



## Eastern Theatre of the American Civil War (1861 to 1865)

### Military History Tour

#### From Manassas to Appomattox Court House

June 2016

Including Gettysburg, Antietam, Harpers Ferry, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, Cold Harbour, Petersburg, and Richmond



Trendsetter Travel's own Military History consultant has designed this Eastern Theatre Battlefields of the American Civil War Tour for Australians interested in the period of American history that defined the United States as an indivisible nation and ended slavery. The losses were massive, with more United States soldiers killed in this war than the aggregate of all subsequent battlefield deaths by US soldiers. The impact still resonates in the South today, where for many, a dislike of the North and in particular, President Lincoln, remains *(to the left is a*

*photo from Manassas battlefield park as it presents today).*

Unlike Europe, American Civil War battlefield sites are preserved as hallowed ground and presented as they were at the commencement of the battles in the early 1860s. Most are designated National Parks with an excellent visitor centre and museum, and often a theatre showing recreated film footage (in the style of Ken Burns' Civil War series). All have been upgraded over recent years in preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. We will both walk and drive through the battlefields, stopping at the key sites where each of the regiments fought and the exact spots where generals were killed or mortally wounded. It was not unusual for 4 or more generals to be killed in the major battles. Our guides at every field will provide compelling and incisive commentary to maximise your understanding of the significance of each battle.

Superior standard accommodation (indeed the best available in all locations other than Washington) and specialist guides feature throughout the tour. To maximise your enjoyment, touring will not start earlier than 9.00 a.m. and we have included sufficient free time for individual exploring. Breakfast daily, plus welcome and farewell dinners are included, while other meals are not included to allow for flexibility of choice with regard to cuisine and budget.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 – Saturday 4 June - Washington

Meet together this evening for a welcome drink and get together with fellow tour members before walking to a nearby Washington restaurant for dinner.

Accommodation – Henley Park Hotel, Washington (1 night)

### Day 2 – Sunday 5 June - Manassas

During the Civil War, the North generally named a battle after the closest river, stream or creek and the South tended to name battles after towns or railroad junctions. Hence the Confederate named Manassas after Manassas Junction while the Union named Bull Run for the stream Bull Run.

Today we travel to Manassas, the scene of 2 major battles. The first, in July 1861, was a Confederate victory whereby General Thomas J Jackson became immortalised and thereafter known as “Stonewall” Jackson. The Union, with 2,900 casualties, retreated to the safety of Washington having inflicted 2,000 Confederate casualties.

Then in August 1862 the battle was significantly larger as evidenced by casualties of 14,000 on each side. Finally however, it was again a Confederate victory by General Robert E Lee over General Pope.

Accommodation - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Fredericksburg, Virginia (3 nights)

### Day 3 – Monday 6 June – The Battle of Fredericksburg

The Battle of Fredericksburg (December 1862) was fought between the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia under the command of General Lee, and the Union Army of the Potomac commanded by Ambrose E Burnside. The Union’s futile frontal assaults against entrenched Confederate defenders is remembered as one of the most one-sided battles of the Civil War with Union casualties more than twice as heavy as those suffered by the Confederates *(to the right is a painting of Union troops crossing the Rappahannock River to attack Fredericksburg)*.



If time permits, there will be some free time to look around the historic town of Fredericksburg.

#### **Day 4 – Tuesday 7 June - The Battle of Chancellorsville**

The Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863 is famous for the great Confederate victory of General Lee over General Hooker, tempered by the heavy casualties and death of Stonewall Jackson by friendly fire. Lee likened the loss of Jackson to “losing my right arm”. This battle is frequently viewed as Lee’s greatest victory since it was achieved over a Union Army twice the size of the Confederate Army and saw Lee take a bold and risky decision to divide his army in the presence of the much larger Union force *(to the right is a painting of General Lee inspecting the Confederate army following the battle of Chancellorsville).*



Our day will include a visit to Guinea Farm, the site where Stonewall Jackson died and where a memorial now sits.

#### **Day 5 – Wednesday 8 June – Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House Battles**

Today we tour the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House battlefield parks, both of which form part of the greater Fredericksburg Battlefield Park. Significant battles were fought at both locations during 1864 as the Confederate forces under Robert E Lee were forced back towards Richmond by continuous flanking moves by the Union forces under overall command of Ulysses Grant.

Our day concludes with a 2 hour drive to the historic town of Shepherdstown in West Virginia, but a short 10 minute drive from the Antietam battlefield, located in Maryland.

There will be a tour dinner that evening at the Bavarian Inn.

Accommodation – Bavarian Inn – Shepherdstown, West Virginia (1 night)

#### **Day 6 – Thursday 9 June – South Mountain, Harpers Ferry and The Battle of Antietam**

We will spend a full day with our expert guide visiting the battlefields of South Mountain and Harpers Ferry concluding with a full afternoon at the Antietam Battlefield Park.

Situated at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers where the states of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia meet, the now peaceful town of Harpers Ferry changed hands 8 times during the Civil War. In 1859, just prior to the Civil War, John Brown staged his famous raid on the Harper Valley armoury and subsequently many battles were fought in and around the town.

Following visits to South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, we will drive to and tour the extensive Antietam battlefield park and interpretive centre, located in the state of Maryland. This was the most bloody single day battle of the Civil War with 23,000 soldiers killed, wounded or missing after 12 hours of savage combat on 17 September 1862. The Battle of Antietam (or Sharpsburg as it is known in the Confederacy) ended the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia’s 1<sup>st</sup> invasion of the North and led to Lincoln’s famous issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation.

We will stay in the most famous and certainly the oldest hotel in Gettysburg dating back to 1797.

Accommodation – Gettysburg Hotel (3 nights)

## **Day 7 – Friday 10 June – The Battle of Gettysburg (Days 1 and 2)**

Today we will visit Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and the excellent Visitors Centre for a general overview before a comprehensive battlefield tour with a specialist guide.

The Battle of Gettysburg is considered to be the greatest battle ever fought in North America and is generally considered the high water mark of the Confederacy. Here, the fate of the nation hung in the balance. Fought in Pennsylvania, northwest of Washington, this was General Lee's 2<sup>nd</sup> and final attempt to invade the north and today our study will focus of what happened on these first 2 days.



*(photograph above is of Gettysburg today)*

## **Day 8 – Saturday 11 June – The Battle of Gettysburg (Day 3)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final day of the Battle of Gettysburg saw 12,500 Confederate soldiers attack entrenched Union positions on Cemetery Ridge and suffer great casualties. This is forever known as Pickett's Charge and here we'll walk on that same ground.

In the total battle, the Army of Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia each suffered circa 23,000 casualties, losses that the Confederates could ill afford. It was a decisive turning point. The shattered Confederate forces then staged a successful retreat over the Potomac River back into Virginia.

This afternoon there will be free time to explore the town of Gettysburg on your own.

## **Day 9 – Sunday 12 June – The Battle of Gettysburg Overview/Richmond**

This morning, before driving to Richmond, we will visit Seminary Ridge Museum, the Soldiers National Cemetery (the place of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, when dedicating the cemetery) and the Field Hospital Museum. The Visitors Centre has an extensive bookstore, and there will be ample time to browse its shelves.

We will stay at one of the best hotels in all of the South and is a stand out location to spend our 4 nights in Richmond.

Accommodation – Jefferson Hotel, Richmond (4 nights)

## Day 10 – Monday 13 June – Richmond



In Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, we will visit Tredegar Ironworks, St Paul's Episcopal Church, the State House, and the White House of the Confederacy (*shown left*).

## Day 11 – Tuesday 14 June – Cold Harbour and the battlefields around Richmond

As the capital of the Confederacy, Richmond was the target of numerous attempts by the Union army to seize the town and its treasure trove of munitions, weapons, supplies and manpower. The Union finally succeeded in April 1865 and today we will tour the Richmond National Battlefield Park, site of the 1862 Seven Days Campaign and the 1864 Overland Campaign including Totopotomoy Creek and Cold Harbor.

## Day 12 – Wednesday 15 June - Petersburg & Pamplin Park

Petersburg Battlefield park was the scene of the Confederate defeat at Five Forks and the resultant major assault by Grant on the thinning Confederate lines in early April 1865. After a morning visit at Petersburg we will drive to Pamplin Park, the site of the 2 April 1865 breakthrough. This ended the Petersburg campaign and led to the evacuation of the Confederate capital of Richmond.

Today we will also visit the highly rated Museum of the Civil War Soldier.

## Day 13 – Thursday 16 June - Lee's Retreat & Appomattox Court House

Today we follow the pathway of Lee's various battles as he fought a rear guard action to attempt to reach his supplies, regroup his troops, and fight on. The struggle ended at the Appomattox Court House, scene of the final battle that culminated in his surrender to Grant. It was the final engagement of the war in Virginia and effectively brought the Civil War in the east to a close.



We will drive back to Washington late afternoon (2 hours) for our farewell tour dinner.

Accommodation – Henley Park Hotel, Washington (1 night)

## Day 14 – Friday 17 June Washington

Our tour ends officially after breakfast.

**Participation Cost:** US\$5,200 pp twin share/US\$1,250 single supplement

**The Tour Cost Includes:**

- 13 nights accommodation and touring as specified
- Breakfast daily and at least 3 dinners including welcome and farewell dinners
- Entrance fees to all included sightseeing
- Services of National Park Approved Tour Guides and Trendsetter Travel Tour Manager
- Gratuities and group portorage

**The Tour Cost Does NOT Include:**

- Travel to and from USA
- Pre/post tour accommodation
- Items of a personal nature
- Beverages other than for welcome and farewell dinners
- Insurance – MANDATORY FOR PARTICIPATION ON THIS TOUR

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS – PLEASE READ**

A completed reservation form is due at the time of deposit. Payment of your deposit and balance constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions.

1. A non refundable deposit of **A\$2,500 per person** is to accompany the booking form to secure your place on this tour. As the tour is subject to a minimum number of 10, if the tour does not proceed the deposit will be fully refundable. The final payment will be for the full tour price in USD converted to AUD based on the best USD sell rate from the Major 4 banks as at 10am on **Wednesday 27 April 2016**. The deposit will then be deducted from this to give the balance owing. No refunds are available after this date other than through your travel insurance policy.
2. Insurance is mandatory and each participant must have proof of insurance before commencing tour. It is strongly recommended that insurance cover is in place at time of booking to cover potential need to cancel.
3. While every effort will be made to operate the tour exactly as per the brochure, the organisers reserve the right to make changes, should these be deemed essential, due to changed conditions outside of our control, or in the best interests of the group as a whole.
4. Payment by credit card will be subject a merchant fee of 1.5% (VC/MC) and 3.1% (AX)

**FOR BOOKINGS & ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT**

DAVID COOPER or ADRIENNE WITTEMAN

TRENDSETTER TRAVEL AND CRUISE CENTRE PTY LTD

2 KENNETH STREET, LONGUEVILLE NSW 2066

PH (02) 9428 5900

EMAIL: [david@trendsettertravel.com.au](mailto:david@trendsettertravel.com.au) or [adrienne@trendsettertravel.com.au](mailto:adrienne@trendsettertravel.com.au)

[www.trendsettertravel.com.au](http://www.trendsettertravel.com.au)