



Fort Ticonderoga Carillon Battlefield Hiking Trail Guide

Length: Approximately 1¾ mile



The dashed line on this map represents the path of the Carillon Battlefield Hiking Trail.

The Carillon Battlefield Hiking Trail is a 1 ¾ mile long loop trail. Appropriate footwear is recommended. The trail is rustic and uneven in some areas. Trail markers are mounted on trees approximately five feet off the ground. A second marker with a blue number identifies points of interest along the trail. The number corresponds to a brief description in this guide. Please observe the following guidelines for your safety and the preservation of Fort Ticonderoga's historic site and natural resources:

- Stay on the marked trail,
- Do not climb on the earthworks,
- Do not disturb wildlife or harm or remove plants,
- Do not disturb any natural or man-made objects,
- Do not litter. Carry out materials that you bring onto the trail

In the event of an emergency on the trail, please call 518-585-2821 (Mon-Fri) or 518-585-2650 (Sat-Sun). If a 911 call is placed by someone in your party, please call one of the above numbers so a Fort Ticonderoga staff member can assist emergency vehicles.

Thank you for visiting Fort Ticonderoga! Enjoy your hike!

Key to the points of interest markers:

- 1. Glacial Scars on Bedrock.** About 18,000 years ago the Champlain Valley was covered by glaciers over a mile and a half thick. As the glaciers slowly flowed over the landscape, rocks and boulders were dragged along leaving deep scratches on the bedrock. Though somewhat eroded, glacial scratches are visible in the large area of exposed limestone bedrock in the picnic area.
- 2. Historic Military Encampment Field.** The Marquis de Montcalm's French Army encamped here in summers from 1756 and 1759. General Amherst's triumphant British & American Army pitched their tents here after they captured Fort Ticonderoga from the French in July 1759.
- 3. 19th-Century Structures.** After the American Revolution, the fort was never used as a military post again. By the 1850s, there were several houses and farm structures dotting its landscape. The depressions visible in the ground in this area are the cellar holes of a group of farm structures that are known to have existed in this area in the 1870s.
- 4. Possible Revolutionary War Soldier Hut Site.** In 1776, Pennsylvania soldiers prepared to defend the Heights of Carillon. On September 14, they received orders to replace their tents with, "lodging as the nature of the campaign may admit." Using boards from the sawmill on the La Chute River they built simple houses or huts. Fireplaces were made from soil, sticks, and sod dug from the hut site. This depression may be the site of one such hut.
- 5. 1759 British Artillery Battery (1).** In July 1759, the British Army constructed three artillery batteries to mount cannon as it laid siege to Carillon. Just a few yards to the west, are the remains of one such battery that held six 24-pounder and two 12-pounder cannon. These cannon never fired a shot. On the evening of July 25, the French abandoned the fort to the British, renaming it Ticonderoga. In the aftermath of the siege, the batteries were ordered to be torn down, but this one, and the battery at stop 11, never was and remains a prominent feature on the landscape today.
- 6. Part of 1758 French Lines Breastwork.** This low hump and ditch are part of the remains of the log wall built by the French Army to defend the fort against British attack in July 1758. This particular section of the breastwork defends the approach to the fort on the low ground near the La Chute River.
- 7. Area where the British Army began the 1758 Attack.** In this area on the morning of July 8, 1758, the British Army composed of nearly 15,000 British and American troops formed columns and lines that stretched across the high ground as they began their attack on the French Lines. This was the largest army ever assembled in North America to that time.
- 8. 18th-Century Military Road.** This long, narrow depression extending roughly east-west is the remains of one of the military roads used by army troops entering and leaving Fort Ticonderoga.
- 9. Carillon Battlefield.** This area is roughly at the center of the July 8, 1758 British attack on Carillon. Nearly 2,000 British and American soldiers were killed and wounded in their attempt to push the French Army off their lines, making it the bloodiest battle on the Continent until the 1840s. In 1776, this section of the French Lines was built by the Americans into the, "Great Redoubt," which still stands to this day with holes for cannons still visible as dips in the earthen wall.
- 10. French Cross.** In celebration of its remarkable victory, the French Army at Carillon (Ticonderoga) erected a cross behind the breastworks on August 21, 1758 with the following inscription:
"Christian! It was not Montcalm and his prudence, Nor these felled trees, the heroes, their exploits, Which dashed the hopes of the bewildered English; It was the hand of thy God, conqueror on this cross."
- 11. 1759 British Artillery Battery (2).** Just a few yards to the north are the remains of a second British battery constructed in July 1759.
- 12. Revolutionary War American Redoubt.** In May of 1777, Chief Engineer Jeduthan Baldwin ordered two new redoubts to cover the rear of the French Lines. These redoubts were built by Massachusetts soldiers.