows “Cimitero di guerra inglese”). [Address in the map search shows up as Via Montecchio 158, 61025 Vallefoglia which is slightly different than the one given on the CWGC website]. There is no parking at the front entry gate but there is a small lot off to the side, accessible via the roundabout. This is a smaller cemetery with 582 burials, of which more than one half – that is, **289 are Canadians** who are laid to rest in Plots 1 & 3. (*Spend 15-30 min here.*)

Return to Perugia

