

# EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

ISSUED JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

## The Battle for Freedom

The American Civil War and the Journey to Emancipation



Fredericksburg, Richmond and Lynchburg, Virginia



# Fredericksburg, Virginia

Located on the direct route between Washington DC and Richmond, four major battles were fought in the Fredericksburg region. Referred to as America's Battleground by the National Park Service, the war reached an important and costly peak in this region. It is also here in Fredericksburg where 10,000 enslaved people crossed the Rappahannock River to Union lines on their journey to freedom.

## Day 1

Arrive at the **Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center** where you will learn the significance of this region and its overall impacts on the War's outcome. Walk the Sunken Road and learn how Confederate troops, securely positioned behind the famous stone wall, dispatched more than 8,000 Union soldiers. Explore, immersive, multi-media exhibits which portray a soldier's life during the war, including camp life, religious life, food, medicine, amusements, uniforms and more. Discover how war affected the lives of civilians. Learn about how Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania's history interconnects with Black American's long and winding struggle for freedom in the United States.



Adjacent to the Visitor Center is the **Fredericksburg National Cemetery**. Buried here are 15,000 soldiers including **Urbane Bass**, the first African American officer buried in this cemetery, who was killed in France during WWI.



A five mile driving tour connects **Marye's Heights** with **Prospect Hill**, the two areas fought over during the Battle of Fredericksburg. Along the way visitors have the opportunity to see remains of original Confederate earthworks, examine Civil War period cannons and learn how General Robert E. Lee had a close brush with death. At Lee's command post atop Lee Hill, visitors can view the city and look at battle exhibits.



After visiting Lee's Hill, spend the afternoon at **Chatham Manor**. Built by enslaved labors and craftsmen in 1771, Chatham served as an important Federal headquarter and communication center during the Battle of Fredericksburg. It was also a hospital where Walt Whitman and Clara Barton assisted the surgeons. Union artillery from this vicinity blasted the city to cover the engineers building the pontoon bridges. Don't miss the graffiti from the Civil War soldiers which is still visible today.



After dinner, step a little further back in time with a candlelight tour of the **Rising Sun Tavern**. Here you will be regaled with tales of 18th century tavern life.





## Day 2

Begin a full day of battlefield tours at the **Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center**. Located 13 miles west of Fredericksburg, Confederate General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was mistakenly and mortally wounded here by his own troops during the May 1863 battle known as Robert E. Lee’s greatest victory. Museum exhibits, dioramas, and a film provide an orientation to the battlegrounds and war’s impact.

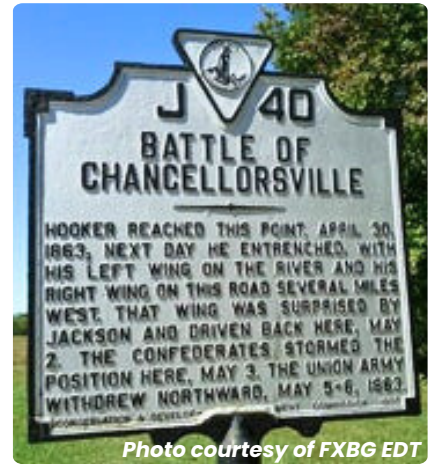


Photo courtesy of FXBG EDT

Next, visit the **Wilderness Battlefield**. This cataclysmic battle marks the beginning of Lee vs. Grant – The 1864 Overland Campaign, the bloodiest campaign in American history and the turning point in the war. During this fight two generals pitted men, equipment and strategy to decide the fate of the nation.



Photo courtesy of FXBG EDT

The **Spotsylvania Courthouse Battlefield** was scene to some of the most intense hand-to-hand combat of the Civil War. The warring armies struggled for over 20 hours in a battle that became known as the **Bloody Angle**. Displays and exhibits illustrate repeated Union attempts to break the Confederate fortifications around Spotsylvania Courthouse.

Conclude your day with an evening tour of the **Jackson Death Site**. After Jackson’s wounding at Chancellorsville, he was brought to “Fairfield”, a slave holding plantation, where he lingered eight days before he died. Learn how the story of Jackson’s death became central to the Lost Cause ideology and the perpetuation of a false narrative of the war put forth by former Confederates. This false narrative sought to overlook Jackson’s own history of enslaving seven people during his lifetime and instead exaggerate his merits in order to solidify him as a Confederate martyr.





## Day 3

Located halfway between Richmond, Virginia and Washington, DC, **The Trail to Freedom** retraces the routes of freedom-seeking enslaved men, women, and children through the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia and the County of Stafford, Virginia. Discover the story of **John Washington**, an enslaved black man who grew up in Fredericksburg and escaped to freedom by crossing the Rappahannock River to the Union Army. He would later write about his experience of being enslaved in his memoir.



Before your journey ends, visit the **Fredericksburg Area Museum**. Located in Town Hall, which dates to 1816, the Fredericksburg Area Museum tells the story of the region's vibrant past. Visit the museum's newest exhibit, *A Monumental Weight: The Auction Block in Fredericksburg, VA* which explores the historical and emotional significance of the slave auction block formerly located at the corner of William and Charles Streets.



Photo courtesy of FXBG EDT



Photo courtesy of the FAM

## **Richmond, Virginia**

Richmond played a vital role in the Civil War, serving as the headquarters of the Confederate government and witnessing brutal fighting in 1862 and 1864. However, the war's impact went far beyond the battles themselves. Discover the personal stories of survival and explore how the war affected the daily lives of Richmond's residents.

### Day 1

Begin your Civil War tour at the **Richmond National Battlefield Visitor Contact Station at Tredegar Iron Works**. The Center offers exhibits and audio-visual programs that introduce the story of Richmond during the Civil War, the battlefields, and related sites that surround the city.



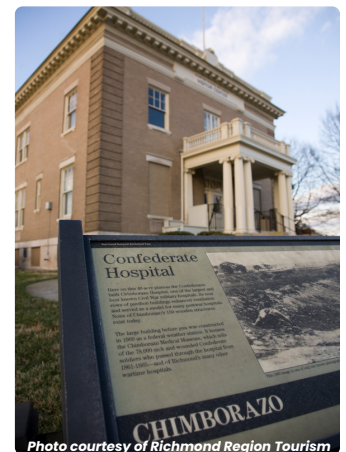
Photo courtesy of Richmond Region Tourism



Also located at Tredegar Iron Works is the **American Civil War Museum**. A guided tour of this dazzling new museum presents the history of the Civil War equally through Union, Confederate and African-American perspectives.



Head up the hill to the Church Hill neighborhood and visit the **Chimborazo Medical Museum**. The museum focuses on the Confederate medical story and contains exhibits on medical equipment and hospital life, including information on the men and women who staffed Chimborazo hospital.



Travel ten miles east of Richmond to **Cold Harbor Battlefield Visitor Center**. At the Cold Harbor Battlefield Visitor Center in Hanover County an electronic battle-map program describes the 1862 battle of Gaines' Mill and the 1864 battle of Cold Harbor. Ranger programs offered daily during the summer season.





The **Dabbs House** is an easy stop as you head back to Richmond. Robert E. Lee used this house as his headquarters at the outset of the Seven Days Battles. He held a council of war here with Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson and other famous names.



## **Day 2**

Begin your day at the **Virginia Capitol** where during the Civil War the Capitol housed not only the Virginia General Assembly but the Confederate Congress as well. Hear stories of wartime Richmond including the Richmond Bread Riots and a visit by Abraham Lincoln on this dynamic guided tour.



Less than two blocks from the capitol is the **White House of the Confederacy**. The house occupied by Confederate president Jefferson Davis and his family contains many original furnishings and stories about their life during the four years of war.



Enjoy lunch in Historic Shockoe Slip and then embark on the **Belles and Battleaxes Walking Tour**. A local historian provides a rollicking downtown tour of sites associated with famous ... and infamous ... Richmond women of the Civil War era.

A drive out of downtown will bring you to the **Shelton House**. The 1720s farmhouse has an amazing history. Patrick Henry was married in its parlor and during the Civil War it was in the crosshairs of fierce fighting on its grounds. The Shelton family had to "shelter in place" in the basement during the fighting.



## **Day 3**

For the full Richmond story, **The Valentine** has been collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond Stories for over a century. As one of the first museums in Richmond, the Valentine offers bold exhibitions and innovative tours. Be sure to take a picture next to the President Lincoln and Tad bronze statue.



A visit to **Hollywood Cemetery**, perched above the James River provides breathtaking views. Established in 1847, Hollywood Cemetery is the final resting place of two U.S. presidents (James Monroe and John Tyler), other famous Virginians and thousands of Confederate soldiers.



## **Lynchburg, Virginia**

During the American Civil War, Lynchburg was both a vital Confederate transportation and medical hub. Lynchburg was primarily used as a hospital town, as the railroad system brought in wounded and diseased soldiers to be treated. Just one year prior to General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, the Union Army sought to capture Lynchburg, but was never successful.

## **Day 1**

Located 30 minutes East of Lynchburg, today's journey begins at the **Appomattox Court House National Historical Park**. Tour the McLean House which is the meeting and surrender site of Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Experience this site "Where Our Nation Reunited". Located one mile down the road, visit the **American Civil War Museum - Appomattox**. Visitors can explore over 400 artifacts, photographs, and documents, including the uniform and sword worn by Gen. Robert E. Lee to surrender. The ACWM-Appomattox provides a unique insight into the American Civil War and its legacies.





After lunch at **Babcock House**, travel to the **National Civil War Chaplains Museum**. Located on the campus of Liberty University, it is the nation's only museum depicting the crucial role religion played in war time.



## Day 2

Begin your day by exploring **Point of Honor**, a remarkable Federal style mansion with commanding views of Downtown Lynchburg and the James River. Learn about how this location played a significant role in General Hunter's decision to withdraw from Lynchburg in 1864. Next up is the **Lynchburg Museum at the Old Court House**, located at the top of **Monument Terrace**. The museum is the hub of historic learning in the City. It tells the story of the Civil War, along with stories of the area dating from 1607 to present day.



After lunch, travel to the **Historic Sandusky Museum and Civil War Center** in Lynchburg. The estate was seized by Gen. David Hunter during the infamous 'Hunters Raid' and used as Union headquarters during the Battle of Lynchburg.



Blocks away is the **South River Quaker Meeting House**, where confederate cavalry watched Federals advance on Lynchburg. This is also the location where city founder John Lynch and his family are at final rest. **Fort Early's** earthworks anchored the outer defensive line during the Battle of Lynchburg. Peruse the interpretive maps and displays showcasing Lynchburg's defenses here.



Tonight, dine at the **Depot Grille** located on Lynchburg's historic riverfront.



### **Day 3**

Spend the morning at **Old City Cemetery Museums & Arboretum**. The 26-acre cemetery and garden offers interactive museums showcasing Civil War-era medicine, transportation, mourning practices and more. It is also the final resting place of 2,200 Confederate soldiers.





## Looking for more ways to customize your itinerary? Consider the suggested additional stops below:

### Fredericksburg, Virginia

Discover the beauty of **Historic Kenmore**, home of George Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis, and her husband, Fielding Lewis. This beautiful Georgian style brick mansion contains some of the finest decorative plasterwork in the country and reflects the pre-Revolutionary War wealth and gentry status of Fielding and Betty Lewis.

Explore the **Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop**, a small museum of colonial-era medicine and pharmacy. In the 18th century building interpreted as the Apothecary Shop, you will learn how George Washington's friend, Dr. Hugh Mercer, served the citizens of Fredericksburg for 15 years with medicines and treatments of the period. Learn about some of the remedies he employed such as leeches, lancets, snakeroot and crab claws.

Just north of Fredericksburg, the **National Museum of the Marine Corps** will surround you with irreplaceable artifacts and immerse you in the sights and sounds of the Marines.

### Lynchburg, Virginia

Explore **Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest**. Jefferson designed and built this unique, octagonal retreat for his personal use and once declared the Lynchburg area "The most interesting spot in Virginia".

Now on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Houses, walk the two blocks of Lynchburg's smallest of seven historic districts, **Pierce Street Renaissance District**.

Journey to nearby Bedford for the **National D-Day Memorial**, which pays tribute to the Allied Forces that participated in The Invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944.

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