

Gettysburg

Official Map and Guide

National Military Park
Pennsylvania

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Cover: Detail from the painting of Pickett's charge by Paul Philippoteaux

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. Once through the gaps of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Southerners trudged northward into Maryland and Pennsylvania. They were followed by the Union Army of the Potomac under Gen. Joseph Hooker, but Lee, whose cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart was absent on a brash raid around the Federal forces, had no way of knowing his adversary's whereabouts.

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.

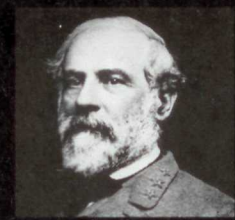
On July 2 the battlelines were drawn up in two sweeping arcs. The main portions of both armies were nearly 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) apart on parallel ridges: Union forces on Cemetery Ridge, Confederate forces on Seminary Ridge to the west. Lee ordered an attack against both Union flanks. James Longstreet's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

on the Federal left turned the base of Little Round Top into a shambles, left the Wheatfield strewn with dead and wounded, and overran the Peach Orchard. 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 two-hour bombardment of the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill. This for a time engaged the massed guns of both sides in a thundering duel for supremacy, but did little to soften up the Union defensive position. Then, in a desperate attempt to recapture the partial

success of the previous day, some 12,000 Confederates under George E. Pickett advanced across the open fields toward the Federal center. Only one Southerner in three retired to safety.

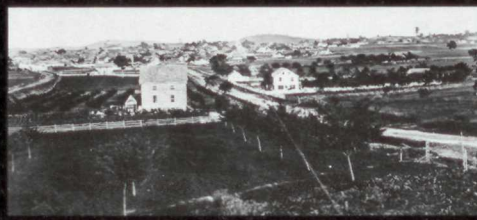
With the repulse of Pickett's assault, the Battle of Gettysburg was over. The Confederate army that staggered back into Virginia was physically and spiritually exhausted. Never again would Lee attempt an offensive operation of such magnitude. And Meade, though criticized for not pursuing Lee's troops, 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."



Far left: Robert E. Lee, Confederate commander at Gettysburg.



Left: George Gordon Meade, Union commander.



Far left: Gettysburg in 1863 as seen from Seminary Ridge. The battle began here along the Chambersburg Pike (right foreground) on July 1.

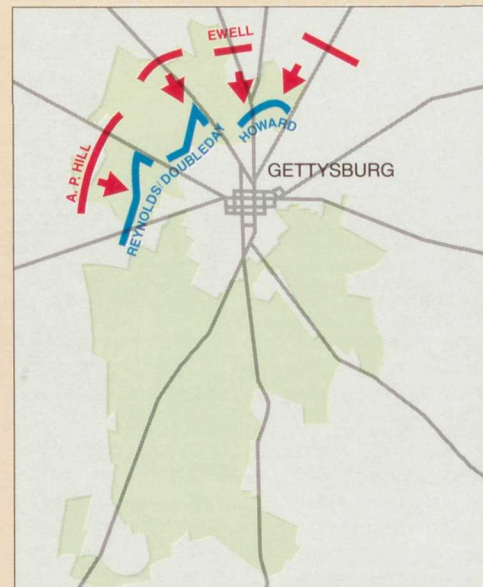
Left: Meade's Headquarters in 1863.



Far left: Abraham Lincoln, November 8, 1863.



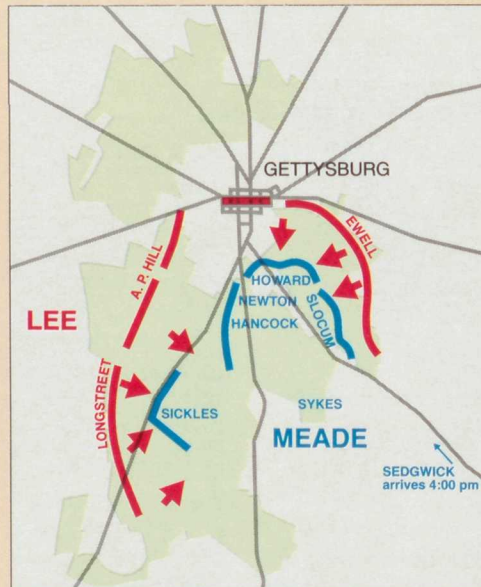
Left: The only known photograph showing Lincoln (inside white circle) at Gettysburg during the dedication of the National Cemetery on November 19, 1863.



July 1

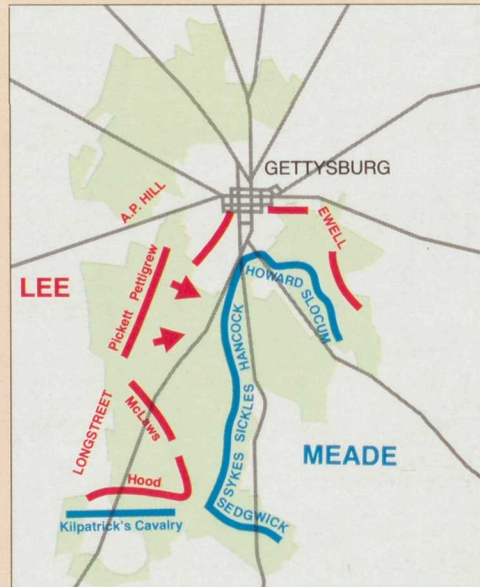
Elements of the two armies collide west of Gettysburg during the early morning hours. The fighting escalates throughout the day as more Union and Confederate troops reach the field. By 4 p.m. the defending Federal troops are defeated and retreat through Gettysburg, where many are captured. The remnants of the Union force rally upon Cemetery and Culp's Hills.

Each of these maps represents the positions of the opposing armies before the day's major battle action.



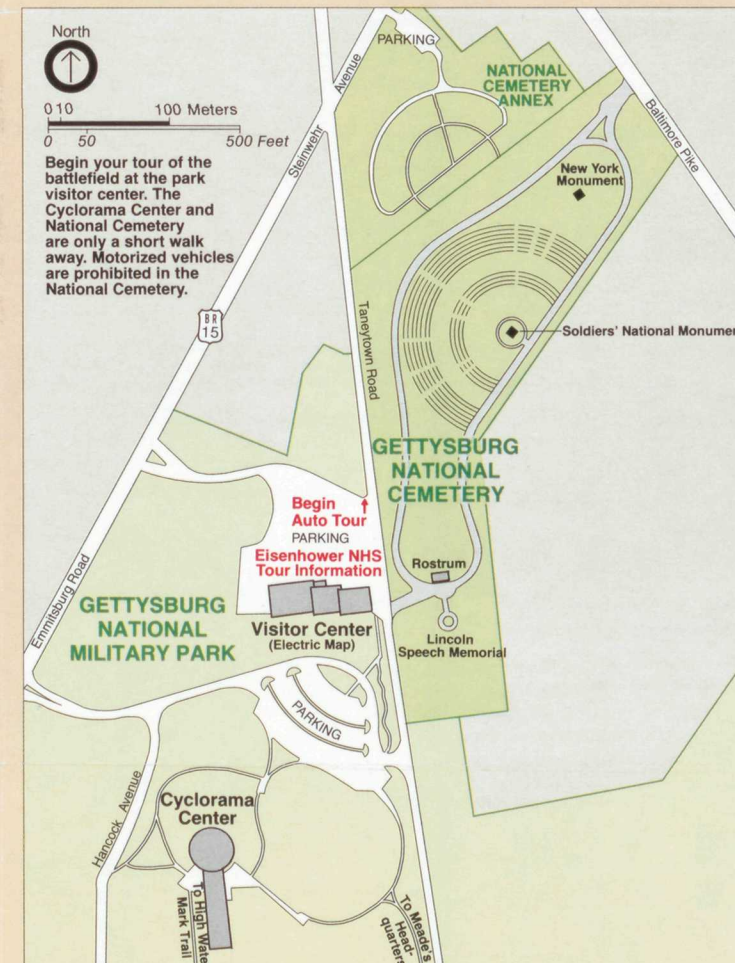
July 2

The main strength of both armies has arrived on the field by the morning hours. General Lee launches attacks against the Union left and right in an attempt to dislodge Meade's army from its strong position. Longstreet's assault upon the Union left makes good progress but is eventually checked by Federal reinforcements from the center and right. On the Union right, Ewell's Confederate troops are able to seize part of Culp's Hill, but elsewhere they are repulsed.



July 3

While Ewell renews his efforts to seize Culp's Hill, Lee turns his main attention to the Union center. Preceded by a two-hour artillery bombardment, approximately 12,000 Confederate infantry attempt to break the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge. Despite great courage, the attack (subsequently called "Pickett's Charge") is repulsed with heavy losses. East of Gettysburg, Lee's cavalry is also checked in a large cavalry battle. Crippled by extremely heavy casualties, Lee can no longer continue the battle and on July 4th he begins to withdraw for Virginia.



The Gettysburg Address

When the armies marched away from Gettysburg they left behind a community in shambles and more than 51,000 killed, wounded, and missing soldiers. 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 Union dead. Within four months of the battle, re-interment began on 17 acres that became Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The cemetery was dedicated on November 19, 1863. The principal speaker, Edward Everett, delivered a well-received two-hour oration rich in historical detail and classical allusion. He was followed by President Abraham Lincoln, who was asked to make "a few appropriate remarks."

After completing his brief address, Lincoln turned to his friend Ward Lamon and said: "Lamon, that speech won't scour. It is a flat failure." The world thought otherwise, judging it a masterpiece of English eloquence. The speech transformed Gettysburg from a scene of carnage into a symbol, giving meaning to the sacrifice of the dead and inspiration to the living.

Less than half the Union battle dead finally interred in the national cemetery had been removed from their field graves by the day of the dedication. Within a few years, however, the bodies of more than 3,500 Union soldiers killed in the battle had been re-interred in the cemetery and the landscaping completed. Following the war, the remains of 3,320 Confederate soldiers were removed from the battlefield to cemeteries in the South.

From the Spanish-American War to the Vietnam conflict, United States veterans continued to be buried here. Today the cemetery is the final resting place for over 6,000 honorably discharged servicemen and their dependents.

During the summer season, thanks to an agreement with the Library of Congress, the Cyclorama Center contains a special Gettysburg Address Exhibit in which, depending upon the time of your

visit, you will be able to see the original of Lincoln's first or second draft copy.

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.

Seeing the Park and the Battlefield

The fighting at Gettysburg is 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 poignant statement of purpose—the Gettysburg Address.

Much has been written and said about this, the greatest battle of the Civil War. There are also many

treasured artifacts collected in museums here and across the country. But the most tangible link to those three days in July is still the battlefield itself, parts of which look much the same today as they did in 1863. Fences, rocks, hills, cannon, and even the monuments (which were not here then, of course) provide an opportunity to ponder and try to understand what happened here.

You have probably come to Gettysburg by car. By

following the self-guided **Auto Tour** on the other side of this folder, you can easily drive around the battlefield in two to three hours. At most of the numbered stops, markers describe significant action during the three days of battle.

Auto tours conducted for a fee by licensed battlefield guides begin at the visitor center. Groups may wish to make advance reservations for bus tours with the services of a licensed battle-

field guide. Reservations can also be made for organized youth group camping, available from mid-April to mid-October. Inquiries should be made to Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Be sure to state the day and hours of your visit.

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 a

mile long, begins at the Cyclorama Center. You will see regimental monuments, part of an artillery battery, the ground 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 still visible along the way. The one-mile trail takes about

an hour to walk and starts just before Auto Tour Stop 8.

For a longer hike, inquire about the nine-mile **Billy Yank Trail** or the three-and-a-half-mile **Johnny Reb Trail**, both of which are 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, and a self-guided

tour through the National Cemetery.

Park rangers lead walks, give talks, and present programs at various locations on the battlefield to help you visualize the personal impact of past events. The **Visitor Center and Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War** 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 move-

ments during the battle. Admission is charged for the map program.

The **Cyclorama Center** has exhibits, a ten-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

Gettysburg

Regulations and Safety Tips

A copy of Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 and local park rules regarding public use are available at any park information desk.

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

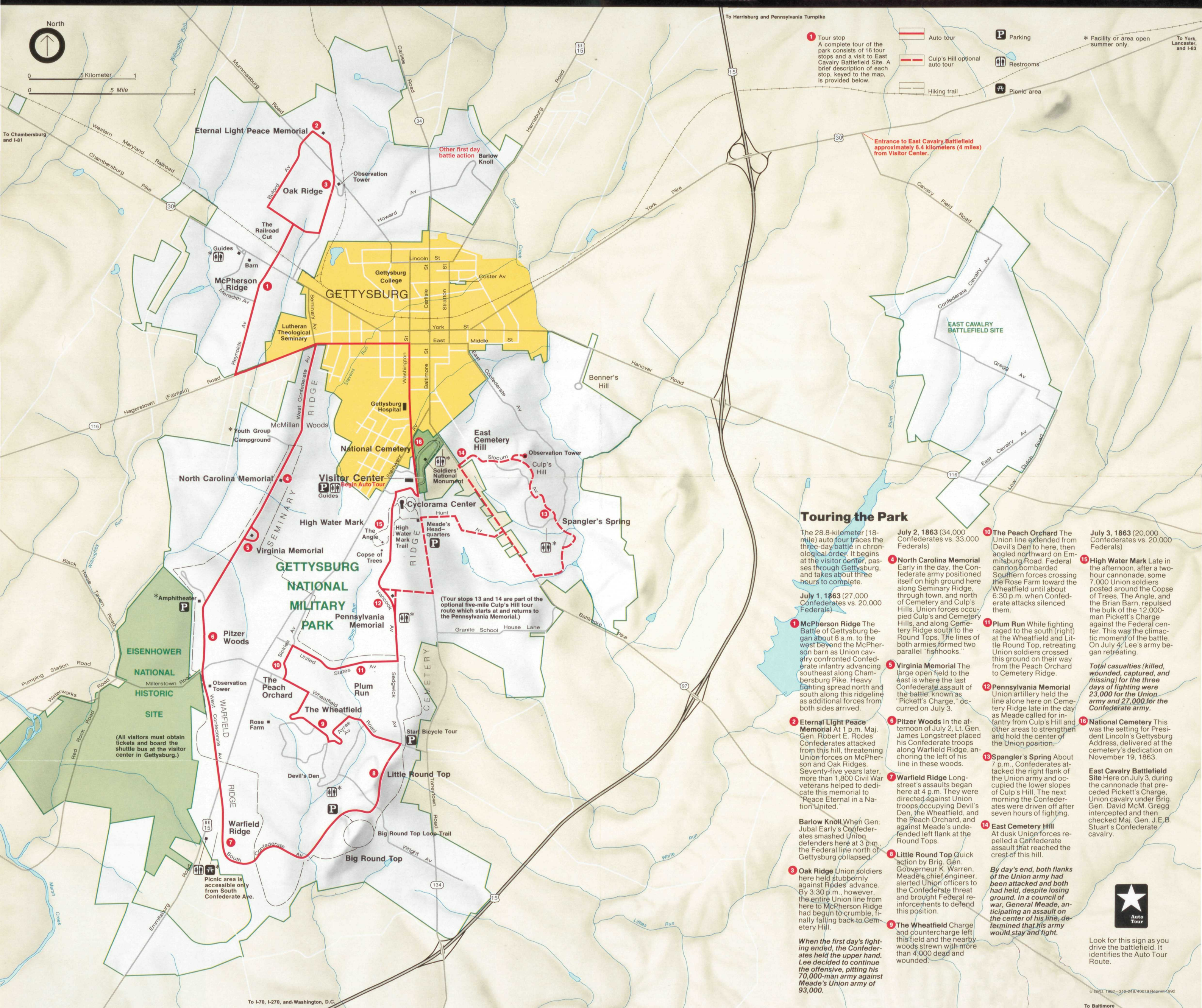
right with the flow of traffic. Park in designated areas or on the avenues, not on the grass. Do not climb on cannon and monuments.

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

The 28.8-kilometer (18-mile) auto tour traces the three-day battle in chronological order. It begins at the visitor center, passes through Gettysburg, and takes about three hours to complete.

July 1, 1863 (27,000 Confederates vs. 20,000 Federals)

1 McPherson Ridge The Battle of Gettysburg began about 8 a.m. to the west beyond the McPherson barn as Union cavalry confronted Confederate infantry advancing southeast along Chambersburg Pike. Heavy fighting spread north and south along this ridgeline as additional forces from both sides arrived.

2 Eternal Light Peace Memorial At 1 p.m. Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes' Confederates attacked from this hill, threatening Union forces on McPherson and Oak Ridges. Seventy-five years later, more than 1,800 Civil War veterans helped to dedicate this memorial to "Peace Eternal in a Nation United."

Barlow Knoll When Gen. Jubal Early's Confederates smashed this ridge line defenders here at 3 p.m., the Federal line north of Gettysburg collapsed.

3 Oak Ridge Union soldiers here held stubbornly against Rodes' advance. By 3:30 p.m., however, the entire Union line from here to McPherson Ridge had begun to crumble, finally falling back to Cemetery Hill.

When the first day's fighting ended, the Confederates held the upper hand. Lee decided to continue the offensive, pitting his 70,000-man army against Meade's Union army of 93,000.

July 2, 1863 (34,000 Confederates vs. 33,000 Federals)

4 North Carolina Memorial Early in the day, the Confederate army positioned itself on high ground here along Seminary Ridge, through town, and north of Cemetery and Culp's Hills. Union forces occupied Culp's and Cemetery Hills, and along Cemetery Ridge south to the Round Tops. The lines of both armies formed two parallel "fishhooks."

5 Virginia Memorial The large open field to the east is where the last Confederate assault of the battle, known as "Pickett's Charge," occurred on July 3.

6 Pitzer Woods In the afternoon of July 2, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet placed his Confederate troops along Warfield Ridge, anchoring the left of his line in these woods.

7 Warfield Ridge Longstreet's assaults began here at 4 p.m. They were directed against Union troops occupying Devil's Den, the Wheatfield, and the Peach Orchard, and against Meade's undefended left flank at the Round Tops.

8 Little Round Top Quick action by Brig. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren, Meade's chief engineer, alerted Union officers to the Confederate threat and brought Federal reinforcements to defend this position.

9 The Wheatfield Charge and countercharge left this field and the nearby woods strewn with more than 4,000 dead and wounded.

10 The Peach Orchard The Union line extended from Devil's Den to here, then angled northward on Emmitsburg Road. Federal cannon bombarded Southern forces crossing the Rose Farm toward the Wheatfield until about 6:30 p.m. when Confederate attacks silenced them.

11 Plum Run While fighting raged to the south (right) at the Wheatfield and Little Round Top, retreating Union soldiers crossed this ground on their way from the Peach Orchard to Cemetery Ridge.

12 Pennsylvania Memorial Union artillery held the line alone here on Cemetery Ridge late in the day as Meade called for infantry from Culp's Hill and other areas to strengthen and hold the center of the Union position.

13 Spangler's Spring About 7 p.m., Confederates attacked the right flank of the Union army and occupied the lower slopes of Culp's Hill. The next morning the Confederates were driven off after seven hours of fighting.

14 East Cemetery Hill At dusk Union forces repelled a Confederate assault that reached the crest of this hill.

By day's end, both flanks of the Union army had been attacked and both had held, despite losing ground. In a council of war, General Meade, anticipating an assault on the center of his line, determined that his army would stay and fight.

July 3, 1863 (20,000 Confederates vs. 20,000 Federals)

15 High Water Mark Late in the afternoon, after a two-hour cannonade, some 7,000 Union soldiers posted around the Copse of Trees, The Angle, and the Brian Barn, repulsed the bulk of the 12,000-man Pickett's Charge against the Federal center. This was the climactic moment of the battle. On July 4, Lee's army began retreating.

Total casualties (killed, wounded, captured, and missing) for the three days of fighting were 23,000 for the Union army and 27,000 for the Confederate army.

16 National Cemetery This was the setting for President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, delivered at the cemetery's dedication on November 19, 1863.

East Cavalry Battlefield Site Here on July 3, during the cannonade that preceded Pickett's Charge, Union cavalry under Brig. Gen. David McM. Gregg intercepted and then checked Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Confederate cavalry.



Look for this sign as you drive the battlefield. It identifies the Auto Tour Route.