

**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, the Gettysburg National Military Park will offer:

- The New **Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park**
- The Conserved **“Battle of Gettysburg” Cyclorama Painting**
- The **Gettysburg Battlefield**
- **Soldiers’ National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park**
- The New **David Wills House at Gettysburg National Military Park**

## THE NEW MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The new Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park will open in April 2008. It will serve as the gateway to the Gettysburg experience, offering 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 \$103 million facility, adjacent to the battlefield, will showcase an extensive collection of artifacts and archival materials and provide 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 interactive exhibits and displays, immersive cinematic productions and a host of research resources, the new Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park will provide a Civil War experience unlike any other.

### ➤ **Features:**

- A **rotunda** will set the stage for the museum experience.
- Of the **12 galleries** in the new Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War, **11** will be 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. Among the collection are:
  - **Portable Wooden Desk** – one of the field desks used by Confederate General Robert E. Lee, believed to have been used during the Battle of Gettysburg.
  - **Sapling Crutch** – George Kistler of the 140<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry pulled a sapling branch from the ground of the Peach Orchard to serve as a crutch after he was wounded during the second day of battle.
  - **Hand-Made Patriotic Apron** – made by Mary Himes Fox, this apron was designed after the American flag and worn by Mary as she sent her husband off to serve in the Civil War
  - **Physician's Journal** – Adam's County physician Dr. J. W. C. O'Neal used the journal to list and identify the location of several thousand Confederate dead. O'Neal used it following the war to help families from the South locate their loved ones' bodies and return them home.
- **Interactive stations** and hands-on experiences will be located throughout the museum. Five of the galleries will 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 will feature readings from battle participants.

- The twelfth gallery, a **Special Exhibits Gallery** will use temporary and traveling exhibits to broaden the number of topics covered in the museum and will display items on loan from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's extensive collection.
  - A new 22-minute feature film, "**A New Birth of Freedom,**" will immerse visitors in the sights, sounds and emotions of the battle and its aftermath.
  - The new **Cyclorama Gallery** will display the newly conserved Cyclorama painting entitled "The Battle of Gettysburg," including the recreated skyline, canopy and three-dimensional diorama that have been missing for more than 40 years. Exhibits on the mezzanine level will describe the history of the painting and its conservation.
  - A **computer resource room** will give visitors access to information about the people, the battle, the collection, and the monuments – all which make Gettysburg an excellent educational experience.
  - **The Ford Motor Company Fund Education Center** — multi-purpose educational facilities — will provide dedicated space for teacher workshops, classroom use and distance learning programs.
  - The **Refreshment Saloon** food service area and outdoor dining terrace will offer 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** will include 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
  - **Opening Date:** April 14, 2008

➤ **Ticket Pricing:**

- “A New Birth of Freedom” feature film (April 14 – September 25, 2008\*) :

Adults (ages 13 and up): \$8.00

Youth (ages 6-12): \$6.50

Child (ages 5 and under): Free

- Feature Film/Cyclorama (beginning September 26, 2008\*):

Adults: \$12.00

Youth: \$10.00

Child: Free

- **Location:** 1195 Baltimore Pike  
Gettysburg, Pa.

- **Phone:** 866-889-1243

- **Web site:** [www.gettysburgfoundation.org](http://www.gettysburgfoundation.org) or [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)

\*Please note that dates and prices are subject to change.

## GETTYSBURG CYCLORAMA PAINTING

The colossal circular oil painting, entitled “The Battle of Gettysburg,” depicts the charge of Confederate infantry led by General George Pickett on July 3, 1863. The only complete cyclorama painting in North America, it serves as a vivid monument to the soldiers on both sides who took part in the battle and is example of the Victorian Era’s state-of-the-art entertainment.

- **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 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, and the new multi-media program.
- **Size:** When the current conservation campaign began in late 2003, the painting measured 356 feet by 26 feet. Once the conservation is complete, the painting will be returned to its original circumference of 377 feet at its widest points and 42 feet high. The painting will weigh approximately 6.7 tons.
- **Completion/Opening Date:** September 26, 2008
- **Ticket Pricing:**  
Feature Film/Cyclorama Experience (beginning September 26, 2008\*):  
Adults (ages 13 and up): \$12.00  
Youth (ages 6-12) \$10.00  
Child (ages 5 and under): Free
- **Conservation Firm:** Olin Conservation, Inc., Great Falls, Va.

\*Please note that dates and prices are subject to change.

## 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 and cultural significance, as well as 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**, are 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, and the rebuilding of fences. Once the new Museum and Visitor Center at Gettysburg National Military Park opens in 2008, the Foundation will partner with the National Park Service to rehabilitate the hallowed ground where the current, outdated visitor facilities are sited. This project is part of the National Park Service's recently announced Centennial Challenge Campaign.

## 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, but plots remain for dependents of veterans already interred. 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

## **THE DAVID WILLS HOUSE AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK**

In November 2008, 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. The David Wills House was more than the center of Gettysburg. It also was at the center of the immense clean-up required following the Battle of Gettysburg, as well as the place where President Lincoln put the finishing touches on the Gettysburg Address. This speech transformed Gettysburg from a place of devastation to the symbol of the nation's "new birth of freedom"

Funded by the National Park Service, the \$6.6 million project will restore areas of the home to their original 1863 appearance, including:

- Attorney David Wills's office, where he received letters from families searching for loved ones after the battle, and where he began planning for the cemetery and its dedication
- And the bedroom where Lincoln spent the night and prepared to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

It also will showcase an extensive collection of artifacts in a number of educational exhibits. Main Street Gettysburg will operate the museum, as an official partner, with Gettysburg National Military Park. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

- **Location:** 8 Lincoln Square  
Gettysburg, Pa.
- **Phone:** 717-334-1124
- **Web site:** [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett)