



The Battle of Stones River



A Hard Earned Union Victory

At dawn on December 31, 1862, the Confederate Army of Tennessee charged across the foggy fields west of Murfreesboro to begin one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. For three days, 81,000 men struggled here and nearly one-third of them became casualties. The Battle of Stones River was a tactical draw, but proved to be a significant strategic victory for the Union. President Lincoln thanked General William Rosecrans for, “... a hard earned victory which had there been a defeat instead, the country could have scarcely lived over.”

- Stand in the “Slaughter Pen” where Confederate and Union soldiers were locked in two hour struggle that left the ground covered with bodies.
- Gaze across the fields along the Nashville Pike and imagine the thunderous roar of battle: so ear shattering that soldiers paused to stuff their ears with cotton.



- Examine the nation’s oldest intact Civil War monument marking “Hell’s Half Acre” – where Union soldiers held their ground against four Confederate attacks.
- Stroll through one of the nation’s oldest National Cemeteries and reflect on the terrible cost of war.
- Look out from the heights of Fortress Rosecrans and consider the impact of the Civil War on the economic, social and cultural institutions of the nation.

Open daily except Christmas day.
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Central Time. Free Admission

Facilities and Activities:

- Visitor Center and Museum
- Self-guiding Battlefield Tour
- Ranger Programs and Living History Events
- Hiking, Biking and Picnic Area

Stones River National Battlefield is located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 27 miles southeast of Nashville.



Stones River National Battlefield
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