

Revolutionary War Battlefields

Wilmington Area: Brunswick Town

Wilmington is on the coast near the border with South Carolina, and serves as the jumping off point to Brunswick Town State Historic Site, the ruins of a town burned by the British in 1776. To reach Brunswick Town, head west on US 17 from Wilmington, then turn left on North Carolina 133 -- Southeast River Road. Head south on River Road until Southeast Orton Road. Turn left and proceed on Orton to Brunswick Town, which is on a wooded site near the Cape Fear River. It includes a visitors' center, the ruins of the Revolutionary-era town and Civil War-era earthworks. Google Maps search - 8884 St Phillips Rd SE Winnabow, NC 28479

Wilmington Area: Moores Creek

North of Wilmington is Moores Creek National Battlefield. Moores Creek was one of the first battles in the South of the Revolutionary War and the first Patriot victory of the war. On February 27, 1776, 1600 British troops were unaware of what they would encounter as they charged across a partially dismantled Moores Creek Bridge. Just beyond the bridge, 1,000 North Carolina Patriots waited quietly with cannons and muskets to defeat the British. This battle was the end British rule over North Carolina. Google maps search - 40 Patriots Hall Dr, Currie, NC 28435.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park

The 1781 Battle of Guilford Courthouse, while technically a British victory, cost the British so many casualties that Lord Cornwallis ceased his attempt to retake North Carolina. The modern national military park is within the city of Greensboro, which is part of the Winston-Salem metro area in west-central North Carolina. From downtown Greensboro, head north on US 220 -- Battleground Avenue -- to Old Battleground Road, which goes directly to the park. The park is large enough to tour by car, along a one-way road that passes seven tour stops that describe the battle. Google Maps search - 2332 New Garden Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410

Alamance Battleground

Here in 1771, an armed rebellion of backcountry farmers called Regulators battled with royal governor William Tryon's militia. The spark for this conflict was growing resentment in the Carolina colony against the taxes, dishonest sheriffs, and illegal fees imposed by the British Crown. In response, the Regulators were formed and began to fight back. Though the rebellion was crushed, a few years later their tactics became a model for the colonists fighting the British in the American Revolutionary War. Google Maps search - 5803 N Carolina 62, Burlington, NC 27215

Ramsour's Mill Battleground

Relatively little known, Ramsour's Mill Battleground is historic as an important battle between the Americans and the British (the Americans won). To reach Ramsour's Mill from the Charlotte area, follow US 321 north to Lincolnton, North Carolina. From downtown Lincolnton, follow North Aspen Street until making a left on Paul Lawing Road. The Battle of Ramsour's Mill State Highway Marker is on Paul Lawing Road. Farther along Paul Lawing is the intersection with Jeb Seagle Road. A left turn on Jeb Seagle leads to some log structures and the graves of some of the participants in the battle. The site is owned by the Lincoln Country Historical Association. Google Maps search - Jeb Seagle Dr, Lincolnton, NC 28092

Cowpens National Battlefield

Battle of Cowpens, fought on January 17, 1781, an American victory over a British force on the northern border of South Carolina that slowed Lord Cornwallis's campaign to invade North Carolina. The British lost 39 officers and 60 soldiers killed. 829 were captured. 12 Americans were killed and 60 wounded. Google Maps search - 4001 Chesnee Hwy, Gaffney, SC

King Mountain Military Park

The battle of Kings Mountain, fought October 7th, 1780, was an important American victory during the Revolutionary War. The battle was the first major patriot victory to occur after the British invasion of Charleston, SC in May 1780. It was one of the few major battles of the war fought entirely between Americans: no British troops served here. The battle lasted about one hour. Americans lost 28, Loyalists lost 225 and 716 were captured. The dead were buried on the battlefield in unmarked graves, they have never been found. King's Mountain saved North Carolina for the time being and bolstered Patriot morale throughout the 13 colonies. Google Maps search - 2625 Park Rd, Blacksburg, SC 29702