

The Battle for WINCHESTER

A Civil War Tour

**This town changed hands over 70 times during the Civil War; thirteen times in one day!
Get a fresh perspective on the turmoil from this comprehensive tour.**

Day One

Begin your tour at the **Civil War Orientation Center**, located in the Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center. The CWOC features a brief film and an interactive kiosk.



Head into Old Town Winchester to tour **Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters**. On display at this 1854 Gothic Revival style cottage is the General's prayer book and camp table. The **Old Court House Civil War Museum** is just down the street and features over 3,000 relics from the war. A unique feature of this 1840 Court House is the Union and Confederate graffiti left on the walls by soldiers who were held there as prisoners of war. The Court House also served as a hospital for both sides.

Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many cafés or restaurants located on the pedestrian mall. A knowledgeable guide will join you after lunch for a walking tour of Winchester. By visiting sites on foot, you will learn more about the war's impact on the residents, mostly women and children who remained at home.

Before leaving downtown, make a stop at two significant Civil War cemeteries. **Stonewall Cemetery** is the burial site of Turner Ashby, Stonewall Jackson's Cavalry Leader. This cemetery is the final resting place for over 2,500 brave Confederate soldiers. Across the street from Stonewall Cemetery, **Winchester National Cemetery** is the burial grounds for Union soldiers who fought and died at the battles of Winchester, New Market, Front Royal, Snickers Gap, Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, and Romney.

Head south to Kernstown, where Stonewall Jackson suffered his only defeat in 1862 on the **Kernstown Battlefield**. This well-preserved tract of land was the site of battles in 1862 and 1864.

Relax for dinner at a restaurant where a local historian will speak casually with your group about the lesser-known details of Winchester during the war.



Day Two

Begin your day at the Visitor Contact Station for **Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park**.

Here, you will experience displays and exhibits that provide an introduction to the 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek. The site of this preserved battlefield plays home to a commemorative reenactment every October.

A Park Ranger will join your bus and take you to the National Park, where your group will be presented with a tour or program on the Battle of Cedar Creek or Civil War history in the Shenandoah Valley.

Enjoy a picnic lunch on the spacious grounds of **Belle Grove Plantation**, or feast on the fare of a nearby eatery. Complete your afternoon with a tour of the beautifully restored 1797 Manor House, rich in history and Civil War significance. The home was built by Major Isaac Hite and his wife Nelly Madison Hite, sister of President James Madison. Make sure to take in the property's scenic views of the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains before you leave!



This tour can be tailored to fit the specific interests of your group. Other options include the **Newtown History Center** in Stephens City, **Star Fort**, which played a strategic role in the defense of Winchester, or a guided driving tour featuring **Shawnee Springs Hospital**, **Stephenson's Depot**, and the **Third Winchester Battlefield**.

Walk in the footsteps of those who lived and died in the Battle for Winchester!

Contact the CVB for more information about this and other exciting group tours.

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Get a Better View of History!



**Winchester-Frederick County
Convention & Visitors Bureau**

