

5 Mile City Tour
Vicksburg Mississippi
A Hike Through History



Updated April 2019

Vicksburg Trails Commission

A Service Organization to the Youth of America

Greetings

The Vicksburg Trails Commission and City of Vicksburg welcome you to one of the nation's outstanding historic cities in America – Vicksburg, Mississippi. This guide will help make your visit an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Where You Are

The City of Vicksburg is an area where one of the most famous sieges of all time occurred. The North had to control the Mississippi River. The River was an important supply line and commerce route to the Gulf of Mexico. Control of the River would split the Confederacy in two, thus isolating those states west of the Mississippi. By the middle of 1862, the North controlled all of the Mississippi River except the five miles in front of the bluffs of the Gibraltar of the South, Vicksburg.

After several attempts to attack Vicksburg from the north and west, a successful plan to confuse the Confederate Army resulted in General Ulysses S. Grant surrounding Vicksburg. The Union Army made several furious charges against the Confederate works, but all failed. The only way Vicksburg could be taken was to isolate and starve the Confederate Army. With 72,000 Union soldiers surrounding 18,500 Confederate soldiers, there was no way to get food or ammunition into Vicksburg. After 47 days of fighting, Vicksburg was surrendered on July 4, 1863.

What is the Plan of the City

The City of Vicksburg is home to historic buildings, monuments, markers, tablets, and cannon which are placed in some of the same positions occupied by these forces over 150 years ago. As you hike and learn of the City, remember the thousands of Americans, many the age of the hikers, who so gallantly fought and died on these grounds. Every one of them, both Confederate and Union, was fighting for a cause they felt to be right.

Awards and Fees

There is no charge for taking the City Tour.

An attractive, 10-color, full embroidered patch can be purchased for those completing the requirements of the Tour. For those who cannot fulfil the hiking requirement but who read all the information, there is a participation patch available.

To order these awards, fill in the answer sheet in this guide and complete the Award Order Form found on www.vicksburgtrails.org.

Other historical hikes are in the Vicksburg National Military Park and include a 16-Mile Bike Trail, 7-mile Trek, a 12-mile Scout Trail, and a 14 Mile Hike. Information on these can be found on the Vicksburg Trails Commission website at www.vicksburgtrails.org.

General Tour Instructions

Insure that adequate provision has been made to supply water to the hikers, particularly in hot weather. It is not unusual for a hiker to consume a gallon of water when hiking the City Tour in hot weather.

We will be following the Vicksburg Heritage Walking Trails Tour Heritage Route (3 miles) and the Captains Speeds Route (2 miles).

As you arrive at the Required Tour Stops, read the information on the plaque for each station to all hikers. The answer to the questions can be found on the plaques at that station. Have each hiker determine the answer. Prior to leaving the station, write the answer on the supplied answer sheet.

Your comments and suggestions to improve the Tour are always welcome. If you find any problems along the Tour, please tell the Vicksburg Trails Commission. You can email us at VicksburgTrails@gmail.com.

Required Stations for the City Tour

The tour starts at the corner of Washington and Jackson Streets and ends at the Catfish Row Art Park. I suggest parking at the Catfish Row Art Park so your vehicles will be at the end of the trail.

1. Men of Kindness

In 1841 Vicksburg became home to the first established Jewish congregation in Mississippi. What was the name of the Congregation?

2. Remarkable Orator

Who did Sargent Smith Prentiss defend once while traveling?

3. Women of Influence

What is the name of the first "Self-made American Woman Millionaire"?

4. Vicksburg's First Bank

What is the name of Vicksburg's First Bank and when was it built?

5. Governor "Turkey Runner"

What was the name of the twelfth governor of Mississippi?

6. Strong in Faith

What was the name of the first African-American college in Mississippi established without the help of whites?

7. Happy Home

What is the name of the only president of the Confederacy?

8. Antebellum

What does the word Antebellum mean?

9. Christ Episcopal Church

What year did Vicksburg establish its first organized fire department with paid firemen?

10. Judge Lake

What was the name of Judge William Lake's home?

11. Main and Cherry

What year did the City of Vicksburg upgrade to Electric Trolleys?

12. If Walls Could Talk

What was the first building in Mississippi to be named a National Historic Landmark?

13. Growing and Changing

What is the building style of the New Courthouse?

14. Hard Times Square

What four businesses made up the Hard Times Square?

15. Business Men

Who installed the clock in the "New" Court House?

16. Vicksburg and The Vick Family

What year was the Martha Vick House built?

17. Saved by The Jail

What was the name of President Theodore Roosevelt's hunting guide?

18. The Daily Citizen

When *The Daily Citizen* ran out of newsprint, what did they use to print the paper?

19. The Anti-Dueling Society

Many families trapped in the city during the Civil War siege dug caves into the hillsides where they would retreat from Union shelling. How many caves were dug?

20. Sisters of Mercy

In 1878 the Sisters of Mercy took over the local hospital during what type of epidemic?

21. Cherry Street

What was Albert Cashier's real name?

22. City of Steeples

What was the first religion established in Vicksburg?

23. Rose Garden

Who established the U.S. Camel Corps?

24. Small Beginnings

Who became the first chairman of the Vicksburg Park Commission after President William McKinley signed the legislation establishing the park?

25. Missing Angels

When did a massive tornado hit Vicksburg?

26. Sky Parlor Hill

What year was the new Saint Paul building completed?

27. Mercantile Explosion

What does the term sharecropping mean?

28. Banks and Bottles

What year was Coca-Cola first put in bottles and sold?

29. Railroads and Rivers

What year did the river change its course to leave Vicksburg high and dry?

30. Catfish Row

According to author David Cohn, where does the Mississippi Delta begin?

31. Apple Orchard

What was the infamous "Black Bart" known for?

32. Speed Town

How many people were killed in the Sultana disaster?

33. This plaque was hit by a car and is missing.

34. President Dwight Eisenhower

Whose Vicksburg home did General Dwight Eisenhower stay at in 1947?

35. Signal Corps

Whose home was used as a Signal Corps Station?

This ends your walking tour of historic Vicksburg. The total length of this tour is 5 miles.

If you are visiting Vicksburg from the west, pay particular attention to the bridges across the Mississippi. The southern bridge was completed in 1930 at a cost of \$6 million, while the northern bridge was opened on Feb. 17, 1973 at a cost of \$30 million (quite a difference!). One of the most interesting things about the old bridge is that it was built by private enterprise. U.S. 80 was being built in bits and pieces from Savannah to San Diego, but the Mississippi proved to be a bottleneck to east-west road and rail traffic.

Ferries operated here and were called transfer boats. Two were usually in service, the Pelican and the Albatross. They had no problem with the few cars wanting to make a crossing in those days, but trains presented a different challenge. Decks of the transfer boats were loaded a few at a time. Engines were kept busy on both sides of the river, loading and unloading boxcars and flatcars from transfer boats.

It was Henry Bovay, an engineer himself, who decided to try to span the Mississippi with a steel truss bridge atop concrete piers. He raised the money through the sale of stock and work began in the mid-1920's.

In May of 1930 Bovey's daughter, Betty, smashed two bottles - one filled with water from the Pacific and the other with water from the Atlantic - at the center of the span. With the bridge opened, America had its first all-weather, coast-to-coast road.

Tolls were charged to cross the river. That's how investors were able to recoup their money. Things went well until the years following World War II. Then, those who owned the bridge faced financial problems and the span was purchased by the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

To this day, the old bridge is county property. It is no longer open to vehicular traffic, but rail cars and utility companies whose pipelines traverse the Mississippi using the span still pay tolls to the county. The income pays for maintenance of the bridge which, like the I-20 bridge to the south, must be checked and painted on a continual schedule.

We of the **Vicksburg Trail Commission** hope that you have enjoyed the 5-Mile City Tour and have added much to your knowledge of the History of Vicksburg.

Map for Hike



5 Mile City Tour

Answer Sheet for Required Stations – Page 1

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