

# SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK WALKS and WINTER SPORTS TRAILS

## Stillwater, NY

**Starting Point:** SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
"THE BATTLEFIELD"

648 Route 32 Stillwater, New York 12170-1604 Website: [www.nps.gov/sara](http://www.nps.gov/sara)

The Visitors Center at the park is open 9 AM – 5 PM every day except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's and on Tuesday's from Nov. 1-March 31. The park tour road is open from early April-Nov. 30. Park grounds are open till dusk every day. No admission fee is charged.

The Visitors Center has brochures and a movie describing the Battle of Saratoga, the "Turning point of the American Revolution." There is a bookstore offering books and souvenirs. Restrooms and water fountains are available. However, the water has naturally high sodium content so visitors may wish to bring their own water.

**DIRECTIONS TO START POINT:** The Battlefield is located between State Route 32 and US Route 4. It is 34 miles north of Albany and 11 miles east of Saratoga Springs. "Saratoga" is a corruption of the Mohawk word "se-rach-ta-gue" meaning "the hillside country of the quiet river". This Native American connection qualifies the walks for the Mayflower Anniversary Special Program.

**From the North:** Adirondack Northway (I-87) to Exit 14. Turn left towards Saratoga Lake on Route 9P. Continue along lake to the intersection with Route 423. Turn left and follow to intersection with Route 32, there is a sign to the Battlefield. Turn left and continue on Route 32 for two miles to the park entrance on the right.

**From the South:** Adirondack Northway (I-87) to Exit 12. Bear right to Route 67. Pass through 3 roundabouts heading east. Enter a 4<sup>th</sup> roundabout and take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit to Plains Rd/County Highway 108. Turn right onto Route 9P. Continue along Saratoga Lake to the intersection with Route 423. Bear right and follow to intersection with Route 32, there is a sign to the Battlefield. Turn left and continue on Route 32 for two miles to the park entrance on the right.

**Course Description:** There are two routes available which have options for walks of different lengths. All of the walks are on the Battlefield grounds. Cross-country skis and snowshoes can be used when conditions are favorable.

The **Wilkinson Trail** is rated 2C and follows a route mapped in 1777 by British Lieutenant William Wilkinson during the time of the battle. This path is part of a preserved Revolutionary War road system. The original route is a 7K. There are also options to extend this route to 10K and 12k. The Wilkinson Trail is recommended for snowshoes and cross-country skis; the trail has marked detours in season where necessary to avoid steep sections. Event distance requirement for cross-country skis is 5K, all distances are acceptable for snowshoes.

The **Tour Road** walk has both 5K and 10K options and is rated 1A. The walk is entirely on the paved tour road except for a very short section on a dirt road on the 10K. It is suitable for wheelchairs and strollers and is a good option when the other trails may be muddy or still have snow or ice on them. From April until November you may be sharing this road with cars and bicycles throughout the year. There is a marked bike trail along the side of the road which can be utilized by walkers.

The following map and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

For immediate emergency assistance call 911.

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# SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK WALKS and WINTER SPORTS TRAILS

## Wilkinson Trail 7K, 10K and 12K Walks – Rated 2C

These walks follow the Wilkinson Trail. British Lieutenant William Wilkinson mapped at least part of this route in 1777, during the time of the battle. This path is part of a preserved Revolutionary War road system. The trail is entirely on paths through meadows and woods and can be slippery in places when wet. The 10K and 12K options will include areas not on the trail.

*Suggestion: Pick up a copy of the Wilkinson Trail brochure in the Visitors Center. It contains descriptions of each stop and a map showing the various interpretive stations which are marked alphabetically on gray posts. Other gray markers with a "W" on them indicate the trail.*

- 1. EXIT** using the rear door of Visitor Center onto a patio with an expansive view. It is said that this bucolic view is little changed from the time of the Revolutionary War.
- 2. RIGHT** across the grassy area and into the woods. A kiosk marks the official beginning of the trail to the left.
- 3. FOLLOW** the trail up the hill and down and continue to a "Y" intersection marked by Station C.
- 4. RIGHT** at Station C to continue on the Wilkinson Trail, stopping at the stations which are in alphabetical order. The section past Station F is a long field followed by a descent and ascent on stone steps to cross a ravine. After passing Stations I and J, the paved tour road appears perpendicular to this trail.

7K walkers – cross the tour road. Continue walking straight, past Station K, cross a small bridge and arrive at Station L.

10K and 12K walkers - go to direction #7

- 5. STRAIGHT** (cross a perpendicular path) at Station L to continue on the trail. Passing Stations M and N and return to Station C.
- 6. RIGHT** at Station C to continue on the trail. You may wish to take the path on the right leading to the cannons to view the Breymann Redoubt and the Boot Monument. After viewing the redoubt, return to the trail. Continue up and down the hill and re-trace your steps to the Visitors Center. **This is the end of the 7K walk.**
- 7. RIGHT** on the tour road and pass Stop 8, Burgoyne's HQ. Continue on the tour road which will go over a bridge to a stop sign.
- 8. RIGHT** at the stop sign to Stop 9, the Great Redoubt. Burgoyne withdrew his forces to the north of this area, present day Schuylerville, after their defeat at the second battle of Saratoga. His surrender at present-day Schuylerville was the Turning Point of the American Revolution.  
  
Walk halfway around the circle and walk to the cannons. Enjoy the view of the Hudson River and surrounding woods, hills and farmland, very similar to what the area looked like in 1777.
- 9. RETURN** to the traffic circle and retrace your steps on the tour road, passing the intersection with the stop/one-way sign. Walk to Stop 10.  
  
Stop 10 has picnic tables and sometimes a port-a-potty during the warm months.

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OPTIONAL LOOP TRAIL: This walk is 12k when including the optional loop trail.

Go to direction #10 if you are not taking the optional loop trail.

#### OPTIONAL LOOP DIRECTIONS\*

- \*1. **LOOK** for and **TAKE** the path by the picnic area. Look for a turn almost immediately on the left.
- \*2. **LEFT** on the trail down a rather steep hill. Although much of the trail is paved, wet mosses and lichens can make it slippery.
- \*3. **LEFT** at the bottom of the hill, cross a wooden bridge and walk to the site of the house where the wounded Fraser was taken.
- \*4. **RETRACE** your steps over the bridge and walk straight, passing the path you came down. You will see informational signs about the Champlain Canal which was built about 50 years after the Battle.
- \*5. **CONTINUE** to the end of the path to the site of the British hospital, passing a second paved path to the right.
- \*6. **RETRACE** your steps a short way to the first paved path on the left.
- \*7. **LEFT** on the path going uphill. Near the top is General Fraser's grave which he shares with others. Return to the Stop 10 parking lot.
- 10. RETRACE** your steps on the tour road from Stop 10 to the intersection with the stop/one-way sign.
- 11. RIGHT** at the stop/one-way sign and cross the bridge. Walk about 50 steps. Look to the right. There an old farm road/path on the right with a sign pointing to Stop 9.  
If the farm road/path is muddy or slippery, do this:
  - a. *Continue* on the tour road past Stop 8.
  - b. *Look* for the Wilkinson Trail marker on the right. (This is where you were at direction #7).
  - c. *Right* onto the Wilkinson Trail. Cross a bridge and continue straight at this major trail intersection. Go to direction #14.
- 12. RIGHT** on the old farm road/path and follow it to a major trail intersection.
- 13. Bear RIGHT** at this major trail intersection.
- 14. CONTINUE** on the path until it intersects with the tour road.
- 15. RIGHT** on the tour road and continue to Stop 7: Breymann Redoubt. (solar powered rest room in parking area). Walk through the parking lot.
- 16. LEFT** at the first sidewalk to the Boot Monument. After viewing the monument take the sidewalk to the cannons and read the displays. When finished, look for a grassy path to the left of the cannons.
- 17. FOLLOW** the grassy path to the left of the cannons to another grassy path. There will be a sign to the Visitors Center (VC).
- 18. RIGHT** and follow the path over the hill and through woods to the Visitors Center.

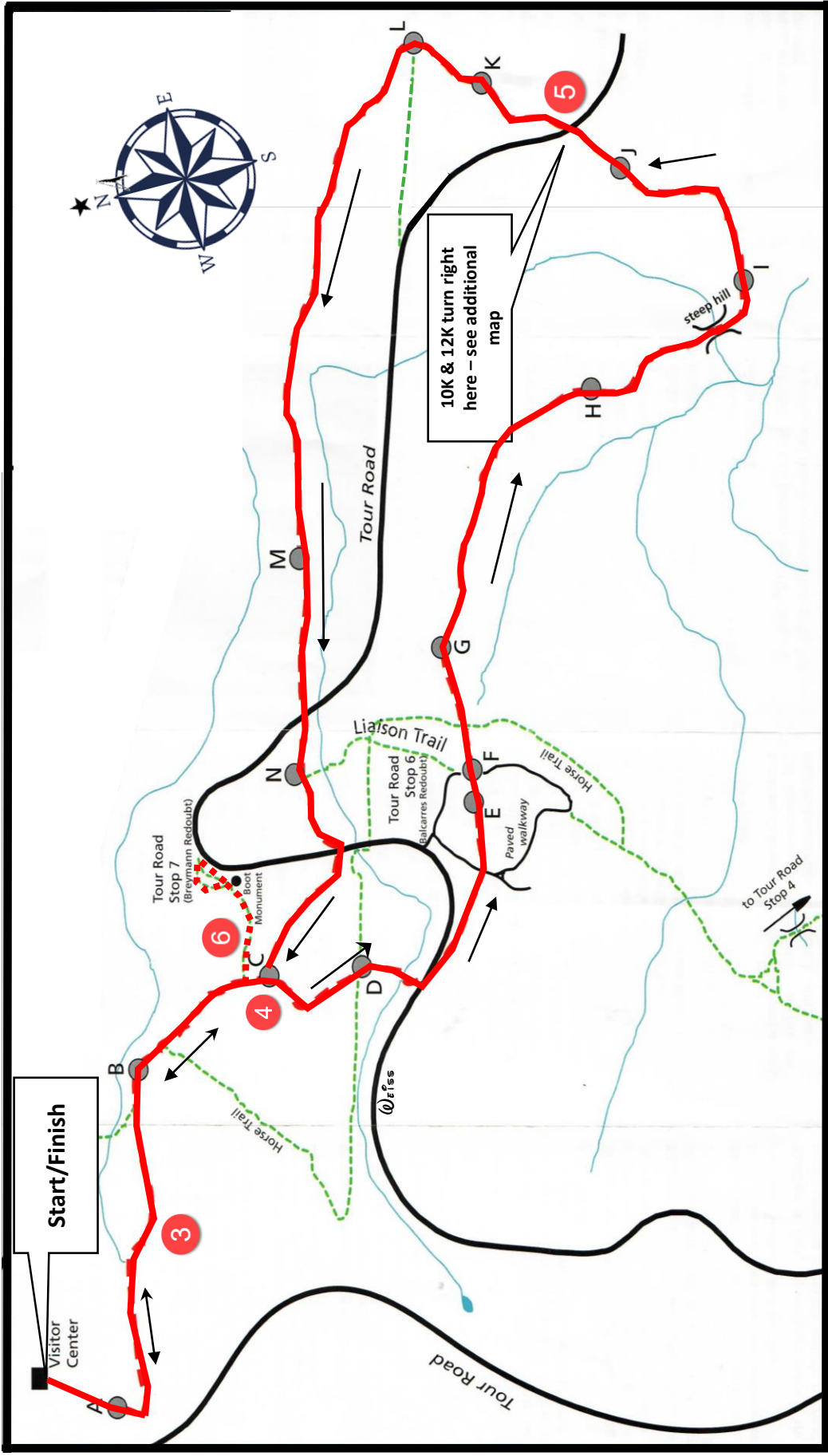
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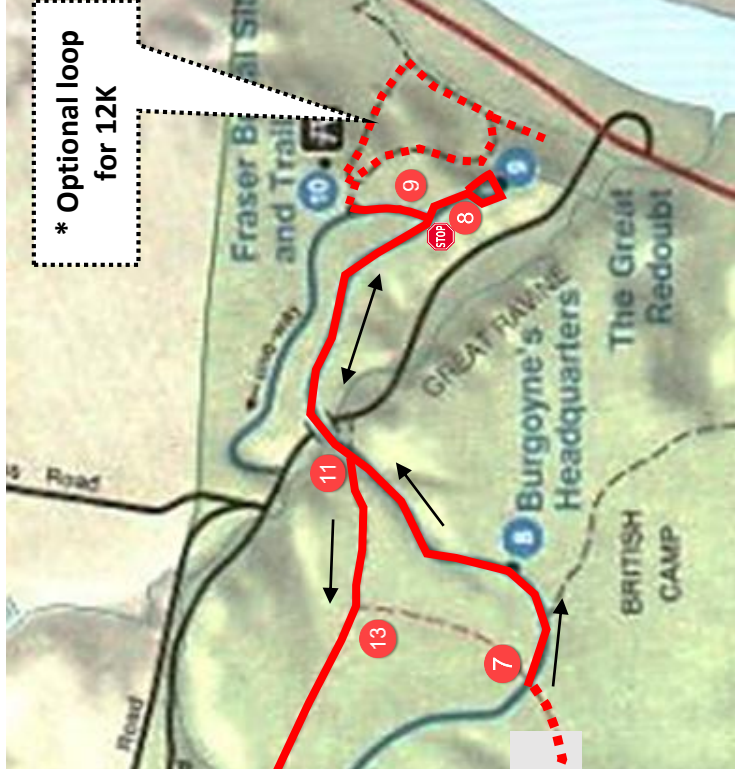
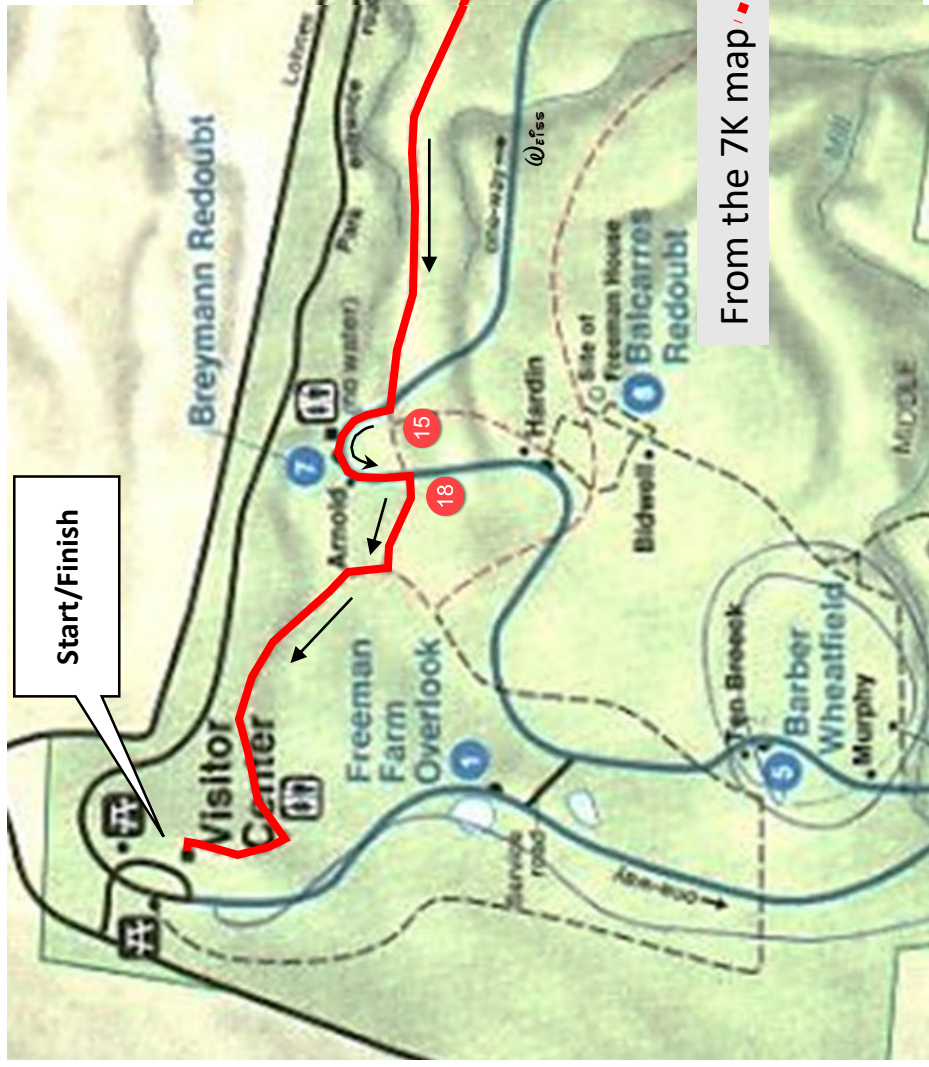
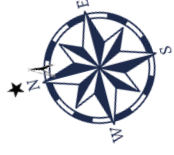
<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMS</b>	
Mayflower 400 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Walking the USA A-Z

**AFTER YOUR WALK, please be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration after completing the walk.** The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from your Event Bank until you have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked; the distance walked; and the selection of applicable special programs you're participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from your Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fee is credited back to your Event Bank when you submit the walk completion info as a paying-for-credit walker. Note, however, that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded pdf will expire in 60 days).

# WILKINSON TRAIL - 7K



# WILKINSON TRAIL - 10K & 12K (ADD-ON FROM 7KMAP)



# SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK WALKS and WINTER SPORTS TRAILS

## Tour Road 5K and 10K Walks – Rated 1A

It is suggested that you stop at the Visitors Center to view the movie about the battle and exhibits relating to it. Take along a park brochure to learn about the various stops on the walk route.

1. **LEAVE** the Visitors Center return to the parking lot.
2. **LEFT** on the sidewalk and walk to the entrance of the tour road.
3. **LEFT** to enter the tour road. Keep to the side of this road shared by cars, bicycles and other pedestrians.
4. **STOP 1:** View some of the battlefield from the Freeman Farm Overlook. The first clash between the two armies took place on the Freeman farm.
5. **RETURN** to the tour road and continue walking. On the right, you will eventually see a monument off to the right honoring Col. Daniel Morgan, the commander of the American forces that first engaged the British at Freeman’s farm.
6. **CONTINUE** on the tour road to the speed limit sign.

5K walkers: retrace your steps and return to the parking lot.

10K walkers: continue on the tour road.

7. **STOP 2** is the Neilson Farm.

*The original farm house became part of a larger structure, now removed. The part that is here was moved a very short distance to this location and restored. The door and window frames, some floor boards and bricks are from the original structure.*

8. **CONTINUE** down a long hill to a stop sign.

9. **RIGHT** at the stop sign to Stop 3. Here were the American fortifications overlooking the Hudson River. There are many informative signs along the trails adjacent to the parking area.

10. **RETURN** to the park road and retrace your steps. Walk straight past the sign where you turned in direction #9. Continue to Stop 4. There is an interpretative area on a paved path a short way from the tour road.

11. **RETURN** to the tour road and continue to Stop 5. When finished looking around at Stop 5, continue further on the tour road. Look for a sign noting a Service Road and a notice to bicycle riders.

12. **LEFT** onto the service road, a short gravel/dirt roadway.

13. **RIGHT** on the paved tour road, passing Stop 1, to the parking lot.

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# SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK - 5K & 10K

