

COLONIAL PARKWAY – YORKTOWN BATTLEFIELD TOUR RALLY

(Bud's cell phone - 804-370-9115; Susan's cell phone: 804-370-9117)

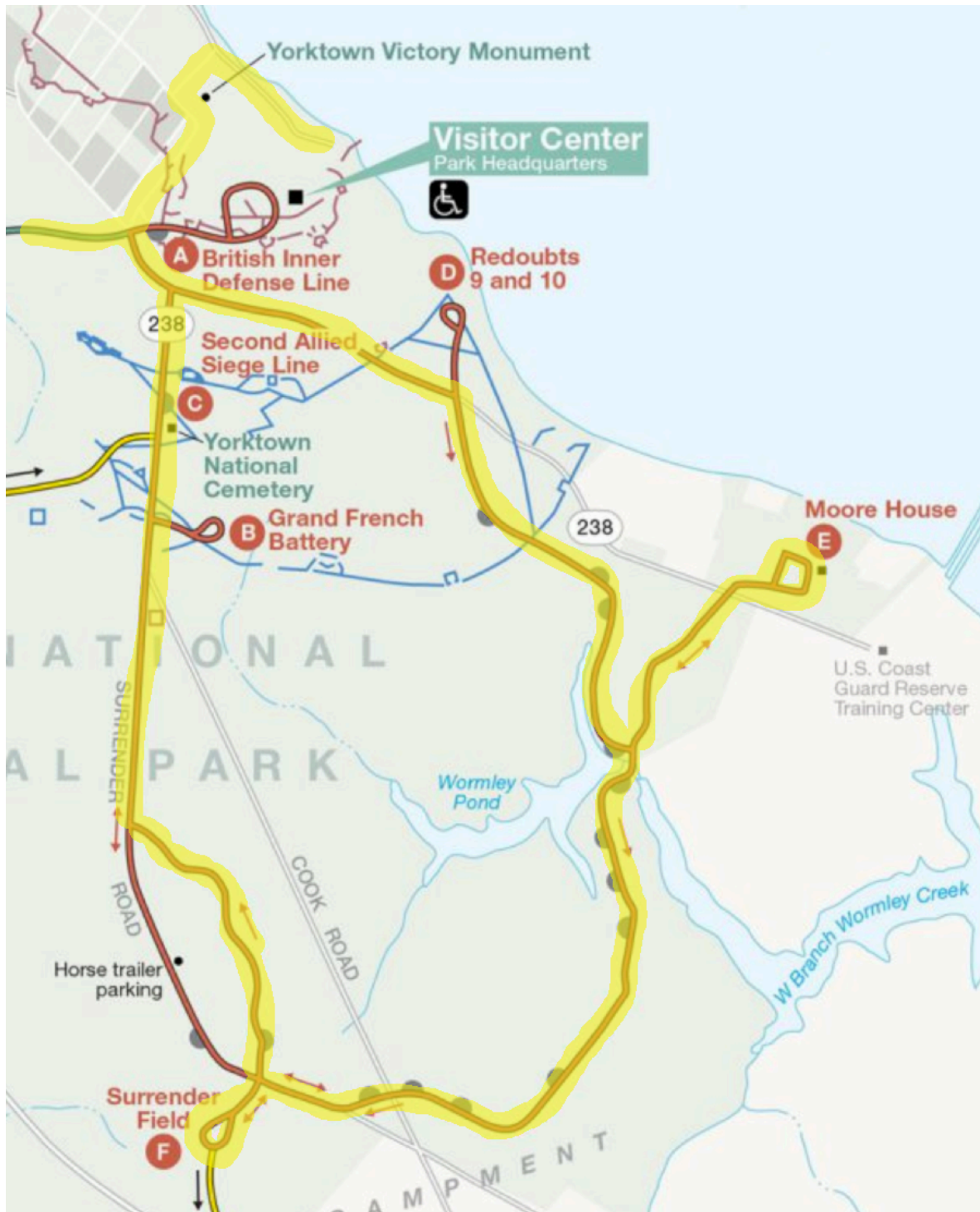
Mileage	Minutes	Directions
		<p>Starting point: <u>Exxon Gas Station/Dairy Queen</u> 3275 New Market Road, Richmond, VA 23231 – phone: 804-795-4957 <i>Near intersection of 295 and Route 5.</i></p>
0	0	<p>Right turn on Route 5 at Stop Sign <i>We follow the Capital Bike Trail passing plantations including Shirley, Berkley, Bell Air, and Sherwood Forest (John Tyler's home).</i></p>
20.1	:22	Left on The Glebe Road
29.7	:36	Right on Wilcox Neck Road
34.8	:43	<p>Left on Route 5 at Stop sign <i>We cross the Judith Stewart Dresser Memorial Bridge over the Chickahominy river. It's 2,550 feet long and 56 feet wide. Its deck is 52 feet above the river.</i></p>
41.9	:52	Right on Route 5
43.1	:53	<p>Right on Greensprings Road <i>Watch for bikes crossing the road at this turn.</i></p>
45.2	:57	<p>Straight across Route 31 at Stop sign <i>We pass by the Jamestown Settlement.</i></p>
45.5	:58	Right on Colonial Parkway at Stop sign
45.7	:59	<p>Right at Jamestown Glasshouse - 30 Minute Break <i>You can see the remains of the original furnaces used by early glassblowers and watch as modern glassblowers produce wine bottles, pitchers, candleholders and various other glass objects. Today's glass furnaces are heated by natural gas, rather than by wood as in 1608. Glassblowers, however, use tools and methods similar to those of the 17th century.</i></p>
46.0	0	Left on Colonial Parkway (35-45 mph speed limit)
67.5	:32	<p>Right on Ballard Street <i>Entering the Yorktown Battlefield at "The British Inner Defense Line." Early in August 1781 Cornwallis began to fortify the Town of York and Gloucester Point across the river. On September 28th, the Allied Army of American and French forces, numbering more than 17,000 men, marched to Yorktown for the siege of Cornwallis' garrison of about 8,000 men. After their arrival, Cornwallis withdrew his troops from most of his outer defenses to consolidate his position behind the earthworks of his inner defense line.</i></p>
68.2	:33	Right on Battlefield Marker D (15 mph speed limit in battlefield)
69.0	:36	Left to Moore House at Stop sign
69.3	:37	Straight at Stop sign
69.4	:38	<p>Straight at Stop sign – Moore House <i>The battlefield was quiet October 18, 1781 under temporary truce. That day two Allied commissioners met with two British [commissioners] at the Moore House and negotiated for British General Charles Cornwallis's terms of surrender. It was then the home of Augustine Moore, merchant of Yorktown. The Moore House has been restored and refurnished. The Moore House Cemetery has around 10 graves dating back to the late 1700s.</i></p>
69.5	:39	Left at Stop sign leaving Moore House
69.6	:39	Right at Historical Marker
69.7	:40	Straight at Stop sign
70.0	:41	<p>Straight at Wormley Creek Crossing <i>The earth dam creates Wormley Pond which existed in 1781 when Augustine Moore operated a grist mill here. American troops marched over the dam regularly as they moved to and from the Siege line.</i></p>
70.9	:45	Straight across Cook Road (704) – we'll wait for everyone on the other side
71.0	:46	Right at Stop sign
71.2	:47	<p>Left into Surrender Field Parking Area <i>The surrender of the British at Yorktown began when a small drummer boy mounted the rampart of the</i></p>

		<p><i>British Horn Work beating out a parley signal at 10 am on 17 Oct 1781. The drummer boy was followed by an officer waving a white handkerchief. The officer was blindfolded and led to General Washington's tent where a two-hour ceasefire was negotiated and four commissioners were select to negotiate the terms of the surrender. The negotiated terms were presented to General Washington who approved ten of the fourteen provisions on the morning of the 19th. The surrender ceremony was to take place that afternoon at two o'clock at a field behind the American lines. The British marched out of Yorktown in a somber column with their colors furled and their muskets reversed. As the column reached the surrender ground it passed between the American Troops on one side of the road and the French troops on the other side. The British band played "The World Turned Upside Down" as the British troops came to the spot where they each laid down their arms. The British enlisted troops were to become prisoners of war and the British officers were to be paroled. British General Charles O'Hara was selected by Lord Cornwallis to hand over his sword to General Washington. Lord Cornwallis did not attend the ceremony claiming illness. After some confusion Lord Cornwallis's sword was presented to General Washington's second in command, General Benjamin Lincoln, who in turn presented it to General George Washington. Also in attendance were the French heros General Marquis de Lafayette and General Comte de Rochambeau. Admiral de Grasse did not attend.</i></p>
71.5	:49	Straight at Stop sign exiting Surrender Field Parking Area
72.1	:51	Right on Surrender Road at Stop sign
72.5	:53	<p>Left on Cook Road (704)</p> <p><i>We'll drive by the Grand French Battery and the Second Allied Siege Line.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Grand French Battery formed part of the First Allied Siege Line around Yorktown. French and American soldiers worked through the night of October 6, 1781, to establish the line from a point about one hundred yards to your left (across the road) to the York River. Largest gun emplacement built during the siege, the Grand French Battery opened fire on October 10 and inflicted great damage on the British. A French officer noted that " ... the superiority of the fire of these different batteries over those of the enemy, silenced the firing from the town." This superiority in artillery contributed greatly to Allied victory. The National Park Service reconstructed most of the Grand French Battery on its original site and equipped it with original and replica Revolutionary War period artillery.</i> <i>The Second Allied Siege Line ran all the way to the York River in the east. However, because of two British forts still in operation as part of their outer defenses, the siege line could not be completed to the river (the forts were very close to the river themselves). A shortened line would give the British the opportunity to go on the offensive and maneuver around the American right flank, engaging allied forces from behind. Of course this never happened, as the constant bombardment by the French and American artillery kept the British pinned down. Regardless, the Americans were determined to complete the line, so an attack on the forts was planned and carried out on October 14th.</i>
73.0	:54	Left on Ballard Street
73.1	:55	Right on Zweybrucken Road
73.4	:55	<p>Left on Main Street</p> <p>We'll drive by the Yorktown Victory Monument.</p> <p><i>On October 24, 1781, Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman, Washington's aide-de-camp, reached Philadelphia and the Continental Congress with the "glorious" news of the surrender of Cornwallis' army at Yorktown, on October 19th. On Monday, October 29, Congress officially recognized this great victory and by resolution directed: "That the United States in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at york, in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and his Most Christian Majesty; and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of earl Cornwallis to his excellency General Washington, Commander in Chief of the combined forces of America and France; to his excellency the Count de Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of his most Christian Majesty in America, and his excellency the Count de Grasse, commanding in chief the naval army of France in the Chesapeake." No action towards actually building this monument was taken for a century though the congressional resolution was not forgotten. The monument was begun in 1881 for the Yorktown Centennial Celebration and was completed on August 12, 1884.</i></p>
73.4	:56	Right on Comte De Grasse Street
73.5	:56	<p>Right on Water Street</p> <p><i>Cornwallis' Cave – Down on Water Street sits a Yorktown mystery. Well, sort of. Legend has it that Cornwallis' Cave (hidden across from the bustling beach) is where the British General retreated to avoid bombardment during the Battle of Yorktown. The National Park Service has long since claimed research shows otherwise. In reality, the cave dates back to before the Revolution, and was likely used for potato</i></p>

		<p><i>storage during colonial times and later for storage of Confederate munitions during the American Civil War. Large, visible recesses were cut into the front wall by Confederate forces to install support beams for a plank roof and walls that were then covered with earth to protect the munitions from Union warships offshore. The gated cave has since fallen into disrepair as a result of the natural processes of weathering and erosion. The possibility of stone falling inside is one of the reasons it is blocked off to the public, but you can still drive or walk by its location on Water Street beside the Archer Cottage.</i></p>
73.7	:57	<p>Yorktown Beach Picnic Area</p> <p><i>Some of us may choose to picnic here or, after a short break, head to a restaurant in Yorktown or Williamsburg.</i></p>

Yorktown Battlefield Tour Resources:

- Yorktown Tour App (*for your smart phone*)
- Yorktown Battlefield Tour (*website*)
 - Stop A: [British Inner Defense Line](#)
 - Stop B: [Grand French Battery](#)
 - Stop C: [Second Allied Siege Line](#)
 - Stop D: [Redoubts 9 and 10](#)
 - Stop E: [Moore House](#)
 - Stop F: [Surrender Field](#)



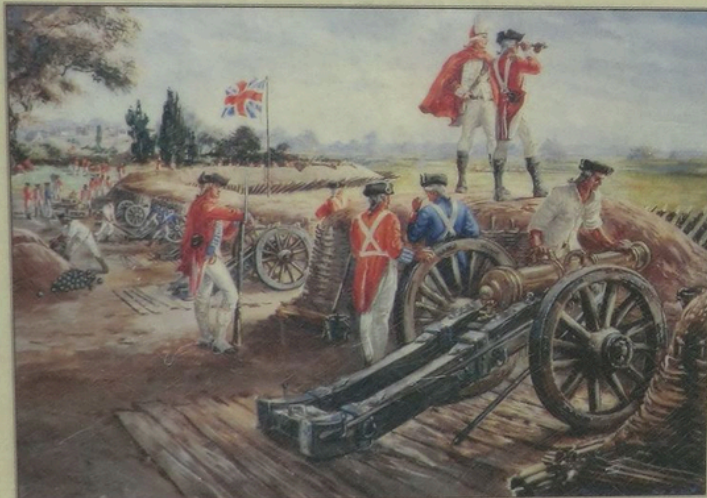
British Inner Defense Line



1781 Siege of Yorktown
Colonial National Historical Park
Department of the Interior

"The town was...surrounded by a ditch and thick parapet, having a horn work in the centre, in...which were batteries lined with fascines. The parapet ran to the river on the left... The parapet was formed of trees cut in the woods and placed inside; outside it was formed of fascines; and the earth from the ditch, which was sandy and gravelly, was thrown into the space between; it had also a fraize made of fence rails kept in line and projection by the earth thrown into the opening of the parapet, giving it an appearance of strength which it little merited."

Captain Samuel Graham, 76th Regiment of Foot



Painting by Sidney King

From New York City, on June 11, 1781, General Sir Henry Clinton wrote to General Charles Lord Cornwallis in Virginia that he was *"threatened with a siege in this post."* Intending to reinforce the New York garrison with soldiers from Cornwallis' army, Clinton *"recommended"* Cornwallis *"take a defensive station, in any healthy situation you choose, (be it at Williamsburg or York-town)."*

Needing to secure a navy base for his *"defensive station,"* Cornwallis chose the prosperous port of Yorktown and began occupying the town in early August. On August 22, Cornwallis reported to Clinton that his *"engineer has...proposed a plan for fortifying it [Yorktown]; which...I have...directed to be executed."* That plan included encircling the town with a primary, continuous earthwork incorporated with forts and batteries, known as the British Inner Defense Line.

Approximately 2,000 runaway slaves were promised freedom in exchange for working with the British forces. These slaves provided labor to construct the British Inner Defense Line. Ironically, while the American army secured political liberty for the United States with their victory at Yorktown, these slaves lost their bid for freedom with the British defeat.

The British Inner Defense Line remains a significant physical reminder of the siege, still slicing through the town. Efforts by local citizens in 1783 to have the line leveled failed. These fortifications, with some modifications, were utilized again during the Civil War. Please help preserve these earthen remnants of our nation's history by only walking on designated paths.

Redoubts 9 and 10



1781 Siege of Yorktown
Colonial National Historical Park
National Park Service

"The...batteries were principally directed against...the enemys advanced redoubts on their extreme...left to prepare them for the intended assault..."

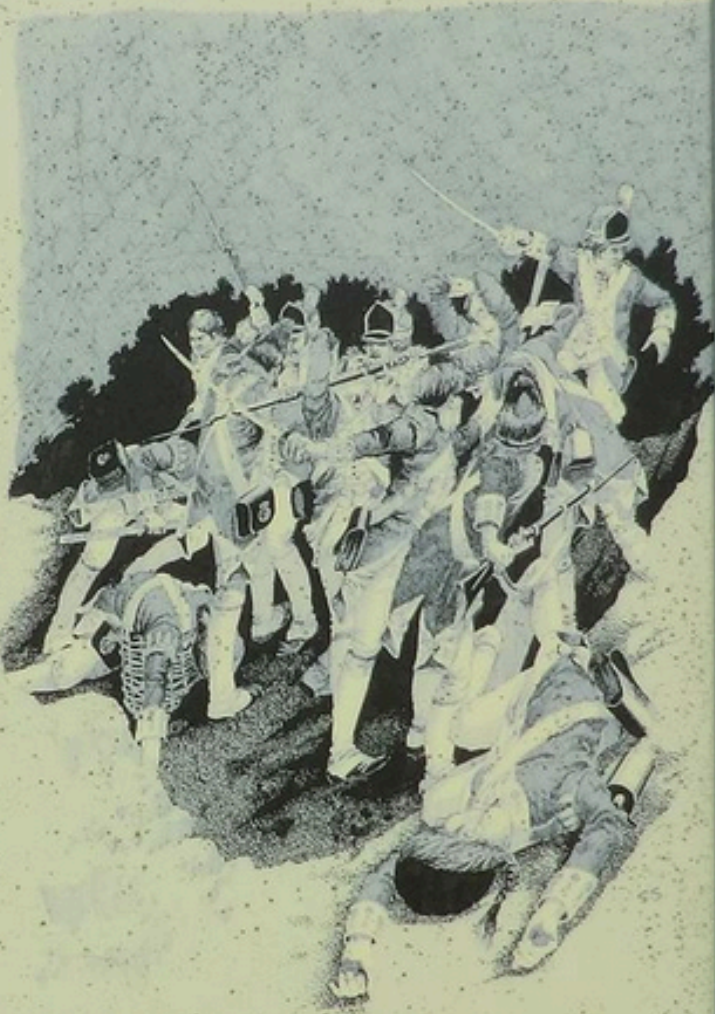
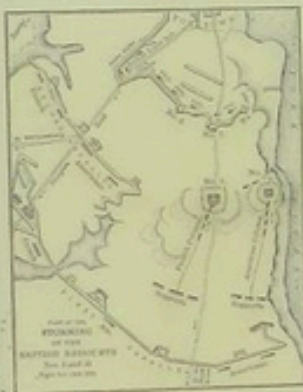
General George Washington's Diary, October 14, 1781.

The completion of the Allied Second Siege Line was blocked by a portion of the British outer works—two detached earthen forts called Redoubts 9 and 10, located 400 yards in advance of the British Inner Defense Line. Though General Washington considered allied frontal attacks against the British Inner Defense Line impractical and costly, Redoubts 9 and 10 were a different matter. General Washington called upon the infantry to capture these positions.

On October 14, Allied artillery bombarded Redoubts 9 and 10 most of the day, preparing for American and French assaults. At approximately eight o'clock in the evening, the artillery briefly fell silent. Then several can-

nons fired in unison, the signal for the attack columns to move on their objectives.

Follow the walkway to the redoubts and discover more of the story of the American and French attacks.



"Last evening the enemy carried my two advanced redoubts on the left by storm, and during the night have included them in their second parallel... My situation now becomes very critical..."

General Charles Lord Cornwallis to General Sir Henry Clinton, October 15, 1781.

REDOUBT 9

REDOUBT 10

GRAND FRENCH BATTERY

These three batteries and redoubt were a continuation of the Grand French Battery complex across the road. Occupying a section 1,000 feet from east to west, this battery complex contained approximately thirty pieces of artillery which bombarded the main British Defense a half-mile away. So effective was its work that the digging of the Second Parallel could take place one day after the Grand French Battery opened fire.

THE SECOND SIEGE LINE

The low earthworks on either side are part of the French and American advance line. Construction was started when allied artillery fire had sufficiently weakened the British defenses. The line was completed after the capture of Redoubts No. 9 and 10.

WORMLEY CREEK CROSSING

The earth dam in front of you creates Wormley Pond which existed in 1781 when Augustine Moore operated a grist mill here. American troops marched over the dam regularly as they moved to and from the Siege line.

Surrender Field



Colonial National Historical Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

On the 17th, at about 10 o'clock, the British raised a white flag on their walls, beat a parley on their drums, and the firing ceased on all sides. Then the terms of surrender were agreed on between Washington and Cornwallis, and on the afternoon of the 19th the British army marched out on the main road and surrendered prisoners of war.

Asa Redington, 1st New Hampshire Regiment

On October 19, 1781, British troops, commanded by Lieutenant General Charles Lord Cornwallis, marched from heavily damaged Yorktown and surrendered on this field to the allied French and American armies under the command of General George Washington. Cornwallis, pleading illness, did not accompany his men.

The pavilion ahead overlooks the scene of the laying down of weapons. The short, wheelchair-accessible trail leads past exhibits that describe the spectacle, mood, and pageantry of that momentous event. The British defeat at Yorktown was the culminating battle of the Revolutionary War.



The trail is less than 0.2 mile (320 m) round-trip. From the pavilion overlook, follow the path to the display of surrendered artillery on the ground level. A short paved path with exhibits leads to the field and back to the parking lot.



Bicycles are not permitted beyond this point, and pets must be leashed.

