

# Andersonville

National Historic Site  
Georgia

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# “It is terrible trying to live here.”

John Ransom, 9th Michigan Cavalry

Andersonville, or Camp Sumter as it was known officially, was the largest of many Confederate military prisons established during the Civil War. It was built in early 1864 after Confederate officials decided to move the large number of Federal prisoners in and around Richmond to a place of greater security and more abundant food. During the 14 months it existed, more than 45,000 Union soldiers were confined here. Of these, almost 13,000 died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding, or exposure to the elements.

## A Special Place

Andersonville National Historic Site is unique in the National Park System as the only park to serve as a memorial to all Americans ever held as prisoners of war. The Congress stated the purpose of the park in the authorizing legislation: “to provide an understanding of the overall prisoner of war story of the Civil War, to interpret the role of prisoner of war camps in history, to commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps and to preserve the monuments located” within the site.

## About Your Visit

Andersonville National Historic Site is 10 miles northeast of Americus on Ga. 49. The 475-acre park, consisting of the national cemetery and prison site, exemplifies the grim life suffered by prisoners of war, North and South, during the Civil War. Here, however, the harshness of war is tempered by a landscape of beauty.

