Driving Directions for Self-Guided Tour

1. Burch's Mill

**South Carolina's First Civil War Nears its End**

Leaving the Francis Marion University Educational Foundation Building on Palmetto Street you will turn right towards the Francis Marion University main entrance. Proceed 1 block on Palmetto Street and turn right at the intersection of Palmetto Street and Francis Marion Road. Follow this road for 5 miles. At the intersection of Francis Marion Road and Old River Road you turn left onto Old River Road and proceed 7.2 miles until you get to Mill Branch Road. At this point you will pass Mill Branch A.M.E. Church (red brick church on the right side of the highway). You will turn left and proceed down this dirt road for 1.2 miles until you come to a stop sign at the Great Per De River. This is a bluff so proceed carefully. The interpretive sign is at the edge of the bluff overlooking the river. Your travel time from the Educational Foundation Building is about 22 minutes.

2. Dunham's Bluff and Snow's Island

**Control of the Rivers & Den of the Swamp Fox**

Return to the intersection of Old River Road, turn left onto Old River Road, drive 13.7 miles to Hwy. 378 and turn left onto Hwy. 378. Proceed 9 miles on Hwy. 378 (crossing over the Great Per De River) to Bluff Road and turn right onto Bluff Road. **Note: Bluff Road is a dirt road across a scenic area called “Park and Bluff.”** You will go 1.7 miles down this dirt road to Dunham's Bluff. **Interpretive signs for Dunham’s Bluff and for Snow's Island are near the edge of the bluff facing the river. Your travel time from Burch's Mill is approximately 41 minutes.**

3. Witherspoon’s Landing

**Francis Marion Takes Command**

Retrace your route back up Dunham’s Bluff Road and turn left onto Hwy. 378 (at the “Park and Bluff”). Go 9 miles to the intersection of Hwy. 378 and Hwy. 41 River Road and turn left at the light. Proceed 3.2 miles and cross over Lynches Rivers. You will take an immediate left into Witherspoon’s Landing (now named Venier’s Landing) which is a popular boat launch area on the Lynches River. The sign telling about this site is on the right near a pavilion as you face the boat ramp. Travel time is about 20 minutes from Dunham’s Bluff.

4. Battle of Black Mingo

**Fighting Among Neighbors**

From Witherspoon’s Landing turn left back onto Old River Road/Hwy. 41 and proceed 15.2 miles to the bridge over Black Mingo Creek. About 20 yards before the bridge is a pull-off and historical marker for the Battle of Black Mingo on the right side of the highway. Beyond this marker on the left side of the highway, just before the bridge abutment, is a paved ramp leading down to a boat landing. Make a left turn onto this ramp to the boat landing. The interpretive sign telling about the Battle of Black Mingo is at the edge of the water (Black Mingo Creek). You will be able to look across the creek at the site of the Revolutionary War port and crossing that was called Shepherd’s Ferry. Dollard’s tavern, the epicenter of the battle, was a short distance up the hill across the highway and the old post at Williams was about one mile up the creek from where you are standing. Travel time from Witherspoon’s landing is about 20 minutes.

5. Indiantown Presbyterian Church

**Disarm in the Most Rigid Manner**

From Black Mingo Creek bridge, turn to the right back onto Hwy. 41, go 1.5 miles and turn left onto Hwy. 312 West. Proceed 11.6 miles and turn left onto Hwy. 261/312 (also called Hemingway Highway or Henry Road) for 350 yards to Indiantown Presbyterian Church on the left. The interpretive sign is at the west end of the parking lot near the highway. This church was a center of resistance to the British. **The church graveyard is very old and is the resting place for a number of people prominent in the Revolution as well as the Civil War. Travel time from Black Mingo Creek bridge is 15 minutes.**

6. Battle of Kingstree

**Gathering Vital Intelligences**

Turn left from Indiantown Presbyterian Church back onto Hwy 261/312 (Hemingway Road) and proceed west towards Kingstree for 17.3 miles. Go through several traffic lights on Hwy 261 and turn right onto Academy Street in the downtown area. Go 4.5 blocks to an intersection with Kelly Street and you will see Kellahan Park in front and to the right of your position. Park beside Kellahan Park and enter the fenced area. The interpretive signs for the Battle of Kingstree is in or near an intersection at an intersection of walkways. Travel time from Indiantown is approximately 19 minutes.

7. Battle of Lower Bridge

**Take the Low Ground!**

Retrace your route back down Academy Street into downtown Kingstree and turn left onto Hwy. 321. Cross the railroad tracks and go a few blocks to the intersection with Hwy. 377. Make a right turn onto Hwy. 377 towards the town of Avera. Proceed 3.5 miles to a historical marker located at a pull-off on the right about 200 yards before the bridge crosses Black River. This is a dirt road across from Mill Branch A.M.E. Church (red brick church on the right side of the highway). You will turn left at an intersection with Kelly Street and you will see Kellahan Park in front and to the right of your position. Park beside Kellahan Park and enter the fenced area. The interpretive signs for the Battle of Lower Bridge is located beside the historical marker for this same fight. It is believed the battle occurred on both sides of the Black River on the same side of this bridge at the interpretive signs. Travel time is approximately 14 minutes from Kellahan Park.

**Tour Options**

After Lower Bridge the tourist has several distinct options, most of which involve proceeding about one mile further down Black Mingo Creek on Hwy. 377 until it intersects with Hwy. 521. The tourist can elect to end the tour at this point by turning left onto Hwy. 521 and proceeding to either Georgetown/Myrtle Beach or connecting to other roads off of Hwy. 521.

A second option is to turn right on Hwy. 521 and proceed to Manning to tour historic sites in Clarendon County. Detailed directions for a Clarendon County tour are available. A third option is to turn right onto Hwy. 521, go approximately 7.5 miles to an intersection with Hwy. 52 and turn left onto Hwy. 52 to go to Berkeley County to tour sites there. Detailed directions for a Berkeley County tour are available.

**Welcome**

The Pee Dee Tour with audio CD of Francis Marion stories and anecdotes

Encompassing portions of Florence, Marion, Georgetown, and Williamsburg counties, the Pee Dee Tour includes eight sites along the Great Pee Dee River and several of its tributaries. Among the sites on this tour are the scenes of some of Marion’s first acts as a partisan leader at Witherspoon’s Ferry, Kingstree, and Black Mingo Creek, as well as one of his last, the signing of a peace treaty with a local Tory leader at Burch’s Mill. Along the way, stop for lunch or dinner at one of the nationally-famous barbecue restaurants in Hemingway and Johnstown; take a kayak out on the Lynches River or Black Mingo Creek; and stroll through the charming historic district of downtown Kingstree.
The Francis Marion Trail Commission (FMTC) was created by Act 159 of the South Carolina Legislature in 2005. The FMTC is charged with planning and implementing a heritage tourism trail centering on the life and campaigns of General Francis Marion.

Its mission is to reveal, preserve, develop, and promote in a sustainable way the authentic sites where Francis Marion lived and fought during the Revolutionary War.

First, the FMTC has coordinated a series of tour options, which allow visitors to blaze the trail of General Francis Marion with written directions and maps to the FMTC sites. Second, the FMTC has well-placed directional signage, clear and safe access and the capacity to cross-promote to other FMTC sites.

The Commission is headquartered at Francis Marion University. The goal of the Commission is to preserve and interpret sites associated with the “Swamp Fox” and the Revolutionary War in northeastern South Carolina. The Commission has developed tours in the Pee Dee and Low Country linking individual sites into a network to tell a cogent story and remain true to history.

**Interpretive Stops on the PEE DEE TOUR**

1. Burch’s Mill: South Carolina’s First Civil War Nears Its End
2. Dunham’s Bluff and Snow’s Island: Control of the Rivers & Den of the Swamp Fox
3. Witherspoon’s Landing: Francis Marion Takes Command
4. Battle of Black Mingo: Fighting Among Neighbors
5. Indiantown Presbyterian Church: Disarm in the Most Rigid Manner
6. Battle of Kingstree: Gathering Vital Intelligence
7. Battle of Lower Bridge: Take the Low Ground!