After burning Atlanta, Gen. William T. Sherman *(left)* produced rancor in the South that lasted for generations as a result of his devastating "March to the Sea." In January 1865, after Gen. John Bell Hood *(far right)* was relieved from command at his own request following a disastrous defeat the month before at Nashville, Tenn., Gen. Joseph E. Johnston *(near right)* returned to command his old Army of Tennessee.

The Fall of Atlanta Sherman crossed the Chattahoochee River near Roswell on July 9, and Johnston withdrew to the fortifications of Atlanta. On July 17, exasperated by Johnston's retreats and lack of aggressiveness, President Jefferson Davis relieved him of command and replaced him with General Hood. Meanwhile, Sherman was closing in on Atlanta from the north and east. Hood tried unsuccessfully to destroy the army of Gen. George H. Thomas as it crossed Peachtree Creek on July 20.

Two days later, at the Battle of Atlanta, he struck at Gen. James B. McPherson's army and was again repulsed with heavy losses. When Sherman tried to outflank Atlanta's outnumbered defenders by maneuvering west of the city, Hood lashed out with another attack at Ezra Church on July 28. Again he was defeated.

In August Sherman placed Atlanta under siege. Both sides attempted cavalry raids to break the other's grip, but it was to no avail. Always Sherman shifted troops to cut the railroads that linked Atlanta with the rest of the South. On August 31 he seized the last one, the Macon and Western. Hood, after losing a two-day battle near Jonesboro, ordered all public property destroyed and the city evacuated. Sherman entered on September 2 and triumphantly telegraphed the news to Washington, "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won."

The fall of Atlanta was a crippling blow to the Confederacy's capacity and its will to make war. Coupled with Union victories elsewhere, the war's end was now in sight. In the North there was rejoicing, and on November 8 Abraham Lincoln was re-elected President, endorsing a fight to the finish. A week later Sherman left Atlanta in ruins and began his devastating March to the Sea.

Visiting the Battlefield

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park was established to commemorate the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. The best place to begin your visit is at the visitor center. Here you will find information, a short film, exhibits, and a bookstore. Park staff can answer questions and help you plan your visit. The visitor center is open daily except December 25.

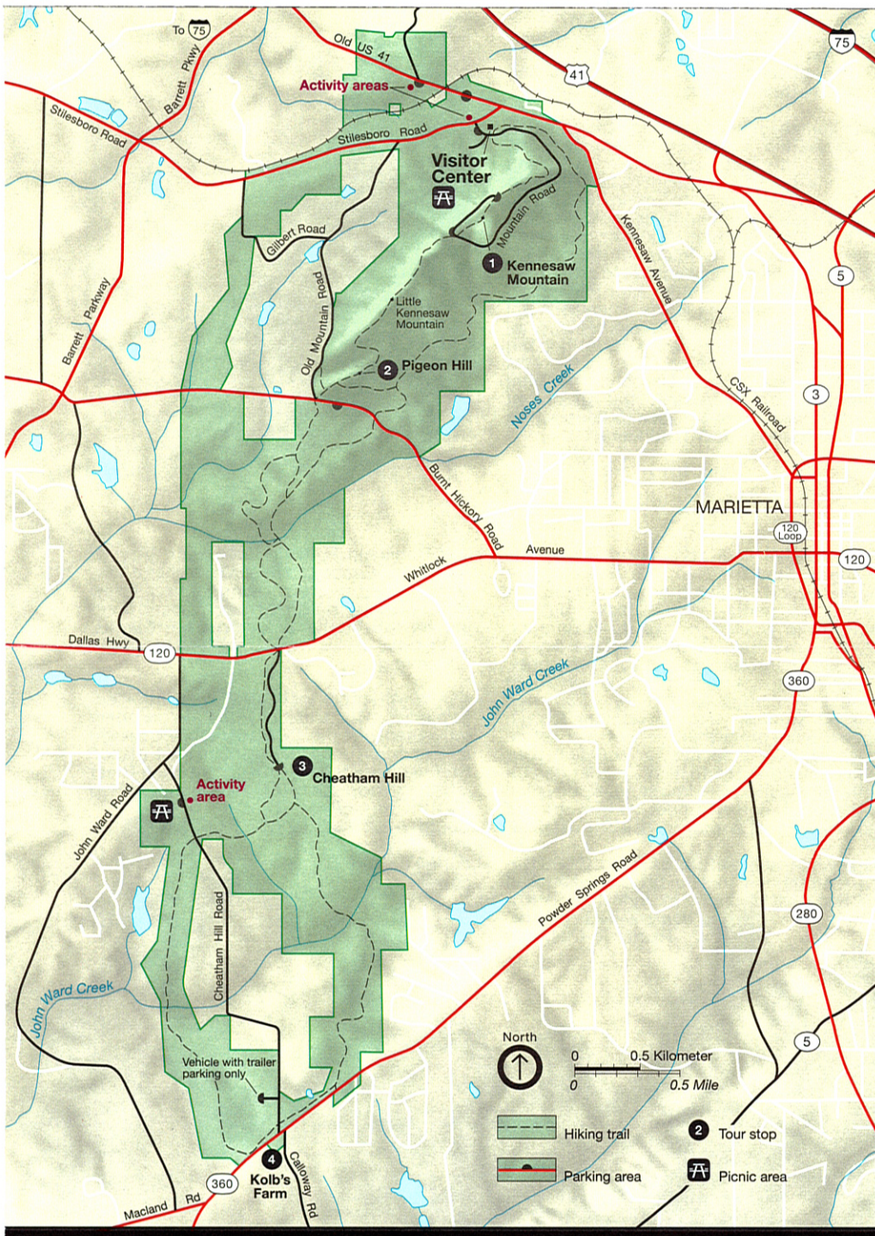
Activities Recreational activities are permitted only in the designated activity areas *(see map below)*. Camping is not permitted in the park. Living history programs and ranger talks are given during the summer.

Trails The park trails offer short walks and long hikes. Starting at the visitor center, the round-trip distances are two miles, five miles, 10 miles, and 16 miles. All trails require moderately steep climbing. Be prepared: there is no water, shelter, or food along the way, and conditions can be hazardous. Stay on trails, wear sturdy shoes, and carry water.

Safety and Regulations For a safe and enjoyable visit, please observe these regulations. • Do not climb on the cannons, monuments, or earthworks. The earthworks are fragile; disturbing them causes irreparable damage. • All buildings, historic objects, geologic specimens, plants, and animals are protected by federal law. • Stay on the roadways and trails to help prevent erosion and to protect the mountain ecology. • Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Clean-up after your pet; bags are provided in the parking lots. • Picnicking and all recreational activities are restricted to designated activity areas. • Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. • Watch out for insects, snakes, and poisonous plants. • Bicycles are prohibited on all trails.• Recycle all cans, glass, and plastic. • Park only in designated areas.

Getting Here The park is easily reached from I-75, exit 116. Follow the signs to the park.

More Information Write: Superintendent, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152-4855. Call: 770-427-4686. Internet: www. nps.gov/kemo.



Self-guiding Auto Tour

The following self-guiding auto tour *(see the map at left)* takes you to the major points of interest. Each tour stop contains a parking area and wayside exhibits. Short interpretive trails are located on the mountaintop and at Cheatham Hill.

Parking is very limited in the Battlefield Park and is restricted to designated parking areas. Please carpool whenever you can.

1 Kennesaw Mountain An overlook near the summit offers a panoramic view of the northern Georgia terrain, where Sherman's and Johnston's armies struggled in the late spring and summer of 1864. Modern Atlanta dominates the southern skyline. A short, moderately steep trail leads to the mountain top. Along the way are exhibits and gun emplacements dug by Confederate cannoneers to command the Western & Atlantic (now Seaboard) Railroad.

2 Pigeon Hill A foot trail leads to Confederate entrenchments on this mountain spur, where one of Sherman's two major attacks was repulsed.

3 Cheatham Hill To protect the hill now named for Confederate Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham, the Southerners created a salient in their lines. The fiercest fighting of the battle raged here. Along a trail to the imposing Illinois Monument are Confederate earthworks and markers where prominent Union soldiers fell. Near the base of the monument is the entrance to a tunnel begun by Union soldiers intending to blow up the Confederate position with a mine. Nearby are Union entrenchments dug under fire and held for six days.

4 Kolb's Farm Damaged by gunfire, Peter Valentine Kolb's 1836 log house has been restored to its historic appearance. It is not open to the public. On the afternoon of June 22, 1864, General Hood's Confederates were repulsed in an ill-fated attack just north of Powder Springs Road. Union Gen. Joseph Hooker used the Kolb house for his headquarters after the fight.

Possession or use of metal detectors within the park is unlawful.

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