How to Use this Map-Guide

The main part of this guide suggests a driving tour that follows the roads and describes the events associated with the first serious campaign against the Confederate capital in Richmond. Follow the “Blue Line” tour that highlights some of the best known events in American history such as the “Battle of the Ironclads” in Hampton Roads. Travel the roads the soldiers used as they marched ever-so-slowly toward Richmond over the swampy ground of the Virginia Peninsula. Visit the battlefields in Newport News and Williamsburg and end the campaign in the suburbs of Richmond, where new Confederate commander Robert E. Lee turned back the Union threat. Visit the fine museums and historic houses along the way, including Lee Hall, the tour headquarters, and the Mariners’ Museum, now conserving parts of the famous ironclad, the USS Monitor. Tour north or south of the James River through Gloucester, Smithfield, Suffolk, Chesapeake and Franklin. Discover Old Towne Portsmouth and near-forgotten Civil War sites in Norfolk.

For more detailed travel information, stop by any Virginia Welcome Center or local/regional visitor center or contact any of the attractions or visitor bureaus listed in this guide. For additional Civil War Trails information, visit www.CivilWarTrails.org.

Follow these signs to more than 1,500 Civil War sites.

“The Sinking of the ‘Cumberland’ by the Iron Clad ‘Merrimac’ off Newport News, Va. March 8, 1862. The “Cumberland” went down with all her Flags flying: – destroyed but not conquered – Her gallant Commander Lieut. Morris calling to his crew ‘Give them a Broadside boys, as she goes.’”
Fort Monroe – Largest moat encircled masonry fortification in America and an important Union base for campaigns throughout the Civil War.

Fort Wool – The companion fortification to Fort Monroe. The fort was used in operations against Confederate-held Norfolk in 1861-1862.

Hampton – Confederates burned this port town to block its use by the Federals on August 7, 1861.

St. John’s Church – This church is the only surviving building from the 1861 burning of Hampton.

Big Bethel – This June 10, 1861, engagement was the first land battle of the Civil War.

Monitor-Merrimack Overlook – Scene of the March 9, 1862, Battle of the Ironclads.

Congress and Cumberland Overlook – Scene of the March 8, 1862, sinking of the USS Cumberland and USS Congress by the ironclad CSS Virginia (Merrimack).

St. Luke’s Church – Built in 1632, the church was a Confederate campground.

Fort Boykin – This star fort was the southside anchor of the Warwick-Yorktown Line.

Causey’s Mill – 1866 grist mill is located near the site of the April 4, 1862 skirmish.

Young’s Mill – The earthworks located near this 1820 tide mill were part of Magruder’s defenses.

Warwick Court House – Built in 1810, it served as IV Corps Commander Brig. Gen. Erasmus D. Keyes’ headquarters. The gas balloon, Constitution, was deployed at this site.

Battle of Lee’s Mill – These fortifications were the scene of the April 5, 1862, engagement which prompted Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan to besiege Magruder’s Warwick-Yorktown Line.

Skiffes Creek – This redoubt is part of the Skiffes Creek Line, built to defend Magruder’s Mulberry Island-James River flank.

Lee Hall – This antebellum mansion was used as a headquarters building by Confederate generals John Bankhead Magruder and Joseph E. Johnston.

Battle of Dam No. 1 – This April 16, 1862, engagement was McClellan’s only effort to break Magruder’s defenses.

Endview – This 1760 house served as a Confederate and Union hospital.

Lebanon Church – This 1859 church served as a Confederate courier station and temporary headquarters for U.S. Gen. W.F. Smith.

Gloucester Point – Companion batteries to those at Yorktown, these defenses helped block the York River to McClellan’s use during the Peninsula Campaign.

Yorktown – A major link in Magruder’s 2nd Peninsula Defensive Line and the focus of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan’s siege April 5-May 3, 1862.

Yorktown Waterfront – Once the Confederates abandoned Yorktown it became a busy Union port.

Redoubt 12 – Part of Magruder’s Williamsburg Line.

Fort Magruder – The center of the Williamsburg (3rd) Defensive Line and the scene of fierce fighting during the Battle of Williamsburg.

Williamsburg Line – These redoubts supported the defense of Fort Magruder as well as repelling Union attacks against the Confederate right during the May 5, 1862, Battle of Williamsburg.

Quarterpath Road – J.E.B. Stuart used this historic road trace while acting as a rear guard for the retreating Confederate army.


Jamestown Island – Fortified by Confederates in 1861 to defend the James River approach to Richmond.

New Kent Court House – Confederate and Union troops passed through here en route to Richmond.

Drewry’s Bluff – Confederate batteries above the James River repulse Union gun boats, including the Monitor, on May 15, 1862.

Seven Pines – Scene of Joe Johnston’s attack against McClellan’s army on May 31, 1862.

Dabbs House – Lee’s first headquarters (June 1862) as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

“Bird’s Eye View of Fortress Monroe”
**SEVEN DAYS BATTLES**

- **Chickahominy Bluffs** – Served as jumping off point for Confederate advance into Mechanicsville.
- **Beaver Dam Creek** – On June 26, 1862, the Confederate army unsuccessfully attacked the Union forces at Ellerson's Mill on Beaver Dam Creek.
- **Gaines' Mill** – The largest of the Seven Days Battles, the Confederate forces struck Union troops under the command of Brig. Gen. Fitz-John Porter.
- **Savage's Station** – This June 29, 1862, engagement was part of the Seven Days Battles.
- **White Oak Swamp** – “Stonewall” Jackson met strong Union resistance here and failed to support Confederate attacks at Glendale.
- **Glendale** – At this crossroads on June 30, 1862, Lee’s greatest attempt to destroy McClellan’s army ended in failure.
- **Malvern Hill** – This July 1, 1862, engagement was the last of the Seven Days Battles.
- **Harrison's Landing (Berkeley Plantation)** – The Peninsula Campaign came to an end when McClellan’s army arrived at this position on the James River.

**RELATED TIDEWATER SITES**

- **Newport News POW Camp** – Monument honors Confederate prisoners who died in the nearby Union POW Camp at Camp Butler, April-July 1865.
- **Gosport Navy Yard** – The oldest U.S. Naval shipyard, it was here that the ironclad CSS Virginia (Merrimack) was created.
- **Portsmouth Naval Hospital** – Used by Confederate and Union armies, 1861-1865.
- **Portsmouth’s Olde Towne Historic District** – Revolutionary and Civil War homes can be found in this one-square-mile historic district.
- **Battle of Smithfield** – Confederates repulse the Union advance on January 31 and February 1, 1864, destroying the Union gunboat, USS Smith-Briggs.
- **Fort Norfolk** – Occupied by both Confederate and Union forces during the Civil War.
- **Riddick’s Folly** – This 1837 Greek Revival home was occupied by Maj. Gen. J.J. Peck as his headquarters during the 1863 Suffolk Siege.
- **Dismal Swamp Canal** – The oldest operating artificial waterway in America, it provided access between the Chesapeake Bay and the North Carolina Sounds.
- **Village of Deep Creek** – An important commercial center on the Great Dismal Swamp Canal.
- **Village of Great Bridge** – A strategic crossing of the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal.
- **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery** – A monument to the “Jackson Grays,” honors the regiment that was formed on the churchyard by Colonel William H. Stewart.
- **Glencoe** – Home of Lt. William Wallace, of the “Jackson Grays.”
- **Piney Grove** – Farmstead depicting domestic life during the war.
- **Gabriel Chapel & Cuffeytown Cemetery** – African American church with graves of thirteen U.S. Colored Troops who fought in Tidewater, Va.
- **Mahone Tavern** – CS Gen. William Mahone’s childhood home.
- **Blackwater Line** – Strategic defense-line securing supplies for Confederate Army.
Riddick’s Folly, an 1837 Greek Revival building, was used as a Union hospital and headquarters of Maj. Gen. J.J. Peck during the Siege of Suffolk.

Gilded eagle from the pilothouse of the USS Smith-Briggs, captured on February 1, 1864, during the Battle of Smithfield.
The following further explore and expand upon the story of the Civil War:

Carrie B. Harbor Tour
6 Crawford Pkwy.
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
757-393-4735
www.carriebcruises.com

Casemate Museum
20 Bernard Road
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651
757-788-3391

Chesapeake Conventions and Tourism
900 Greenbrier Circle
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320
888-889-5551
www.visitchesapeake.com

City of Franklin
207 W. Second Avenue
Franklin, Virginia 23851
757-562-8506
www.franklinva.com

Gloucester Tourism
6509 Main Street
Gloucester, Virginia 23061
888-VISITUS
www.gloucesterva.info

Hampton Visitor Center/History Museum
120 Old Hampton Lane
Hampton, Virginia 23669
800-800-2202
www.hamptoncvb.com

The Mariners’ Museum
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, Virginia 23606
800-581-7245
www.mariner.org

Newport News Visitor Information Center
13560 Jefferson Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23603
888-493-7386
www.newport-news.org

Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau
232 E. Main Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
800-368-3097
www.norfolkcvb.com

Portsmouth Visitor Information Center
6 Crawford Pkwy.
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
800-PORTSVA
www.portsvacation.com

Richmond National Battlefield Park
Civil War Visitor Center
Tredegar & Fifth Sts.
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-771-2145
www.nps.gov/rich

Smithfield and Isle of Wight Visitor Center
335 Main Street
Smithfield, Virginia 23431
800-365-9339
www.genuinesmithfieldva.com

Suffolk Visitor Center
321 N. Main Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434
866-SEE-SUFK
www.visitsuffolkva.com

Virginia War Museum
9285 Warwick Boulevard
Newport News, Virginia 23607
757-247-8523
www.warmuseum.org

Williamsburg Visitor Center
421 N. Boundary Street
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
800-368-6511
www.visitwilliamsburg.com

Yorktown National Park Visitor Service Center
P.O. Box 210
Yorktown, Virginia 23690
757-898-3400
www.nps.gov/colo

The casemate in which former Confederate president Jefferson Davis was held prisoner following the war.
For more information on other Virginia Civil War Trails, call toll free:

1·800·VISIT VA

Get outside, connect with the landscapes, enjoy the vistas, be part of the stories. Inspired by what you saw? Check in on Twitter or Facebook, and snap a photo for Instagram and use our hashtags, #civilwartrails and #openairmuseum.

www.civilwartrails.org