



## The Mobile Bay Campaign – A Boat, Field & Walking Tour

March 22-24, 2018 – based in Daphne, Alabama (near Mobile)

### Led by Mike Bunn

Three years into the War, Mobile remained an important objective for Union forces, both land and sea. Located at the head of relatively shallow Mobile Bay more than thirty miles from the Gulf of Mexico, Mobile also lay on an extensive river system that offered access to the Confederate interior. Because the Union had been slow to mount a serious threat against the city for much of the war, the Confederacy was able to create an extensive, layered network of defenses to address any threat.

Beginning at the coast with prewar **Fort Gaines** and **Fort Morgan** supplemented by war-constructed **Fort Powell**, the network included heavy fortifications at **Spanish Fort** and **Blakely** at the head of the bay, rings of trenches west of the city, and a Confederate naval squadron led by the ironclad CSS Tennessee. The Confederate defenses were first seriously tested in August 1864 when a Union naval squadron under **David Farragut** and an army force under **Gordon Granger** assaulted the coastal forts, vanquished the Confederate Navy in the famous **Battle of Mobile Bay**, and gained control of the mouth of the bay with the surrender of the fixed land defenses. The Union then rested on its laurels at Mobile until March 1865, when a joint army-navy campaign led by Major General **E. R. S. Canby** advanced along the east side of the bay toward its head. That campaign led directly to sieges at Spanish Fort and Blakely, and ultimately to the surrender of the city.

The operations around Mobile are worthy of study in terms of two large and timeless issues in military affairs: **the role of new technology in operations**, and **the integration of land and naval forces** to produce a favorable outcome in a littoral environment.

Our March tour, through the stunningly beautiful Mobile Bay region, will explore the sites on land and water where the Civil War's last major campaign—the Campaign for Mobile—occurred. We'll visit the site where **Admiral Farragut** famously exhorted his men to "Damn the Torpedoes" and steam ahead as he led his fleet into Mobile Bay under the thundering guns of Forts Morgan and Gaines in the war's largest naval battle. We'll walk over portions of one of the nation's best-preserved battlefields at Fort Blakeley, where Federal troops—including one of largest concentrations of African-American soldiers anywhere in the war—made the last grand charge of the war across a three-mile wide front in Alabama's largest Civil War battle.

We'll venture by **pontoon cruise boat** into the tranquil waters of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta (often referred to as the "American Amazon") for a unique view of the battlefields of Spanish Fort and Blakeley, gateways to Mobile, and visit remote locations where Confederate and Union army and navy forces battled for control of the last major city to remain in Confederate hands. We'll also visit several sites in historic Mobile itself, where we'll view incredible artifacts from the city's Civil War years and relics from the storied CSS Alabama as well as make a quick stop at a few of Mobile's venerable antebellum mansions. And, OH YES, during our three-day adventure together, we will dine at some of the Gulf Coast's best eateries! This will be a GREAT TOUR!

### About Our Tour leader

**Mike Bunn** is the Director of Historic Blakeley State Park. He is author of several books, including *Civil War Eufaula*; *Battle for the Southern Frontier: The Creek War and the War of 1812*; and *Images of America: The Lower Chattahoochee River*. His book *Alabama: From Territory to State* is scheduled to be published by the University of Alabama Press in 2018. He is also co-author of *Mississippi: 1798-1840*, which is forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi.

### **Thursday, March 22**

8:00 AM On – Assemble in front lobby of Comfort Suites, Daphne, Alabama  
8:30 AM - Depart for Fort Morgan  
10:00 AM -11:30 AM - Tour Fort Morgan  
12:00 N-1:00 PM - Lunch at Tacky Jack's seafood restaurant on Mobile Bay  
1:15 PM-2:00 PM - Take Mobile Bay Ferry to Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island  
2:00 PM-3:15 PM - Tour Fort Gaines  
3:30 PM-4:15 PM Take Mobile Bay Ferry back to Fort Morgan  
6:00 PM – Arrive Back at Comfort Suites in Daphne (after a quick stop at the Daphne Museum (a historic church occupied by Union forces))

### **Friday, March 23**

8:30 AM Depart for Historic Blakeley State Park  
9:00-10:30 AM "Civil War on the Eastern Shore" boat cruise  
10:30-10:45 AM Travel to Spanish Fort  
10:45 AM-11:45 AM Tour battlefield at Spanish Fort  
12:00-1:00 PM Lunch at Historic Blakeley State Park  
1:00-3:15 PM Tour of Siege and Battle of Fort Blakeley  
3:15-3:30 PM Travel to USCT lines north of main park property  
3:45-4:15 PM Tour of northern section of Confederate lines and view USCT lines  
Arrive Back at Comfort Suites in Daphne

### **Saturday, March 24**

8:30 AM – Depart for Mobile  
9:00-10:15 AM Visit History Museum of Mobile  
10:15-10:45 AM – Driving Tour of selected Civil War-era sites in Mobile: The Ketchum House (Gen. Canby's headquarters after the capture of Mobile), the Raphael Semmes House, the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion (owned by Braxton Bragg's brother, John Bragg), and site of the construction of the Hunley  
10:45 AM-12:00 PM - Tour Oakleigh, Mobile's premier antebellum house museum  
12:00-1:00 PM - Lunch at Saucy Q's barbecue  
1:15 PM – Visit Magnolia Cemetery, final resting place of many from the Battle of Fort Blakeley and noted Confederate General Braxton Bragg  
3:00 PM – Arrive Back at Comfort Suites in Daphne

### **BASE LOCATION & LODGING**

**We will be based at the Comfort Suites**, 29450 N. Main Street, Daphne, AL 36526. These rooms are **NOT** in a room block because our group size will be low. Rather, **call 251-626-1113** and book a room at your best available rate – AARP, AAA or the like. Regular room rates are **March 21**- Single: \$84; Double: \$89; **March 22**- Single: \$89; Double: \$94; **March 23**- Single: \$109; Double: \$114; and **March 24**-Single: \$114; Double: \$119. Hotel Guests will enjoy free parking and a free hot breakfast for each morning of their stay: **DIRECTIONS:** from I-10 West, Exit 35, turn left to first light and another left at next light. I-10 East, Exit 35B, go straight across at red light and turn right at stop sign onto service road (North Main Street). Hotel is around the curve on the left.

**To Enroll for this Mobile Campaign Tour,  
Call 800-298-1861 or complete and mail or fax in this form:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is Payment in amount of **\$495.00**

Check to CWEA  Charge my MC, VISA, Discover or AMEX

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Ex Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security# (3 digit # on back of VISA, MC or DISC or 4 digit # on front of AMEX) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**CWEA, P O Box 78, Winchester, VA 22604**

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