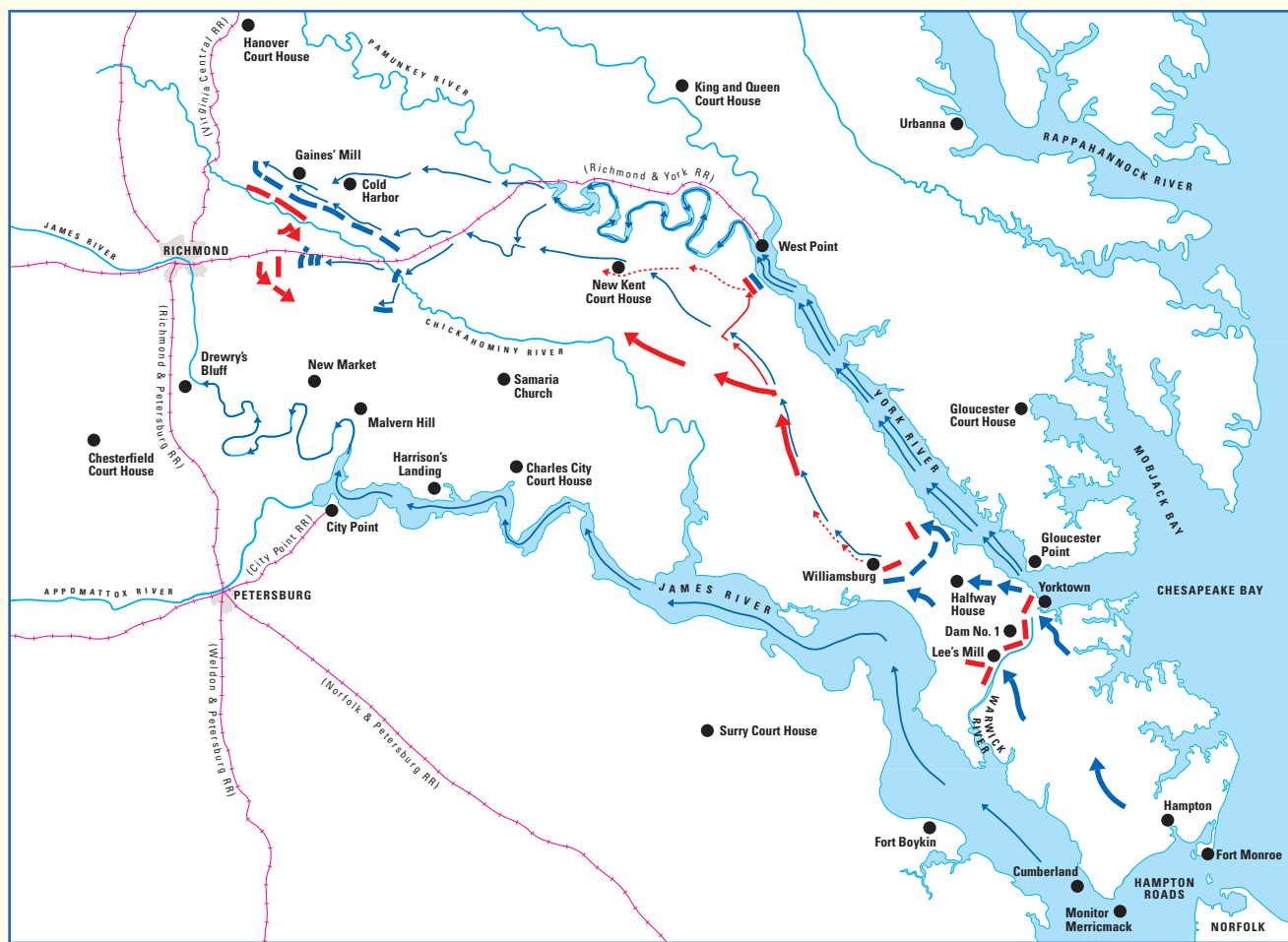




Major General John Bankhead Magruder, CSA
Commander, Army of the Peninsula
Divisional Commander,
Army of Northern Virginia

General Robert E. Lee, CSA
Military Advisor to the President
September 1861-June 1862
Commander, Army of Northern Virginia
June 1862-April 1865

General Joseph Eggleston Johnston, CSA
Commander, Department of Potomac
August 1861-May 1862



McClellan's army landed at Fort Monroe and in April began its advance up the Peninsula, clashing with the Confederates at Dam No. 1, laying siege to Yorktown and fighting battles at Williamsburg and Hanover Court House. By the end of May, the Federals were only six miles from Richmond. But then Johnston's Confederate army struck back with a massive attack at Seven Pines.



Brigadier General Edwin Vose Sumner, USA
Commander, II Corps,
Army of the Potomac

Major General George Brinton McClellan, USA
Commander, Army of the Potomac

Brigadier General Erasmus Darwin Keyes, USA
Commander, IV Corps,
Army of the Potomac

The 1862 Peninsula Campaign is undoubtedly one of the Civil War's most pivotal events. The Confederacy was reeling from defeats in the Mississippi region and along the North Carolina coast when Maj. Gen. George Brinton McClellan, USA, conceived a strategic plan to strike at Richmond by way of the Peninsula between the York and James rivers. It was a sound concept enabling the Union to utilize its naval superiority to protect McClellan's flanks and carry his troops. Yet this brilliant plan failed.

Even before McClellan began moving his troops to the Peninsula, the emergence of the powerful ironclad ram CSS *Virginia* (*Merrimack*) disrupted his plan. The *Virginia* blocked the James River and forced McClellan to concentrate on the York River. His path to Richmond, however, was also blocked by Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder's, CSA, fortifications at Yorktown and along the Warwick River. Magruder's bluff of strength prompted McClellan to besiege the Confederate defenses. The month's delay was critical and contributed to the campaign's ultimate downfall.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, CSA, moved his entire army down to the Peninsula in late April, but he abandoned the Warwick-Yorktown Line on May 3. Thus, McClellan's elaborately planned

assault had no one to destroy. McClellan attempted to cut off the Confederate retreat. The bloody May 7 rear guard action at Williamsburg and a flanking move with Brig. Gen. William B. Franklin's, USA, division up the York River to Eltham's Landing on May 6 both failed to achieve their objectives. The armies then continued their slow march through the rain and mud toward Richmond.

The Confederate retreat caused Norfolk to be evacuated on May 9. The *Virginia* (*Merrimack*), deprived of its base, was destroyed by its crew on May 11. The James River door to Richmond was now open, but only temporarily, as the Union fleet, including the ironclads USS *Monitor* and USS *Galena*, was stopped on May 15 by Confederate batteries at Drewry's Bluff.

Lincoln's fears for Washington's safety caused McClellan to operate astride the Chickahominy River. This divided his army. Joe Johnston tried to destroy half of the Union army on May 31 when he attacked McClellan at Seven Pines (Fair Oaks). The poorly coordinated assault failed and Johnston was seriously wounded. The next day, Gen. Robert E. Lee assumed command of the Confederate forces around Richmond.

Lee now prepared for his offensive strike against McClellan. He sent Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, CSA, on what became a spectacular ride around the Union army and then unleashed his troops against Brig. Gen. Fitz-John Porter's V Corps north of the Chickahominy. The Seven Days Battles thus began with all of their fury at Beaver Dam Creek on June 26 and ended in the bloodbath at Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862. Richmond was saved, but Lee failed to win a decisive tactical victory as McClellan moved his army to the James River.

McClellan's failure to capture Richmond caused the war to last three more bloody years. Yet, the campaign changed the course of American history as the war's continuance transformed it into a crusade for freedom.

BATTLES AND LEADERS

When Virginia left the Union in April 1861, the control of Hampton Roads - with its ports, shipyards and forts - became an important strategic goal for both North and South. Fort Monroe became a major Union base while the Confederacy sought to build a navy at Gosport Naval Yard.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler was the first Federal commander to recognize that the Peninsula provided a direct approach to Richmond. His efforts to expand Union control were thwarted by John Bankhead Magruder, CSA, and D.H. Hill, CSA, at Big Bethel on June 10, 1861. It was the Civil War's first land battle.

George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign resulted in the Union seizing control of all of Hampton Roads. President Abraham Lincoln personally oversaw the

May 5, 1862, Battle of Williamsburg, Kurtz & Allison



Brigadier General Philip Kearny



Lt. General James Longstreet, Confederate rear-guard at Williamsburg and during the April-May 1863 Siege of Suffolk.

capture of Norfolk and Portsmouth in May 1862. The vital canals linking the Chesapeake Bay with North Carolina soon fell under Union command. A critical shipbuilding, transportation and agricultural area had been lost to the South's use in the Peninsula Campaign's wake.

Even though the Union maintained a firm grip on the Tidewater region during the next three years, the Confederacy never gave up hope of liberating the area. Lt. Gen. James Longstreet with Maj. Gen. John Bell Hood, CSA, and Maj. Gen. George Pickett, CSA, attempted to recapture Suffolk in the spring of 1863. The resulting siege only enabled the Confederacy to obtain food supplies from the surrounding rich agricultural area.

Smithfield was the only Tidewater town to remain in Confederate hands throughout the war. The Federals launched one attempt to capture the town using the gunboat USS *Smith-Briggs* early in 1864. It failed as local soldiers were able to destroy the *Smith-Briggs*.

TECHNOLOGY



Remodeling the "Merrimack"

The Civil War was the world's first modern war due in part to the introduction of new technology. Many of these new machines of war were first seen in combat during the Peninsula Campaign.

The first battle between the ironclads, the USS *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia* (*Merrimack*), on March 9, 1862, changed naval warfare forever. No longer would wooden sailing ships rule the waves - ironclads became the key to naval superiority.

Jack LaMountain's balloons had already appeared over Hampton Roads in the summer of 1861, when McClellan brought with him Thaddeus S.C. Lowe, Chief Aeronaut of the Army of the Potomac. Lowe's two gas balloons, the *Intrepid* and the *Constitution*, were launched almost daily during the 1862 Warwick-Yorktown Siege to observe Confederate defenses. The Southerners responded with their own crude hot air balloon. They also introduced the first anti-aircraft guns as Col. E.P. Alexander, CSA, elevated his artillery to send shot and shell against Union aerial observers. When the Confederates retreated from

their defenses they left behind Brig. Gen. Gabriel Rains', CSA, land mines. This innovative anti-personnel weapon slowed the Union advance but also caused indignation in both the North and the South.

McClellan's army on the Peninsula was one of the most well-equipped in history. His 103 siege guns were among the most advanced and powerful weapons in the world. More heavy artillery was aimed on Yorktown than had ever been massed in a single spot to that time in world history. Several of his units were also equipped with the novel Ager Gun. Deployed at Lee's Mill, the so-called coffee mill gun became the first rapid-fire gun to see combat in America.

The Civil War witnessed the introduction of new weapons and other industrial technology that changed warfare forever and helped to make this conflict the bloodiest in our nation's history.

Professor T.S.C. Lowe's balloons *Intrepid* and *Constitution*.



CIVILIANS

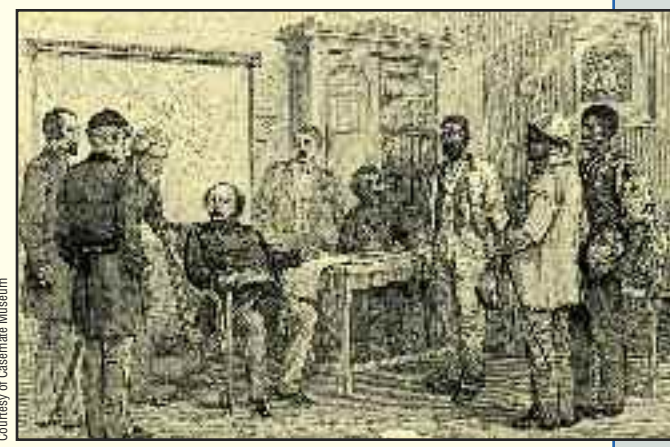
"One cannot help reflecting on the change wrought by time and events. Where now crowds of hardy soldiers refresh their tired frames by gambling in the luxuriously fresh waves of the James River, only twelve months ago the nobility and fashion of the South gathered to enjoy the stillness and beauty of the scenery, and so the change ever goes on!"

- Capt. Ole Peter Balley, New York Volunteers

Few Tidewater residents realized in 1861 that within four years their agrarian economic system would shatter. Soon they would find their homes and fields in ruin, their slave work force liberated, their financial resources depleted, and their homeland under military occupation.

Both sides recognized Hampton Roads' strategic importance and Fort Monroe quickly became a Federal bastion within the Confederacy. Ben Butler's May 1861 decision to consider slaves escaping into Union lines as "Contraband of War" was the Civil War's first step toward it becoming a war to end slavery. As Fort Monroe and Camp Butler became magnets for African-Americans seeking freedom, the Confederates burned the old colonial port town of Hampton to stop it from becoming a "safe harbor for traitors and contrabands."

By 1862 most of the Tidewater region fell under Union control. Commercial centers



Ben Butler and the "Contrabands"

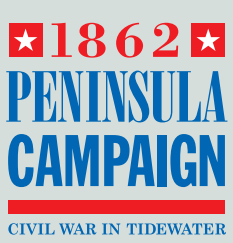
like Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Great Bridge thrived economically under Union occupation. Other towns did not. Williamsburg's Wren Building was burned and desolation remained throughout the countryside in the wake of the passing armies.

"How changed everything was on our return.... A good many of the houses gone, the fields uncultivated and covered with shrubbery, fences burned, orchards destroyed and everything laid waste."

- George Ben West



Front view of St. John's Church, Hampton, Virginia. Destroyed with the whole town by the Rebels under Gen. Magruder. Watercolor by Lt. Robert Sneden.

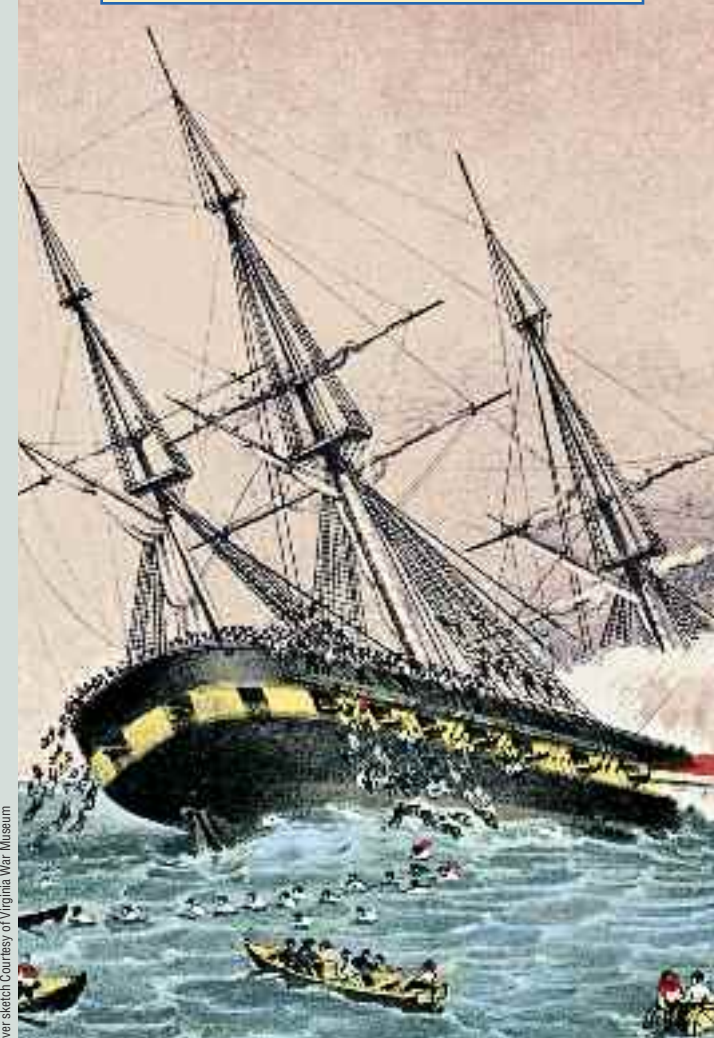
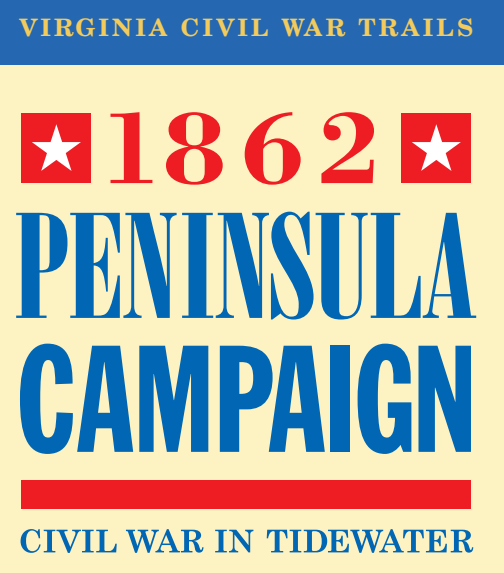


Cover: "The Sinking of the 'Cumberland' by the Iron Clad 'Merrimack' off Newport News, VA March 8, 1862. The "Cumberland" went down with all her flags flying; - destroyed but not conquered - Her gallant Commander Lieut. Morris calling to his crew "Give them a Broadside boys, as she goes."



Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond, Suffolk, Williamsburg, and the Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Gloucester, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, New Kent, Southampton and York

1-888-CIVIL WAR



The main part of this guide suggests a driving tour that follows the roads and describes the events associated with the first serious campaign against the Confederate capital in Richmond. Follow the "Blue Line" tour that highlights some of the best known events in American history such as the "Battle of the Ironclads" in Hampton Roads. Travel the roads the soldiers used as they marched ever-so-slowly toward Richmond over the swampy ground of the Virginia Peninsula. Visit the battlefields in Newport News and Williamsburg and end the campaign in the suburbs of Richmond, where new Confederate commander Robert E. Lee turned back the Union threat. Visit the fine museums and historic houses along the way, including Lee Hall, the tour headquarters, and the Mariners' Museum, now conserving parts of the famous ironclad, the USS *Monitor*. Tour north or south of the James River through Gloucester, Smithfield, Suffolk, Chesapeake and Franklin. Discover Old Town Portsmouth and near-forgotten Civil War sites in Norfolk. For more detailed travel information, stop by any Virginia Welcome Center or local/regional visitor center or contact any of the attractions or visitor bureaus listed in this guide. For additional Civil War Trails information, visit www.CivilWarTrails.org. For more Virginia travel information, see www.Virginia.org.



Travelers enjoy one of the colorful, interpretive markers along the trail.

Follow these signs to more than 500 Civil War sites in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina

THE CIVIL WAR REVISITED



The following further explore and expand upon the story of the Civil War:

- Carrie B. Harbor Tour**
6 Crawford Pkwy.
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
757-393-4735
www.carriebcruises.com
- Casemate Museum**
20 Bernard Road
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651
757-788-3391
- Chesapeake Conventions and Tourism**
900 Greenbrier Circle
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320
888-889-5551
www.visitchesapeake.com
- City of Franklin**
207 W. Second Avenue
Franklin, Virginia 23851
757-562-8506
www.franklinva.com
- Gloucester Tourism**
6509 Main Street
Gloucester, Virginia 23061
866-VISITUS
www.gloucesterva.info
- Hampton Visitor Center/History Museum**
120 Old Hampton Lane
Hampton, Virginia 23669
800-800-2202
www.hamptoncvb.com
- The Mariners' Museum**
100 Museum Drive
Newport News, Virginia 23606
800-581-7245
www.mariner.org
- Newport News Visitor Information Center**
13560 Jefferson Avenue
Newport News, Virginia 23603
888-493-7386
www.newport-news.org
- Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau**
232 E. Main Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
800-368-3097
www.norfolkcvb.com
- Portsmouth Visitor Information Center**
6 Crawford Pkwy.
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
800-PORTSVA
www.ci.portsmouth.va.us
- Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum**
2 High Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
757-393-8591
www.portsnavalmuseums.com
- Richmond National Battlefield Park**
Civil War Visitor Center
Tredgar & Fifth Sts.
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-771-2145
www.nps.gov/rich
- Smithfield and Isle of Wight Visitor Center**
335 Main Street
Smithfield, Virginia 23431
800-365-9339
www.smithfield-virginia.com
- Suffolk Visitor Center**
321 N. Main Street
Suffolk, Virginia 23434
866-SEE-SUFK
www.suffolk.va.us
- Virginia War Museum**
9285 Warwick Boulevard
Newport News, Virginia 23607
757-247-8523
www.warmuseum.org
- Williamsburg Visitor Center**
421 N. Boundary Street
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
800-368-6511
www.visitwilliamsburg.com
- Yorktown National Park Visitor Service Center**
P.O. Box 210
Yorktown, Virginia 23690
757-898-3400
www.nps.gov/colo



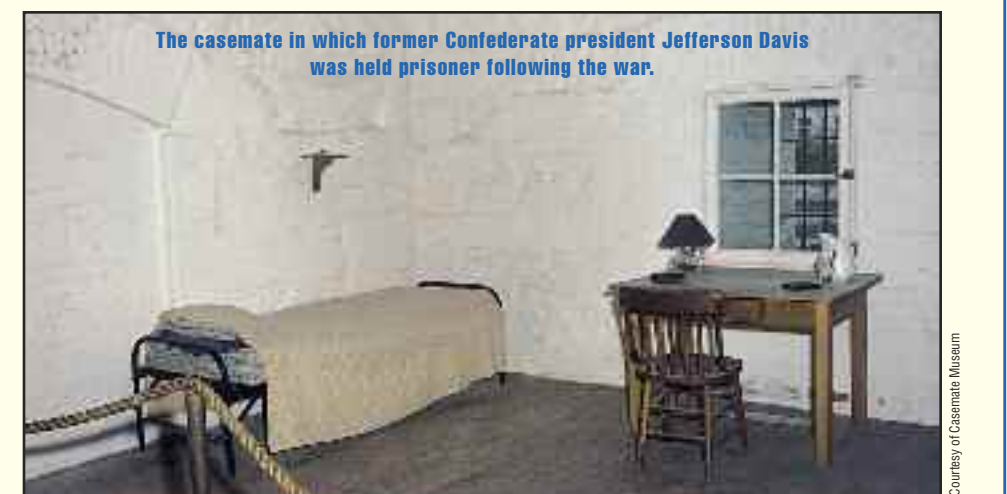
Portion of Rebel battery at Wynn's Mill. The gun which wounded Lt. Wagner, Topographical Engineer. Sketch by Alfred Waud.



Lee Hall Mansion was built in the 1850s by Richard Decatur Lee and was used as headquarters by Magruder and Johnston during the Peninsula Campaign.



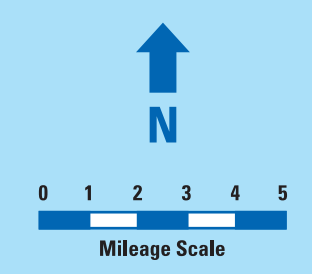
Portsmouth Naval Hospital was completed in 1830. This Greek Revival structure was used by both Confederate and Union forces.



The casemate in which former Confederate president Jefferson Davis was held prisoner following the war.

1862 PENINSULA CAMPAIGN

CIVIL WAR IN TIDEWATER



- Peninsula Campaign Driving Route
- Seven Days Battles Driving Route
- Alternate Peninsula Campaign Driving Route
- ★ 1862 Peninsula Campaign Site
- Other Civil War Trails Site
- National, State or County Park
- Ⓜ Information or Welcome Center

- ### ★ MARCH UP THE PENINSULA ★
- Fort Monroe - Largest masonry fortification in America and an important Union base for campaigns throughout the Civil War.
 - Fort Wool - The companion fortification to Fort Monroe. The fort was used in operations against Confederate-held Norfolk in 1861-1862.
 - Hampton - Confederates burned this port town to block its use by the Federals on August 7, 1861.
 - St. John's Church - This church is the only surviving building from the 1861 burning of Hampton.
 - Big Bethel - This June 10, 1861, engagement was the first land battle of the Civil War.
 - Monitor-Merrimack Overlook - Scene of the March 9, 1862, Battle of the Ironclads.
 - Congress and Cumberland Overlook - Scene of the March 8, 1862, sinking of the USS Cumberland and USS Congress by the ironclad CSS Virginia (Merrimack).
 - St. Luke's Church - Built in 1832, the church was a Confederate campground.
 - Fort Boykin - This star fort was the southside anchor of the Warwick-Yorktown Line.
 - Causesy's Mill - 1866 grist mill is located near the site of the April 4, 1862 skirmish.
 - Young's Mill - The earthworks located near this 1820 tide mill were part of Magruder's defenses.
 - Warwick Court House - Built in 1810, it served as IV Corps Commander Brig. Gen. Erasmus D. Keyes' headquarters. The gas balloon, Constitution, was deployed at this site.
 - Battle of Lee's Mill - These fortifications were the scene of the April 5, 1862, engagement which prompted Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan to besiege Magruder's Warwick-Yorktown Line.
 - Skiffes Creek - This redoubt is part of the Skiffes Creek Line, built to defend Magruder's Mulberry Island-James River flank.
 - Lee Hall - This antebellum mansion was used as a headquarters building by Confederate generals John Bankhead Magruder and Joseph E. Johnston.
 - Battle of Dam No. 1 - This April 16, 1862, engagement was McClellan's only effort to break Magruder's defenses.
 - Endview - This 1760 house served as a Confederate and Union hospital.
 - Lebanon Church - This 1859 church served as a Confederate courier station and temporary headquarters for U.S. Gen. W.F. Smith.
 - Gloucester Point - Companion batteries to those at Yorktown, these defenses helped block the York River to McClellan's use during the Peninsula Campaign.
 - Yorktown - A major link in Magruder's 2nd Peninsula Defensive Line and the focus of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's siege April 5-May 3, 1862.
 - Yorktown Waterfront - Once the Confederates abandoned Yorktown it became a busy Union port.
 - Redoubt 12 - Part of Magruder's Williamsburg Line.
 - Fort Magruder - The center of the Williamsburg (3rd) Defensive Line and the scene of fierce fighting during the Battle of Williamsburg.
 - Williamsburg Line - These redoubts supported the defense of Fort Magruder as well as repelling Union attacks against the Confederate right during the May 5, 1862, Battle of Williamsburg.
 - Quarterpath Road - J.E.B. Stuart used this historic road trace while acting as a rear guard for the retreating Confederate army.
 - Wren Building - Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. Jubal Early encamped here prior to the May 5, 1862, Battle of Williamsburg.
 - Jamestown Island - Fortified by Confederates in 1861 to defend the James River approach to Richmond.
 - New Kent Court House - Confederate and Union troops passed through here en route to Richmond.
 - Drewry's Bluff - Confederate batteries above the James River repulse Union gun boats, including the Monitor, on May 15, 1862.
 - Seven Pines - Scene of Joe Johnston's attack against McClellan's army on May 31, 1862.
 - Dabbs House - Lee's first headquarters (June 1862) as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia.

- ### ★ SEVEN DAYS BATTLES ★
- Chickahominy Bluffs - Served as jumping off point for Confederate advance into Mechanicsville.
 - Beaver Dam Creek - On June 26, 1862, the Confederate army unsuccessfully attacked the Union forces at Ellerson's Mill on Beaver Dam Creek.
 - Gaines' Mill - The largest of the Seven Days Battles, the Confederate forces struck Union troops under the command of Brig. Gen. Fitz-John Porter.
 - Savage's Station - This June 29, 1862, engagement was part of the Seven Days Battles.
 - White Oak Swamp - "Stonewall" Jackson met strong Union resistance here and failed to support Confederate attacks at Glendale.
 - Glendale - At this crossroads on June 30, 1862, Lee's greatest attempt to destroy McClellan's army ended in failure.
 - Malvern Hill - This July 1, 1862, engagement was the last of the Seven Days Battles.
 - Harrison's Landing (Berkeley Plantation) - The Peninsula Campaign came to an end when McClellan's army arrived at this position on the James River.

- ### ★ RELATED TIDEWATER SITES ★
- Newport News POW Camp - Monument honors Confederate prisoners who died in the nearby Union POW Camp at Camp Butler, April-July 1865.
 - Gosport Navy Yard - The oldest U.S. Naval shipyard, it was here that the ironclad CSS Virginia (Merrimack) was created.
 - Portsmouth Naval Hospital - Used by Confederate and Union forces during the Civil War.
 - Portsmouth's Old Towne Historic District - Revolutionary and Civil War homes can be found in this one-square-mile historic district.
 - Battle of Smithfield - Confederates repulse the Union advance on January 31 and February 1, 1864, destroying the Union gunboat, USS Smith-Briggs.
 - Fort Norfolk - Occupied by both Confederate and Union forces during the Civil War.
 - Riddick's Folly - This 1837 Greek Revival home was occupied by Maj. Gen. J.J. Peck as his headquarters during the 1863 Suffolk Siege.
 - Siege of Suffolk - Lt. Gen. James Longstreet besieged Maj. Gen. J.J. Peck's 25,000 strong Union force in Suffolk from April 11-May 4, 1863.
 - Dismal Swamp Canal - The oldest operating artificial waterway in America, it provided access between the Chesapeake Bay and the North Carolina Sounds.
 - Village of Deep Creek - An important commercial center on the Great Dismal Swamp Canal.
 - Village of Great Bridge - A strategic crossing of the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal.
 - Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery - A monument to the "Jackson Grays," honors the regiment that was formed on the churchyard by Colonel William H. Stewart.
 - Glencoe - Home of Lt. William Wallace, of the "Jackson Grays."
 - Piney Grove - Farmstead depicting domestic life during the war.
 - Gabriel Chapel & Cuffeytown Cemetery - African American church with graves of thirteen U.S. Colored Troops who fought in Tidewater, Va.
 - Mahone Tavern - CS Gen. William Mahone's childhood home.
 - Blackwater Line - Strategic defense-line securing supplies for Confederate Army.

