

A Journey in American History by Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours.

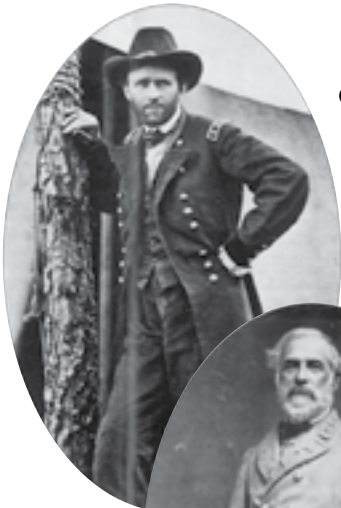


THIS HALLOWED GROUND

2017 Schedule: May 20 – 28 | June 17 - 25 | September 23 – October 1

2018 Schedule: May 19 – 27 | June 16 - 24 | October 13 – 21

A Patriotic Journey through the Civil War in Virginia and at Gettysburg



The Civil War was the defining event in American history. It was an ordeal by fire that cost the lives of more than 600,000 American soldiers and left 300,000 wounded—casualties higher than all our other wars combined.

We study the military campaigns and strategy and delve into the causes as well as the people who were willing to sacrifice their lives and property for their country, whether north or south. Who were those soldiers whose hearts were, in the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes,

“touched by fire?” How were they trained? Until the turning point at Gettysburg, why did the Confederate generals in the East think harder, fight harder, and campaign better than the Union generals? And, finally, why did the North win?

Our professional historian will lead the group and conduct informal discussions throughout the tour.

We can learn from, and be inspired by, the skill, the courage, and the endurance displayed by the generation that brought us through the Civil War. In addition to retracing battles we include education sessions to enhance our understanding of the war and people.

Our trip promises to be among our most memorable, and we hope that you will join us.

Day 1 - Welcome Reception

Schedule your flight to the Washington Dulles International Airport. The group will meet at a nearby hotel where we will have a Welcome Reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m.



Day 2 — Manassas: Confederate Victories, Union Disarray

Our program begins with a visit to the battlefield at Manassas.

Both the North and South thought that a war would be short. Union leaders believed their greater resources and manpower would prevail

**Always mystify,
mislead and surprise
the enemy; and
when you strike and
overcome him, never
let up in the pursuit.**
— Stonewall Jackson

while the Confederates doubted northern resolve.

The first battle of Manassas (Bull Run) July 21, 1861 saw the proud but green Union Army facing the better led Confederates who won a decisive victory.

The Union Army retreated unpursued to

Washington. Innocence and illusion were over for both sides.

By the time of Second Manassas at the end of August 1862, both armies had gained combat experience, but the result was an even more significant Confederate victory.

Day 3 — Birthplaces of Emancipation: Harpers Ferry, Antietam

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers, Harpers Ferry is one of the loveliest places in the eastern U.S.

This was the scene of John Brown's raid in October 1859— a desperate act that hastened the outbreak of war. Brown was hanged for treason on December 2, but the raid hardened radical sentiment for he was seen a martyr in the North and a radical insurrectionist in the South.

The Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest single day battle in American history with 23,100 men killed or wounded. Although neither side gained a decisive victory, Lee's withdrawal and failure to carry the war effort effectively into the North caused Great Britain to postpone recognition of the Confederacy. It also gave President Lincoln the opportunity to compose and later issue the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, declaring all slaves free in the states still in rebellion.

Day 4 — Gettysburg: Days One and Two

The Battle of Gettysburg, lasting three days, July 1, 2, and 3, 1863, was the bloodiest battle and the turning point of the Civil War. More than 50,000 Americans of both sides were casualties.

Gettysburg was General Lee's final attempt to carry the war north. Although nearly two years of fierce fighting still lay ahead, after Gettysburg the prospects of a Union victory changed from if to when.

We will stand at Little Round Top, where the 20th Maine Regiment, led by Colonel Joshua Chamberlain, repulsed several Confederate assaults and preserved the Union position at



Cemetery Ridge. This action was described by author Michael Shaara in his epic narrative *The Killer Angels*.

Day 5 — Gettysburg: Pickett's Charge, Lincoln's Address, The Civilian Experience

Today we walk the field of Pickett's Charge, perhaps the most famous attack in American history.

As noted by historian James McPherson, "Pickett's Charge represented the Confederate war effort in microcosm: unsurpassed valor, apparent initial success, and ultimate disaster." Of the 14,000 Confederates who attacked, only about half returned.

Some four months after the battle, President Lincoln came to Gettysburg to deliver one of the greatest speeches in American history.

We will visit Schriver House, a museum dedicated to the civilian experience during the struggle. Dinner will be at the Dobbin House,



the oldest building in Gettysburg (1797) and a stopping point for escaped slaves on the Underground Railroad.

Day 6 — Fredericksburg – Richmond: The Heroism of Clara Barton – Chancellorsville

This morning we will return south to Virginia and visit Fredericksburg – a region of four major battles: Fredericksburg, December 1862; Chancellorsville, May 1863; The Wilderness, May 1864; Spotsylvania Court House, May 1864.

Richmond, the soul and Capital of the Confederacy, was the northern army's main target. The direct route from Washington to Richmond passes through Fredericksburg.

Clara Barton, later to found the American Red Cross, won fame and gratitude for her

heroic nursing of the wounded of both sides. We visit Chatham Plantation, where the "holy angel" from Massachusetts worked at her makeshift "hospital."

Barton had already helped the wounded at Antietam and Second Manassas. Later, she would serve at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania and become supervisor of nurses for the Union Army of the James. Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville were decisive Confederate victories. Wilderness and Spotsylvania were tremendous but tactically inconclusive battles in Grant's 1864

Overland campaign. After visiting Fredericksburg, we'll continue to Chancellorsville, where we analyze the battle, see where Stonewall Jackson received his mortal wounds and discuss the aftermath.

"It is well that war is so terrible, else men would learn to love it too much."
— Robert E. Lee
Fredericksburg,
1862

Day 7 — Petersburg under Siege: The War returns to Richmond's doorstep

By the summer of 1864, the war in Virginia settled into a brutal siege around Richmond and nearby Petersburg that would last until the spring of 1865. We will visit the fascinating National Battlefield at Petersburg, scene of the Battle of the Crater. After walking the ground over which the battle took place, we travel a short way to visit the memorable National Museum of the Civil War Soldier at Pamplin Historical Park.

The Museum tells the story of the nearly 3,000,000 Americans — northerners and southerners, whites and blacks, immigrants and native born — who fought in the Civil War. While at the Museum, we will explore Tudor Hall Plantation, which features a working kitchen and slave quarters that present a multi-media exhibit on antebellum slavery and plantation life.

Day 8 — Appomattox

The final campaign began at Petersburg, the longest siege in American history, June 1864—April 1865. The siege was a precursor of the trench warfare of the First World War fifty years later. Only the considerable skill, courage and endurance of Lee's army kept the Union forces out away from Richmond. But on



April 2 the northern army broke through and cut off the Confederate supply lines from the South, forcing Lee to retreat to the west. Grant pursued relentlessly, and virtually surrounded Lee's army and forced the surrender on April 9 at Appomattox Court House. The United States was reborn.

After visiting Appomattox, we will return to our hotel for our farewell dinner.

Day 9 — Transfers to Airports

Morning transfer to Richmond or Dulles Airport.



NOTICES

Are you interested in our
Western Theatre Civil War Tour:
Mississippi River —
Key to the Confederacy?

For more information, call and request
 a brochure: 888.903.3329, or visit
www.stephenambrosetours.com.

THIS HALLOWED GROUND

\$2,790 per person
 based on double occupancy
\$495 single occupancy supplement

- Three- and four-star hotel accommodations for eight nights, including hotel portorage
- Breakfast and dinner each day
- Professional historian and logistics escort
- Entry into all museums, battlefields, parks and other sites visited
- Travel via deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach
- Post-tour transfers to Richmond and Dulles Airport to hotel