

## Four Hikes on the W3R® in Rhode Island

*This series of hikes follows the 50-mile path taken by Boy and Girl Scouts in 2006 in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the historic march by French and U.S. soldiers in 1781. This hike follows some of the same dirt roads through the woods as four divisions of French troops, each 1,000 strong, did some 225 years ago -- young men not much older than the Scouts, but carrying eight-pound muskets and forty-pound packs containing all they would wear and own during the three years they were in the United States. The base maps here are © 2005 DeLorme <www.delorme.com> Street Atlas USA®*

In 1780 July a squadron of transports and ships of the line delivered some 5,500 men of the French Expeditionary Force (FEF) in Newport RI. In 1781 June they marched west to New York to join the U.S Continentals and go south to Yorktown. Consider the economic benefit to Newport from housing and provisioning the French troops, then follow their footsteps north to Providence and then west to CT.

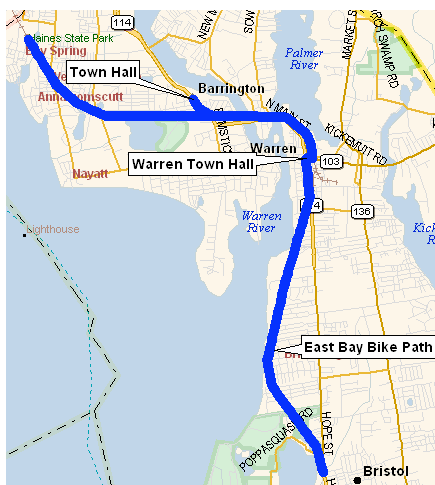
When the French came north in 1782 they retraced the route to Providence but rather than continuing to Newport they went to Boston, where they embarked for the Caribbean Islands. See our Web site <www.w3r-us.org> for a more detailed history of the arrival and stay in Newport RI, the march via Providence to CT, and the return north and march through RI to MA.

Note: This hiking route follows or parallels the historic route, providing as much contact as possible with the sort of scenery that the allied soldiers would have seen in 1781-83. Many W3R route markers are on the trail from Newport to Providence to where Rt 14A crosses into Connecticut.



### Hike A --Newport to Portsmouth (11.9 miles)

Start at Washington Square in Newport and hike along Farewell Street, past Governor's Cemetery, Braman Cemetery, and Newport Colonial Cemetery, to the Naval War College Museum. Continue via Elliot, Rochambeau, and Peary streets to Route 114 -- the "Burma Road" that runs along the bay. After passing Cory's Lane turn east onto Dexter, then north onto East Main, and turn up Patriots Way to the Portsmouth High School. Cross the athletic field, and hike into Fort Butts.

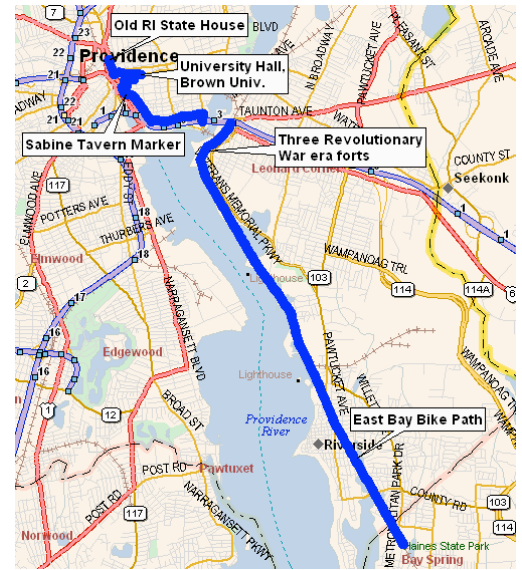


### Hike B -- Bristol to Barrington (8.5 miles)

Start at Independence Park in Bristol and follow the East Bay Bicycle Path north to the town of Warren's recreation area and then to Main Street. Continue on the path and cross over the Palmer River and the Barrington River. Continue along the path to end at Haines Memorial State Park.

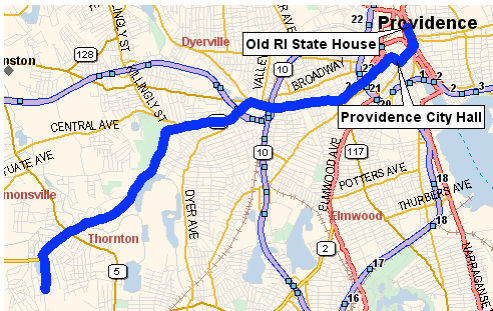
**Hike C -- Barrington to Providence (6.7 miles)**

Start at Haines Memorial State Park in East Providence and proceed along the East Bay Bike Path. Three forts stood along this shore in the Revolutionary era. Crossed the George Washington Bridge to Gano Street, turn left on Wickendon, right on Benefit, then left on Planet to South Main Street and the Sabine Tavern marker. Continue two blocks north on Main Street and turn right onto Hopkins Street, past the house of Stephen Hopkins -- Governor of Rhode Island in 1755 and a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Turn left on Benefit Street and right on College Hill to (Brown) University Hall to see the historic buildings there. Return to Main St, go right for 0.25 miles to end the hike at the old Rhode Island State House.



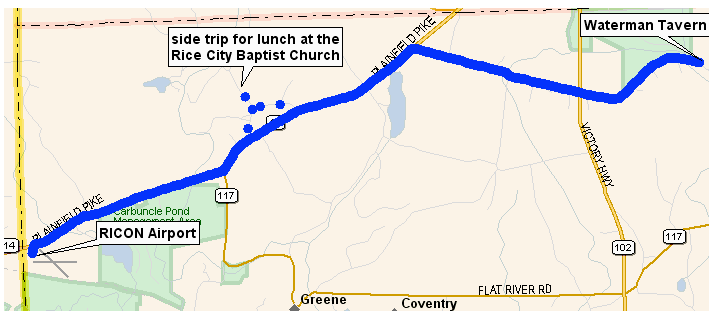
**Hike D -- Providence to Boy Scout Camp Champlin (5.5 miles)**

Start at the Old State House in Providence and proceed to the Market House at College Hill Bridge, west on Westminster, right on Dorrence past City Hall. Then left onto Washington St. and under I-95, turning left on Lafayette to Westminster, across the overpass. After 0.25 miles follow Nancy St about 1.5 miles to Neutaconkanut Hill Park. Continue 1.5 miles (Nancy St becomes the Plainfield St.); turn left on Stoney Acre Drive; stop at back entrance to Boy Scout Camp Champlin.



**Hike E -- Boy Scout Camp Champlin to Waterman's Tavern (12.2 miles)**

Start at Boy Scout Camp Champlin and go west on Rt 12 (Scituate Ave.), crossing Kent Dam. Continue straight on Burnt Hill Road, and after 2.0 miles (at end) turn right (west) onto Hope Furnace Road. After 1.0 miles (at end) turn left (south-west) onto Matteson Road. After 1.0 miles (at end) turn right (west) onto Maple Valley Road for 1.25 miles to the Rhode Island Historical marker at Waterman's Tavern.



**Hike F -- Waterman's Tavern to the RICON Airport (6.1 miles)**

From the corner of Maple Valley Road and Biscuit Hill Road (near Waterman's Tavern) followed Biscuit Hill Road 1.75 miles, cross Rt 102, then turn left onto Rt 14 (Plainfield Pike). Proceed southwest, past Carbuncle Pond Management Area, ending at the RICON Airport.