

Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

was designated with the passage of PL 111-11, The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, in March of 2009.

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail stretches some 680 miles from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, Virginia. In Newport, French forces under the command of Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, landed in July 1780 and, with General George Washington and Continental Army forces, marched and/or sailed to to Yorktown. Here the combined armies forced the surrender of the British Army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis and essentially brought the American Revolution to a successful conclusion. The combined armies' march and assault on Yorktown has had the long-lasting effect of a continued friendship between America and the people of France.

Rochambeau's army remained in the Yorktown area through the end of 1781 and early 1782. In the summer of 1782, Rochambeau's army marched north to Boston and the bulk of his troops sailed to France on Christmas Eve of that year. In the crucial march south and then victoriously north after Yorktown, American and French troops were warmly greeted and celebrated by local residents. In all, nine future states and the future District of Columbia comprised portions of the route and supported the march, providing ports, roads, campsites, officers' lodging, food provisions and supplies.

The proposed trail links units of the National Park System, national heritage areas, and related resources administered by states, local governments and private organizations that commemorate the nation's struggle for independence. As one traverses the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, the places that ring of our nation's revolutionary past come into view from Newport to Hartford; Peekskill to Morristown, Princeton, and Trenton; Philadelphia and Valley Forge to Wilmington and Baltimore; and Mt. Vernon to Williamsburg and Yorktown.

The National Park Service prepared a study report on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) in 2006 which identified the principle routes of the French and Continental forces. Assembled here are the maps depicting the historic routes as a convenient reference for those who would like to learn more and for those involved in the upcoming planning effort to commemorate this epic story. Over the next few years, the National Park Service along with the National Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association and its state chapters, agencies and a host of partners, will begin a comprehensive planning effort to identify specific routes and to unify and enhance efforts to commemorate this important aspect of our nation's history. Keep in mind that these maps are a general reference. We envision developing more specific guides for those interested in experiencing the route by foot, bike, train, driving, boating and other modes of travel and visiting the many sites along the route.

We encourage you to join in our planning efforts. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about W3R:



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<http://www.nps.gov/boso/w-r/>



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