

History of America

Civil War

Day 1

A.M. - Begin your day at the Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe in Hampton. This Museum tells the history of the fort and some of its famous occupants. 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.

A.M. - Be wowed when you visit Hampton University and the Hampton University Museum. The University is one of the nation's top-ranked private universities. The Museum is located on its campus and is the oldest African-American museum in the United States.

P.M. - Drive back to Newport News to enjoy lunch before you 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.

P.M. - Check into your Newport News hotel and settle in for the night.

Day 2

A.M. - Enjoy a hearty breakfast at one of our restaurants on your way to the Lee Hall Mansion. Completed in 1859, Lee Hall was home to affluent planter Richard Decauter Lee. One of the last remaining antebellum homes on the Virginia Peninsula, Lee Hall Mansion was used as headquarters by Confederate Generals Joseph E. Johnson and John B. Magruder during April and May of 1862.

A.M. - Minutes away is another historical home you won't want to miss, Endview Plantation. This 74-acre site features re-enactments and Civil War living history programs. Built in 1769 by Colonel William Hardwood, Jr., Endview has experienced the ordeal of three wars: the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. It has been restored to its 1862 appearance.

P.M. - After lunch, enjoy an afternoon tour of The Mariners' Museum and the USS *Monitor* Center where you will explore over 500 years of seafaring adventure! In over 60,000 square feet of exhibition space, you can escape to the eras of early exploration, the conservation of the artifacts from the famous Civil War ironclad, USS *Monitor*.

Day 3

Choose from the following options, depending upon your departure schedule:

1. Head to Newport News Park and 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. While at the Park, rent a paddleboat or canoe for a relaxing boat ride.
2. Journey back in time when you visit Young's Mill and the Warwick County Courthouse, which was occupied by Unites under the command of Union Major General McClellan on April 5, 1862.
3. Visit the Virginia War Museum which highlights military history through uniforms, insignias, vehicles, accoutrements, weapons, propaganda posters and more.

Newport News Visitor Center

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