



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Harpers Ferry National
Historical Park

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Harpers Ferry NHP News Release

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Harpers Ferry Park Hosts Fee Free National Public Lands Day

Lace up your hiking boots or just put on a comfortable pair of sneakers and head to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Saturday, September 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for National Public Lands Day. National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands in America. This event for hikers and walkers of all ages and levels of experience is designed to show off the opportunities for walking and hiking in and around Harpers Ferry, while helping to preserve these trails for the future enjoyment. Harpers Ferry Park has over 18 miles of hiking trails that include mountains, gently rolling fields and flat walking—trails for everyone. Join in one of our 5 guided walks this day or explore on your own.

Stop in our Public Lands Day Tent in the Lower Town to find out more about our event partners— The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Harpers Ferry Historic Town Foundation, Potomac Appalachian Trail Conservancy (PATC), and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). Visitors are invited to contrast and compare items in a civil war soldier's pack versus a modern hiker's pack, the latest in modern hiking equipment and lightweight food stuffs. Take in a guided hike and enjoy the breathtaking vistas! Guided hikes are appropriate for families and are rated easy to strenuous. If you plan to join one of our hikes, please come prepared with water, insect repellent, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes.

Guided Hikes:

12:00-3:00 Maryland Heights Hike—Rating: strenuous. 4.5 miles to the Overlook. Meet at the Lower Town Green.

Stop along the way at the Civil War Naval Battery and at the rocky overlook, a favorite view of the town of Harpers Ferry. For those who would like to go higher, an additional 2 miles of trail will take you to the top of the mountain to the 19th century ruins of the Stone Fort.

12:30-2:00 Murphy Farm "Tiger on the Trail" A hike for youngsters. Rating: moderate. 2.2 miles. Meet at the Cavalier Heights Visitor Center to begin this hike.

1:00-2:00 Virginius Island Trail Walk—Rating: easy. Meet at the Lower Town Green.

Archeological evidence of our park industrial and transportation story can be found along the trail. Here lie the ruins of a bygone industrial center—Hall's and Virginius Islands.

2:00-3:00 Lower Town to Jefferson's Rock and ATC Office 1 mile, Walk--Rating: moderate. Meet at the Lower Town Green. Join the Appalachian Trail staff and walk in the steps of Presidents, captains of industry and social reformers.

3:00 to 4:00 C&O Canal- Rating easy. Meet at Lower Town Green. The hike will cover about .9 mile to the C&O Canal towpath via the Potomac River footbridge. Take in the view Thomas Jefferson described as, "*worth a voyage across the Atlantic*" and witness some of Harpers Ferry's transportation history.

For additional information, please contact the Visitor Center at 302-535-6029.