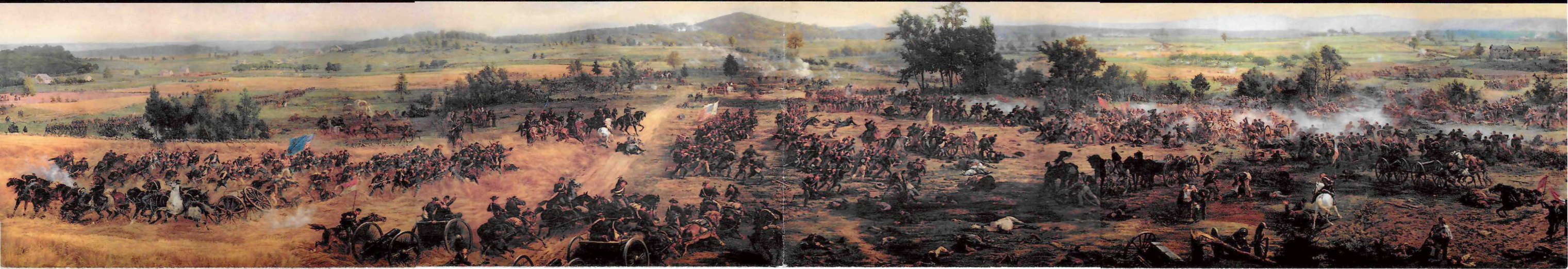


Gettysburg

Gettysburg
National Military Park
Pennsylvania

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Detail from the painting "The Battle of Gettysburg" by Paul Philippoteaux at the Gettysburg Visitor Center and Museum.

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, the Southerners trudged northward into Maryland and Pennsylvania. They were followed by the Union Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, but Lee, whose cavalry under Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart was absent on a 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 held their position until afternoon, when they were finally overpowered and driven back to Cemetery Hill south of town. During the night the main body of the Union army, now commanded by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, arrived and took up positions.

On July 2 the battle lines were drawn up in two sweeping arcs. The main portions of both armies were nearly one 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. Lt. Gen. 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, Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's evening attack on the Federal right at East Cemetery Hill and Culps Hill, though momentarily successful, could not be exploited to Confederate advantage.

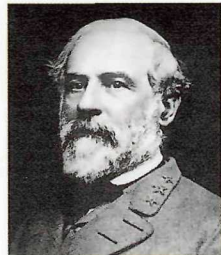
On July 3 Lee's artillery opened a two-hour bombardment of the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge and Cemetery Hill. This for a time engaged the massed guns of both sides in a thundering duel for supremacy, but did little to soften up the Union defensive position. Then some 12,000 Confederates advanced across

open fields toward the Federal center in an attack known as "Pickett's Charge." The attack failed and cost Lee over 5,000 soldiers in one hour. The Battle of Gettysburg was over.

On November 19, President Abraham Lincoln traveled to Gettysburg to take part in the dedication ceremonies for the new Soldiers' National Cemetery. His brief speech, the Gettysburg Address, gave meaning to the sacrifices of the men who had struggled here, and stated that the war would lead to a "new birth of freedom" for the nation.



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



Robert E. Lee, Confederate commander at Gettysburg.

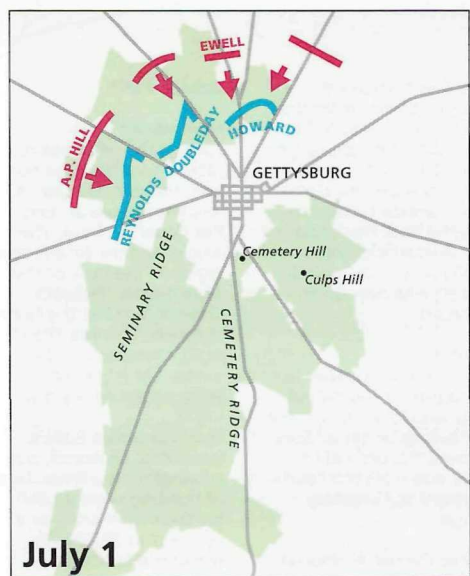


Meade's Headquarters in 1863.

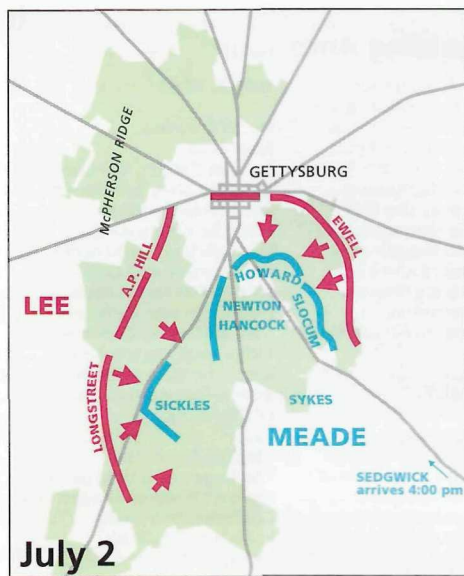


George Gordon Meade, Union commander.

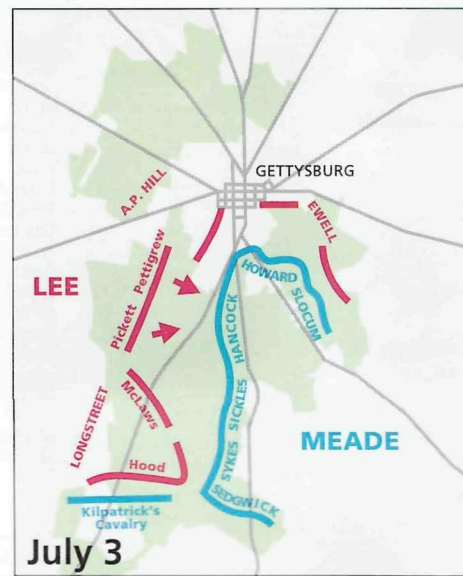
The Battle at a Glance



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 pm the defending Federal troops are defeated and retreat through Gettysburg, where many are captured. The remnants of the Union force rally on Cemetery and Culps hills.



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 on 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 Culps Hill; elsewhere they are repulsed.



While Ewell renews his efforts to seize Culps Hill, Lee turns his main attention to the Union center. Following a two-hour artillery bombardment, he sends some 12,000 Confederate infantry to try to break the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge. Despite a courageous effort, 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. On July 4 he begins to withdraw for Virginia.

The Gettysburg Address

When the armies marched away from Gettysburg they left behind a community in shambles and over 51,000 soldiers dead, wounded, or missing. Wounded and dying were crowded into nearly every building. Most of the dead lay in hastily dug and inadequate graves; some had not been buried at all.

This situation so distressed Pennsylvania Gov. Andrew Curtin, that he commissioned local attorney David Wills to buy land for a proper burial ground for Union dead. Within four months of the battle, reinterment began on 17 acres that became Soldiers' 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 had been asked to make "a few appropriate remarks."

Lincoln's speech contains 272 words and took about two minutes to deliver. It is considered a masterpiece of the English language, and it transformed Gettysburg from a scene of carnage into a symbol, giving meaning to the sacrifice of the dead and inspiration to the living. "I should be glad," Everett told Lincoln, "if I... came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes."

Contrary to popular belief, Lincoln did not write the speech on the back of an envelope during the trip to Gettysburg, but took great pains in its formulation. He composed the first draft in Washington and revised it at David Wills' house in Gettysburg, where the president stayed the night before the dedication.

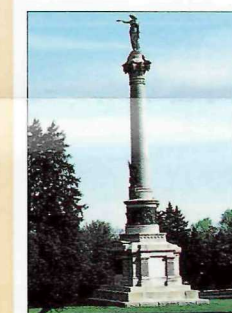
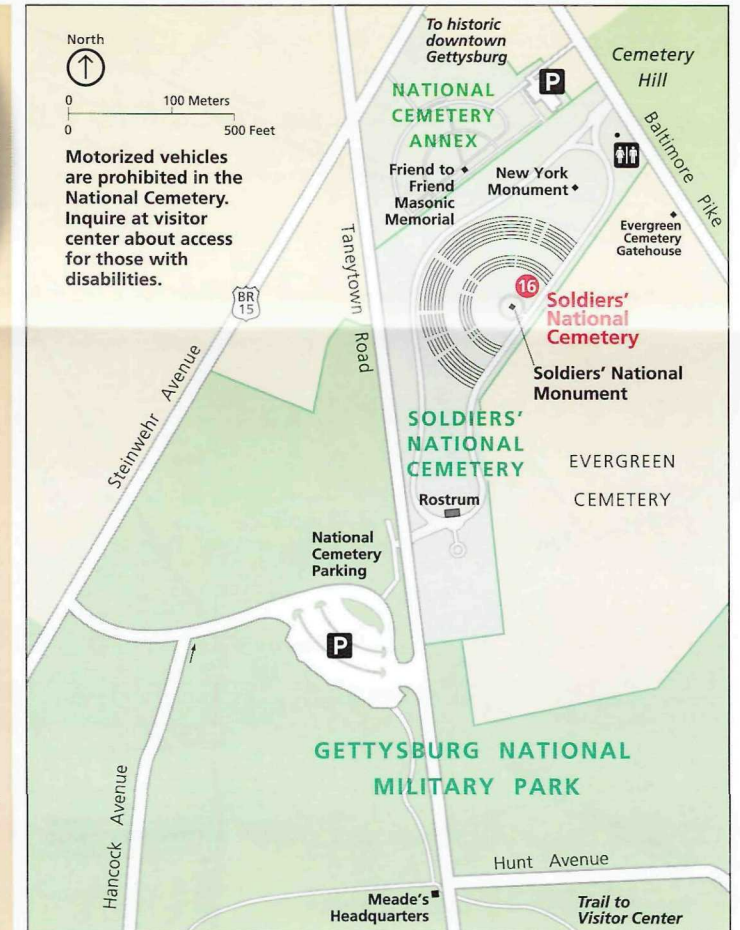
The cemetery was far from completed by the day of the dedication. Within a few years over 3,500 Union soldiers who had been killed in the



battle were reinterred here and the landscaping completed. Following the war the remains of 3,320 Confederate soldiers were removed from the battlefield to cemeteries in the South.

Both David Wills' House and the Gettysburg Train Station, at which Lincoln arrived on November 18, are located in historic downtown Gettysburg. The Wills' House has exhibits on Lincoln's visit to the town, the creation of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, and the Gettysburg Address. A shuttle bus system is available from the park visitor center to these sites and others in the downtown area.

The only known photograph showing Lincoln (left, inside white circle) during the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, November 19, 1863.



The Soldiers' National Cemetery (see map above) was designed by Washington, DC, architect William Saunders to reflect an appearance of what he called "simple grandeur." The New York Monument (left) was dedicated in 1893 to honor New York state soldiers killed in the Battle of Gettysburg and buried in the national cemetery. Other United States veterans, from the 1898 War

with Spain to the Vietnam conflict, are also buried here. Today the cemetery is the final resting place for over 6,000 honorably discharged veterans and their dependents.

National Park Foundation.
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www.nationalparks.org

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Seeing the Park and the Battlefield

More men fell during the Battle of Gettysburg than in any other battle on American soil before or since. Today these peaceful rolling fields pay silent tribute to this sacrifice. Many Union soldiers who died here are buried in Soldiers' National Cemetery where Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, honoring the men who gave the last full measure of devotion.

Much has been written and said about Gettysburg. But the most tangible connection to those three days in July is the battlefield itself, parts of which look much as they did in 1863. Fences, hills, rocks, cannon, and even the monuments provide an opportunity to reflect and try to understand what happened here.

Start at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Cen-

ter to visit the Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War, the fully restored Gettysburg Cyclorama, and the film, "A New Birth of Freedom" (admission required). The building also offers a book and museum store, food service, licensed battlefield guides, programs, and information about visiting Eisenhower National Historic Site.

To see the battlefield follow the **Self-guiding Auto Tour** on the other side of

this brochure. You can drive around the battlefield in two to three hours. At most of the numbered stops, exhibits and tablets describe significant action during the three days of battle.

The film "A New Birth of Freedom" and Gettysburg Cyclorama is a 45-minute ticketed experience designed as your starting point. The cyclorama is a sound and light show of the spectacular 377-foot

painting by Paul Philippoteaux of Pickett's Charge, completed in 1884. For a fee, a licensed battlefield guide will conduct a two-hour tour of the battlefield in your auto or bus.

You can make advance reservations for the theater/cyclorama experience, a tour with a licensed guide, and a visit to Eisenhower National Historic Site by calling 1-877-874-2478.

In summer, park rangers give presentations to explain the battle and its impact on the soldiers, civilians, and nation. The best way to get a feel for what happened here is to walk the battlefield and get a sense of the landscape.

Cemetery Ridge Trail (1.5-miles) begins at the visitor center and covers the ground defended by Union soldiers during Pickett's Charge.

National Cemetery Trail begins at the National Cemetery parking area and covers the cemetery grounds, where Union soldiers from the battle are interred and Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address.

For longer hikes, ask about the 9.5-mile **Billy Yank Trail** or the 3-mile **Johnny Reb Trail**. Both are part of the Boy Scouts of America's Heritage Trails Program.

We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all.

Check with the Gettysburg Convention & Visitor Bureau at the visitor center for information on lodging, restaurants, campgrounds, museums, and other facilities. Write to:

Gettysburg CVB
571 W. Middle St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
www.gettysburg.travel

More Information
Gettysburg National Military Park
1195 Baltimore Pike
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-334-1124
www.nps.gov/gett

Gettysburg National Military Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Please visit www.nps.gov to learn more about parks.

Regulations and Safety Tips

For your safety, backpacks and handbags are not allowed in the visitor center. Please leave them in the trunk or hidden in your vehicle. For firearms regulations check the park website.

Monuments and cannon mark positions and honor great sacrifices. They are irreplaceable historic objects. Please respect and help preserve them. Do not climb, stand, or hang on them.

All historic sites, structures, exhibits, plants, animals, and minerals must be left undisturbed. Relic collecting or the possession of a metal detector in the park is prohibited. Picnic in designated areas only.

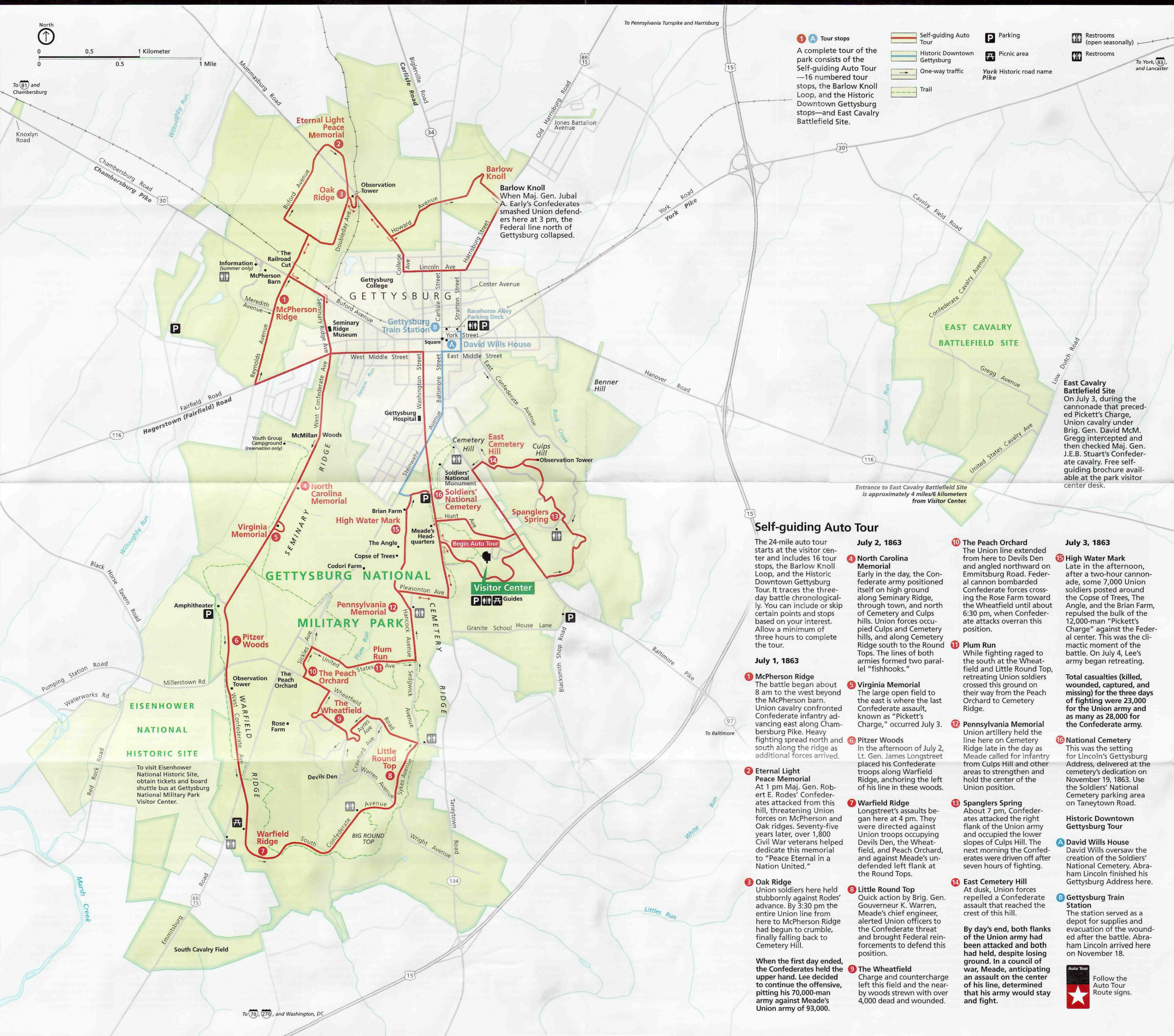
Use extreme caution on park roads, especially at heavily traveled intersections. Obey speed limits. Be careful at blind curves and on one-way roads. Park in designated areas or on the pavement only.

not on the grass or shoulders. Bicyclists keep to the right and ride with traffic.

Watch your children carefully, especially near roads and monuments.

Pets must be leashed and attended at all times. They are prohibited in the Soldiers' National Cemetery and visitor center. Service animals are welcome. If you have any questions about park rules or regulations, ask a ranger.

Touring the Battlefield



1 A Tour stops
A complete tour of the park consists of the Self-guiding Auto Tour —16 numbered tour stops, the Barlow Knoll Loop, and the Historic Downtown Gettysburg stops—and East Cavalry Battlefield Site.

Self-guiding Auto Tour

The 24-mile auto tour starts at the visitor center and includes 16 tour stops, the Barlow Knoll Loop, and the Historic Downtown Gettysburg Tour. It traces the three-day battle chronologically. You can include or skip certain points and stops based on your interest. Allow a minimum of three hours to complete the tour.

July 1, 1863

- 1 McPherson Ridge**
The battle began about 8 am to the west beyond the McPherson barn. Union cavalry confronted Confederate infantry advancing east along Chambersburg Pike. Heavy fighting spread north and south along the ridge as additional forces arrived.
- 2 Eternal Light Peace Memorial**
At 1 pm Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes' Confederates attacked from this hill, threatening Union forces on McPherson and Oak ridges. Seventy-five years later, over 1,800 Civil War veterans helped dedicate this memorial to "Peace Eternal in a Nation United."
- 3 Oak Ridge**
Union soldiers here held stubbornly against Rodes' advance. By 3:30 pm the entire Union line from here to McPherson Ridge had begun to crumble, finally falling back to Cemetery Hill.

When the first day 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

- 4 North Carolina Memorial**
Early in the day, the Confederate army positioned itself on high ground along Seminary Ridge, through town, and north of Cemetery and Culps hills. Union forces occupied Culps 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, known as "Pickett's Charge," occurred 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 pm. They were directed against Union troops occupying Devils Den, the Wheatfield, and 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 over 4,000 dead and wounded.

- 10 The Peach Orchard**
The Union line extended from here to Devils Den and angled northward on Emmitsburg Road. Federal cannon bombarded Confederate forces crossing the Rose Farm toward the Wheatfield until about 6:30 pm, when Confederate attacks overran this position.
- 11 Plum Run**
While fighting raged to the south 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 here on Cemetery Ridge late in the day as Meade called for infantry from Culps Hill and other areas to strengthen and hold the center of the Union position.
- 13 Spangler's Spring**
About 7 pm, Confederates attacked the right flank of the Union army and occupied the lower slopes of Culps 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, Meade, anticipating an assault on the center of his line, determined that his army would stay and fight.

July 3, 1863

- 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 Farm, 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.
- 16 National Cemetery**
This was the setting for Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, delivered at the cemetery's dedication on November 19, 1863. Use the Soldiers' National Cemetery parking area on Taneytown Road.

Historic Downtown Gettysburg Tour

- A David Wills House**
David Wills oversaw the creation of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. Abraham Lincoln finished his Gettysburg Address here.
- B Gettysburg Train Station**
The station served as a depot for supplies and evacuation of the wounded after the battle. Abraham Lincoln arrived here on November 18.

Auto Tour
Follow the Auto Tour Route signs.