MHT Includes Breakfast everyday on The Canal!

# GUADALCANAL —

## "THE AMERICAN VICTORY THAT DESTROYED THE MYTH OF JAPANESE INVINCIBILITY!"

**POST-TOURS: 10-13 AUG EXTENDED EXPLORATION 10-17 AUG DIVE ADVENTURE**

**1 - 10 AUGUST 2019**










**GO TO MILTOURS.COM TO READ MAJOR DALE ROBINSON'S MILITARY OFFICER MAGAZINE ARTICLE OF HIS RETURN WITH MHT!**

**Breakfasts, departure taxes, & tips included no hidden costs!**



Tenaru Sand Bar









**MILITARY™ HISTORICAL TOURS, INC**

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Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
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**GUADALCANAL.** For the Marines of the First and Second Marine Divisions, this battle, remain as the landmark of their history, the first combatant actions for both in WWII plus the U.S. Army's 23rd & 25th Infantry Divisions participated in the liberation of "The Canal." This year we return to this epic struggle as part of our WWII Anniversaries of Pacific Battlefields for Guadalcanal's 77th Anniversary Tour. Fly through Fiji to Guadalcanal where we spend the next ten days, before we start we offer a pre-tour to Tarawa to commemorate this bloody campaign a precursor to costly future landings against entrenched fanatical Japanese resistance.

The unique **MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS** in-depth approach includes extensive pre-departure research, utilizing a vast resource of maps and other source material, ensuring the finest possible experience. Our Tour Leaders for this program are among the most knowledgeable on this subject. In-depth, but easily understood, briefings are conducted on each battle and other historic sites. For those wanting to go into more detail, the onsite staff is always available. **We will visit interesting sites unseen and unknown to the vast majority of battlefield tourists.**



Participants are invited to contribute by sharing their personal knowledge and expertise as we walk the battlefields. Ample time is allowed for personal exploration and sightseeing.

All of these things, along with the most experienced staff of Tour Leaders, Battlefield Guides, and Historians will combine to make your trip the most enjoyable, relaxing, entertaining and educational experience possible. We welcome your phone calls, letters or e-mails to discuss this expedition with one of our Battlefield Specialists. Call us toll free at 800-722-9501, M-F 9:30AM-5:30PM, write or e-mail us. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Daily Itinerary

**1 Aug Thur (Day 1) DEPARTURE**
Check in at the Fiji Airways counter in the International Terminal, Los Angeles Int'l Airport no later than 8:30pm for your 11:30pm FJ #813. Meet your tour director at the departure gate.

**2 Aug Fri (Day 2) ENROUTE**
In-flight entertainment, friendly Fiji Airways staff and breakfast pass the time pleasantly on this non-stop flight to Nadi, Fiji Islands. Cross International Dateline lose a day.

**3 Aug Sat (Day 3) ARRIVE GUADALCANAL**
Arrive Nadi, Fiji Islands at 5:50am. Layover until departure on Fiji Airways (FJ269) arriving at historic "Henderson Field" mid-afternoon. We transfer to our hotel for the next week, with time to settle in and refresh. **Hotel: Solomon Kitano Mendana**

**4 Aug Sun (Day 4) GUADALCANAL**
After breakfast we departing for our battlefield briefing and orientation of the eastern battle sites from a vantage point atop Mount Austen. Sites pointed out will be "Red Beach," the site of the landing; Henderson Field, the amphibious force objective; Edson's Ridge, the Tenaru River (Alligator Creek); Lunga Point, and other pertinent sites. We


USS Sampson (DDG-102) off shore for the 70th Anniversary

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|---|---|
| **Guadalcanal Tour Price:** | **$ 2,895** |
| Based on Double Occupancy (BoDO) | |
| **Single Room Supplement:** | **$ 650** |
| **Tarawa Pre-Tour (BoDO)** | **$ 1,595** |
| **Pre-Tour Single Supplement** | **$ 375** |
| **Post-Tour Ground (BoDO)** | **$ 695** |
| **Post-Tour Ground Single Sup.** | **$ 185** |

**Post-Tour Dive Adventure-Call Office**

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**Tour Price Includes:**

*

All breakfasts, departure taxes, & tips are included (not hidden costs)

*

3-Star (Pacific Island) Hotel Accommodations

*

Air-conditioned motorcoach

*

Emergency Medical, Evacuation, Repatriation, and baggage insurance included

*

Trip Kit: tour ball cap, bag tags & name badge

*

MHT "FieldBook" information map packet

*

All Admission fees to all sites, museums, and special attractions listed

*

Services of experienced MHT Tour Leaders & English--speaking local guides.

**AIR NOT INCLUDED OPTIONAL DISCOUNT AIRFARE AVAILABLE: MHT can book you round trip from your home city to Guadalcanal via MHT's Airline Partners and save you domestic baggage fees! MHT's discount airfare is available upon request. Business Class upgrade is also available upon request.**

continue on for a tour of the "Gifu" area of Mount Austen, one of the best preserved battlefields on the island. We walk the battlefield, seeing the foxholes and remnants of the battle, visit the Japanese War Memorial, as well as a Solomon Island village. We continue our tour with a visit to the east and west banks of the Matanikau River, scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the battle. Later we will tour the U.S. Memorial on Skyline Ridge for another panoramic view of the island and the western battle sites from this vantage point. Sites pointed out will be Tulagi, Gavutu -Tanambogo, and the Florida Islands. Also, we will orient on Savo Island, "Iron Bottom Sound": as well as key terrain features ashore. We will see Point Cruz, the Matanikau River, Cape Esperance, and other key sites that played significant roles in this landmark battle. **(B/Breakfast)**





*General "Jim" Amos, 35th CMC returns for the 70th Anniversary!*

**5 Aug Mon - (Day 5) GUADALCANAL**
This morning we will travel east to Tetere, site of a Japanese bivouac and current home to a massive Amtrac "Boneyard" left behind at the end of the war. We visit Red Beach, site of the initial landing of the 1st Marine Division and explore the area around Henderson Field, see Pagoda Hill, the plane revetments & control tower, and Gen Vandergrift's command post. Crossing the Lunga River we will see "Fighter Two", the strip where the planes for the "Yamamoto Mission" took off. We will view the site of Carney Airfield & the Army logistics base as we return west. **(B)**

**6 Aug Tue – (Day 6) GUADALCANA**
Today we spend time on Bloody Ridge, known from a previous battle as Edson's Ridge, where the Japanese were halted in their attempts to reach Henderson Field, in one of the pivotal battles of the Pacific War. It is here that we will see the Machinegun Positions used by "Manila John" Basilone to stem the Japanese attacks. From here we view "Fighter One," the field from which the Cactus Air Force and famous aviators like Joe Foss, Bob Galer, Jeff DeBlanc, John Smith, Marion Carl, and others flew. **(B)**

**7 Aug Wed (Day 7) GUADALCANAL**
Today we commemorate the 77th Anniversary of the Battle as we visit the American War Memorial, site of the wreath laying and remarks by the all the participating countries. Further individual ceremonies will be conducted such as wreath laying at the Solomon Island Coast Watchers Statue. One highlight is the wreath laying for Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, USCG who was the only coast guard recipient of the Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts in evacuating a battalion of Marines trapped near Point Cruz. Lunch to follow after the ceremony. The remainder of the day is at leisure. **(B)**

**8 Aug Thur - (Day 8) GUADALCANAL**
Following breakfast we will explore battle sites around the Ilu, Tenaru and Lunga Rivers. Stops will include Pvt Al Schmid's machine gun position along "Alligator Creek" (Ilu River), which he continued to defend even after being blinded by a Japanese grenade. We will also spend time on Bloody Ridge, known from a previous battle as Edson's Ridge, where the Japanese were halted in their attempts to reach Henderson Field, in one of the pivotal battles of the Pacific War. It is here that we will see the Machinegun Positions used by "Manila John" Basilone to stem the Japanese attacks. From here we view "Fighter One", the field from which the Cactus Air Force and famous aviators like Joe Foss, Bob Galer, Jeff DeBlanc, John Smith, Marion Carl, and others flew. **(B)**





**9 Aug Fri - (Day 9) GUADALCANAL**
We begin this morning driving west to Cape Esperance to visit the site of the Japanese evacuation of the island. From Honiara west, the battle was prosecuted by the 2nd Marine Division and the 25th Infantry Division of the US Army. We will view these battlefields, as well as the opportunity to visit the Vila War Museum to view relics from the battles, including an F4F Wildcat and an SBD Dauntless dive-bomber. Along the coast are the remains of Japanese freighters, which were beached after coming under attack by U.S. aircraft. Return to Hotel for Farewell Dinner. **(B/Dinner)**



**10 Aug Sat—(Day 10) DEPARTURE**
Leisurely morning check-out before our afternoon departure by air from Guadalcanal to Fiji. Transfer to your flight back to the USA. Cross the International Dateline and arrive back in Los Angeles (LAX) on the same afternoon **(B & D provided on plane) or…Remain on Guadalcanal for further exploration or experience diving Iron Bottom Sound wrecks!**

## Extended Exploration of Guadalcanal Battlefields 10-12 Aug



Day 1; Sat 10 Aug – Today is a return to Edson's Ridge to explore further the defensive positions of the 1st Raider and 1st Parachute Battalions on 12—14 Sep '42. Afternoon is a detailed study of the Battle of Alligator Creek (also called Tenaru/Ilu River) on 21 Aug '42 and the first major probe by the Japanese. (B)

Day 2; Sun 11 Aug – Today is a walking tour of the 23rd & 25th Infantry Divisions and 2nd Marine Division's efforts in the Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse and the Sea Horse. This battle in the hills near the Matanikau River is famously depicted in James Jone's book *The Thin Red Line* and the two subsequent movies. This month long battle was in Dec '42—Jan '43. (B)

Day 3; Mon 12 Aug – Departure. Leisurely morning check-out before our afternoon departure from Guadalcanal to Fiji. Transfer to your flight back to the USA. Cross International Dateline and arrive back in Los Angeles (LAX) the same afternoon. (B)



## Iron Bottom Sound Dive Adventure 10–17 Aug

Day 1; Sat 10 Aug – Dive orientation and First Dive: "Iron Bottom Sound" contains a variety of wrecks including troop carriers, transport ships, submarines and planes.

Day 2; 11 Aug—Day 6; 15 Aug —Some of the popular dive sites "Hirokawa Maru" (Bonegi I) : Japanese transport ship. 6,860 tons, length 155 metres. Dive starts at 3m plunging to 55m. "Kinugawa Maru" (Bonegi II) : Japanese transport ship. Length 132 metres, resting partly above water with the stern in 27m. USS John Penn : An American troop ship covered in black coral lying on the sand at 60 metres. Tulagi: Aaron Ward: Discovered in 1995, is the only dive-able destroyer in the Solomon Islands. Depth 58 - 70m. Sandfly Passage: A beautiful coral garden studded with big red and yellow fans. An amazing diversity of coral and marine life. Depth 3-40m. Kanawha: The 14,500 ton American oil tanker was sunk on 7 April 1943, the same day as the Aaron Ward. Sitting upright on a flat bottom the deck is strewn with artifacts. Depth 40-60m.



Day 7; 16 Aug—Recovery Day

Day 8; 17 Aug—Depart on your afternoon departure from Guadalcanal to Fiji. Transfer to your flight back to the USA. Cross the International Dateline and arrive back in Los Angeles (LAX) on the same afternoon. (B)



GUADALCANAL 2019
DON'T MISS THE
PLANE BACK!
SEE MUNDA & GO UP
THE SLOT TOO!




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