



Visiting Pea Ridge



The Elkhorn Tavern served as a field hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers.

The Battle of Pea Ridge

In the early hours of March 7, 1862, over 23,000 tired, cold soldiers from Missouri, Ohio, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Texas, and the Indian Territories began what would become one of the largest Civil War battles west of the Mississippi River. Led by Earl Van Dorn, 13,000 Confederate and Missouri State Guard troops attacked over 10,000 Union troops under the command of Samuel Curtis. Casualties totaled nearly 3,400 soldiers - either missing, wounded, or killed in action.

The Aftermath

The Union emerged victorious in this decisive battle at the state border and control of Missouri remained in their hands. The Confederacy, which had organized the largest army to date under Earl Van Dorn, would never again see the sheer number of Confederate soldiers in battle west of the Mississippi.



All but six cannons located at the park were used in the Civil War.

The Park Today

Over 4,300 acres of Ozark Highlands surrounding the battlefields have been preserved at Pea Ridge National Military Park. The Visitor Center provides visitors with a state-of-the-art museum, a 30-minute film about the battle, a gift shop, and sweeping views of the battlefield. A 7-mile self-guided interpretive driving tour provides visitors with an up-close view of the park and points of interest within the battle. There are also many hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, and birdwatching opportunities available. While there is no camping, nearby Beaver Lake provides campsites along with other recreational activities.

Getting Here

Pea Ridge National Military Park is located in extreme northwest Arkansas in the town of Garfield, about 40 minutes northeast of Bentonville.



www.nps.gov/peri
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Visitor Center Hours: 8:30-4:30
Park Hours: 6:00am-Dusk
Open 7 days a week

Pea Ridge National Military Park
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