**Petersburg National Battlefield **

**BSA National Historic Trail**

**Visit Safely:** Trail signs are at all trailheads and major intersections are marked with a letter. Trail blazes are found on trees throughout the trails. The color identifies the user trail type.

* Red is for biking and hiking.
* Yellow is for biking, hiking, and horseback riding.
* Sidewalks are for walking only.

**Leave No Trace:**

* Stay on maintained trails.
* Prevent damage of fragile cultural resources by staying off earthworks.
* Dispose of trash properly.

**Begin your hike at the Eastern Front Visitor Center.**

**View the cannons on display outside the Visitor Center.**

1. Which cannon had the greatest firing range? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Take the sidewalk next to the Visitor Center to the entrance of Battery #5.**

1. Who was the Confederate engineer that designed the 10 miles of defensive line to protect Petersburg?
2. What year was it built? How long in advance was the defensive line created before the fighting came to Petersburg?
3. How many artillery positions were there in the Dimmock Line? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Inside Battey #5.**

1. During the evening of June 15, 1864, how many miles of the Petersburg defenses were captured by the Federal Army?
2. What is the Petersburg timeline from the Federal attack on the Dimmock Line to the evacuation of Petersburg?

**Leave Battery #5 and turn left on the sidewalk. Stop at the 13-inch seacoast mortar.**

1. How long was the Dictator used during the siege of Petersburg? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many rounds did it fire on Petersburg? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many pounds of black powder were required to hurl the 225 lb/13-inch shell two miles?

**Continue down the sidewalk to the railroad tracks. Turn left and follow trail to the sidewalk and walk to the parking lot. Walk through the parking lot, across the bridge, and down the Tour Road.**   
**Turn right onto the Friend Trail at trail junction L. Continue the Friend Trail. At trail junction M, continue onto Harrison Creek Trail and stop at the Tour Road.**

1. What did Harrison’s Creek represent to the contending armies twice during the siege?

**Follow Harrison Creek Trail back in the direction you just came. At trail junction M, turn left onto the Friend Trail and continue along the trail until it ends at trail junction X. Turn left onto Prince George Court House Road, continue for a short distance and take first right at trail junction W.**

*As you walk along this part of the trail you are in the footsteps of the charge of the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery soldiers on June 18, 1864. As they charged towards the Confederate line at the top of the hillside.**Across this ground they lost an equivalent of man each second (more than any other regiment in any single battle of the Civil War). Conversely, the Confederate unit directly confronting this charge had one man killed and 24 wounded. Here on this ground the value of earthen entrenchments is realized to its fullest extent.*

**Stop at the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery Monument.**

1. Reading the monument of the First Maine Heavy Artillery, how many members fell while charging in battle on June 18, 1864? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Follow the sidewalk up the hill from the monument.**

1. At what time on March 25, 1865 was the signal shot fired? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Turn left on the walkway towards the Tour Road.**

*You are now retracing the Confederate attack made on the same hillside nearly nine months later in the Battle of Fort Stedman.*

**Turn left on the next sidewalk and follow up the slight incline to the sign.**

1. Following Lee’s last offensive of the Civil War here at Fort Stedman, how much longer would Confederate forces hold before Petersburg fell? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Turn around and follow the sidewalk into the earthworks of Fort Stedman.**

1. How many cannons and infantrymen were inside Fort Stedman?
2. As you look directly past the cannons, Confederate soldiers were dug-in in the woods (which were not there in 1865) in front of you. How far apart were the Confederate soldiers in Colquitt’s Salient from the Federal lines?

*At Fort Stedman, General Lee (in a last attempt to relieve the pressure that General Grant has put on the Confederate forces at Petersburg) loses 3600 men that he cannot replace. One-week later the Confederate Army evacuates Petersburg and Richmond. Two weeks later General Lee surrenders to General Grant at Appomattox Court House.*

**Return to the Tour Road and walk along the left side of the road to Stop #6, Fort Haskell.**   
**Follow the pathway into Fort Haskell.**

1. Did Ft. Haskell belong to the U.S. or the Confederate army?
2. Why did the Federal soldiers fire upon Fort Haskell during the Battle of Fort Stedman?

**Leave Fort Haskell and turn right onto Fort Haskell Trail at trail junction Y.**   
**At trail junction Z, follow Poor Creek Trail 0.78 miles until the Tour Road at trail junction AA. Visit the informative sign next to the road.**

1. By what time on July 30, 1864 were the Black U.S. soldiers ordered into the Battle of the Crater?

**Follow the Tour Road over the bridge to Stop #8.**   
**Once on the sidewalk, stay to the right and follow the sidewalk ‘Crater via Tunnel’. Answer the following questions as you walk the 0.75 mile loop to the tunnel and then to the Crater.**

1. What was the objective of the mine construction?
2. Who oversaw and completed the mine construction?
3. How many pounds of powder did the Federals pack into the underground magazines?
4. How long was the tunnel?
5. How did the miners get fresh air into the mine for the workers?
6. How large was the hole/crater that was created?
7. How many Confederate casualties were caused by the explosion?
8. Even though the explosion was successful, General Grant called the episode a “stupendous failure.” Why were the Federal soldiers unsuccessful in capturing Petersburg after the explosion?
9. For whom does the large monument behind the Crater honor and where was he from?

**From Stop #8 return to the Park Tour Road and follow it back across the bridge over the railroad tracks.**   
**Turn right onto Encampment Trail at trail junction AA. Follow Encampment trail to trail junction T and turn right on Birney Trail. At the next trail junction (R), continue Harrison Creek Trail to the left. At the next trail junction (Q) turn right on the Water Line Trail. Follow the Water Line Trail and continue straight through trail junction HH. The Water Line Trail dead ends into Prince George Courthouse Road Trail at trail junction D.**

*Less than half a mile to your right was the location of the Meade Station along the United States Military Railroad (USMRR). This rail was built by the Federal army and was critical in supplying their soldiers during the siege of Petersburg. From the waterfront at City Point, Virginia (8 miles east of here) more than 100,000 troops were supplied with food and equipment transported by rail lines and wagons to the front. Tons of supplies travelling on 15 trains per day were delivered to the U.S. soldiers fighting in the trenches before Petersburg. So effective was this supply system that a U.S. soldier serving in the front lines here could receive a warm piece of bread from the bakeries at City Point.*

**Turn left onto Prince George Courthouse Road Trail and continue to Tour Stop #3.**

1. What did the Black U.S. Troops (United States Colored Troops) capture here the evening of June 15, 1864?
2. List two tasks of a soldier in camp.
3. What group of soldiers is this monument honoring?

**Follow the Jordan Point Road Trail (red) on the left for 0.17 miles. At trail junction H, take a left onto Branch Creek Trail (red). Stay true on this trail and bear left at each intersection until you reach the Park Tour Road at trail junction K. Turn left onto the road and travel about 100 yards up the hill to Tour Stop #2.**

1. By the morning of June 16, 1864, which Confederate batteries had the U.S. soldiers captured?
2. What Federal regiments captured Battery #8?

**Retrace your steps back down the hill and the Tour Road. Continue along the Tour Road towards the bridge. At the next wayside on the right, after trail Junction L, answer the following questions.**

1. When was Camp Lee established?
2. What was the U.S. Army division that trained (and was created) at Camp Lee?

*In 1950 Camp Lee was designated as an official post and name Fort Lee. In the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, in Section 370, Fort Lee was picked as part of the renaming of military assets which were associated with the Confederate States of America. On April 27, 2023, Fort Lee was redesignated as Fort Gregg-Adams.*

**Continue over the bridge and return to the Eastern Front Visitor Center to purchase the**   
**Petersburg National Battlefield BSA Historic Trail Patch.**

**Congratulations on completing the hike!**