

**EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS  
FORT LOUDOUN STATE HISTORIC AREA WALK  
5K/10K**

Table of Contents

Page 1 . . . . . Fort Loudoun History

Page 1 . . . . . Sequoyah Birthplace Museum

Page 1 . . . . . Starting Point

Page 2 . . . . . General Walk Information

Page 2 . . . . . Point of Contact

Page 2 . . . . . Special Programs

Page 2 . . . . . OSB Reminders

Page 3 . . . . . Walk Directions and Map – 5 km

Page 5 . . . . . Walk Directions and Map – 10 km

## **FORT LOUDOUN**

Fort Loudoun State Historic Park sits on 1,200-acres and is one of the earliest British fortifications on the western frontier. During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) the British Colony of South Carolina felt threatened by French activities in the Mississippi Valley. To counter this threat, in 1756 the Colony sent the Independent Company of South Carolina to construct and garrison what became Fort Loudoun.

The fort existed for four years until relations between South Carolina and the Cherokee Nation broke down. In August 1760, the Cherokee captured Fort Loudoun and its garrison. It was thought that the Cherokees destroyed the fort sometime shortly after the English marched away.

There was no public recognition of the Fort until 1917 when the Colonial Dames of America placed a commemorative marker at the site where the fort had stood. In 1933, the Tennessee General Assembly purchased the site and created an association to manage it. The fort was reconstructed during the Great Depression, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965, and became a Tennessee State Park in 1977.

## **SEQUOYAH BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM**

The 10 km walk goes through the museum building and uses the Maxwell D. Ramsey Shoreline Trail through the museum property. Individuals doing the 5 km walk are encouraged to drive the short distance further along Highway 360 to visit the museum.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. They are closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. Admission is \$5 with discounts for Seniors and Veterans.

This museum celebrates a fascinating piece of history of a man, Sequoyah (c. 1776-1843), father, soldier, silversmith, and statesman, who could neither read nor write, but who invented what became the written language of the Cherokee Nation.

## **STARTING POINT**

The starting point for both distances is the Fort Loudoun State Historic Area Visitor's Center, 338 Ft Loudoun Rd, Vonore, Tennessee 37885

**Directions:** 338 Ft Loudoun Rd, 37885 (423)884-6217.

FROM N, E & W: I-81/I-40, Exit 376 (I-140) to Maryville/Alcoa. Exit 11a (Hwy 129 S) merge with traffic. After passing airport, stay RIGHT at split, following Hwy 129 passing Foothills Mall until Hwy 129 merges with Hwy 411 S. Stay on Hwy 411 S approx 17 miles to Hwy 360 S and traffic light. Turn LEFT on Hwy 360 S, less than 1 mile, cross bridge, take next LEFT to State Historic Area. FROM S: I-75 to Exit 72 (Hwy 72 E), Hwy 411 N. Turn LEFT to Hwy 360 S and traffic light. Turn RIGHT to Hwy 360, less than 1 mile, cross bridge, next LEFT to State Historic Area.

**Latitude 35.596, Longitude -84.2054**

## GENERAL WALK INFORMATION

Walk during daylight hours. Park grounds are open from 8 a.m. to sunset. Restrooms are available in the Fort Loudoun Visitor Center, which is open 8 am-4 pm M-Sun. The park is closed Christmas Day. For the 10 km walkers, restrooms are also available in the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum.

This walk makes use of the Bobby Brewer Heritage Trail System within the Fort Loudoun State Historic Area and the Maxwell D. Ramsey Shoreline Trail on the grounds of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum. Please be careful and watch your footing. Watch for wildlife. Squirrels, deer, and snakes have all been seen on this walk. Please stay on the trail; poison ivy is very plentiful in this area. Hiking boots and sticks may be helpful. Use of insect repellent and sun screen may be appropriate depending on the season and the weather.

## POINT OF CONTACT

Dan Lewis (president @easttennesseewanderers.org) 865-441-2429

If you have questions, comments, or recommendations with respect to this event, please do not hesitate to make contact.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The three Special Programs associate with this walk are A-Z (Vonore, TN), 50 States (Tennessee), and Mayflower – 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk.

## OSB REMINDERS

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. Now that you have registered using the Online Start Box (OSB), please do NOT mix and match. You should not complete your event using the PSB nor should you sign the PSB log sheet. The East Tennessee Wanderers only receive credit for this OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB. Once you have entered that information, you can print out your insert cards for this walk.

## OTHER EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS' EVENTS

While in the area, we would like to invite you to participate in our other Year-Round Events:

Clinton 12 Walk  
Rogersville Historic Walk  
Maryville Historic City Walk  
Alcoa Greenway Walk and Bike  
Alcoa-Maryville Extended Greenway  
Fort Loudoun Historic Walk  
Seven Islands State Birding Park  
Oak Ridge Secret City Walk  
Elkmont (Smoky Mountain National Park)  
Knoxville Music, Moonshine and Art

Knoxville UT  
North Knoxville/4<sup>th</sup> & Gill  
A.T. Through Tennessee  
Newfound Gap/A.T. Walk  
Townsend (Peaceful Side of the Smokies)  
Gatlinburg (Trail Walk and Tourist Walk)

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**East Tennessee Wanderers**  
**VONORE - FORT LOUDOUN STATE**  
**HISTORIC AREA WALK©**  
Y2009 5 KM Rated 3C

1. **Exit** the Visitor Center front door and walk along the sidewalk to go around the building **to your right**.
2. **Follow** this paved path until you enter through Fort Loudoun's Sally Port (gate).
3. Once inside the fort, take some time to look around.
4. **Walk down hill with the Barracks to your right** to the Tuskegee Gate at the far wall.
5. **Pass** through that gate and walk to your left to see the Tuskegee Indian Village.
6. **Return** to the fort and **turn right** walking along the wall to the Blacksmith & Tinsmith Shops.
7. **Turn left** and **walk up hill** to the outdoor Bake Oven on your right.
8. **Turn left** and **walk across** the center of the fort back to the line of Barracks.
9. **Turn right** at the Barracks and **walk up hill** to the Sally Port (gate) you originally entered.
10. **Follow** the paved trail once outside the fort, and **walk back** along the way you originally approached the fort.
11. Watch for the unmarked trail to your right (0.68 km) just beyond the fence line.
12. **Take this trail to the right** and walk through the woods toward the water.
13. As you exit the woods, you will **walk through the meadow** along the shore line toward the tree line at the other end of the meadow.
14. As you approach the tree line, with a pier to your right, **turn to your left** to walk away from the pier toward the park road/parking lot.
15. As you approach the park road, you will see an old roadbed on your right (1.0 km). **Follow this roadbed** until it ends at the water. (1.56 km)
16. **Turn around and walk back** the way you came, watching for a kiosk on your right (2.12 km).
17. At the kiosk, **take the Ridgetop Loop Trail to your right**.
18. **Watch for steps to your right as that is the trail that you are on**. What looks like a trail straight ahead is NOT the real trail.
19. Upon reaching a T-intersection with an unmarked trail, **take the trail to the left** which is Ridgetop Loop Trail.
20. At 3.12 km, you will reach the park road. **Carefully cross the road** and **continue** on Ridgetop Loop Trail.
21. Watch carefully on your right for a trail sign indicating Ridgetop Trail (pointing the way you have come) and Meadow Loop Trail (continuing on straight). At this intersection with the Meadow Loop Trail (3.82 km), **turn left and continue on the unmarked Ridgetop Loop Trail**. NOTE: There is no trail sign to identify this trail.
22. Follow this trail until you reach a kiosk on your left (4.64 km), and a **sidewalk** with a picnic area to your right.
23. **Follow the sidewalk** back to the Visitor Center.
24. **Congratulations!** You have finished the East Tennessee Wanderers' 5 km Fort Loudoun Historic Area Walk. We hope you enjoyed it. Please let us know what you thought of the walk and how we might improve it.

**Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.**

**POC: Dan Lewis (865) 441-2429**

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In case of emergency, call 9-1-1  
After emergency, call (865) 441-2429

Fort Loudoun State Historic Area 5 KM Walk©

LOST SHOE  
LOOP TRAIL

MEADOW LOOP  
TRAIL

PARK

900

860

ROAD

Kiosk 1

RIDGETOP LOOP  
TRAIL

Kiosk 2

RIVERGATE TRAIL

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FT

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## East Tennessee Wanderers

VONORE - FORT LOUDOUN STATE  
HISTORIC AREA WALK©2020  
Y2009 10 KM Rated 3C

1. **Exit** the Visitor Center through the front door and **walk along the sidewalk** to go **around** the building to **your right**.
2. **Follow** this paved path until you **enter** through Fort Loudoun's Sally Port (gate).
3. Once inside the fort, take some time to look around.
4. **Walk** down the hill with Barracks to your right until you reach the Tuskegee Gate at the far wall of the fort.
5. **Pass** through that gate and walk out to see the Tuskegee Indian Village to your left.
6. **Reenter** the fort and **turn right** walking along the wall to the Blacksmith & Tinsmith Shops.
7. **Turn left** and walk up to the outdoor Bake Oven on your right.
8. **Turn left** and **walk across the center** of the fort back to the line of Barracks.
9. **Turn right** at the Barracks and walk up to the Sally Port (gate) you originally entered.
10. Once outside the fort, **follow the paved trail back** along the way you originally approached the fort.
11. Watch for the unmarked trail to your right (0.68 km) just beyond the fence line.
12. **Take this unmarked trail to your right** and walk through the woods toward the water.
13. As you exit the woods, you will walk into a meadow. **Walk through the meadow** along the shoreline toward the tree line at the other end of the meadow.
14. As you approach the tree line, with a pier to your right, **turn left** to walk away from the pier toward the park road/parking lot.
15. As you approach the park road you will see an old roadbed on your right (1 km). **Take this roadbed to your right** until you see a kiosk on your left.
16. **Turn left** at the kiosk, and **take the Ridgetop Loop Trail**. (1.38 km)
17. Watch for steps up to your right. It looks like the trail might go straight, but you should **take the steps up to the right**.
18. Upon reaching a T-intersection with an unmarked trail, (2.15 km) **take the Meadow Loop Trail to the right**
19. **Follow this trail until you reach the park road**.
20. **Cross** the park road (3.72 km) and **turn right** to carefully walk along the shoulder until you reach the park gate.
21. **Exit** the park and **turn left** to carefully walk a short distance along the highway shoulder until you see a gate in the fence on the other side of the road (4.16 km).
22. **Carefully cross** the road and either go under this gate or walk along the fence a short distance to your left to a break in the fence that you can walk through..
23. After you pass through the fence line, **turn left** along the mulch/grass Maxwell D. Ramsey Shoreline trail.
24. When the mulch/grass trail ends (4.64 km) at the entrance to the parking lot of the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, **follow** the parking lot to the museum building.
25. Bathrooms and water are available in the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum. You can visit the gift shop for free, and you can visit the museum itself for a small admission fee (discounts for seniors and veterans). We encourage you to visit the museum as this is a fascinating piece of history of a man who could neither read nor write, but invented what became the written language of the Cherokee Nation.
26. **Exit** out the back doors of the Museum and **walk** toward the water on the gravel path.
27. **Bear to the right** along the path walking between two buildings and pole shelters with the parking lot up the hill to your right.
28. **Turn left** as you approach the fence line (5.0 km), and **walk toward** the Indian Burial Mound. This is the traditional burial method of the Cherokee people.
29. Staying off the Burial Mound, **walk around the left side** to the tree line.
30. **Turn right** past the tree line (5.15 km), and **walk along** the old roadbed. The roadbed will feed back onto a mulch trail. This is the Maxwell D. Ramsey Shoreline Trail.
31. **Continue along this mulch trail** as it parallels the shoreline, **crossing a 150 foot boardwalk and two bridges**.

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32. **As you approach the road, the trail will curve to the right** (away from the water).
33. After a short distance up this trail section, you will be walking **parallel to the highway** and **back toward** the museum.
34. When you reach the gate or the break in the fence (where you originally entered), **cross through the fence line** (5.97 km).
35. **Turn left** to walk carefully along the shoulder of the highway until you reach the entrance to Fort Loudoun State Historic Area. (6.13 km).
36. **Carefully cross** the road and walk along the shoulder on the left side of the park road.
37. **Cross the road to take the trail to the right** when you reach the intersection with Meadow Loop Trail (6.44 km). This is on the opposite side of the road where you earlier exited the woods (Steps 19/20)
38. **Follow this trail until you reach the Lost Shoe Loop Trail on your Right.** (7.55 km)
39. **Follow the Lost Shoe Loop Trail until you again reach the Meadow Loop Trail where you go right.** (8.30 km),
40. **Follow this trail** and watch for a trail sign on your left that indicates Ridgetop Trail (continues on straight) and Meadow Loop Trail (pointing the way you have come). (8.87 km).
41. At this trail sign, **turn right to take the unmarked Ridgetop Loop Trail.** NOTE: There is no trail sign to identify that this trail segment to your right is part of the Ridgetop Loop Trail, but it is.
42. **Follow this trail until you reach the sidewalk** with the picnic area to your right and kiosk on your left (9.69 km),
43. **Follow the sidewalk** back to the Visitor Center.
44. **Congratulations!** You have finished the East Tennessee Wanderers' 10 km Fort Loudoun Historic Area Walk. We hope you enjoyed it. Please let us know what you thought of the walk and how we might improve it.

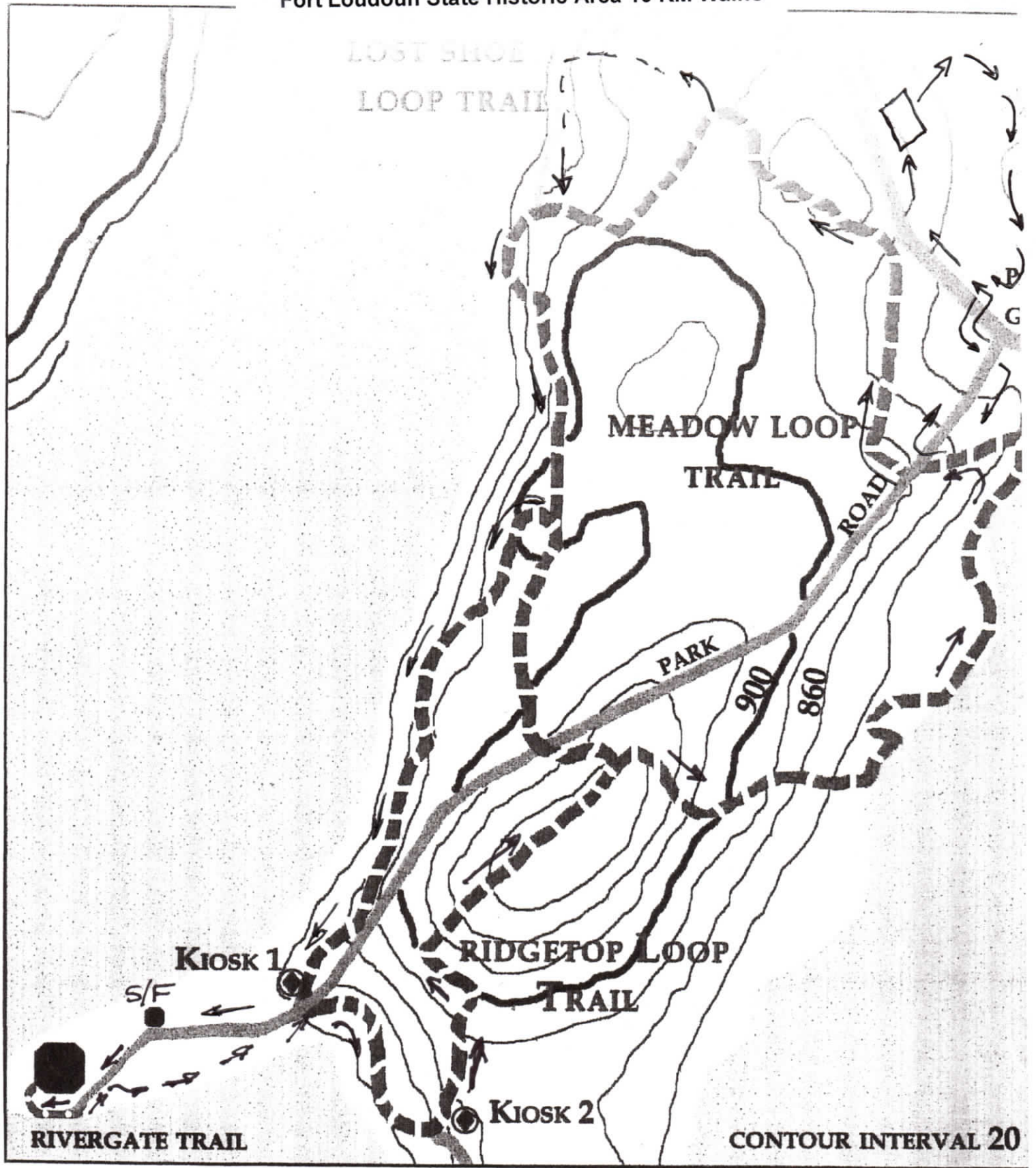
POC: Dan Lewis (865) 441-2429

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