

Exploring the Revolutionary War in South Carolina

March 20 – 24, 2022



William Ranney, The Battle of Cowpens

Was the American Revolutionary War won in the South? Was the nature of the “southern campaign” one of sieges, pitched battles, or hit-and-run skirmishes? To what degree was South Carolina’s Revolutionary War a civil war? If these questions intrigue you (. . . or if you’re simply up for an adventure), join a troop of like-minded folk from Clemson OLLI, to learn about the Revolutionary War in South Carolina – on location, from the Low Country to the Piedmont.

We'll spend the better part of a week visiting key battle and strategic sites, related to how the war unfolded in a pivotal region. Gain familiarity with places, people, events; and learn perspectives from recognized authorities who will join us for segments of our tour. Each day will bring adventure, probing presentation and discussion, as well as rest and relaxation over good meals and comfortable accommodation. (And you'll learn more about the geography and stories of the Palmetto State than you ever imagined.)

Trip Highlights

- ❖ Pre-trip materials: short videos (filmed on location); trip outline / chronology
- ❖ Daily exploration of Revolution events and issues with historians and local experts
- ❖ Delightful backroads drives, bringing us up close and personal with the geography and stories of South Carolina
- ❖ Special catered dinners / receptions; excellent dining throughout the trip
- ❖ Visits to a range of interesting sites, developed and less-developed: from National Park Service properties to state and local sites

Our Itinerary:

Sunday, March 20

We'll depart the Clemson area, bound for the South Carolina Low Country. En route, we'll visit three sites that will help us understand the nature of the Revolutionary War in South Carolina: Musgrove Mill State Historic Site; Ninety Six National Historic Site; and Eutaw Springs Battleground Park. We will enjoy a picnic-style lunch, and be treated to presentations by the interpretive staff at the first two of these locations.

By late-afternoon, we'll check into our comfortable Charleston-area lodging. This evening we'll enjoy a catered dinner at the hotel, followed by a slideshow presentation "overview" about the Revolution in the Charleston area. Overnight, Hampton Inn West Ashley.

Monday, March 21

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel. Today, we'll explore important Charleston-area stories in the "hinterlands" outside of Charleston, and in the city. These stories will include the 1776 repulse of the British invasion from Fort Moultrie, the 1780 British siege of Charleston, the actions of Francis Marion southwest of the city, and the tragic death of John Laurens in the summer of 1782. We'll engage in an up close "Revolutionary Charleston tour," visit the Charleston Provost-Dungeon, and drive to the Francis Marion and John Laurens sites.

This evening, enjoy free time and dinner "on your own." Overnight, Hampton Inn West Ashley.



Alonzo Chappel, The Siege of Charleston

Tuesday, March 22

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel. This morning we depart Charleston, exploring sites of importance in the Santee and Black River basins, en route to Camden. We plan to visit the evocative remains of a so-called “sedition church,” the Laurens family cemetery, and enjoy lunch in Kingstree. In the afternoon, we’ll arrive at the Camden Revolutionary War site – an expansive interpretive center, that features the house commandeered by Lord Cornwallis during the summer of 1780. Local experts will guide us to sites connected to the Battle of Camden (August 1780) and the Battle of Hobkirk’s Hill (April 1781).

In the evening, we’ll enjoy a special dinner event in Camden. Our lodging will be in the Hampton Inn Camden.

Wednesday, March 23

Breakfast in the hotel, followed by departure from Camden. Local experts will guide us through parts of the Battle of Camden campaign, before we move north and west. Our drive will then take us through the scenic High Hills of the Santee en route to Brattonsville (site of Huck’s Defeat), where we’ll enjoy a picnic-style lunch. In the afternoon, we’ll continue to Kings Mountain National Military Park. Our tour there will include a presentation by park staff; those who want to walk part of the battlefield can do so.

We'll retire to Spartanburg for dinner and our overnight.



William Ranney, Marion Crossing the Pee Dee

Thursday, March 24

Enjoy breakfast in the hotel. This morning we'll drive a short distance to Cowpens National Battlefield, where we'll enjoy a presentation by park service staff about the Battle of Cowpens (January 1781). Those who wish can walk onto the battlefield to take in the lay of the land and one of the oldest Revolutionary War monuments erected in the South.

Afterwards, we'll drive to Walnut Grove Plantation for the conclusion of our Revolutionary War Tour. We'll have a picnic lunch on site; enjoy touring of Walnut Grove; and hear stories about three important actions in the area. Walnut Grove features the oldest extant "English" frontier house in the Southeast – the Moore House, c. 1765. Our final stories will feature "high drama," as we hear about the Battle of Thomas's Plantation (February 1779), the Battle of Cedar Springs (July 1780), and Tory Bill Cunningham's "Bloody Scout" (November 1781) – which visited the Moore home, itself.

In the afternoon, we'll return to the Clemson area.

Pricing Information:

\$1,099 / person (double occupancy; single supplement, \$285). Price includes 4 nights accommodation and breakfast in good hotels, comfortable bus transportation, bus driver tip; 4 lunches, 2 dinners; all entrances, activities, presentations, guides; concierge service throughout the trip. Price does not include alcohol, other meals (1 lunch, 2 dinners), discretionary spending / tipping, trip insurance (recommended).



Francis Marion mural, Manning, SC



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