

Witness the War of 1812

Day 1

Travel back in time to re-visit “America’s second war of independence.”

Come to the **Fort Ontario State Historic Site** in Oswego where American soldiers fought the Battle of Oswego in May 1814. Known as the “Guardian of the Northern Frontier,” the fort has been destroyed and rebuilt many times

since it was first constructed in 1755. It has played a role in nearly every war in American history, including the War of 1812. Tour the grounds and learn the stories of the soldiers and civilians who have fought and lived here over the last two hundred years.

Follow the soldiers’ march north and enjoy lunch at the **River House Restaurant** in Pulaski.

Continue on to the site of the **Battle of Big Sandy**. During the War of 1812, Fort Ontario was lost in the Battle of Oswego in 1814. In a valiant effort to move the remaining naval stores to Sackets Harbor where shipbuilding continued, one boat was discovered by the British. The Americans took shelter on Sandy Creek in Ellisburg where they were joined by the Oneida Indians to defeat the British troops after a quick battle. From here, the supplies were transported by land and many local men joined in what became known as “The Great Cable Carry.”

Then, head over to the **Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site** in Sackets Harbor, once the center of American naval and military operations for the upper St. Lawrence Valley and Great Lake Ontario. The vast woodlands here provided the material to construct a large fleet. Visit Forts Volunteer and Pike and tour the soldiers’ barracks at this expansive shipyard where the brig Oneida was once stationed. Enjoy a leisurely walk through the military cemetery where General Zebulon Pike is said to be buried. Learn about the May 1813 attack when British and Canadian forces attempted to destroy this busy naval station.

Next, visit the **General Jacob Brown Mansion** in nearby Brownville. In 1799, Brown settled here in the North Country from Pennsylvania and helped to establish the small village. When the War of 1812 began, he was appointed colonel of the 108th Regiment of the New York Militia and charged with defending the Northern frontier from Oswego to St. Regis. Brown later moved to Washington, D.C. and served as General-In-Chief of the U.S. Army.

Overnight at the **Best Western Carriage House Inn** or the **Holiday Inn and Suites** in Watertown.



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Day 2



Continue this historic adventure with **Clayton Island Tours**. En route to the boat launch, you'll notice **Carleton Island's Fort Haldim** in Cape Vincent. During the War of 1812, the British-

held fort was captured without bloodshed by three freelancing Americans. It became the only territorial gain made by either party during the war. Today, the ruins of the fort can be seen from shore.

Board the tour boat for a nautical mission. Visit **French Creek** near Clayton where a 200-year-old U.S. warship may be buried. A cannon salvaged from the hull of an old shipwreck over fifty years ago may be the missing link to the remains of the U.S.S. Oneida, America's first warship on the Great Lakes. Then veer over to the site of the **Battle of Cranberry Creek** near Alexandria Bay. In this War of 1812 engagement, a large troop of British soldiers was defeated by local forces when they tried to regain supplies that had been taken by Americans.

Lunch at **Riley's by the River** in Alexandria Bay where you'll enjoy a view of the lower harbor and main shipping channel of the St. Lawrence River.

Travel on to Ogdensburg and visit the site of the former **Fort de La Présentation**. During the War of 1812, a British naval attack was repelled by American troops led by General Jacob Brown and Captain Benjamin Forsyth. Barely six months later, British forces tried once again. On February 22, under the direction of Lt. Col. 'Red George' MacDonnell, they marched across the ice-covered St. Lawrence River and captured the village of Ogdensburg. Experience "history worth fighting for" at this historic site.

Don't miss these commemoration events!

- ★ **Oswego County War of 1812 Symposium**
April 4-6, 2014
- ★ **Fort Ontario 1812 Walking Tour**
May 10, 2014
- ★ **Sackets Harbor Battlefield Living History**
August 1-3, 2014

