



STEPPING BACK FOR A Historical American Adventure

Like the Civil War, Fantasy RV Tours' first American Civil War Caravan is now history. Twenty seven rigs started the tour in Charleston, South Carolina, visiting the first submarine used in this war - the CSS Hunley and the Old Slave Mart Museum.

The group enjoyed a boat tour of Charleston Harbor and then traveled on to where the first shots of the Civil War were fired – Fort Sumter. For the next 15 days, they traveled to several key Civil War battlefields and museums, ending at Gettysburg National Military Park, site of the bloodiest battle of this war.

The Civil War began because of many differences between “free” and “slave owning” states regarding the power of the national government to prohibit the then constitutionally recognized and protected right to own African slaves. When Abraham Lincoln won the 1860 presidential election, eleven “slave owning” states in the Deep South ultimately seceded from the Union (United States of America) and formed a new nation, the Confederate States of America. President Lincoln and many Northern American States refused to recognize the legitimacy of Southern secession and considered it an unconstitutional act of rebellion. And so the war started with the primary aim of reuniting the Union.

More than 150 years have passed since this, the largest conflict on

American soil, began. Over three million Americans were engaged with today's historians estimating that more than 650,000 paid the ultimate price – all for nationwide prohibition of slavery, a free labor system and the full rights of citizenship. The desire for freedom for all Americans traveled deeper than the color of skin and farther than the borders of any State. The Civil War was one of the most destructive and divisive times in our country's history – a momentous era that determined

what kind of nation we would become.

By visiting so many of the battle sites and museums dedicated to historical accuracy of this war, Fantasy guests not only learned about the differences that led the Nation into civil warfare, but truly experienced the devastating impact of Americans fighting Americans. They explored battle fields with a docent, and they visited museums and saw historic reenactment videos of battles and events. Guests from such diverse



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locations as Montana, Maine, Wyoming, Texas and Florida found that their grade school history lessons truly came to life, as they traveled the path of the southern defensive fronts, eventually following General Lee's movement towards the north.

According to Fantasy Wagon Masters, Leonard and Cherry Stokes, the visit to New Market, Virginia was a true highlight of this tour. The Virginia Museum of the Civil War has displays in the round which tell the full story of the war in a capsulated version, focusing on the heroic role the Virginia Military Institute Cadets played in the gruesome 1864 Battle of New Market.

At the group's farewell dinner in Gettysburg, Leonard addressed the group, reliving the experiences they had shared together and what they had learned about this war. He said there was a long period of silence after he wrapped it up – "Fantasy's guests got the message of what that war was about, and what it did to this country."

Due to the popularity and success of the tour, Fantasy will be repeating this caravan next year, as an exclusive Good Sam member tour departing from Charleston on March 26, 2017. For more information, visit the website at: America's Civil War. It's an opportunity of a lifetime to truly learn and experience this important and unique piece of American history.

Find out more about next year's American Civil War RV Caravan:

<http://fantasyrvtours.com/caravans/usa/civilwar/civilwar.html>

