

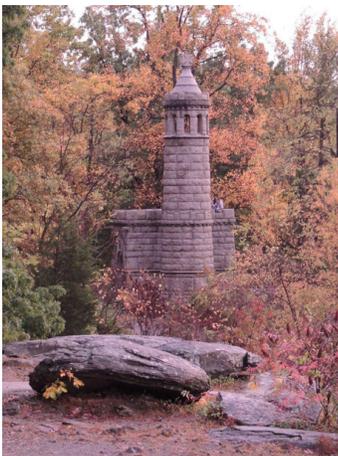


Welcome to Gettysburg with School Tours of America

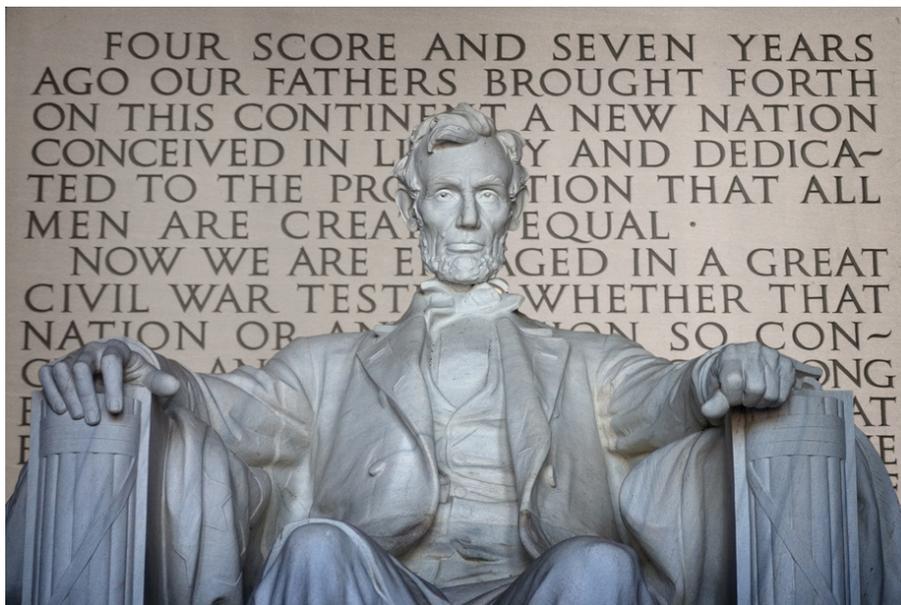
The Battle of Gettysburg marked the turning point in the Civil War. This three-day engagement led to over 50,000 estimated casualties, making it the bloodiest single battle of the War. The battle occurred in the small rural community of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in Adams County, on July 1-3, 1863. This battle ended Confederate General Robert E. Lee's ambitious quest to invade the North and make the Confederate States of America an independent nation.



The Gettysburg National Military Park was established in 1895 to commemorate the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg. In 1864, a group of citizens formed the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association to preserve parts of the battlefield as a memorial. The park features 1,300 monuments, 400 cannons, and almost 150 historic buildings.



The dedication ceremony for a cemetery for Civil War soldiers who died in the battle occurred on November 19, 1863, with President Abraham Lincoln in attendance. It was here that he gave what is considered one of the greatest speeches in American history, the [Gettysburg Address](#). In this speech, Lincoln reminds his audience that the United States was founded on the basis of liberty and equality, purposely using language from the Declaration of Independence. He stated that the Civil War was being fought to uphold and safeguard these ideals set forth by the Founding Fathers.



The visitors' center at the Gettysburg National Military Park includes the Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War, a theater showing the film *A New Birth of Freedom*, narrated by award-winning actor Morgan Freeman, and a cyclorama painting depicting Pickett's Charge. The cyclorama is a massive oil-on-canvas painting with a landscaped foreground that gives it a three-dimensional effect that literally places visitors in the center of the historic scene.



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