

2010 S.C. Military Heritage 4-Day Itinerary

From fierce partisan conflict during the Revolutionary War through the skies over Baghdad and on the ground in Afghanistan, South Carolina has played a crucial role in U.S. military history.

In fact, more skirmishes and battles during the Revolutionary War occurred in South Carolina than in any other colony. And today, two of the nation's largest training installations – the Army's Fort Jackson and the Marines' Parris Island – call South Carolina home.

Below is a four-day itinerary that offers a look at just some of the state's military heritage and history. Be sure to check online or by phone with your specific destination to verify days and hours of operation before making final plans.

Day 1: Parris Island, Hunting Island, Old Sheldon Church

Day 2: Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie, HL Hunley, Magnolia Cemetery

Day 3: Fort Jackson, Relic Room, Camden

Day 4: Old 96, Musgrove Mill, Cowpens, Kings Mountain.

Itinerary Details

Day 1: South Carolina's Lowcountry is where the journey begins. Visit [Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island](#). After stopping in at the Douglas Visitor Center, take a driving tour and make sure to visit the Marine Corps' first [Command Museum](#) – chronicling the Corps' long history and that of adjacent Port Royal and the French and Spanish settlements that preceded it. Don't miss [recruit graduation](#) if there's one going on that day. On the way out of Beaufort, stop at the evocative ruins of the 1740s [Old Sheldon Church](#), a church first burned down by Tories loyal to the king in the Revolutionary War and then later by Union troops in the Civil War. Then drive well inland to the isolated Salkehatchie River and [Rivers Bridge State Historic Site](#), the only state-preserved Civil War battlefield where still intact earthworks stand as silent testament in the brooding, moss-draped woods to the fierce two-day struggle in 1865 as outnumbered Confederate fighters tried to hold off Sherman's march through the South.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.beaufortsc.org, www.hiltonheadisland.org or www.southcarolinalowcountry.com.

Day 2: Historic Charleston. Retrace the first shots of the Civil War by taking the ferry from Liberty Square to [Fort Sumter](#). Then head to nearby [Fort Moultrie](#). See where, years earlier, British cannonballs bounced off palmetto logs, giving succor to Patriots and eventually the new state an enduring symbol for its flag. Visit the [HL Hunley](#), the first submarine to sink a ship in combat. Pulled from the Atlantic 136 years after she sank, taking a crew of eight with her, the boat now rests in a 90,000-gallon tank. The crew was buried in 2004 with full military honors in [Magnolia Cemetery](#), the final resting place for more than 2,000 Civil War veterans, including five Confederate generals.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.explorecharleston.com.

Day 3: Victory Starts Here. That's the motto of [Fort Jackson](#), the massive Army training post in Columbia. Check out the post [museum](#) and take in the sights and sounds of graduation, typically on Fridays. Then visit the [South Carolina Confederate Relic Room & Military Museum](#), founded in 1896 by the Daughters of the Confederacy and now a depository for relics and memories from the Revolutionary War through today. Check out the monuments on the nearby [State House](#) grounds, and the brass stars on the side of the building that mark where Union cannonballs struck in 1865. Stroll inside the graceful old building and check out the paintings, including the moving "Angel of Marye's Heights," depicting a Confederate soldier from South Carolina providing water to a wounded Union soldier as the shooting ceased for his mercy mission during the Battle of Fredericksburg. Make the short drive to [Camden](#), South Carolina's oldest inland town, and see where Cornwallis and forces made headquarters and handed the Americans one of their sharpest defeats.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.columbiacvb.com or www.lakemurraycountry.com.

Day 4: America's Revolution. The Revolutionary War was waged across much of South Carolina. Follow the trail (now Interstate 26) to [Musgrove Mill State Historic Site](#), which tells the story of a fierce fight in August 1780 between about 200 Patriot militiamen and 600 Tories and provincial regulars from Ninety Six. Then drive over to [Ninety Six National Historic Site](#) to see the wooden fences of the Star Fort built by Tories and their slaves in 1780. Two more Revolutionary War battlefields, site of crucial Patriot victories, are a bit farther upstate at [Cowpens National Battlefield](#) and [Kings Mountain National Military Park](#). Each of these sites includes walking trails, exhibits and occasional living history programs.

Eating and Sleeping: Research your many options at www.sctravelold96.com or www.sctravel.net.

Where to stay, what to eat ...

Each of the destinations on this itinerary offers a wide range of dining and overnight accommodations options. Continue your online exploration at visit www.DiscoverSouthCarolina.com.