

Touring The Carolinas' Civil War Sites

South Carolina Tours



Chapter 1- Charleston

This chapter takes in Castle Pinckney and Fort Sumter on a boat tour, comes back to shore for a walking tour in downtown Charleston, then turns into a driving tour to Magnolia Cemetery in North Charleston, and ends at the temporary home of the *H.L. Hunley*, the famous Confederate submarine.

(Photo - cannon from the USS Keokuk in White Point Gardens)



Chapter 2 – Outside Charleston

This chapter starts at The Citadel, then moves to several plantation houses, then to James Island to the almost-forgotten Secessionville battlefield. The tour then crosses the Cooper River to Fort Moultrie, the fort that Federal forces abandoned to move to Fort Sumter in December 1860. It visits Boone Hall before heading north to end at Georgetown, S.C., a tour of 160 miles

(Photo – Drayton Hall, a preserved plantation home)



Chapter 3 – The Sea Islands Tour

This 105-mile tour starts at Hilton Head Island, one of the first places in the Confederacy to be captured by Federal forces, then heads to Parris Island to visit the Marine Corps museum, and then on to the site of former plantations where sea island cotton was grown. It ends in Beaufort, a beautiful town captured in the spring 1862, which has houses dating back to the war.

(Photo – Shelton Church ruins, burned by Federal forces.)



Chapter 4 – Columbia Burns Tour

This tour travels only 10 miles, but takes in a zoo (site of where the Federals first fired on the Capitol), several cemeteries where generals are buried, several historic churches, the S.C. Capitol, and two excellent history museums with great exhibits on the war. Travelers should plan on spending the entire day in Columbia to see the sites and the exhibits.

(Photo – Gen. Wade Hampton III’s statue of the Capitol grounds.)



Chapter 5 – The Sherman’s Feint Tour

This 155-mile tour starts just north of Columbia, following the track of Sherman’s corps as they left Columbia in ruins. It moves through Winnsboro, ravaged by Sherman’s bummers. North of Winnsboro is the grave of Burrell Hemphill, a slave who was murdered by Union soldiers. The tour moves to Chester where two cannons were discovered buried in 1996. They were restored and put on display – only after the live shells and black powder were carefully removed. Across the street from one cannon is a house Mrs. Jefferson Davis visited on her escape south. The tour then moves to Union, where Jefferson Davis stopped on his way south, before making a trip to Rose Hill, the home of William Gist, the pre-war governor of South Carolina, who lobbied for secession. The tour ends in Fort Mill, site of one of the last meetings of the Confederate cabinet, and a city park featuring statues to slaves.

(Photo – One of four 10-pounder Parrott rifles found in Chester)



Chapter 6 – The Sherman’s Exit Tour

This 205-mile tour starts in Camden, home town of six Confederate generals and famed diarist Mary Boykin Chesnut. Several of the Chesnut homes are visible from the street, and one is a bed and breakfast. The tour includes the graves of several generals and the memorial marker for a young Jewish aide to Gen. James Longstreet, who was killed in the same volley that wounded Longstreet. The tour moves to the last battlefield in South Carolina, Boykin’s Mill and then on another battlefield, Dingle’s Mill. It then moves to Cheraw, a nice little town with many attractive antebellum houses, and a clever monument to the Confederate dead. Cheraw has a nice one-room museum with some secession artifacts. The tour then moves to Darlington, passing the grave of a famous Black Confederate, and then ends in Florence. Florence hosts the War Between The States museum, and was the site of the Florence Stockade, a prison camp where a Union woman prisoner was found.

(Photo – The monument to the Confederate dead in Cheraw.)



Chapter 7 – Dead Generals and Gun Powder Tour

This 260-mile tour visits the graves of famous dead Confederate generals and political figures, and the site of the last Confederate cabinet meeting in Abbeville. It makes a side trip to Augusta, Ga. to see the site of the Confederate powder works, visits two minor battlefields, and ends in Orangeburg.

(Photo – Burt-Stark Mansion in Abbeville.)

North Carolina Tours



Chapter 8 – The Coastal War Tour

This 100-mile tour starts on Roanoke Island, captured in February 1862, in a remarkably well-executed Union amphibious landing. It visits the landing site itself, the site of a three-gun redoubt, and the camp sites of the Confederates. It moves over to the Outer Banks and heads south to the sites of now-lost Confederate dirt forts. This tour combines a beach vacation with Civil War touring.

(Photo – Ashby Harbor on Roanoke Island)



Chapter 9 – The Union’s Base Tour

This tour, just 23 miles long, starts in the trenches of the 26th North Carolina Regiment, preserved in a swampy area just south of New Bern. The trenches, looking as if they were dug just a few years ago, are beside a monument that is duplicated at Gettysburg, site of the 26NCT’s most famous fight with the 24th Michigan. The tour moves into downtown New Bern for a driving and walking tour.

(Photo – 26NCT monument at site of Battle of New Bern, south of the city off U.S.. 70.)



Chapter 10 – The Fall of Fort Macon Tour

This 29-mile tour starts in Beaufort, moves to Morehead City for a museum stop and visit to a spy’s grave, and ends in Fort Macon, a brick fort that was defended as long as possible, but which fell victim to superior Union forces. Fort Macon is now a state park.

(Photo – Fort Macon was targeted early in the war.)



Chapter 11 – Railroad Defense Tour

This 200-mile tour starts at the grave of Gen. J.J. Pettigrew, the Tar Heel general who led his Tar Heels at Gettysburg. It then moves to Plymouth, a river town with a great museum, before moving to the battlefield at South Mills, and several small towns before stopping at the grave of Robert E. Lee's youngest daughter, a quiet site Lee visited.

(Photo – The scale model of the *CSS Albemarle* is moored on the Roanoke River near the Port O' Plymouth Museum.)



Chapter 12 – The River Cities Tour

This 205-mile tour starts in Halifax at the grave of a general, then moves to Tarboro to another famous grave, and then on to Fort Branch, a well-preserved dirt fort on the Roanoke River that still has its original cannons on display. The tour moves to the nice town of Washington, and on to the memorial of another Confederate general who was murdered by his Reconstruction enemies.

(Photo – A cannon still points down river at Fort Branch)



Chapter 13 – The Foster's Raid Tour

This 100-mile tour starts outside Kinston, following the invasion of a Federal column. It visits the remains of the *CSS Neuse*, an ironclad that saw limited service. It then moves to Seven Springs, site of a Union defeat thanks to a stupid, drunken Union general, and on to Goldsboro, site of another battle, and the largest mass burial of unknown Confederate soldiers in the state.

(Photo – Remains of the *CSS Neuse*)



Chapter 14 – The Mountain War Tour

This 200-mile tour starts in Cherokee at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. It then moves to Waynesville to visit the grave of the commander of those Cherokees, then on to Flat Rock for some more interesting graves. The tour visits the birthplace of war-time governor Zebulon Vance and ends in Madison County at the little-visited site of The Shelton Laurel Massacre of January 1863.

(Photo – Zeb Vance Birthplace outside Weaverville)



Chapter 15 The Mountain Characters Tour

This 150-mile tour follows many of the sites associated with Stoneman's Raid, a month-long Union cavalry raid in March-April 1865. It visits the graves of a couple of famous bushwhackers and ends at the graves of the original Siamese twins Eng and Chang Bunker, two loyal Confederates.

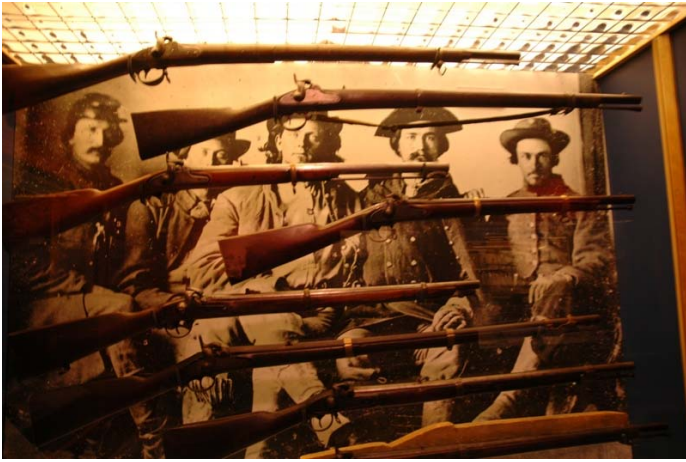
(Photo – Eng and Chang Bunker rest in White Plains, N.C.)



Chapter 16 – The Ramseur Tour

This short chapter visits three towns, Lenoir, Morganton, and Lincolnton, all towns visited by Stoneman's Raid. The most significant site is the grave of Gen. Steven Dodson Ramseur, one of Lee's youngest major generals, who was mortally wounded in October 1864, just one day after learning about the birth of his daughter. Ramseur, his wife, and daughter are all buried together.

(Photo – The Ramseur family graves in Lincolnton)



Chapter 17 – The Piedmont Invasion Tour

This 140-mile tour tracks Stoneman's Raid from Danbury through Germanton, Winston-Salem, High Point, Jamestown and then to Greensboro with a side trip to Milton to see a house where one of the great romances of the war occurred. In Greensboro there is a very important exhibit of Confederate firearms. The Quaker influence is examined.

(Photo – Confederate arms exhibit in Greensboro Museum)



Chapter 18 – The Salisbury to Statesville Tour

This 90-mile tour starts in Salisbury, site of a famous camp for Union prisoners, and one of the most beautiful statues in the nation. One of the earliest known images of men playing base ball is from this prison, indicating that the men did have time for diversions. It moves to Charlotte where two generals are buried, and where some of the first soldiers to fight were trained at a military academy. The tour then heads north to Davidson to see the grave of D.H. Hill, a great general who could not get along with his superiors. It ends in Statesville where wartime governor Zeb Vance was captured at a house that still stands.

(Photo – The Confederate statue on North Innes Street.)



Chapter 19 – The Bentonville Battle Tour

This 50-mile tour covers the beginning of the end of the war in North Carolina with a visit to downtown Fayetteville's Market House and the Fayetteville Arsenal, which Sherman destroyed. The tour moves to the Averasboro battlefield, a prelude to the big battle of Bentonville, a three-day battle that was the last gasp of the Confederacy.

(Photo – The Harper House hospital at Bentonville)



Chapter 20 – The Wilmington Forts Tour

This 90-mile tour starts in downtown Wilmington on the waterfront where scores of blockade runners used to dock. It moves on to Fort Fisher, a dirt fort that kept the Union navy and army at bay for two years. The tour crosses the Cape Fear River to Smithville, then moves up to visit Fort Anderson, another dirt fort similar to Fort Fisher.

(Photo – Fort Fisher's palisade fence and surviving mounds.)



Chapter 21 – The Surrender Tour

This 71-mile tour starts at a Union army corps camp, moves to the Capitol and Museum of North Carolina History, then to a historic cemetery and museum house. It moves to Hillsborough, and then on to Bennett Place, where Gen. Joe Johnston surrendered the largest Confederate army in the field to Union Gen. William T. Sherman. The tour visits the site of one of the state's largest plantations.

(Photo – Bennett Place, site of the Confederate surrender)