



## **Independence Day Weekend 1775 July 4-6, 2025**

Witness the first citizen-soldiers of the Revolutionary War preparing guns, big and small to defend Ticonderoga and Lake Champlain. Thrill at the power of artillery and crackle of muskets, march to the beat of Fife & Drum, and join special family tours and hands-on programs throughout the weekend, to celebrate America's independence at Fort Ticonderoga!

### **9:30 a.m. Fort Ticonderoga Opens to Visitors**

#### **10:15 a.m. Key to the Continent Guided Tour (Begins at the American Flag)**

In this entertaining half-hour tour, discover the incredible story of Ticonderoga and all the great experiences Fort Ticonderoga offers today. Learn about the iconic battles of Carillon & Ticonderoga within the French & Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Explore groundbreaking preservation and reconstruction efforts that allow Fort Ticonderoga to bring to life its heroic tales today and for generations to come.

#### **10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Carillon Boat Cruises (Boat Dock by the King's Garden)**

During this 75-minute narrated Carillon tour, our friendly and experienced staff will guide you through centuries of Lake Champlain's stirring maritime heritage. Panoramic mountain vistas will surround you and sonar readings present unforgettable images of shipwrecks. A selection of beer, wine, soft drinks, and snacks are available for sale on board with credit card purchase! *Additional ticket required. Tickets are available by visiting the Guest Service Desk in the Log House Welcome Center.*

#### **11:00 a.m. Musket Demonstration (Demonstration Area)**

From hunting weapons to old British, Dutch, and French Arms, learn how the Colony of Connecticut armed their soldiers. See how these recently drafted citizen-soldiers practiced loading and firing together as they guarded Fort Ticonderoga in 1775, just as the Revolution had begun.

#### **11:30 a.m. A Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum (Begins inside the Parade Ground)**

More than a century of collecting has allowed Fort Ticonderoga to acquire North America's largest and most important collection of 18th-century military material culture. This guided tour will give you the scoop on the most significant, rare, and interesting pieces in the collection on display.

#### **11:30 a.m. Garden March (Begins at the American Flag)**

Follow the Fifes & Drums of Fort Ticonderoga down to the King's Garden. Enjoy your favorite 18th-century tunes and march with this corps as your musical guide.

**11:45 a.m. Breaking Ground Tour: A Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Gardens  
(Begins at the King's Garden Greenhouse)**

From military garrison gardens to a vibrant Colonial Revival Garden, explore one of North America's oldest cultivated landscapes. Discover the incredible story of America's first historic preservation effort, and the family country estate and gardens emblematic of that legacy.

**12:30 p.m. "Never to Be Slaves" (Parade Ground) *Friday Only***

Hear the words of Benedict Arnold's "General Association" declaring the "rights and liberties of America" in 1775. Learn why Americans went to war a year before they declared their Independence!

**12:30 p.m. Music Demonstration (Parade Ground) *Saturday & Sunday Only***

Listen to the fifes and drums of Colonel Hinman's Connecticut regiment play the patriotic songs which the fight for rights and the everyday tunes and marches that regulated army life at Ticonderoga in 1775.

**1:15 p.m. Key to the Continent Guided Tour**

*See 10:15 a.m. description.*

**2:00 p.m. Cannon Demonstration (Begins on the Parade Ground)**

Discover how Fort Ticonderoga's first American garrison prepared to use Ticonderoga's guns to defend this northern approach of the rebelling colonies on Lake Champlain and from the fort's walls. See the ammunition and workings of the old British & French cannons that Americans loaded and fired together.

**2:30 p.m. A Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum (Begins inside the Parade Ground)**

*See 11:30 a.m. description.*

**2:30 p.m. Garden March**

*See 11:30 a.m. description.*

**2:45 p.m. Breaking Ground Tour: A Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Gardens**

*See 11:45 a.m. description.*

**3:00 pm Key to the Continent Guided Tour**

*See 10:15 a.m. description.*

**4:00 p.m. Witness to History Guided Tour (Begins on Mount Defiance)**

Oh, the stories this graceful mountain could tell overlooking Fort Ticonderoga! Ascend to summit of Mount Defiance to get a birds-eye view of this epic military landscape and learn how this height shaped the fort's history.

**Ongoing 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**The Power of Oxen (Around Fort Ticonderoga)**

See teams of oxen in action and discover their work in the summer of 1775. These powerful teams of oxen were vital to the Northern Army at Ticonderoga, hauling logs from the woods to repair Fort Ticonderoga.

**Carpentry (Parade Ground)**

Help us make history; grab a mallet or saw and try out timber framing! Work alongside Connecticut colonial soldiers as they repair the, "Old French Fort," for their new cause of liberty in 1775.

**'Search for Liberty!' Hands-on Family Activity (Begins at Marquis Tent)**

Take our fun hands-on exploration for all ages and experience the life of American soldier at Ticonderoga in 1775! Discover historic trades that kept an American Army in the field and the daily tasks of soldiers here at Ticonderoga. Do them all and receive your soldier's pay and proudly get the 'C.N.Y.' stamp.