



Four Forts in Four Hours

If you think the American Revolution only took place in Boston, New York, Philadelphia and other locations in the eastern United States, you might be surprised to know all that was happening in Southwestern Illinois during this time. Take a ride along the Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail and visit four American Revolutionary forts in four hours!

Points of Interest*

- **Fort San Carlos** (4th and Walnut Streets, St. Louis) Fort San Carlos stood at this site and played a major role in the revolution. Attacked on May 26th, 1780 by the British and a large contingent of Native Americans, the fort was successfully defended. The British were unable to secure a western base which would have allowed them to crush the American cause.
- **Holy Family Log Church** (Cahokia). The same day in 1780, the Village of Cahokia was attacked by a similar group of British and Indians. This also failed. The log church, second on the site (the parish was founded in 1699) holds the remains of Fort Bowman under the main altar. George Rogers Clark had so named this site on his visit to Cahokia in 1778. Clark's rendezvous there was part of his campaign to secure the western area of the fledgling U.S. Prior to Cahokia, he visited Fort de Chartres and Fort Kaskaskia. *To access the log church, call Jakob Grier at (618) 741-3212.*
- **Fort de Chartres** (1350 State Rte. 155, Prairie du Rocher). Fort de Chartres served as the French seat of government and its chief military installation in Upper Louisiana from 1753 until 1765 when it was occupied by the British. In 1763 France ceded much of its territory in North America, including what is now Illinois, to Great Britain. British troops occupied the fort from 1765 until 1772
- **Fort Kaskaskia** (4372 Park Rd., Ellis Grove). Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site preserves the time-worn earthen remains of Fort Kaskaskia, constructed by the French ca. 1759 to defend the town of Kaskaskia. Founded in 1703, the town was for more than a century the region's principal commercial center, also serving from 1818 to 1820 as the first capital of Illinois.



Eats & Drinks

Sauget Diner - Sauget, IL
Lisa's - Prairie du Rocher

Reifschneiders - Columbia
Barb's Bounty Restaurant - Chester

Gallaghers - Waterloo



Places to Stay

- Hampton Inn - Columbia
- Connor House B&B - Prairie du Rocher

Other Nearby Attractions

- Eagle Cliff/Miles Cemetery
- Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve
- Kaskaskia Bell State Memorial

*We recommend calling ahead to points of interest, as many operate on a seasonal schedule.