The Battlefield Tour

We suggest that you begin the 16-mile tour at the visitor center, where exhibits and an audio-visual program explain the campaign and siege of Vicksburg. The numbered stops below are keyed to the numbers on the map. During the tour, you will notice either red or blue metal markers. Red markers pertain to Confederate lines or emplacements. Blue markers pertain to Union forces.

1 Battery De Golyer From this position a battery of guns, including those from the 8th Michigan Artillery commanded by Capt. Samuel De Golyer, hammered the Confederate Great Redoubt directly ahead. At one time as many as 22 Federal artillery pieces were positioned here. Captain De Golyer was mortally wounded while directing the fire of this battery.

2 Shirley House Union troops called it "the white house." It is the only surviving wartime structure in the park. During the siege it served as headquarters for the 45th Illinois Infantry, members of which built hundreds of bombproof shelters around it to protect themselves against Confederate artillery fire. It has been restored to its 1863 appearance.

3 Third Louisiana Redan Here was one of the major Confederate fortifications guarding the Jackson Road approach to Vicksburg. Concluding that the fort was impregnable to direct assault, General Grant ordered his troops to dig mines under the work and blow it up. The first mine was detonated on June 25; the second on July 1. Neither succeeded in breaking the Confederate line.

4 Ransom's Gun Path To provide additional artillery support for infantry manning this sector of the siege lines, men of the 2nd Illinois Artillery dismantled two 12-pounder cannon and, aided by Gen. Thomas Ransom's infantry, dragged the guns over rough terrain to an earthen parapet just 100 yards from the Confederate position. There the guns were reassembled and returned to action.

5 Stockade Redan Attack From this and nearby points on May 19, Gen. William T. Sherman launched an infantry attack against the Stockade Redan (Tour Stop 10). The Federals were repulsed with heavy losses. Three days later, as part of a general assault on the Confederate lines, Union soldiers attacked the Redan again. This attack also failed.

6 Thayer's Approach During the afternoon of May 22, Union troops commanded by Brig. Gen. John M. Thayer stormed up this hill toward Confederates dug in at the top. They were stopped by geography and enemy fire. Later, Thayer's men began digging a six-foot-deep approach trench toward the Southern position. His soldiers dug the tunnel beneath the road to avoid crossing the ridge, where they would be exposed to Confederate fire.

7 Battery Selfridge This battery consisted entirely of naval cannon and was manned by sailors of the U.S. Navy. It is named in honor of Lt. Cmdr. Thomas O. Selfridge, Jr., one of the naval officers stationed here and the man in command of the ironclad *Cairo* when it was sunk in the Yazoo River on December 12, 1862. A plaque here tells of the navy's role in the siege of Vicksburg.

8 Vicksburg National Cemetery Of the nearly 17,000 Union soldiers buried here, about 13,000 are unknown. Established in 1866, the cemetery is also the final resting place for veterans of the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean Conflict. It was closed to burials in 1961. Many Confederates who died during the siege are buried in Vicksburg's Cedar Hill Cemetery.

9 Fort Hill This fort, which anchored the northern flank of the Confederate lines, was so formidable that no Union attack was ever made against it. Confederate gunners posted here helped the river batteries sink the Federal gunboat *Cincinnati* on May 27, 1863.

10 Stockade Redan The Federal failures on May 19 and 22 to overrun this fortification, the principal Confederate work guarding the Graveyard Road approach to Vicksburg, were major factors in Grant's decision to avoid any more direct assaults.

11 Great Redoubt Like the Third Louisiana Redan (Tour Stop 3), this massive Confederate earthwork guarded the Jackson Road. The Federal attack here on May 22 was repulsed with heavy losses. Union artillery subsequently kept the redoubt under almost continuous bombardment.

12 Second Texas Lunette Manned by the Second Texas Volunteer Infantry, this Confederate fortification guarded the Baldwin Ferry Road approach to Vicksburg. On May 22 it was the scene of furious fighting as Confederates beat back repeated Union attacks. During the siege Union soldiers dug approach trenches to within 15 feet of the lunette.

13 Railroad Redoubt Confederates built this work to protect the Southern Railroad of Mississippi. On the morning of May 22 Union troops assailed this stronghold and forced out the defenders. A detachment of Col. Thomas Waul's Texas Legion counterattacked and, in a savage hand-to-hand fight with bayonets, clubbed muskets, and artillery shells used as grenades drove out the Federals.

14 Fort Garrott On June 17 Confederate soldiers of Col. Isham W. Garrott's 20th Alabama Regiment suffered great casualties here from Federal sharpshooter fire. Garrott, exasperated at the damage being inflicted on his men, picked up a rifle-musket to return the fire. He was shot through the heart and died without learning he had been promoted to brigadier general.

15 Hovey's Approach This restored section of the two approach trenches dug by Gen. Alvin P. Hovey's Union troops demonstrates how the siege was conducted. The zigzag design helped to nullify the effects of Confederate enfilading fire and minimized Federal casualties.

Detached Park Sites

Louisiana Circle Confederate cannon here guarded the river approaches to the city and engaged Union gunboats during the siege.

South Fort Southern anchor of the Confederate defense lines around Vicksburg. It guarded the Warrenton Road (Washington Street) entrance to the city.

Navy Circle Southern anchor of the Union siege lines. Rifled cannon mounted here prevented Confederates from escaping the city via the Warrenton Road (now Washington Street).

Grant's Canal This site, located across the Mississippi River in Madison Parish, La., is where Federal troops attempted to cut a canal across the base of De Soto Point to enable gunboats and transports to bypass Confederate batteries at Vicksburg.

For Safety's Sake

Whether driving, hiking, jogging, or bicycling, be alert to potential hazards while visiting the battlefield. Avoid running on steep slopes, and watch for fire ants, poison ivy, and poisonous snakes.

CHICKASAW BAYOU BATTLEFIELD
U.S.S. Cairo Museum
Information
Vicksburg National Cemetery
Navy
Battery Selfridge
VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK
Grant's Headquarters Area
Thayer's Approach
Stockade Redan
Stockade Redan Attack
Tennessee
Fort Hill
Connecting Avenue
Confederate Avenue
Graveyard Road
Union Avenue
Sherman Circle
New Hampshire
Pennsylvania
Massachusetts
Rhode Island
New York
Kansas
African American Monument
West Virginia
Arkansas
Missouri
Cedar Hill Cemetery (Confederate section)
Sky Farm Avenue
Wisconsin
Ransom's Gun Path
Jackson Road (modern)
Third Louisiana Redan
Shirley House
Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Louisiana
Illinois
Great Redoubt
Surrender Interview Site
Pemberton Ave
Battery De Golyer
Michigan
Mississippi
Pemberton Circle
Minnesota
Old Court House Museum (open to public)
Pemberton's Headquarters (under restoration)
Second Texas Lunette
Visitor Center
Memorial Arch
Anshe Chesed Cemetery (private)
Baldwin Ferry Road
Texas
Railroad Redoubt
Alabama
Iowa
Fort Garrott
Kentucky
Georgia
Hovey's Approach
Indiana
Indiana Ave
Exit 3
Exit 4
Exit 5
Historic Southern Railroad of Mississippi
To Snyder's and Haynes' bluffs
To Big Black River Bridge, Champion Hill, Raymond, and Jackson battlefields
To Natchez Trace Parkway
YAZOO RIVER DIVERSION CANAL
POINT)
(De SOTO
1863
LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPI
DELTA
Grant's Canal
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
MISSISSIPPI
To Tallulah
Exit 186
Connecticut
Grant's Canal (use Exit 186 to US-80)
Louisiana Circle (Mississippi Overlook)
South Fort
Navy Circle
Exit 1A
Exit 1B
Exit 1C
North Carolina
Florida
Maryland
South Carolina
Virginia
South Confederate Avenue
N Frontage Rd
Iowa Ave
Halls Ferry Road
Wisconsin Avenue
Washington Street
Fort Hill Drive
Sherman Avenue
Mission 66
East Main Street
Jackson St
Grove Street
Crawford Street
Clay Street
Cherry Street
North
Relic Hunting Prohibited
Tour road
Present NPS land
Former NPS land
Present course of Mississippi River
Tour stop
Detached park unit
Monument
Picnic area