

TOURING VIRGINIA'S AND WEST VIRGINIA'S CIVIL WAR SITES

West Virginia Tours



Chapter 1 – The First To Die Tour (Union, W.Va to Grafton, W. Va.)

This 200-mile tour starts at the grave of William Porcher Miles, the designer of the Confederate battle flag, buried in, oddly enough, the town of Union. It includes stops at the site of a favorite hotel of Robert E. Lee, several ghostly battlefields, the site of the Philippi Races, and ends at the grave of the very first Union soldier to die in the war – but who may have been killed in a pistol to pistol shoot-out by a pre-war enemy. (Photo - Miles' grave.)



Chapter 2 – The Lee Fails Tour (Jackson's Mill to Gauley Bridge)

This 160-mile tour starts at Jackson's Mill, where young Thomas Jackson grew up and where visitors can touch the same timbers he did while working in the mill. It moves to the grave of a friend who gave up his slot at West Point so Jackson could have a military career. It visits a battlefield lost by the Confederates and includes a stop at the headquarters where Lee first saw a horse he would later buy and rename Traveller. (Photo – Lee's HQ at Sewell Mtn.)



Chapter 3 – The Burning Oil Tour (Charleston to Wheeling)

This 220-mile tour starts at West Virginia's state history museum in Charleston and ends (if taking a lengthy side trip) in Wheeling, the center for Unionist feeling in the state. The most interesting but little-known site in the tour is Burning Springs, where oil wells were first targeted as a war-time objective in the history of the world. Confederate cavalry set fire to the oil and watched it flow down the river, casting strange shadows on the trees during the night. (Photo – Oil well at Burning Springs)



Chapter 4 – The Harpers Ferry Tour (Moorefield to Harpers Ferry)

This 115-mile tour starts in Moorefield, the home town of one of the best partisan rangers in history and ends in Harpers Ferry, the town that John Brown made famous with his 1859 raid to free Virginia's slaves.

(Photo – Harpers Ferry from atop Maryland Heights)

Virginia Tours

Chapter 5 – The War Begins Tour (Alexandria to Manassas)

This tour covers only 40 miles but it takes travelers to some fascinating sites, including where the first blood was shed by a civilian, and where the first Southerner was shot down. It includes numerous graves in Alexandria, a detailed tour of Robert E. Lee's home at Arlington National Cemetery, a home where visitors can touch the same door knocker J.E.B. Stuart used in 1859. The Arlington tour includes the beautiful Confederate Memorial and ends at Manassas National Battlefield with sites from both First and Second Manassas. (Photo – Jackson at Manassas)



Chapter 6 – The Mosby's Confederacy Tour (Berryville to Leesburg)

This 90-mile tour covers Mosby's Confederacy sites, including the crossroads where Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet were almost killed by Union cavalry. It ends at Balls Bluff, a Union disaster.

(Photo – Lee intersection)



Chapter 7 – The Cumberland Gap Tour (Cumberland Gap To Natural Bridge)

This 320-mile tour starts at Cumberland Gap with its spectacular but militarily worthless views. It includes stops in Abingdon and a battlefield in Saltville and ends at the beautiful Natural Bridge (Photo – Cumberland Gap artillery battery)



Chapter 8 – The Lee and Jackson Tour (Lexington to Staunton)

This 100-mile tour starts in the historic town of Lexington, where both Lee and Jackson taught school and are buried. Travelers can visit Jackson's house, and two museums where they can see Lee's office just as he left it, and see the raincoat Jackson was wearing on the evening he was accidentally shot. Both men are also buried here as are numerous historic figures. It moves to Warm Springs where visitors can swim in the same public bath that both Lee and Jackson enjoyed. It visits the mountainous battlefield of McDowell, and ends at the grave of Jedediah Hotchkiss, the map maker who made Stonewall Jackson seem like a military genius. (Photo – Jackson and his cannons on the grounds of V.M.I.)



Chapter 9 – The Shenandoah Valley Tour (Piedmont to Winchester)

This 100-mile tour begins at the little-visited Battle of Piedmont where Gen. Grumble Jones died and stops at other battlefields such as New Market and Cedar Creek. It includes a stop at Stonewall Jackson's HQ in Winchester. (Photo – Piedmont battlefield)



Chapter 10 – The Last Capital Tour (Staunton River Bridge to Lynchburg)

This 120-mile tour starts at Staunton River Bridge State Battlefield, a little known battle where old men and young boys beat back a Union cavalry attack on a key railroad bridge. It moves to visit a house that served as the last Confederate capital where Jefferson Davis issued a remarkable proclamation. The table that he used to write that proclamation is on display in that house. The tour then moves on to Lynchburg, site of another important battle, and two interesting cemeteries. The boat that took Stonewall Jackson's body to Lexington also rests in a city park. (Photo – Railroad bridge at Staunton River)



Chapter 11 – The Fading Cavalry Tour (Charlottesville to Warrenton)

This 130-mile tour begins at two cemeteries and two magnificent statues in Charlottesville, moves to a hospital in Gordonsville, then to a site outside Orange where J.E.B. Stuart was almost captured. It then moves through Culpeper to the battlefield at Brandy Station, site of a huge cavalry battle. A little hike near Kelly's Ford takes visitors to the site where The Gallant John Pelham was mortally wounded. Stops in Warrenton include a great, old style museum with Mosby relics with an outside look at one of his houses. The tour ends with a visit to the city's cemetery where Mosby and the South's first casualty, John Q. Marr, are both buried. (Photo: House from where Lee observed the Battle of Brandy Station.)



Chapter 12 – The Stone Wall and Stonewall Tour (Fredericksburg to Chancellorsville)

This 37-mile tour includes both a walking and driving tour of the Fredericksburg battlefield, and takes travelers on the same route as Jackson's Flank march and his wounding site. (Photo: Sgt. Richard Kirkland monument at Fredericksburg)



Chapter 13 – The Overland Campaign Tour (The Wilderness to Hanover)

This 90-mile tour covers two bloody battlefields, The Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House, continues to The Stonewall Jackson Shrine, where the general died, and then follows part of the route of J.E.B. Stuart's Ride Around McClellan. (Photo: House where Jackson died at Guinea Station)



Chapter 14 – The Peninsula Tour (Courtland to James River Plantations)

This 215-mile tour starts at the site of Nat Turner's slave revolt in 1831, moves through Portsmouth, Norfolk, and Hampton, where the *USS Monitor* artifacts are kept. It ends where the Union army massed after its Seven Days defeat. (Photo: Monitor prop)



Chapter 15 – The Seven Days Tour (environs east of Richmond)

This 65-mile tour includes both the Seven Days and Cold Harbor battlefields, several forts and sites associated with United States Colored Troops, including one battlefield where they won Medals of Honor. (Photo: Malvern Hill of the Seven Days Battles)



Chapter 16 – The Inside Richmond Tour (Downtown Richmond)

This 30-mile tour includes an extensive walking tour starting at the Museum of the Confederacy, and moving on to see the house where a famous series of photos of Lee were taken after the war, before visiting two museums housed at the Tredegar Iron Works. It includes a tour of Hollywood Cemetery and Shockoe Cemetery and the Jewish Cemetery. After driving down Monument Avenue, it then moves to the museum at the Virginia Historical Society. Finally, the tour ends with a visit to where A.P. Hill is buried – in the middle of a busy intersection, and Yellow Tavern, where J.E.B. Stuart was mortally wounded. (Photo: Stewart-Lee House where Matthew Brady photographed Lee)



Chapter 17 – The Petersburg Tour (Petersburg environs)

This 60-mile tour starts near Fort Darling at Drewry's Bluff, south of Richmond, moves to the huge Union supply depot at City Point, then to the trenches of Petersburg and site of The Crater, before ending at the site of Battle of Five Forks. (Photo: The Dictator, a Union mortar at Petersburg National Battlefield Park)



Chapter 18 – The Appomattox Tour (Sutherland Station to Appomattox)

This 105-mile tour traces Lee's march from Petersburg to Appomattox Court House where he was forced to surrender to U.S. Grant. It includes a visit to Lee's last H.Q. and the only monument on the site. (Photo: McLean House-site of Lee's surrender.)