

Gettysburg

National Military Park

Three Days in July

On June 3, 1863, a month after his dramatic victory at Chancellorsville, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee began marching his Army of Northern Virginia westward from its camps around Fredericksburg, Va. As the Southerners trudged northward into Maryland and Pennsylvania, they were followed by the Union Army of the Potomac under Gen. Joseph Hooker.

The two armies touched by chance at Gettysburg on June 30. The main battle opened on July 1 with Confederates attacking Union troops on McPherson Ridge west of town. Though outnumbered, the Federal forces (now commanded by Gen. George G. Meade) held their position until afternoon, when they were finally overpowered and driven back to Cemetery Hill south of town. The Northerners labored long into the night over their defenses while the bulk of Meade's army arrived and took up positions.

On July 2 the battlelines were drawn up in two sweeping arcs. The main portions of both armies were nearly 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) apart on parallel ridges: Union forces on Cemetery Ridge, Confederate forces on Seminary Ridge to the west. Lee ordered an attack against both Union flanks. James Longstreet's thrust on the Federal left overran the Peach Orchard, left the Wheatfield strewn with dead and

wounded, and turned the base of Little Round Top into a shambles. Farther north, Richard S. Ewell's evening attack on the Federal right at East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill, though momentarily successful, could not be exploited to Confederate advantage.

On July 3 Lee's artillery opened a 2-hour bombardment that for a time engaged the massed guns of both sides in a thundering duel for supremacy, but did little to soften up the Union lines on Cemetery Ridge. Then, in a desperate attempt to recapture the partial success of the previous day, some 12,000 Confederates under Longstreet's command advanced across the open fields toward the Federal center. Only one Southerner in three retired to safety.

With the repulse of this assault, the Battle of Gettysburg was over. The Confederate army that staggered back into Virginia was physically and spiritually exhausted. Never again would Lee attempt an offensive operation of such magnitude. And Meade, though criticized for not pursuing Lee's troops, would forever be remembered as the man who won the battle that has come to be known as the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy."

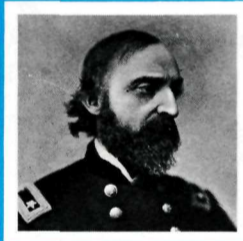
Gettysburg National Military Park encompasses more than 25 square miles in and around the town of Gettysburg. The fighting of 119 years ago is now history. Upon these peaceful, tilled Pennsylvania fields more men fell than in any other battle fought in North America before or since. Many of the Union soldiers who died here are buried in the National Cemetery where Abraham Lincoln delivered that simple, poignant statement of purpose—the Gettysburg Address. Parts of the battlefield look much the same today as they did at the time of the battle. Fences, rocks, hills, cannon, and even the monuments (which were not here then, of course) offer the imaginative visitor the opportunity to ponder and try to understand what happened here.

How to See the Battlefield

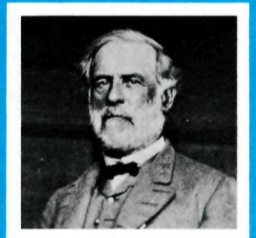
The most tangible link to those three days in July is still the battlefield itself. You are encouraged to begin your tour of the park at the **Visitor Center**. If you have come to Gettysburg in your car, by following the **Auto Tour** on the other side of this folder, you can easily drive around the battlefield in 2-3 hours. At most of the numbered stops, markers describe significant action during the 3 days of battle.

The best way to sense the land and the slower pace of Gettysburg's past is to walk the battlefield as thousands of soldiers once did. The **High Water Mark Trail**, about 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) long, begins at the Cyclorama Center. You will see regimental monuments, part of an artillery battery, the land defended by Union soldiers in repulsing Pickett's charge, and General Meade's headquarters.

The **Big Round Top Loop Trail** reveals something of the plants, animals, and rocks of the Pennsylvania hardwood forest. Stone breastworks built by the armies are visible along the way. The 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) trail takes about an hour to walk and starts just beyond Auto Tour Stop 3.



George Gordon Meade
Union commander at
Gettysburg.



Robert E. Lee
Confederate commander.

For a longer hike, inquire about the 16-kilometer (10-mile) **Compass Hike** used by the Boy Scouts of America as part of their Heritage Trails Program.

Besides these trails, there are paths to Devil's Den and to the Point of Woods near the Virginia Memorial where General Lee spoke to his defeated men, and a self-guided tour through the National Cemetery.

Auto tours conducted for a fee (\$10) by **licensed battlefield guides** begin at the visitor center. The fee for conducted bus tours is \$20. Groups arriving by bus may make advance reservations. Reservations also can be made for organized youth group camping, available from mid-April to mid-October (no charge). Inquiries should be made to Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Please state the day and hours of your visit.

Visiting the Park

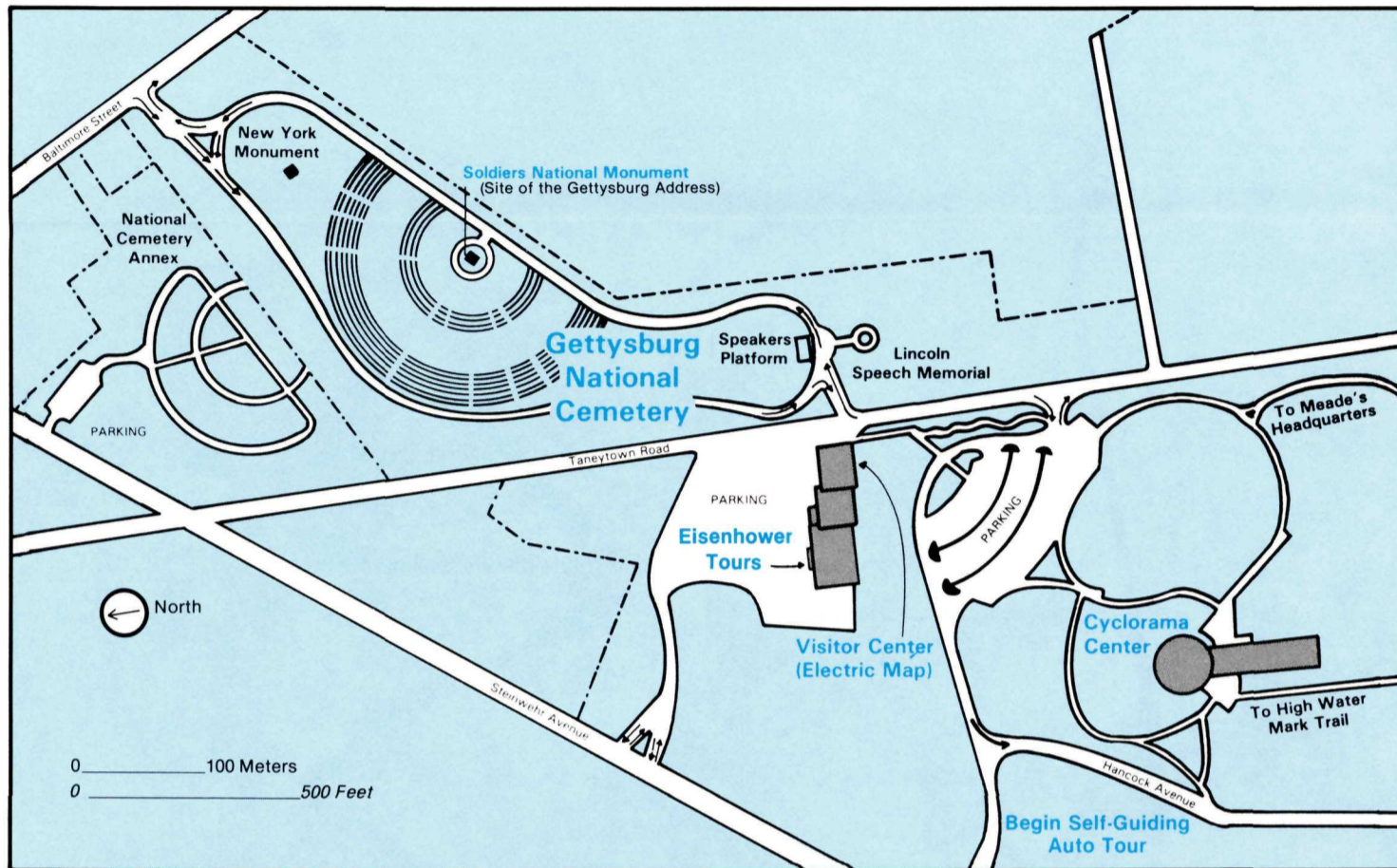
Park rangers lead walks, give talks, and present programs at various locations on the battlefield to help visitors visualize the personal impact of past events. The **Visitor Center** has orientation displays, Civil War exhibits, current schedules of ranger-conducted programs, and the Electric Map presentation that shows, through the use of colored lights, troop movement during the battle. Admission is charged for the map program.

The **Cyclorama Center** has exhibits, a 10-minute film, "From These Honored Dead," and the Gettysburg Cyclorama, a spectacular painting by Paul Philippoteaux of Pickett's charge displayed with a sound-and-light program inside a large circular auditorium. Both the film and the Cyclorama

program are presented regularly; admission is charged only for the Cyclorama program.

For information about motel accommodations, restaurants, privately owned campgrounds, museums, and other facilities in the community, please check at the visitor center with a representative of the Gettysburg Travel Council or write them at Gettysburg, PA 17325

Gettysburg National Military Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Gettysburg, PA 17325, is in charge.



Gettysburg National Cemetery

When the armies marched away from Gettysburg on July 5, 1863, they left behind a community in shambles and more than 51,000 casualties. Wounded and dying were crowded into nearly every building. Most of the dead lay in hasty and inadequate graves; some had not been buried at all.

This situation so distressed Pennsylvania's Gov. Andrew Curtin that he commissioned a local attorney, David Wills, to purchase land for a proper burial ground for the Union dead. Within 6 weeks of the battle, reinterment began on 6.9 hectares (17 acres) that became Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The cemetery was dedicated on November 19, 1863. The principal speaker, Edward Everett, delivered a well-received 2-hour oration rich in historical detail and classical allusion. He was followed by President Abraham Lincoln, whose 2-minute address transformed Gettysburg from a scene of carnage into a symbol, giving meaning to the sacrifice of the dead and inspiration to the living.

The Gettysburg Address

After Abraham Lincoln completed his "few appropriate remarks" at the dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery, he turned to his friend Ward Lamon and remarked: "Lamon, that speech won't scour. It is a flat failure." The world has not affirmed that judgment and, instead, considers it one of the supreme masterpieces of eloquence in the English language.

The Gettysburg Address contains 272 words and took about two minutes to deliver. Contrary to popular belief, Lincoln did not write the speech on the back of an envelope on the way to Gettysburg. Actually he took great pains in its formulation. He wrote the first draft in Washington shortly before November 18 and revised it at the home of David Wills in Gettysburg sometime before the dedication.

The second draft, written entirely in ink on two pages of the same paper used for part of the first draft, reflects Lincoln's first revision of the address and, except for the words "under God," constitutes the text of the speech he delivered at the dedication ceremony. Although the exact origin of this draft cannot be determined, evidence suggests that Lincoln wrote it shortly after his return to Washington.



Eisenhower National Historic Site

Located adjacent to the battlefield is the farm and retirement home of Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower. Due to critical space limitations in the Eisenhower home and the lack of onsite parking, all visits to the site are conducted through a reservation/shuttlebus system and begin at the Tour Information Center at the lower end of Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center. Only a limited number of tours are available each day and tickets are distributed on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets are free but there is a small fee for the concession-operated shuttlebus.

Eisenhower National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Address all inquiries to the Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA 17325.



Gettysburg

Regulations and Safety Tips

Use extreme caution driving the park roads, especially where they intersect with heavily traveled highways. Please obey the posted speed limits and be cautious at blind curves and on one-way roads. Bikers should keep to the

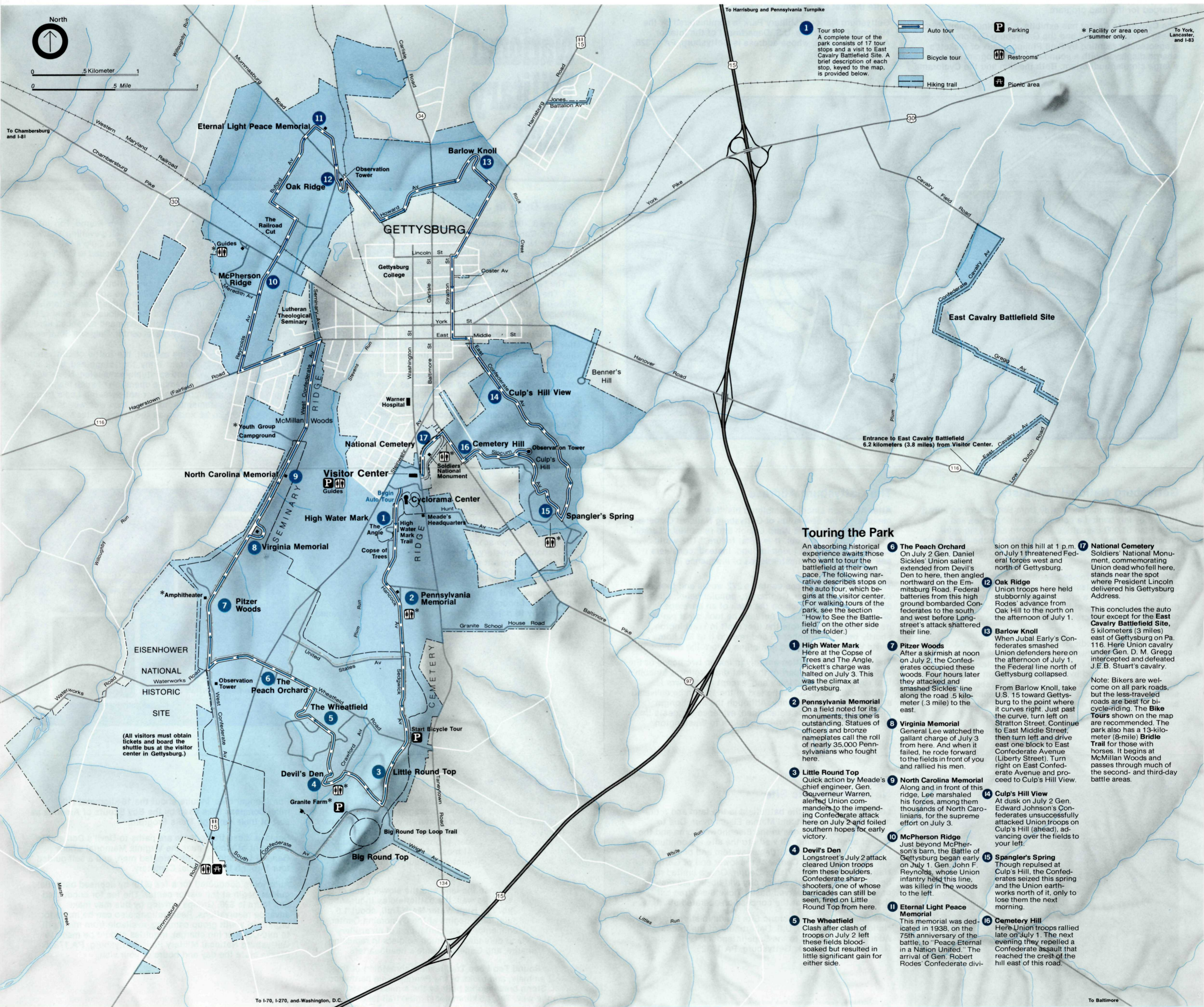
right with the flow of traffic. Park in designated areas or on the avenues, not on the grass. Do not climb on cannon and monuments.

Pets must be leashed and attended at all times. They may not be taken

into the visitor center or Cyclorama Center or crowded areas.

Running and climbing youngsters frequently fall and injure themselves, so parents are urged to closely supervise their children.

All historic sites, structures, and exhibits, as well as all plants, animals, and minerals, must be left undisturbed. Relic collecting or possession of metal detectors within the park is not allowed. Please picnic in designated areas.



Touring the Park

An absorbing historical experience awaits those who want to tour the battlefield at their own pace. The following narrative describes stops on the auto tour, which begins at the visitor center. (For walking tours of the park, see the section "How to See the Battlefield" on the other side of the folder.)

- 1 High Water Mark**
Here at the Cope of Trees and The Angle, Fickett's charge was halted on July 3. This was the climax at Gettysburg.
- 2 Pennsylvania Memorial**
On a field noted for its monuments, this one is outstanding. Statues of officers and bronze nameplates call the roll of nearly 35,000 Pennsylvanians who fought here.
- 3 Little Round Top**
Quick action by Meade's chief engineer, Gen. Gouverneur Warren, alerted Union commanders to the impending Confederate attack here on July 2 and foiled southern hopes for early victory.
- 4 Devil's Den**
Longstreet's July 2 attack cleared Union troops from these boulders. Confederate sharpshooters, one of whose barricades can still be seen, fired on Little Round Top from here.
- 5 The Wheatfield**
Clash after clash of troops on July 2 left these fields blood-soaked but resulted in little significant gain for either side.

- 6 The Peach Orchard**
After a skirmish at noon on July 2, the Confederates occupied these woods. Four hours later they attacked and smashed Sickles' line along the road .5 kilometer (.3 mile) to the east.
- 7 Pitzer Woods**
General Lee watched the gallant charge of July 3 from here. And when it failed, he rode forward to the fields in front of you and rallied his men.
- 8 Virginia Memorial**
General Lee watched the gallant charge of July 3 from here. And when it failed, he rode forward to the fields in front of you and rallied his men.
- 9 North Carolina Memorial**
Along and in front of this ridge, Lee marshaled his forces, among them thousands of North Carolinians, for the supreme effort on July 3.
- 10 McPherson Ridge**
Just beyond McPherson's barn, the Battle of Gettysburg began early on July 1. Gen. John F. Reynolds, whose Union infantry held this line, was killed in the woods to the left.
- 11 Eternal Light Peace Memorial**
This memorial was dedicated in 1938, on the 75th anniversary of the battle, to "Peace Eternal in a Nation United." The arrival of Gen. Robert Rodes' Confederate divi-

- 12 Oak Ridge**
Union troops here held stubbornly against Rodes' advance from Oak Hill to the north on the afternoon of July 1.
- 13 Barlow Knoll**
When Jubal Early's Confederates smashed Union defenders here on the afternoon of July 1, the Federal line north of Gettysburg collapsed.
- 14 Culp's Hill View**
At dark on July 2 Gen. Edward Johnson's Confederates unsuccessfully attacked Union troops on Culp's Hill (ahead), advancing over the fields to your left.
- 15 Spangler's Spring**
Though repulsed at Culp's Hill, the Confederates seized this spring and the Union earthworks north of it, only to lose them the next morning.
- 16 Cemetery Hill**
Here Union troops rallied late on July 1. The next evening they repelled a Confederate assault that reached the crest of the hill east of this road.

17 National Cemetery
Soldiers' National Monument, commemorating Union dead who fell here, stands near the spot where President Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address.

This concludes the auto tour except for the **East Cavalry Battlefield Site**, 5 kilometers (3 miles) east of Gettysburg on Pa. 116. Here Union cavalry under Gen. D. M. Gregg intercepted and defeated J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry.

Note: Bikers are welcome on all park roads, but the less-traveled roads are best for bicycle-riding. The **Bike Tours** shown on the map are recommended. The park also has a 13-kilometer (8-mile) **Bridle Trail** for those with horses. It begins at McMillan Woods and passes through much of the second- and third-day battle areas.

1 Tour stop
A complete tour of the park consists of 17 tour stops and a visit to East Cavalry Battlefield Site. A brief description of each stop, keyed to the map, is provided below.

- Auto tour
- Bicycle tour
- Hiking trail
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Picnic area

* Facility or area open summer only.