South Carolina played a significant role in the American Revolution when the British shifted their focus to the southern colonies in 1778. After the fall of Charleston in May 1780, Patriot and Loyalist militias formed in western South Carolina. Among them was the Spartan Regiment for which the city and county of Spartanburg are named. The Upcountry of South Carolina saw numerous battles and ultimately affected the outcome of the war.

Did You Know?
There were more Revolutionary War battles and skirmishes fought in South Carolina than in any other colony except New Jersey. (www.nps.gov/cowp)

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
Stretching 330 miles through 4 states, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail traces the route used by patriot militia during the pivotal Kings Mountain campaign of 1780.

PROUD TO PARTNER WITH

Spartanburg Convention & Visitors Bureau
South Carolina State Parks
National Park Service
Carolina Thread Trail
Palmetto Trail

ABOUT SPARTANBURG:
Located in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, Spartanburg, South Carolina, is known for its Revolutionary War battles as well as a rich textile and agricultural history. Spartanburg is bisected by two major interstates, and its nickname “Hub City” refers to the many railroad lines and transportation routes that connected Spartanburg with cities throughout the region. Spartanburg also is a hub of activity, including rich cultural offerings, extensive educational opportunities, musical heritage and an abundance of stunning landscapes. It continues to be the crossroads of all that is dynamic about the modern South.

Stuff like this only happens in a place that’s truly Revolutionary. Come see for yourself.

ABOUT THIS TRAIL:
This driving trail gives a flavor of the area’s Revolutionary history and is a project of the Spartanburg Convention & Visitors Bureau in conjunction with the Spartanburg County Historical Association. Some short hikes are involved, so dress in comfortable shoes and clothes to enjoy every location on the tour.

Produced by

Spartanburg Convention & Visitors Bureau
PO Box 1636, Spartanburg, SC 29304
864-594-5000
www.visitspartanburg.com

RevWarTour.com
1. DANIEL MORGAN MONUMENT
Morgan Square, downtown Spartanburg
(Corner of Main & Magnolia Streets near 148 W. Main Street, Spartanburg 29301)
Status GPS: 34.949377, -81.933086
As one of the original 13 colonies, South Carolina played a pivotal role during the American Revolution. After the surrender of Charles Towne in May 1780, western South Carolina became a hotbed of activity as Patriot militia from throughout the region gathered to oppose the British and their Loyalist allies. The area that became known as the Revolution as Spartanburg saw numerous battles during this time including some of the most significant battles in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.

2. WALNUT GROVE PLANTATION
1200 Ottis Shoals Road, Reheudduck 29376
Near I-26 Exit 28 (Hwy 221, SE of Spartanburg)
Sign GPS: 34.840117, -81.963733 (near Hwy 221 & Stillhouse Rd)
Walnut Grove Plantation, the home of Charles Moore, was also the childhood home of Kate Moore Barry who aided Gen. Daniel Morgan prior to the Battle of Cowpens and of her younger brother, Thomas Moore, who fought there. Walnut Grove Plantation also served as a maturing site for local militia. Operated by the Spartanburg County Historical Association. The home and grounds are open to the public seasonally and staff are available for tours; includes a picnic shelter, restrooms, and gift shop.
spartanburghistory.org

3. THE BATTLE OF MUSGROVE’S MILL
398 State Park Road, Clinton 29325
Sign GPS: 34.593000, -81.849383 (on the right in the pull off just across the Enoree River Bridge on Hwy 56)
In August 1780, 200 Patriot militia left camp on the Broad River and rode under the cover of darkness to surprise an equal number of Loyalist militia camped on Musgrove’s Mill. In the battle, the British laid on the mill a small arsenal resulting in a significant Patriot victory. By day, the stage was set for the Battle of Kings Mountain in October.
A state park with interpretive trails, a visitor center, and restrooms is open to the public. southcarolinaparks.com/musgrove
Image: The Musgrove House by Genie Marshall Weidler. Courtesy Musgrove Mill State Historic Site

4. THE BATTLE OF BLACKSTOCK’S END Monument
End of Monument
Sign GPS: 34.679300, -81.831050 (in field 1/2 mile beyond Palmetto Trail parking area & kiosk)
In November 1780, Gen. Thomas Sumter and several hundred militia by his command stood on the hill overlooking the Tiger River at Blackstock’s Plantation to face Lt. Col. Barn astr Tarleton and his approach to the Tiger. Using their superior numbers, the dominating heights of the hill they occupied, and the protected cover of Blackstock’s outbuildings, Sumter defeated Tarleton.
The battlefield is protected public property and is accessible by vehicle. There is an information kiosk, small parking area, battle monument, and a spur of the Palmetto Trail along the Tiger River on the site.
southcarolinaparks.com/blackstocks

5. THE BATTLE OF KELSEY CREEK
450 Croft State Park Rd, Spartanburg 29302
Sign GPS: 34.863314, -81.840449 (1/2 mi north along Foster Mill Trail Loop Trailhead)
In the spring of 1780, a group of Loyalists advanced on the home of the Thomas family near Kelsey Creek which was storing Patriot gunpowder guarded by Capt. John Thomas, Jr. and about two dozen men. Learning of the Loyalists’ approach, Thomas removed the powder and led a few family members behind a fence to escape. The 20 Loyalists tried to storm the home from the house forcing the Loyalists to withdraw without the gunpowder.
The home site is located near the junction of Fairforest Creek and Kelsey Creek inside Croft State Park. The exact location is not safely accessible.
southcarolinaparks.com/croft
Photo: Monument erected in honor of Col. John Thomas and his wife, Jane, nee near where the family home stood and where the battle of Kelsey Creek was fought.

6. THE BATTLE OF CEDAR SPRING
Below Cedar Springs Baptist Church
140 Cedar Springs Place, Spartanburg 29302
Sign GPS: 34.909528, -81.876000
In early July 1780, a small force of Patriot militia under Col. John Thomas, Jr. gathered near Cedar Spring. The British made plans to attack the camp in a light night raid. However, Thomas, mother Jane, heard of it and alerted her son. Thomas and his men waited in ambush near camp and opened fire on the British, killing and wounding many and scattering the survivors.
The spring is on land owned by the South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind (scsdb.org) near the Palmetto Trail (palmettoconservation.org)

7. THE BATTLE OF THE PEACH TREES
Near the intersection of Dogwood Club and Old Pettis Road, Spartanburg 29302
Sign GPS: 34.924633, -81.862750 (across from 680 Delmar Rd)
Continuing their attempts to control the British, major British forces under Maj. Patrick Ferguson were in pursuit of several hundred Patriots under Col. Elijah Clarke and Col. Isaac Shelby. In August 1780, Ferguson detached a small group to attack the Patriots who occupied a peach orchard near Cedar Spring. The British were repulsed after savage, up-close fighting. Clarke and Shelby feared a follow-up attack and retreated north toward Lawson’s Fork Creek.
Image: Elijah Clarke was known as one of the fiercest fighters on the Southern frontier during the American Revolution. Courtesy Hargrett Rare Books & Manuscripts Library, University of Georgia Libraries

8. THE BATTLE OF WOFORD’S IRON WORKS
103 Emma Cudd Road, Spartanburg 29302
Sign GPS: 34.941767, -81.840133
After the battle of the Peach Trees, Col. Clarke and Col. Shelby retreated north to avoid another confrontation with Maj. Ferguson. They caught at Wolfe’s Pees, Wolford’s Iron Works on Lawson’s Fork Creek, but could not successfully engage because all of the Patriot’s horses were mounted. The Patriots continued their retreat and the British returned to their camp at Cedar Spring. This running battle is referred to by several names, including “2nd Cedar Spring,” “The Battle of the Peach Trees,” and “The Battle of Wolford’s Iron Works.” The precise sites are not known since Wolford’s Iron Works was destroyed by Loyalist “Bloody Bill” Cunningham in 1791.
Image: Col. Isaac Shelby. Courtesy Kentucky Historical Society

9. THE BATTLE OF COWPENS
4001 Cheesnee Highway, Gaffney 29341
Sign GPS: 35.11067, -81.790637 (Hwy 11 South of Gaffney)
In December 1780, Gen. Daniel Morgan moved a veteran force of American Continental militiamen into the area west of the Broad River in modern-day Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties. To counter this threat, British Commander Lord Cornwallis sent Lt. Col. Tarleton on the morning of January 17, 1781, to charge against Daniel Morgan’s Cowpens. The resulting battle was a complete victory for the Patriots and stands today as one of the most significant events in American History.
Cowpens National Battlefield has a visitor center, interpretive trails, an auto tour and a full-time staff. nps.gov/cwop

10. THE BATTLE OF EARLE’S FORD
Highway 14 East of I-26 Exit 1, Landrum 29356
Sign GPS: 35.190917, -82.143031 (near Pocotal River Bridge)
In July 1780, a small detachment of Loyalists under Capt. Dunlap left their post at Ft. Prince to attack Patriots who were finally on the north side of the Pocotal River near Earle’s Ford. Arriving in the early morning hours of July 15, Dunlap and his men crossed the lightly guarded ford and surprised the Patriots near the river. The remainder of the camp was blocked by Dunlap until he was realized and he was released.
Photo: The Daughters of the American Revolution erected this monument near the location of the Battle of Earle’s Ford.

11. WOOD’S FORT
1904 Gap Creek Road (SC 908) and Hwy 357 in Greer 29650
Sign GPS: 34.971467, -82.199930
The American Revolution provided an opportunity for pre-war conflicts and disputes to come to the surface in places, sometimes in ways that were not always immediately visible. One of these incidents occurred in July 1776 when a party of Loyalists and Cherokee raiders Hampton and his party home to the east of Pocotal River Bridge. Killing several of the family before the soldiers fled to Wood’s Fort, a pre-Revolutionary War fort in the area. The fort was built to protect colonial families in the area during the warfare in 1775 and 1776 with the Cherokee Nation that allied with the British. It was re-erected in 1790.
Image: Maj. Gen. Wade Hampton was a member of the Hampton family whose home was attacked by the Cherokee in 1776.
New York Public Library

12. THE BATTLE OF FT. PRINCE
Site – Located off Ft. Prince Rd (vicinity of 350 block, Wellford 29385 – GPS: 34.949340, -82.048913)
Sign GPS: 34.961485, -82.050390 (on right just past Ft. Prince Memorial Gardens)
Following the British attack at Earl’s Ford, a small group of Patriots under Capt. Edward Hampton pursued Capt. James Dunlap. Hampton captured Dunlap and began driving him and his men toward the British. After reaching the outskirts of the fort and its 300 British soldiers, Hampton and his men withdrew. Fearing an attack by a larger Patriot force, the British soon abandoned Ft. Prince. The fort was one of several pre-Revolutionary War forts built near the Indian boundary line (Greenville-Spartanburg County line) that were used during the Revolution.
Image: This monument was placed in a copse of oak trees near the fort’s location and is surrounded by private property today.