



Independence Day Weekend

July 4th -July 7th, 2019

Visitor Schedule

Experience the American Revolution on the very ground on which the fight for liberty occurred. See how American soldiers celebrated July 4, 1777 locked in a bitter siege against 8,000 British & German soldiers. Throughout the weekend, explore the dramatic events of the siege of Ticonderoga as the Continental Army fought to defend independence. See the army's skilled craftsmen and the muskets and cannon in action during thrilling demonstrations. Participate in the hands-on "Search for Liberty: A Family Adventure!" activity and receive rewards for helping soldiers with their daily duties. Watch teams of oxen in action and see their vital role in 1777. Discover the weapons, tactics, and the personal stories of the defense and fall of American-held Ticonderoga.

On display in the Mars Education Center this weekend only, see two original documents from the summer of 1776 that provide a glimpse into perhaps the most important event in American history. The Declaration of Independence stands as one of history's most significant documents, establishing the United States of America and providing a model for nations across the world to follow.

9:30 AM Fort Ticonderoga opens to visitors

10:15 AM Key to the Continent Guided Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

Could Ticonderoga have been held by the Continental Army in 1777? Was its loss a disaster or a prudent retreat? Create your own answers to questions that have enthralled officers and armchair generals alike for 242 years. During this 30-minute guided tour, explore how two decades of military occupation culminated with rich cultures and characters at Ticonderoga in 1777.

10:30 AM Carillon Boat Cruise on Lake Champlain (Begins at the Boat Dock by the Pavilion)

Get a front row seat for the siege of Ticonderoga this Independence Day weekend. Between floating bridges, flotillas of bateaux, and a whole British naval fleet, the fight for Ticonderoga played out on Lake Champlain as well as the mountains that surround it. Don't miss this unparalleled chance to get a new perspective on the fight for independence on one of the most historic waterways in America. **Additional ticket required.**

11:00 AM Musket Demonstration (Demonstration Area)

American soldiers, behind a wall of earth, steadied their nerves to hold their ground as the British Army landed to attack in 1777. See how an army of farmers and tradesmen used their muskets & bayonets to hold back British and German regular soldiers.

11:30 AM 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 marches with this corps as your musical guide.

11:30 AM A Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum (Begins at the Parade Ground)

Begun more than a century ago, the Fort Ticonderoga Museum has North America's largest and most important collection of 18th-century military material culture. Get the scoop on the most significant, rare, and interesting pieces in the Fort Ticonderoga collection.

11:45 AM Breaking Ground: A Guided Tour of the Historic Gardens (Begins in the King's Garden)

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 home and gardens emblematic of that legacy.

12:30 PM Music Demonstration (Parade Ground)

From the earliest patriotic songs which inspired a nation, to the everyday duties and marches that regulated army life, listen to the fifes and drums of the American defenders of Ticonderoga. See the massed fifers and drummers of the many regiments who were charged with holding the British Army at bay.

1:00 PM “A Return of Arms” (Parade Ground) FOURTH OF JULY ONLY!

As the British Army’s siege tightened around American-held Ticonderoga, brand new muskets fresh from France were too valuable to leave crated up inside the fort. See these vital arms from a secret ally exchanged for the worn out arms brought by American soldiers to Ticonderoga.

1:00 PM Carillon Boat Cruise on Lake Champlain (Begins at the Boat Dock by the Pavilion)

See 10:30 AM description.

1:15 PM Key to the Continent Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

See 10:15 AM description.

2:00 PM Cannon Demonstration (Begins in the Parade Ground)

Watch a cannon and its crew in their element, holding the British Army back with shots fired from the earthen walls of a redoubt. Explore how the science of gunnery and field fortification were applied in the defense of Ticonderoga in July, 1777.

2:30 PM Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum (Begins at the Parade Ground)

See 11:30 AM description.

2:30 PM Garden March (Begins at the American Flag)

See 11:30 AM description.

2:45 PM Breaking Ground: A Guided Tour of the Historic Gardens (Begins in the King’s Garden)

See 11:45 AM description.

3:00 PM Key to the Continent Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

See 10:15 AM description.

3:30 PM Carillon Boat Cruise on Lake Champlain (Begins at the Boat Dock by the Pavilion)

See 10:30 AM description.

4:00 PM Mount Defiance: Witness to History Tour (Summit of Mount Defiance)

Oh, the stories this graceful hill overlooking Fort Ticonderoga could tell! As Fort Ticonderoga relives 1777, discover Mount Defiance’s unique tactical role in the story of this decisive campaign.

5:00 PM Fort Ticonderoga closes to visitors

Ongoing 9:30 am-5:00 pm

The Power of Oxen (Around Fort Ticonderoga)

Immensely powerful teams of oxen were vital to the American Army at Ticonderoga. Pairs of yoked oxen hauled logs a couple miles from the woods surrounding Ticonderoga to continue the construction of defensive works. See teams of oxen in action today and discover their work in the summer of 1777.

‘Search for Liberty!’ Hands-on Family Activity (Begins in the Soldiers’ Barracks)

Take our fun hands-on exploration for all ages and experience the life of the Continental soldier at Ticonderoga in 1777. 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 Continental pay and proudly get the ‘U. States’ stamp.

Special Exhibit (Mars Education Center Atrium)

See the actual accounts of the Declaration of Independence arriving to the Continental Army at Ticonderoga. These one-of-a-kind documents show the very moment when a rebellion for rights as British subjects became a fight for independence for soldiers at Ticonderoga.

Ticonderoga Guns By Night, FOURTH OF JULY ONLY!

Experience the flash of musketry and roar of cannon fire by night in this unique 90-minute tour and demonstration of 18th-century guns, big and small! Explore the workings of the firelocks and cannons that armed the many garrisons of Fort Ticonderoga and influenced and shaped the importance of this strategic frontier citadel. Learn how these great guns were used to attack and defend Fort Ticonderoga during the French & Indian War and made it such an important prize in the American Revolution. The tour concludes with a dramatic nighttime demonstration of weapons that you will not see anywhere else!

Additional ticket required, pre-registration suggested. Gates open at 7:30 pm. Tour begins at 8:00 pm at the Log House Welcome Center