Civil War & More in Newport News, VA!

Day 1 P.M.
Meet your Civil War step-on guide and journey back and visit Young’s Mill and the Warwick County Courthouse, which served as headquarters for Union IV Corps commander Brigadier General Erasmus D. Keyes during the Warwick-Yorktown Siege. The gas balloon “Constitution” was deployed at this site to observe nearby Confederate fortifications. Just a short drive from the courthouse lie the preserved earthworks from the Battle of Lee’s Mill, located on a 40-foot bluff overlooking the Warwick River. Next is a stop at Newport News Park for a stroll around the site of the Battle of Dam No. 1 where some of the most extensive Confederate earthworks are located. This battle, which took place April 16, 1862, was Union Major General McClellan’s only attempt to break through the Confederate defenses along the Warwick River.

Check into your Newport News hotel and enjoy the night, an exciting day is set for tomorrow.

Day 2 A.M.
Wake up to breakfast at your hotel before your journey back in time at the Monitor and Merrimack Overlook, where the CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimack) and the USS Monitor battled to a draw. Next, stop by the Victory Arch that serves as a memorial to the men and women of the armed forces and commemorates Newport News’ role as a major point of embarkation during World Wars I and II. Then it’s off to the Virginia War Museum where military history is highlighted through uniforms, insignias, vehicles, accoutrements, weapons, propaganda posters and more. Enjoy lunch and shopping in the Historic Hilton Village area, located in the historic part of Newport News.

Day 2 P.M.
After lunch, enjoy an afternoon tour of The Mariners’ Museum, home to the premier Civil War attraction in the country -- the USS Monitor Center. Recovered artifacts, original documents, paintings, personal accounts and interactive experiences will paint an exciting portrait of the USS Monitor and the CSS Virginia, Civil War icons whose historic clash changed the way ships were built.

Return to your Newport News hotel to prepare for dinner this evening at the Crab Shack. Enjoy fresh seafood while taking in the spectacular view of the James River.

Day 3 A.M.
Enjoy a hearty breakfast at Golden Corral or grab a bite to eat at your hotel before visiting Lee Hall Mansion, one of the last remaining antebellum homes on the Virginia Peninsula. During the 1862 Peninsula Campaign, Lee Hall became the headquarters for Confederate Generals Magruder and Johnston.

Down the street is another historical home you won’t want to miss, Endview Plantation. Built in 1769 by Colonel William Harwood Jr., this Georgian-style house has witnessed momentous events in American history, and has been restored to its 1862 appearance. This 74-acre site also features re-enactments and Civil War living history programs.

Next, enjoy a delicious lunch at the historic Boxwood Inn, a Gracious southern mansion open for Bed & Breakfast guests every night of the week.

Day 3 P.M.
This afternoon head over to Hampton and tour the historic Fort Monroe and the Casemate Museum. Housed in the walls of the largest stone fortress in the United States, it is still in active use. During the Civil War, Fort Monroe was a Union-held bastion in the center of a Confederate state. Learn how “Freedom’s Fortress” helped shelter thousands of slave refugees and see the cell where Confederate President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned. Stop by your hotel to relax and prepare for an evening of dining browsing at City Center at Oyster Point.

Day 4 A.M.
After another delicious breakfast, set out this morning for a lovely nature walk at the Virginia Living Museum. Stroll the boardwalk along a wooded lake for an up-close safari into the lives of many native animals including raccoons, deer, wild turkeys and foxes. Then walk through a 5,500 square foot outdoor aviary with over 15 species of birds. Then experience their new building with living exhibits that showcase the diversity of wildlife and the natural areas of Virginia. Depart for home with your historic memories of the Civil War and Newport News, Virginia.

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