

Driving Tours of Newport News



Newport News' rich history began shortly after the founding of Jamestown. Through our free self-guided driving tours, visitors to Newport News can step back in time and learn about our nation's founding, and about all the beautiful sculptures located throughout this historic city.

Audio Driving Tour

This audio driving tour is full of stories about Newport News and its fascinating history, brought vividly to life by talented actors, memorable music and exciting sound effects. Don't forget to follow along with the Audio Driving Tour Map. We invite you to listen for yourself and enjoy a personal tour of our city! To stream the driving tour, search for Newport News Driving Tour 2020 on soundcloud.com.

Civil War Driving Tour

The Civil War in Newport News saw the world's first battle between ironclad ships, a growing role for African Americans in the United States military, and a woman who disguised herself as a male soldier to fight for her country. Newport News pays tribute to this heroism in a Civil War driving tour that includes historic homes, battle sites, fortifications, monuments and extraordinary collections of personal artifacts. Call the Newport News Visitor Center at 757-886-7777 to request our Civil War Historical Reflections brochure, which includes the driving tour map.

World War I Driving Tour

When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, it selected New York City as its Port of Embarkation, sending a massive number of forces to Europe. It was soon realized by chief of staff Quartermaster Gen. Henry G. Sharpe, "that the port of New York be designated for transportation of troops and general supplies, and that Newport News be used principally for the shipment of animals, forage and heavy ordinance. During WWI more than 250,000 soldiers left Newport News for Europe, along with four million tons of supplies, and close to 500,000 horses and mules. Call the Newport News Visitor at 757-886-7777 to request our Newport News Port of Embarkation in World War I Guide, and explore sites that supported the logistics of this massive influx of men, animals and supplies.

Public Art Driving Tour

Itching to get out of the house? Use your car as your own personal "escape" shuttle to discover some cool outdoor art in Newport News! Before you head out, though, take a few minutes to download the Newport News Public Art Foundation's audio tour app at www.nnpaf.org. With this cell phone app, you'll be able to take a personal tour of 20 sculptures, with the artists themselves as your guide. To do the complete public art driving tour, call the Newport News Visitor Center at 757-886-7777 to request our Art & Sculpture Expressions of Creativity brochure.