



places to go



Looking for Hands-on Fun?

Head to Pamplin Historical Park

Take young ones to children-friendly Pamplin Historical Park in Petersburg and I promise a day you'll enjoy. Allow plenty of time because, in spite of its relatively low profile, there is much to see and do.

In the Museum of the Civil War Soldier, visitors select a soldier comrade. These are real men; their stories are drawn from letters and journals. They're divided between North and South; officers and enlisted; some did not come home. Youngsters may choose 13-year-old drummer, Delevan Miller, whose story is central to the "Discovery Program," the park's tour designed especially for children. Once they've made their selection, visitors receive a CD player that guides them through the various exhibits and speaks

weapons. The area also includes the recreated, full-scale fortifications and scheduled demonstrations of artillery and rifle firing.

At the Battlefield Center a multifaceted museum is dedicated to military events that occurred there during the Petersburg Campaign of 1854-65. Interactive computers test a child's knowledge of Civil War facts and a hands-on children's discovery tent allows them to wear uniforms and handle equipment. Don't forget the camera!

Outside, the Breakthrough Trail beckons and visitors are introduced to the decisive battle of April 2, 1865, when 14,000 Union troops broke thinly manned Confederate lines. This forced General Lee on his westward trek

to Appomattox where he met General Grant a week later. Optional trail loops meander through woods and fields, and follow the Union assault. In spots the trail parallels the original earthworks, some eight feet high. Interpretive signs give historic information or scheduled guided tours are available.

Tudor Hall is restored to its Civil War appearance and half the house furnished to reflect the wartime occupancy of Confederate troops. The other half replicates the lifestyle of a brigade headquarters, and the English basement houses a permanent exhibit "A Land Worth Fighting For." The exhibit explores the house itself against the background of the Southern experience as a whole. Again, there are hands-

on exhibits to beckon the younger set.

Picnic tables are available for brown-bag dining during nice weather. Indoors, the Hardtack & Coffee Café offers light fare at reasonable prices. The park is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Memorial Day to Labor Day and till 5 p.m. the rest of the year; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years. Daily admission is \$12 for adults, \$10

for seniors, \$6 for children 6-11; younger children are free. Group rates are available if you call ahead.

The park is located in the heart of historic Central Virginia. From Richmond, it's a 30-minute drive on I-95 to I-85 and off at Exit 63-A. Another mile and you're there. There's plenty of lodging and dining facilities in the area if an overnight stay is desirable. ■

—Sharon Tabor Warren



Photos courtesy of Pamplin Park



through the voice of the comrade. The exhibits themselves are low and large which makes them easy for children to see; many have audio components.

Outside there is a military encampment where visitors interact with costumed and knowledgeable interpreters who are immersed in a soldier's daily life: cooking, drilling, playing cards, dice or dominoes and cleaning

MUSEUMS WORTH THE TRIP

Children's Museum of Richmond

2626 West Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23220
877/295-CMOR
www.c-mor.org

Hours: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Admission: \$6/general admission, free/under age 1, \$1 off for AAA members & seniors.

Ages: Especially fun for toddlers through age 12.

Build a dam. Sit in an eagle's nest. Create innovative artwork. Wiggle through a digestive tract. Try kitchen chemistry. The award-winning Children's Museum of Richmond lets visitors learn through interactive play.

ArtVenture Interactive Center

Art Museum of Western Virginia
One Market Square
Center in the Square
Roanoke, VA 24011
540/342-5760

www.artmuseumroanoke.org

Admission: \$7/family, \$3/individual,

Free/Art Museum members & children under age 3

Ages: 4 & up



Interact. Respond. Create. At Art Venture, you never know where your imagination and creativity will take you. Children play and learn through hands-on activities that include printmaking in a Japanese dwelling, listening to historical dialogues that tell Pocahontas' story, relating to abstract art through music and identifying different artistic styles within the area of portraiture.

Non-Stop Adventure with Families in Mind

If you're looking to do something different than the trip to the beach or lake this summer, Backroads Family Trips wants to help. Okay, so this one may cost a bit more than splitting the beach house five ways, but consider your family exploring the Blue Morpho Butterfly Farm in Costa Rica, building a model boat at the Viking Museum in Denmark, biking and hiking along Georgia's Low-Country Islands. Call 800-GO-ACTIVE

or log on to www.backroads.com/special/family.html to find out about specific family trips and rates, along with general tips on traveling with kids.

Photo courtesy of Backroads/ Ben Davidson



CRUISE FOR FREE

Win one of three 7-night Caribbean cruises for 12 family members or one of three 7-night Caribbean cruises for four with the Royal Caribbean Family Cruise Sweepstakes. Log on to www.royalcaribbean.com for rules. You must enter by Dec. 15, 2002.