Hiking through History

The American Revolution
Philadelphia Campaign of 1777

Regional Trails

East Coast Greenway
Stretching from Maine to Florida, this 3,000-mile long walking and biking route passes near the Battle of Cooch’s Bridge in Delaware, through the streets of historic Philadelphia, and continues north along the Delaware River.

Mason-Dixon Trail
This 196-mile natural surface footpath begins in Chadds Ford, PA near the Brandywine River Museum of Art and the Brandywine Battlefield Park, crosses into Delaware and Maryland and then ends in Cumberland County, PA.

Brandywine Trail
Beginning near the Brandywine Battlefield Park, this 27-mile trail provides a recreational hiking path that will eventually connect Wilmington, DE to the Appalachian Trail via the Horse-Shoe Trail.

Chester Valley Trail
This multi-use rail-to-trail extends 14.7 miles through central Chester County from West Whiteland Township to the Valley Forge region and into Montgomery County.

Horse-Shoe Trail
The trail begins at Valley Forge and extends west for 135 miles to its junction with the Appalachian Trail on top of Stony Mountain about 12 miles north of Hershey, PA.

Schuylkill River Trail
There are currently 60 miles of completed sections of this multi-use trail including a 22-mile off-road multi-use trail from Philadelphia to Valley Forge where it meets the Perkiomen Trail and the Horse-Shoe Trail.

Perkiomen Trail
This 20-mile trail follows the route of the Perkiomen Creek. The paved and crushed stone surface is suitable for biking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

Wissahickon Trail
This 20-mile trail stretches along the Wissahickon Creek from Stenton Avenue in Whitemarsh Township to a point near Lansdale Borough. A two-mile section passes through Fort Washington State Park.

Michael N. Castle Trail/Ben Cardin Recreational Trail
A 14-mile shared-use paved trail that connects Delaware City, DE with Chesapeake City, MD, this trail extends through almost 5,000 acres of the C&D Canal Conservation Area, along the north bank of the C&D Canal.

Please note: information within this brochure is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate.

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Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates
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Find links to more information about these trails at brandywine.org/hikingthroughhistory

Brandywine Creek Greenway App
View a more comprehensive list of parks in the area on your smartphone. Go to brandywine.org/app or scan this code for more information.

Hike, bike, and drive following Generals Washington and Howe to explore the region’s Revolutionary War History with this informative map. The routes shown depict the American and British troop movements from the British landing on the Elk River near Elkton, MD (August 25, 1777) to the capture of Philadelphia (September 26, 1777) culminating with the American winter encampment at Valley Forge and the British occupation of Philadelphia (winter 1777-1778). Featured with the troop movements are over 330 miles of regional multi-use trails and greenways including the 3,000-mile-long East Coast Greenway and the 195-mile Mason-Dixon Trail. More than 25 popular parks and preserves that offer local trails are also included, from interpretive park locations such as the Brandywine Battlefield Park in Chadds Ford to Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia.
Battles of the Philadelphia Campaign

The Philadelphia campaign (1777) was a British initiative in the American Revolutionary War to gain control of Philadelphia, which was then the seat of the Second Continental Congress.

ELKTON—COOCH’S BRIDGE
In August of 1777, an 18,000-strong British Army sailed south from New York City to (present-day) Elkton, Maryland. Their aim: capture Philadelphia, the capital of the American Revolution. For several hours on September 3, 1777, Continental troops fought with British and Hessian soldiers at Cooch’s Bridge in Newark, Delaware.

BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE
The British Army faced off with Washington’s troops on September 11, 1777, near today’s village of Chadds Ford in the largest single-day land battle of the War. The armies engaged in a hard fought battle until nightfall when the Americans were forced to retreat to Chester.

BATTLE OF THE CLOUDS
On September 16, 1777, less than a week after the Battle of Brandywine, two full armies of 26,000 met and engaged briefly before a violent storm pre-empted the battle. Outnumbered and very short on dry munitions, Washington retreated in the night toward Yellow Springs and then continued north to protect Reading Furnace.

BATTLE OF PAOLI
On September 20-21, 1777, British troops led a surprise midnight attack on an encampment of Pennsylvania soldiers commanded by Anthony Wayne near the Paoli Tavern. This gruesome, hand-to-hand combat became known as the Paoli Massacre and resulted in many casualties among the Pennsylvania soldiers.

OCCUPATION OF PHILADELPHIA
On September 26, 1777, the British Army marched unopposed into Philadelphia. Although welcomed by Loyalist townspeople, the occupation of the city did not lead to the end of the Revolutionary War. The British Army left the city in June of 1778.

BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN
Troops from both sides met on October 4, 1777, at Germantown in an attempt by General Washington to secure a victory after the British capture of Philadelphia. Although Washington retreated, the Continental Army was still able to deal significant casualties to British troops and be proud of their hard-fought effort.

RED BANK—FORT MERCER
On October 22, 1777, a large Hessian force assaulted Fort Mercer (also known as Red Bank) on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River. Continental troops repulsed the attack and the Hessians sustained heavy casualties.

FORT MIFFLIN—CAPTURE OF FORT MERCER
Continental and militia forces continued to occupy the Delaware River forts even after the British captured Philadelphia, denying ships access to the city. As the siege intensified, they finally abandoned Fort Mifflin on November 15, 1777, and Fort Mercer shortly thereafter.

BATTLE OF GLOUCESTER
Washington detached a small force under General Nathanael Greene and the newly-arrived French officer Marquis de Lafayette to scout British positions in New Jersey. On November 25th, 1777, they surprised and defeated the enemy in a skirmish that became known as the Battle of Gloucester.

BATTLE OF WHITE MARSH
In early December, British General Sir William Howe sent an expedition from Philadelphia to attack Washington’s army. They fought a series of inconclusive skirmishes around today’s Whitemarsh Township, the last substantial battles of the Philadelphia Campaign.

MATSON’S FORD—VALLEY FORGE
On December 11th, 1777, Pennsylvania militia skirmished with a British foraging party near Matson’s Ford outside today’s Conshohocken. Afterwards, Washington’s Continental Army marched to Valley Forge, where they arrived on December 19th.

Parks and Preserves

1. Elk Neck State Forest
2. John P. Stanley Memorial Park
3. Elk River Park
4. Lampas Pond State Park
5. Glasgow Park
6. Cooch’s Bridge Battlefield
7. Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area
8. White Clay Creek State Park
9. First State National Historical Park
10. Brandywine Creek State Park
11. Brandywine Battlefield Park
12. Sandy Hollow Heritage Park
13. Birmingham Hill
14. ChesaLea Preserve
15. Stroud Preserve
16. Ridley Creek State Park
17. East Gulph Township Park/Applebrook Park
18. Paoli Battlefield Historical Park & Paoli Memorial Grounds
19. Exton Park
20. Marsh Creek State Park
21. Thomas P. Bentley Preserve
22. French Creek State Park
23. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
24. Valley Forge National Historical Park
25. Evansburg State Park
26. Norristown Farm Park
27. Wissahickon Valley Park
28. Fairmount Park
29. Cobbs Creek Park
30. Franklin D. Roosevelt Park
31. John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge
32. Red Bank Battle Field Park
33. Fort Washington State Park

*Includes Revolutionary War interpretation signs

Parks and Preserves Amenities
- Hiking
- Playground
- Athletic Fields
- Biking
- Boating
- Camping
- Fishing
- Picnic
- SEPTA access nearby