

THE NEW VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Gettysburg National Military Park offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the history and culture of the Civil War and the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. Each year, nearly two million visitors explore the site of this pivotal Civil War battle and the place where President Abraham Lincoln outlined the future of the nation in his Gettysburg Address. Visitors who experience Gettysburg National Military Park will leave with an understanding of the scope and magnitude of the sacrifices made by soldiers and civilians alike, which ultimately gave way to a new birth of freedom for our country. It is "Our Country's Common Ground."

Through a combination of new construction and rehabilitation projects, the Gettysburg Foundation and the National Park Service have embarked on a massive campaign that will return the historic integrity of the site and further educational opportunities available to visitors. Once complete, Gettysburg National Military Park will offer:

- The new **David Wills House at Gettysburg National Military Park**
- The new **Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War** in the new **Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park**
- The "**Battle of Gettysburg**" **Cyclorama Painting**, an experience that had been lost for more than a century
- The **Gettysburg Battlefield**, returned, as closely as possible, to its 1863 appearance
- **Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park**

THE DAVID WILLS HOUSE AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

In honor of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday on February 12, 2009, the **David Wills House** in downtown Gettysburg will celebrate its **Grand Opening**, offering visitors a world-class museum experience that tells the story of Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address. Grand Opening events will take place from February 12 - 16, 2009.

David Wills' home was not just the center of Gettysburg -- it was the center of the immense clean-up process after the Battle of Gettysburg and where President Lincoln put the finishing touches on the Gettysburg Address. The speech transformed Gettysburg's community from a place of devastation to the symbol of our nation's new birth of freedom.

The museum features six galleries, including two rooms that have been restored to their 1863 appearance: Wills' office, where he received letters from families looking for loved ones after the battle and began planning for a cemetery and its dedication; and the bedroom where Lincoln stayed and prepared to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

Main Street Gettysburg will operate the museum, as an official partner with Gettysburg National Military Park. The property is on the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Location:** 8 Lincoln Square
Gettysburg, Pa.
- **Phone:** 717-334-1124
- **When:** Grand Opening events from February 12 -16, 2009
- **Web site:** www.nps.gov/gett or www.mainstreetgettysburg.org
- **Admission:**

Adult (13 and up):	\$6.50
Seniors:	\$5.50
Youth (6-12):	\$4.00
Children (5 and under):	FREE

THE NEW GETTYSBURG MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The new Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War offers visitors a 21st-century museum experience that tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg and its significance to our nation's history, within the context of the causes and consequences of the Civil War. The museum showcases an extensive collection of artifacts and archival materials and provides visitors with a distinctive perspective of the Civil War through the words of its participants and spectators, including Presidents Lincoln and Davis, Generals Meade and Lee, soldiers, correspondents and civilians. Through a variety of exhibits, interactive displays, films, and a host of research resources, the new Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War provides a Civil War experience unlike any other.

- **Features:**
 - A **rotunda and museum lobby** that set the stage for the museum experience.
 - Of the **12 galleries** in the new Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War, **11** are based on phrases from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and organized to help visitors understand and appreciate the museum's major themes, including the Gettysburg Campaign, the Civil War, and its causes and consequences. With more than 300,000 objects and artifacts and 700,000 archival materials, the collection at Gettysburg National Military Park is one of the most extensive in the world.
 - **Interactive stations** and hands-on experiences will be located throughout the museum. Five of the galleries include short video presentations on the causes of the

war, the three days of Battle at Gettysburg, and the results of the war. The two Voices theaters feature readings from battle participants.

- The twelfth gallery, a **Special Exhibits Gallery** showcases temporary and traveling exhibits to broaden the number of topics covered in the museum. The current exhibit, "*I Take Up My Pen*," includes a collection of soldiers' letters from Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, illustrated with artifacts from the park's collection.

The museum is located within the new **Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park**. The \$103 million facility, which opened in April 2008, has been designed to help prepare visitors for their stay in Gettysburg, while at the same time offering such 21st-century amenities as:

- A **computer resource room** that gives visitors access to information about the people, the battle, the collection, and the monuments – all of which make Gettysburg an excellent educational experience.
- **The Ford Motor Company Fund Education Center** — multi-purpose educational facilities — the center provides dedicated space for teacher workshops, classroom use and distance learning programs.
- The **Refreshment Saloon** is a museum café with an outdoor dining terrace that offers visitors the opportunity to experience Civil War-era foods and recipes, and learn about the vital role played by the volunteers who supplemented government-issue rations.
- A **Museum Bookstore** that includes an extensive selection of Gettysburg, Civil War, and Lincoln-related titles for all ages, as well as a variety of Gettysburg-related gifts and memorabilia.

The new Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park has been designed to meet **LEED performance certification** at the silver level, in support of Foundation and National Park Service environmental and sustainability goals. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is determined by the U.S. Green Building Council, which sets voluntary standards for high performance, sustainable buildings.

- **Size:** 139,000 square feet
- **Exhibit Space:** 24,000 square feet

GETTYSBURG CYCLORAMA PAINTING

The colossal circular oil painting, entitled "The Battle of Gettysburg," depicts a pivotal moment in America's history: the charge of Confederate infantry led by General George Pickett on July 3, 1863. This painting-in-the-round serves as a vivid monument to the soldiers on both sides who took part in the battle. Now complete — once again— with three-dimensional diorama and a sky that disappears into an overhead canopy, the painting is designed to give viewers the illusion that they are standing in the middle of Pickett's charge. Grown men were said to have

wept when they viewed this stirring example of state-of-the-art entertainment from the late 19th century.

One of only two Cyclorama paintings in the U.S. and about 20 worldwide, the new Gettysburg Cyclorama experience offers the only historically accurate venue in the country.

- **Artist:** “The Battle of Gettysburg” was painted in 1883-1884 by French master Paul Philippoteaux and a team of 20 artists.
- **Conservation Effort:** In 2003, after nearly a century of neglect and deterioration, the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting began a five-year conservation effort to return the work of art to its original glory. The project is the largest-ever of its kind in North America and is being directed by the Gettysburg Foundation, in partnership with Gettysburg National Military Park. The project includes not only conservation of the massive painting, but also recreation of 12 feet of sky, the three-dimensional diorama and the canopy, all of which have been lost for more than a century.
- **Cost:** The total cost of the project is \$15 million. This includes not only the conservation of the painting, but also the new hanging system, lighting, the canopy and diorama, a new sound and light program and exhibits in the gallery’s mezzanine level about the painting’s history and conservation.
- **Size:** Before conservation began in 2003, the painting measured 356 feet by 26 feet. Now, the painting has been returned to its original circumference of 377 feet at its widest points and 42 feet high. The painting, with its new backing and hanging system, weighs 12.5 tons.
- **The Program:** Visitors begin with a viewing of the 22-minute film, *A New Birth of Freedom*. Sponsored by the History Channel and narrated by Morgan Freeman and featuring the voices of Sam Waterston and Marcia Gay Harden, the film tells the story of the Battle of Gettysburg and the war that changed the nation. From the film, visitors will ascend three stories to the Cyclorama Gallery, where they will be immersed in the climactic moment of the three-day battle — Pickett’s charge. A sound and light program will bring the scene to life.
- **Conservation Firm:** Olin Conservation, Inc., Great Falls, Va.
- **Location:** 1195 Baltimore Pike
Gettysburg, Pa.
- **Phone:** 866-889-1243
- **Web site:** www.gettysburgfoundation.org or www.nps.gov/gett

Closed Thanksgiving, December 25 and January 1. Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. January-March and November-December; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. April-May and September-October; and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. June-August.

Tickets for the museum, Cyclorama painting and film, and for Battlefield tours, can be purchased online at www.gettysburgfoundation.org, which also offers more detail about the

new Gettysburg experience. Call 1-877-874-2478 to reserve a tour with a Licensed Battlefield Guide.

Gettysburg National Military Park is less than 90 minutes from Washington, D.C., and close to a variety of historical, recreational and cultural attractions, as well as theme parks, shopping and dining. We suggest you plan to stay for at least two to three days to explore all that the park and its surroundings have to offer.

From Pennsylvania Route 15, exit at Baltimore Street.

THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD

More than 165,000 soldiers fought with Union and Confederate armies on the battlefield at Gettysburg National Military Park. The battle lasted three days — July 1, 2 and 3, 1863, and raged through the town and the surrounding countryside. The largest battle ever fought in North America saw more than 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded or captured. Today, the Gettysburg Battlefield receives nearly two million visitors annually, who come from all over the world to learn about its historical significance, and to view its natural beauty.

- **Battlefield Rehabilitation:** The Battlefield is undergoing a multi-year, multi-million dollar rehabilitation to restore Gettysburg's historic integrity and enhance visitor understanding of and appreciation for what happened here in July 1863. Battlefield rehabilitation also will help create a sustainable environment by improving wetlands, water quality and wildlife habitat.
- **Battlefield Monuments and Memorials:** The Gettysburg Battlefield is the site of 1,328 monuments and memorials, the largest collection of outdoor sculpture in the world.
- **Size:** 6,000 acres

The **Gettysburg Foundation**, including the members of the **Friends of Gettysburg**, is providing financial support for the park's battlefield rehabilitation programs. The Friends of Gettysburg has, to date, preserved more than 500 acres of threatened battlefield land. It also helps fund the removal of modern-day intrusions, including burial of power lines, the rebuilding of fences and removal of the outdate buildings and parking areas along Cemetery Ridge.

SOLDIERS' NATIONAL CEMETERY AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park was established as the final resting place for Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg, as well as for soldiers, veterans and dependents from the Civil War through Vietnam. It was officially closed in 1972. It was at the November 19, 1863, dedication of the cemetery, before a crowd of approximately 15,000 dignitaries, soldiers and civilians, that President Abraham Lincoln delivered the remarks the world knows today as the Gettysburg Address.

- **Size:** 17 Acres
- **Landscape Architect:** William Saunders