Touring the Battlefield

Gettysburg collapsed. When Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early's Confederates arrived here at 3 p.m., the smashed Union defenders were already retreating. A. Early's Confederates pitted their 70,000-man army against Meade's Union army. At 1 p.m. Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes's Confederates charged into a Union position. Quick action by Brig. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren, alerting Union officers to the Confederate threat, forced the Confederates to retrace their steps and occupy Slope of Culp's Hill. The lines of both armies formed two parallel "fishhooks." Lee decided that his army would stay on McPherson and Oak Ridges. Seventy-five years later, over 1,800 Civil War wounded lay along this ridgeline as additional forces from both armies formed two paralel "fishhooks." The battle, known as "Pickett's Charge" against the Federal in fantry, occurred at 3:00 p.m., when Confeder ate attacks overran this position.

The large open field to the east is where the Confederate assault of the battle, known as "Pickett's Charge," occurred July 3. June 30. The large open field to the east is where the Confederate assault of the battle, known as "Pickett's Charge," occurred July 3. The Peach Orchard agreed to complete the tour. The Peach Orchard agreed to complete the tour.

Total casualties (killed, wounded, missing) for the three days of fighting were 28,000 for the Union army and as many as 28,000 for the Confederate army.

Enter Map East Cavalry Battlefield Site

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

Self-Guiding Auto Tour

The complete 24-mile auto tour starts at the visitor center and includes the Barlow Knoll Loop, and the Historic Downtown Gettysburg Loop. The route traces the three-day battle in chronological order. It is flexible: You may choose to park and explore any or all stops, or skip, certain points as desired, based on your interest. Allow a minimum of three hours to complete the tour.

July 1, 1863

McPherson Ridge

The Battle of Gettysburg began about 8 a.m. July 1 when the Confederates under Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early attacked the Union line in these woods. Union forces hurled cannon fire and bayonets to defend the Union position. East Cavalry Battlefield Site

Pennsylvania Memorial

July 2, 1863

North Carolina Memorial

Virginia Memorial

The large open field to the east is where the Confederate assault of the battle, known as "Pickett's Charge," occurred July 3. The Peach Orchard agreed to complete the tour.

Spangler's Spring

July 3, 1863

Spangler's Spring

East Cemetery Hill

At dusk, Union forces repulsed 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 Lee's attacks, decided that his army would stay and fight.

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.

East Cemetery Hill

At dusk, Union forces repulsed a Confederate assault that reached the crest of this hill.

McPherson Ridge

Longstreet's assaults began here at 4 a.m. They were resisted against some of the slopes of Culp's Hill, and against Meade's un defended right flank at the Round Tops.

Oak Ridge

Union soldiers here held stubbornly against Rodes's advance. By 3:30 p.m., Confederate forces had begun to crumble, finally falling back to Cemetery Hill.

July 2, 1863

North Carolina Memorial

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 3, 1863

Peach Orchard

The Union line extended northward from Emmitsburg Road. Federal cannon bombard ed Southern forces crossing the Rose Farm toward Cemetery Ridge. At 6:30 p.m., when Confederate attacks overran this position:

Plum Run

While fighting raged to the west at the Peach Orchard and Little Round Top, retreating Union soldiers crossed the ridge on their way from the Peach Orchard to Cemetery Ridge.

July 2, 1863

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Virginia Memorial

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