

W3R[®]-US Auto Tour through Maryland

Print It -- Read It -- Drive It

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2018-09-12 moved to a consistent format

Brief Overview of the French Military Presence

Upon entering Maryland the troops used several land and water routes to get to Williamsburg VA, which was the staging area for the siege of Yorktown. The auto tour follows the path of the general staffs (Group A) from Elkton to Baltimore, then south to cross the Potomac River at Georgetown MD.

For more details on the 1781 history and march route click the History link in w3r-archive.org and choose the link to this state. The link to Historical Maps leads to ten NPS maps with a shaded path where the roads taken in 1781 are overlaid on a modern roadmap.

Auto Tour of the W3R[®]

1. From **the center** of Elkton MD take West Main St. 0.4 miles west, go left on Landing Lane 0.2 m to Rt 40. Go right (west) for 0.8 miles and exit left (west) on Rt 7 to see some of the countryside. Go 4.5 miles to North East, and after 4.5 more miles go left onto Rt 40 again.
- 2a. **OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP** to the Principio Furnace*: Drive 1.3 miles and turn left on Jackson Station Rd. Go 0.3 miles and turn left on Rt 7, drive 0.1 mile to the Principio Furnace Foundation.
- 2b. **OTHERWISE:** Continue south on Rt 40 (Pulaski Parkway) for 40 miles into Baltimore. This goes across the Susquehanna River bridge, with Havre de Grace below to the left. In 1781 the general staff took a ferry boat from Perryville to Havre de Grace, while the baggage train went upriver to a ford crossing.
4. After passing under I-83 (near the city center) continue 0.9 miles to S. Greene St. Turn left (south) there and go 0.8 miles to t Oriole Stadium at Camden Yards*.

Audio Tour of the W3R[®] through Baltimore: Our smart-phone app (Apple, Android, and Windows) provides a narrated tour that roughly follows the route of the French army through Baltimore in 1781. It describes the march and the historic sites at twenty-four stops along the way. This is a good one-afternoon adventure to help children or tourists learn about the history of Baltimore during the Revolutionary War. View it at home first. The URL is

<https://izi.travel/en/f160-washington-rochambeau-revolutionary-route-baltimore/en>

4. From Oriole Stadium take Greene St. south -- this becomes Russell St. and then Rt 295 -- 4.5 miles and exit onto I-695 South. Take this 1.8 miles to I-97 south.

5a. OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP TO ANNAPOLIS: After 7.6 miles on I-97 take Exit 10A to Veterans Highway east (Route 178, becomes Generals Highway). Go 9.7 miles through Crownsville and Parole, then bear left for 3.4 miles on West St into Annapolis*. The route ends at the Maryland State House on Capitol circle.

5b. OTHERWISE: After 13.2 miles go straight on Rt 3 (I-97 bends off left).

6. Continue 8.3 miles and exit to I-595 East (Rt 50, John Hanson Rd). Take this 9.8 miles and exit to Rt 202 east (Landover Rd).

7. Go 2.4 miles through Bladensburg and bear left 0.8 miles on Rt 1A south to the DC/MD border, near the National Arboretum.

Pearls along the Necklace -- Nearby Revolutionary-Era Sites

ANNAPOLIS:

=> There are several interpretive markers and witness buildings (standing from 1781 until now) near the state capitol building.

=> Annapolis has a monument to the French soldiers who died while helping the U.S. gain independence.

=> The U.S. Naval Academy parade field is encircled by French cannon, and the crypt of the Naval Academy Chapel includes Captain John Paul Jones, who -- in a French-loaned ship -- lead an allied squadron that attacked several ports in Britain.

BALTIMORE: An interpretive marker at Oriole Stadium at Camden Yards describes the encampment of French troops there in 1781.

ELKTON: This was a major U.S. port during the American Revolution. The Hollingsworth House has a War of 1812 museum.

PERRYVILLE: The historic Principio Furnace (Ironworks) was closed during the Revolutionary War due to British raids. It was re-opened after the war, but it is now an historical site, showing how iron was made from local ore..