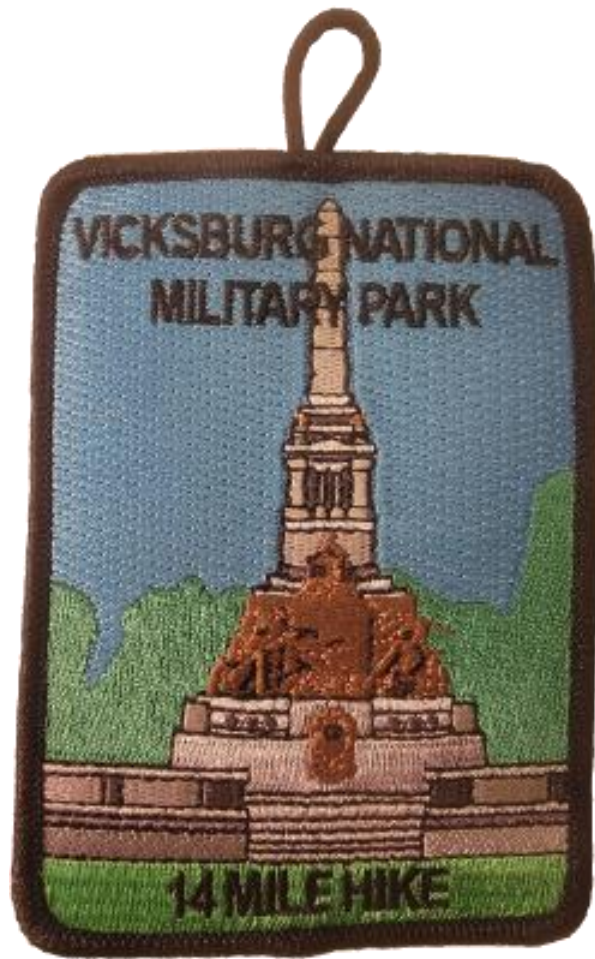


14 Mile Hiking Trail
Vicksburg National Military Park
A Hike Through History



Updated July 2022

Vicksburg Trails Commission

A Service Organization to the Youth of America

Hiking – Dos and Don'ts

Hiking Rules



- ❖ Hikers must maintain a high standard of conduct at all times, are expected to be good stewards of Vicksburg National Military Park, and to be courteous to other visitors while in the park.
- ❖ Group leaders are responsible for directly supervising each hiker in the group. At least one adult leader is required to accompany each separate group of hikers so all receive proper supervision.
- ❖ When hiking on the tour road, use the white striped walking lane. Stay to the right edge of the roadway when no white stripe exists. Hike single file and safely cross roadways as a group.
- ❖ Carry the proper equipment, including trail guide, rain gear, adequate water, trash bags (everything packed in, *must be* packed out), first aid kit, cell phones, sunscreen, etc. **Please note** – the only restroom facilities are located at the Visitor Center on Clay Street and *USS Cairo* Museum halfway through the park.
- ❖ Except during medical emergencies (situations requiring immediate emergency medical care), park staff *cannot* transport private citizens in government vehicles. Assess both the hikers' physical conditions and the weather before starting! Be realistic in choosing the appropriate hike. It is advised that at least one driver stay with the vehicle(s) should there be a need to pick up and transport the scouts.
- ❖ Be aware of hazards while hiking – weather, trail conditions, fire ants, snakes, ticks, poison ivy, etc., and take the necessary precautions. Although the wooded hiking trail has been widened where possible, there are still areas where passage *must* be single-file. Be **extremely** careful when the trail is wet – the slopes are very slippery!

Park Regulations



- ❖ Climbing on monuments, memorials, cannon, and headstones is strictly prohibited.
- ❖ Climbing and running at the *USS Cairo* exhibit, *USS Cairo* museum, and Visitor Center are prohibited.
- ❖ Picnicking is permitted only at the areas located near the *USS Cairo* exhibit and at Tour Stop 12. Tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ❖ All vehicles must comply with all regulatory signs and posted speed limits.
- ❖ Littering, vandalism, fires, fireworks, weapons, and metal detectors are prohibited on Park property.
- ❖ All Park resources (i.e., plants, animals, etc.) are protected by law from molestation, injury, or damage. All historic and prehistoric artifacts discovered in the Park are property of the U.S. Government. Found artifacts should be left undisturbed and their location reported to a park ranger. **DO NOT REMOVE ANYTHING FROM PARK PROPERTY!**

Please be aware of park hours (times change on a seasonal basis). All hikers must be back at their vehicles no later than ½-hour prior to closing.

Greetings

The Vicksburg Trails Commission and National Park Service welcome you to one of the nation's outstanding historic resources in America – Vicksburg National Military Park. This guide will help make your visit an enjoyable and memorable experience.



Where You Are

The Vicksburg National Military Park is an area set aside and preserved as a memorial to one of the most famous sieges of all time. 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 Park

The Confederate Army had fallen back to Vicksburg and occupied a strong line of fortifications that extended along the top of a ridge from the River south of Vicksburg and encircled the city to Fort Hill on the north. This line is not called Confederate Avenue. Directly across the ravine is Union Avenue. This road follows the line of the Federal forces. Numerous monuments, markers, tables, and cannon are placed in the same positions occupied by these forces over 150 years ago. As you hike and learn of the Park, 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 South and North, was fighting for a cause he felt to be right.

Awards and Fees

There is no charge for hiking the Trail. There is a fee for entry to the Vicksburg National Military Park. If your Unit would like to do two or more hours of conservation work, the entrance fee would be waived, and you would be admitted as volunteers. This must be arranged in advance of your trip with the Park Staff.

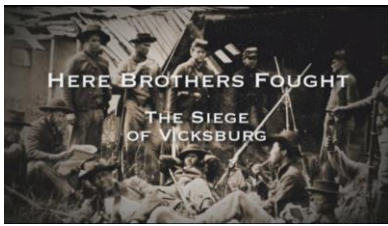
An attractive, 7-color, full embroidered patch, hat pin and/or a medal can be purchased for those completing the requirements of the Trail. For those hikers who have previously hiked the Trail, a sterling silver star is available to be worn on the medal. The star should be placed on the ribbon, centered, with one point aiming up. For those who cannot fulfil the hiking requirement but who watched the movie and read 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 in the Vicksburg National Military Park include a 16-Mile Bike Trail, 7-mile Trek and a 12-mile Scout Trail. Information on these can be found on the Vicksburg Trails Commission website at www.vicksburgtrails.org.

General Hike Instructions

The Visitor Center



Start your hike at the Visitor Center. View the 20-minute movie, "**Here Brothers Fought,**" and the center's exhibits. All members must view the movie shown in the Visitor's Center prior to starting the hike. Purchase the booklet, "Vicksburg – A Self-Guiding Tour of the Battlefield" available at the Information Desk.

You must register your Unit at the Visitor Center before you hike. It is important at the end of your hike that you check out your Unit at the Visitor Center.

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 Trail in hot weather. Water is only available at the Visitor's Center and at the Cairo Museum, approximately half-way through the Trail.

In the event of problems, notify a park ranger or contact staff at the Visitor Center (601-636-0583) or *U.S.S. Cairo* Museum (601-636-2199).

Time to hike the Trail varies with the Unit, however, most finish in about 7 hours, not counting lunch. A picnic area is available at the Cairo Museum. Plan your time to arrive back at the Visitor's Center before dark.

You are now ready to begin the Trail to the North, or to the left as you face the Visitor's Center. As you hike the Trail and pass tour stops not listed as Required Stations, you are encouraged to stop your hikers and have one read from the booklet, "Vicksburg – A Self-Guiding Tour of the Battlefield". As many hikers as possible should be given the opportunity to read to the rest of the Unit. Pass the booklet around so that all may see the pictures.

As you arrive at the Required Stations, read the information from this booklet for each station to all hikers, being sure that each one understands the question. The answer to the questions can be found on the plaques or monument 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 Trail are always welcome. If you find any problems along the trail, please tell the Park Staff when you check out.

Required Stations for the Trail Hike

1. Pemberton's Circle

Here you see the status of Lt. General John C. Pemberton, a native Pennsylvanian, and a West Pointer, who elected to fight for the South. He was given the command of the Army of Vicksburg early in the War. When a command in keeping with his rank of three-star General was unavailable after the fall of Vicksburg, he voluntarily resigned his commission and served as a Lt. Colonel of artillery for the remainder of the War – a testimonial of his loyalty to the South. **What are the reported casualties of the Confederate Army during the campaign and siege of Vicksburg?** (This information will be found on a marker bordering the circle).

2. Mississippi Monument

A State Memorial to her 4,6000 soldiers in the siege. The 9-inch muzzle loading Dahlgren gun at the rear of the monument was one of the largest used at Vicksburg. A detachment of Company C, 1st Tennessee Heavy Artillery River Battery, Army of Vicksburg served this gun at this location for two days from June 30, 1863, until it was disabled by fire from Union Batteries. **Who commanded Company C?** (You will find his name on a marker by the gun).



3. Tilghman Memorial Circle

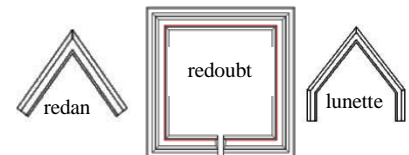
Here you will see the statue of Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, Commander of the 1st Brigade of Loring's Division. He was killed near the close of the Battle of Champion's Hill, 18 miles east of Vicksburg, as he manned an artillery piece in an attempt to hold off a Union Charge. **What as the date that he was killed?**

Terrain – You will see many earthen fortifications on your hike. There are three principal types:

REDAN: has a triangular shape with one point facing the enemy

REDOUBT: square shaped and generally larger than a Redan

LUNETTE: earthworks with three or more angles, and the rear open to the interior lines



Experience taught Confederate defenders that the earth must be at least 16 feet thick at the top of a fortification to withstand artillery fire, while earthwork bases were usually about 26 feet thick.

4. Louisiana Monument and Great Redoubt

The Great Redoubt was the largest fort on the Confederate line. Its well-preserved walls extend on both sides of the Louisiana memorial. On top of the Louisiana Monument is the Eternal Torch. The low marble markers on the slope, below Confederate Avenue in front of the fort, mark the farthest advance of the Union regiments in their unsuccessful assault of May 22, 1863, in which the Union forces lost 272 officers and men. On the ridge 200 yards away to the east, is the Union line. The Artillery Units in defense of the Fort where from what Companies? (This information will be found on the Louisiana Monument).

*After leaving the Great Redoubt, continue on Confederate Ave., cross Jackson Road to the 3rd Louisiana Redan. After crossing the intersection, take the left arm of the fork which is Confederate Ave., and which as a high bank on the **right**. The right fork has a high bank on **both sides**. Immediately after starting along the left fork, go up on the high bank. This is the Third Louisiana Redan.*

5. Third Louisiana Redan

This Confederate Fort marked by the three artillery pieces at right of Confederate Ave., is the site of one of the major approaches against the fortress of Vicksburg. It was reached by "Logan's Approach," a Union advance trench from which the Union engineers constructed a tunnel extending approximately 40 feet under the Confederate works. The noise made by the Union soldiers as they dug the tunnel was heard by the men of the 3rd Louisiana Redan who brought this to the attention of Major Lockett, Chief Confederate Engineer. Major Lockett has the men throw up a line, secondary trenches, to the rear of the Redan. In the meantime, the Union forces constructed a mine in the tunnel underneath the Redan and exploded 2,200 pounds of powder which blasted a crater 12 feet deep and 50 feet across. The smoke had hardly cleared when the 45th Illinois Infantry charged four abreast up the approach and poured into the crater as Grant tried to break through. The Union forces were greatly surprised that the Confederates had a new line of trenches in the rear of the Redan. The Confederates opened up on Grant's men with terrific fire forcing the Union soldiers to take cover back in the crater. For the next 24 hours, the Confederate and Union soldiers, ten yards apart, fought a bloody battle with hand grenades being freely tossed. The Union soldiers were finally forced to flee for their lives leaving 243 of them dead and wounded behind. During this 24-hour battle a Confederate Colonel and a Union Lt. Colonel were killed. **What were their names and what units were they from?**

Continue north along Confederate Ave. after you leave the Third Louisiana Redan. Your line of hike will take you across Glass Bayou Bridge. The precipitous slopes of the ridges and deeply cut ravines protected the City, making Vicksburg a natural fortress. The 75-foot drop from the bridge well illustrates the difficult terrain over which the Union Army moved.



6. Arkansas Monument

The twin pylons are representation of the North and South, which were split by the sword of war and reunited by faith in a restored union. Depicted on the left are Arkansas soldiers repelling a Union assault; on the right, Confederate ram "Arkansas." **To whom is the monument dedicated?**

7. Missouri Monument

A border State, Missouri was divided in sympathy during the Civil War. Her soldiers enlisted in the armies of both the North and the South. By the fortunes of war, in this section of the siege line, Missouri soldiers of the Union and Confederate armies faced and fought each other. The plaque on the left depicts Missouri Federals attacking this position; on the right, Missouri Confederates defending it. Between the panels, the prow of the Ship of State symbolizes the divided Union; the figure above is the Republic, emerging from the War with renewed strength. **To whom is the monument dedicated?**



8. Stockade Redan

For a close view of siege warfare, walk up into the fort, to the artillery piece. From the ridge 150 yards away to the east, Union cannon, which are trained on the fort, blasted the Confederate defenders continuously. During the assault of May 22nd, Grant's Infantry reached the wall of the fort. The two markers in front of the cannon and just below it indicates where color bearers planted their flags, almost at the top of the wall, before the assault was broken and driven back. **What was the name of the Major of the 36th Mississippi Infantry who was killed on May 22, 1863, in defense of the Stockade Redan?**

From the Stockade Redan turn west on Confederate Ave. and continue to hike west until you arrive at Fort Nogales of Fort Hill as it is now called.

9. Fort Hill

Anchoring the Confederate left flank on the Mississippi River, its guns commanded the Union right as well as the river. The flags of England, France, Spain, The United States and the Confederate States have flown over this historic site, where the bluffs meet the river, during the centuries-old struggle for control of the Mississippi. Fort Nogales (Spanish) was built here in 1791, and Fort McHenry 1798 was the first American settlement in Vicksburg. The water below the fort is not the Mississippi River – it changed its course in 1876 – but the Yazoo Diversion Canal, bringing the Yazoo River water into the old bed of the Mississippi River. **What were the casualties of the defenders of Fort Hill during the Siege of Vicksburg?**

After leaving Fort Hill, continue on Confederate Ave., down and around the bottom of the hill toward the north until you arrive at the entrance to the National Cemetery on the left side of Confederate Ave. On the right side opposite the cemetery entrance is the start of Union Avenue.



10. Vicksburg National Cemetery

This cemetery has an area of about 118 acres and was established in 1866 for the reburial of the remains of nearly 17,000 Union soldiers who had been given temporary burial in scattered locations during the war. The identity of almost 13,000 of the soldiers is unknown. The National Cemetery also contains remains of soldiers from the Mexican and Spanish-American Wars, World Wars I and II and Korea. A tour of the cemetery should be made, however, the extent of this tour is left up to the desires of the group. **What is the area of the cemetery and when was it established?**

11. The Cairo Museum

After leaving the National Cemetery, view the Cairo and visit the Cairo Museum. **In what river was the Cairo sunk and what sank it?**

Continue the hike up the hill to the Navy Monument, the next required stop.



12. Union Navy Memorial

The 202-foot shaft is a tribute to the achievements of the Union Navy in the Vicksburg operations. Statues of four fleet commanders surround the base. **What are the names and ranks of these officers?**

After leaving the Navy Monument continue your hike along Union Avenue until you reach the intersection of Union Ave. With Graveyard Road. (A sign on opposite side of intersection will indicate this location). Turn left here and continue along the road to Grant's Circle.

13. Grants Circle

An equestrian statue of General Ulysses S. Grant marks the location of his headquarters. Also located in the vicinity are impressive monuments of five northeastern states: Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island, indication that their troops were on the exterior line of defense against Johnston's Army. A summary of the casualties during the Campaign, Siege and Defense of Vicksburg during the period of March 29 through July 4, 1863 can be found on the plaque in the vicinity of the Massachusetts Monument. **What were the casualties suffered by the Union and Confederate Armies?**

After leaving Grant's Circle return to the intersection of Union Ave. and Graveyard Road. From here continue straight ahead, past the intersection. You are again on Union Ave. and your next required stop is the Wisconsin Monument.



14. Wisconsin Monument

"Old Abe," the famous Wisconsin War Eagle and Mascot of the 8th Wisconsin, was carried alongside the regimental colors, on the march and in battle, through three years of war. A 6-foot bronze replica atop of the monument now honors his war service. Names of all Wisconsin soldiers at Vicksburg are on plaques around the base. **To whom is the monument dedicated? What is the date of the siege?**

Continue along Union Ave. until the intersection of Union Ave. and Jackson Road is reached. At this point on the right is the "Shirley House," a siege landmark, and termed the "White House" by the soldiers. It is the one surviving war-time structure in the Park. Turn right on Jackson Road and proceed to the Illinois Monument.

15. Illinois Monument

Modeled after the Pantheon in Rome, this Memorial Temple, the largest in the Vicksburg National Military Park, is dedicated to the 36,312 Illinois men whose names are inscribed on the bronze plaques within. The Illinois Commission specified that no device indicative of war should appear on the memorial. You will note that the entire dome is open, however, rain will not enter due to the strong up draught in the building.

Whose names are engraved above the large marble plaque on the inside of the building directly opposite the entrance?



As you leave the Illinois Monument you will return to the intersection of Union Ave. and Jackson Road and proceed straight ahead for some 50 yards and turn right which, as you will note by marker, is Union Avenue.

16. Union Battery

Shortly after leaving the intersection of Union Ave. and Jackson Road you will arrive at the site of a Union Battery on the right side of Union Ave. At this location a group of Union cannon were lined up concentrating fire on the Confederates. **What Union forces occupied this position and who were the Commanding Officers?** (See plaques at each end of the line of cannon). Twelve cannon now mark the site. Count them.



17. Michigan Monument

This symbolic figure of Michigan is bringing laurels to her soldiers of the siege. **What is the wording of the dedication?**

18. Minnesota Circle

This is the site of the Minnesota Monument. At the base of the 100-foot shaft, a symbolic figure of Peace holds a shield and a sword, signifying that the soldiers of both armies have placed their weapons in her keeping and the Union is at peace. **Who commanded the 1st Brigade of the 7th Division, 17th Army Corps during the Campaign and Siege of Vicksburg?** (You will find the answer engraved on the Monument).



*Continue hike along Union Ave until you reach your starting point.
This concludes your trail hike.*

We of the **Vicksburg Trail Commission** hope that you have enjoyed the Trail and have added much to your knowledge of the Campaign and Siege of Vicksburg.

Map for Hike



14 Mile Trail Hike

Answer Sheet for Required Stations – Page 1

1. Pemberton's Circle: _____

2. Mississippi Monument: _____

3. Tilghman Memorial Circle: _____

4. Louisiana Monument and Great Redoubt: _____

5. Third Louisiana Redan: _____

6. Arkansas Monument: _____

7. Missouri Monument: _____

8. Stockade Redan: _____

9. Fort Hill: _____

10. National Cemetery: _____

11. Cairo Museum: _____

14 Mile Trail Hike

Answer Sheet for Required Stations – Page 2

12. Union Navy Memorial: _____

13. Grant's Circle: _____

14. Wisconsin Monument: _____

15. Illinois Monument: _____

16. Union Battery: _____

17. Michigan Monument: _____

18. Minnesota Circle: _____
