



Civil War Sites Within 75 Miles of Petersburg, VA

Petersburg, Virginia, was a pivotal hub during the American Civil War, particularly as the site of a nearly 10-month siege from June 1864 to April 1865 that helped lead to the Confederacy's collapse. The area around it is rich in battlefields, forts, headquarters, and other landmarks from the Overland Campaign, the Siege of Petersburg, and Lee's Retreat. Below is a curated list of key civil war-related sites within approximately 75 miles (driving distances based on standard routes). I've focused on preserved parks, museums, and battlefields, grouped by proximity and region for easier planning. All are accessible via public roads, with many offering visitor centers, trails, and interpretive programs.

Sites in Petersburg and Immediate Vicinity (0–10 miles)

These form the core of the Siege of Petersburg and are ideal for a full day of exploration.

Site Name	Description	Approximate Distance from Petersburg	Key Features
Poplar Grove National Cemetery	Burial ground for over 6,000 Union soldiers from the Petersburg campaign.	6 miles	Self-guided tours; part of the national battlefield.
Blandford Church and Cemetery	One of America's oldest public cemeteries; used as a Confederate hospital during the siege.	1 mile	Guided tours, 30 stained-glass windows by Louis Tiffany depicting biblical scenes.
Violet Bank Historic House	Served as General Robert E. Lee's headquarters from June to November 1864.	8 miles (in Hopewell)	Museum with artifacts, period furniture, and exhibits on the siege.



Sites in Chesterfield County and South Richmond Area (10–25 miles)

These relate to the Bermuda Hundred Campaign and early approaches to Petersburg.

Site Name	Description	Approximate Distance from Petersburg	Key Features
Drewry's Bluff (Fort Darling)	Confederate fort that repelled a Union naval assault on the James River in May 1862, protecting Richmond.	15 miles	Walking trails, interpretive signs, river views; part of Richmond National Battlefield Park.
Howlett Line	Stretch of Confederate defenses built in 1864 to block Union advances from Bermuda Hundred toward Petersburg and Richmond.	12 miles	Walking trail with signs at Ware Bottom Spring Road site.
Battle of Chester Station	Site of May 5, 1864, clashes where Confederates halted Union forces targeting supply lines to Petersburg.	10 miles	Intersection markers at Route 10 and U.S. Route 1.
Swift Creek Battlefield	First major engagements of the Bermuda Hundred Campaign on May 9–12, 1864, as Union troops advanced on railroads.	12 miles	Preserved at Ruffin Mill Road; interpretive markers.
Lee's Retreat (Campbell's Bridge)	Crossing point during Lee's April 2–3, 1865, evacuation from Petersburg toward Appomattox.	15 miles	Markers at Grove Avenue and Fleet Street.



Sites in Greater Richmond Area (20–30 miles)

Richmond, the Confederate capital, fell shortly after Petersburg; sites here tie into the broader Overland Campaign.

Site Name	Description	Approximate Distance from Petersburg	Key Features
Cold Harbor Battlefield	Site of brutal June 1–12, 1864, battle where Grant's army suffered heavy losses before shifting to Petersburg.	25 miles northeast	50-acre park with trails; part of Richmond National Battlefield Park.
Malvern Hill Battlefield	Location of the July 1, 1862, battle where Union forces repelled Confederate attacks during the Peninsula Campaign.	25 miles east	953 acres with hiking trails and observation points.
American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar	Explores the war's national scope, with artifacts from both sides; Tredegar Iron Works supplied Confederate cannons.	23 miles north	Interactive exhibits, films, and outdoor cannon displays.



Sites Further Afield (30–75 miles)

These extend to other major campaigns but remain within range for day trips.

Site Name	Description	Approximate Distance from Petersburg	Key Features
Five Forks Battlefield	April 1, 1865, Union victory that cut Confederate supply lines, forcing Lee's retreat from Petersburg.	20 miles southwest	Part of Petersburg National Battlefield; trails and monuments.
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park	Where Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9, 1865, ending the war in Virginia.	70 miles west	Reconstructed village, McLean House, visitor center with exhibits.
Fredericksburg Battlefield (Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park)	Site of the December 1862 battle, one of the war's bloodiest, plus related sites like Chancellorsville.	60 miles north	Walking tours, visitor center film, Stonewall Jackson's wounding site.
Manassas National Battlefield Park	Scenes of the First (1861) and Second (1862) Battles of Bull Run, early Confederate victories.	75 miles north	Driving tour, battle maps, Stonewall Jackson statue.
Staunton River Battlefield State Park	June 1864 defense where Home Guard repelled Union cavalry raiding toward supplies for Petersburg.	75 miles southwest	Earthworks, bridge trail, visitor centers with Civil War and ecology exhibits.

Tips for Visiting: Start with Petersburg National Battlefield's visitor center (open daily 9 AM–5 PM, except holidays) for maps and apps. Many sites are free or low-cost (e.g., \$10–20 vehicle fees for national parks). Driving times assume normal traffic; use apps like Google Maps for real-time updates. For deeper dives, check the American Battlefield Trust or National Park Service websites.