

Civil War Battlefield Tour

Fredericksburg, VA

Groups
FXBG

Allocate at least two days for this tour. Strategically located midway between the capital of the Confederacy in Richmond and the U. S. capital in Washington, D. C., the Fredericksburg region was the scene of four of the most devastating battles of the Civil War. Nearly 110,000 casualties occurred in the Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House. During the war, possession of the city changed hands seven times.



FXBG
City of Fredericksburg, VA

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DAY 1

Stop 1

Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center — See a film depicting the actions that took place in and around Fredericksburg. Museum exhibits portray a soldier's life during the war, including camp life, religious life, food, medicine, amusements, uniforms and equipment, transportation, communications, and the impact of war on civilians. Also as park staff is available, opt for a short guided walk along **Sunken Road**. Here Confederate troops, securely positioned behind the famous stone wall, dispatched more than 8,000 Union soldiers during the **Battle of Fredericksburg**. The walk includes dwellings standing during the battle, a monument to the humanitarian acts of a Confederate soldier, and the National Cemetery where 15,000 Union soldiers are buried. **Allow 90 minutes.**

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.

Additional option: **Slaughter Pen Farm**, the main Union attack at Fredericksburg crossed this field to attack "Stonewall" Jackson's Corps located on the high ground in the background. About 4,500 casualties occurred on this 216.44 acres. Five men won the Medal Honor for their actions on this field. After a very competitive fight, Jackson's men repulsed the Union attackers.

Stop 2

Chatham — Chatham was 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. Not to be missed is the graffiti from the Civil War Soldiers. Union artillery from this vicinity blasted the city to cover the engineers building the pontoon bridges. **Allow 45 minutes.**

Stop 3

Stafford Civil War Park — This park is the site of 1863 winter encampments and fortifications of the Union Army's 11th Corps, 1st and 3rd Divisions, following the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. Many of the soldiers referred to the site and that winter, then and afterwards, as their "Valley Forge." Over 3,500 soldiers died throughout Stafford County during that winter. Situated on 41 acres, park visitors can see and learn about Civil War era battery and winter hut site remains, a corduroy road, a late 18th and early 19th century sandstone quarry, and remnants of the 1660's Potomac Church Road bed. **Allow 90 minutes.**

End of Day 1 - Spent the night in one of many hotels in the region. Dinner options are endless and can be found at <https://fxbg.com/plan-your-visit/where-to-stay/>



DAY 2

Stop 4

Spotsylvania County Museum – Now located at Chancellorsville 1st Day on Plank Road. Learn about the early history of Spotsylvania County and interesting details about civilians during the Civil War and they struggles they faced with armies encamped around them for 3 years, see artifacts from local contributors or schedule a time to visit the resource library for genealogy research. The county historical collections will also be located on site and will be available to researchers through scheduled appointments.

Stop 5

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. **Allow 30 minutes.**

Before heading to Wildness Battlefield head to the Battlefield Country Store to pick up lunch. Located 3.6 miles east on Route 3.

Stop 6

Wilderness Battlefield – This cataclysmic battle marks the beginning of **Lee vs. Grant – The 1864 Overland Campaign** as the two generals pitted men, equipment and strategy to decide the fate of the nation. **Allow 30 minutes.**

In route to **Spotsylvania Court House Battlefield**, see **Todd’s Tavern**, scene of a May 1864 cavalry battle during the Union advance to the Court House. This is a Civil War Trails Site with interpretive signage. **Allow 15 minutes.**

Stop 7

Spotsylvania Courthouse Battlefield — Scene of some of the most intense hand-to-hand combat of the Civil War, the warring armies struggled over land forever after call **“Bloody Angle”** for more than 20 hours. Displays and exhibits illustrate repeated Federal attempts to break the Confederate fortifications around Spotsylvania Courthouse. **Allow 45 minutes.**

Time allowing, visit the **Courthouse Historic District**, which sits at an intersection controlling the most direct route to Richmond. **Allow 15 minutes.** See **Zion Methodist Church**, a Spotsylvania landmark, and Massaponax Church, where Federal commanders, Grant and Meade, met to coordinate the army’s move and where soldier’s left still-preserved graffiti on church walls. **Allow 20 minutes.**



Between 7-8 Stop off at Zion and Massaponax Church, visitors can read interpretive Civil War Trails signs at both sites. *(Bus tours can arrange entrance into the church with advance notice.)*

Stop 8

“Stonewall” Jackson Death Site — After Jackson’s fateful wounding at Chancellorsville, he was brought to “Fairfield,” 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. **Allow 40 minutes.**

Additional option to add seasonally:

Ellwood Manor, located near the Wilderness Battlefield, built circa 1790, was an agricultural estate of 5,000 acres. The Lacy family, who also owned Chatham, used it at their summer home. It stayed in the Lacy family until 1907. During the Civil War it was used as a field hospital during the Battle of Chancellorsville and Union Headquarters during the Battle of Wilderness. It also the final resting place of **Stonewall Jackson’s arm**.

About Fredericksburg, Virginia

Fredericksburg, VA tells America's story - from 1608 when Captain John Smith sailed up the Rappahannock River to George Washington's childhood and adolescence to John DeBaptiste, a free Black man fighting in the Revolutionary War to the Civil War with four major battles and where 10,000 enslaved people crossed the river to freedom, to Reconstruction and the fight for Civil Rights and social justice. The region is filled with historic sites and compelling stories, a phenomenal food and drink scene and is all easily accessible just off the interstate.

Location

Fredericksburg, VA is located fifty miles south of Washington, D.C. on Interstate 95, midway between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia.



Mileage From Major Cities to Fredericksburg

Albany.....	437
Baltimore.....	106
Boston.....	529
Charleston, WV.....	309
Cleveland.....	427
Detroit.....	577
Montreal.....	655
Newport.....	472
New York City.....	290
Philadelphia.....	210
Pittsburgh.....	295
Toronto.....	592
Washington, DC.....	50
Wilmington, DE.....	178

Services

Itinerary Planning / Confirm reservations at historic sites, with guide service /
Referrals for dining and lodging / Access to on-line Videos / Brochures



City of Fredericksburg, Virginia