

Gettysburg is celebrated July 1



Vince Egan
Travel

Each year, while most of us are celebrating Canada Day, pilgrims by the thousands converge from all over on a Pennsylvania town with an immortal name: Gettysburg.

There, on the stifling hot first day of July in 1863, regiments of the Union and Confederate armies launched a decisive battle that proved to be the fiercest of the U.S. Civil War.

On the hills and fields to the south of the prosperous crossroads town named after Gen. James Gettys, the two sides suffered casualties of 51,000 men and uncounted beasts of burden.

The battle ended when the Northern (Union) troops, with deadly fire from high ground, repulsed a final, all-out assault by Gen. Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. It was the last major offensive of the Southern side, and its failure foretold the outcome of the Civil War.

The following Nov. 19, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated Soldiers' National Cemetery on the battlefield (in the extreme south of Pennsylvania, a few kilometres from Maryland's northern border) and made his most famous address.

HALLOWED GROUND

Ever since then, the 21-acre cemetery and 3,500-acre Gettysburg National Military Park (the battlefield) have been hallowed ground, not just to Americans but to students of military history (and Civil War buffs in particular) from all parts of the world.

At this year's anniversary of the battle, a "living history camp" is being held at Gettysburg, in which volunteer groups in Civil War uniforms - and carrying weapons of that period - will re-enact aspects of the 1863 battle on the weekends of June 30 and July 1, and July 7 and 8.

"Every effort is being made to assure historical accuracy, right down to the stitching on the uniforms," said Philip Magaldi Jr., director of the Gettysburg Travel Council (35 Carlisle St., Gettysburg, Pa., 17325).

Other related activities taking place from June 30 to July 8 include band concerts, lectures by historians, a collectors' show and a book show for Civil War buffs, and a fireman's festival.

ALL-SEASON SITE

The history-rich area is well worth a visit at any season. Starting point for battlefield tours is the National Park Visitor Centre, open daily except Christmas, New Year's and U.S. Thanksgiving.

At the Gettysburg National Cemetery, where 3,706 Civil War dead are buried, interpretive walks take place throughout the summer months. Self-guiding cassette tapes, for use in cars, are

available at the National Civil War Wax Museum; some 56 km of park roads lead to the various monuments, memorials and landmarks.

An unrelated point of interest near Gettysburg is the Eisenhower Farm where the late president Dwight D. Eisenhower and his wife lived out their retirement years. Their home is furnished as it was during their occupancy. Access is by bus tour only, originating at the Visitors Centre in Gettysburg.

Another, of special interest to family groups, is the Gettysburg Land of Little Horses, a few kilometres west of the town. Visitors see full-grown miniature thoroughbreds, Appaloosas and draft horses, some weighing as little as 23 kg. The farm is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Labor Day, with shows in its arena at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

Here are some notes on news of current interest to travellers:

Three weekly direct charter flights between Toronto and Italy are now being offered by Alba Tours International Inc. A Thursday flight goes to Venice non-stop, a Friday flight to Milan then on to Rome, and a Saturday flight to Rome non-stop; flights return the following day in each case. Flights are on Air Europe's 200-seat Boeing 757 that was delivered this spring. On-board service includes movies, music and complimentary wine.

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (82nd Street and 5th Avenue) is, for the first time in its history, remaining open until 8:45 on Friday and Saturday evenings for viewing and for dinner.

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Travel Outlook

New Brunswick is the great escape to outdoors

The New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage is thrilled about the publication of the province's first ever outdoor adventure guide.

The glossy, high quality 1990 *New Brunswick Outdoor Adventure Guide* is due to be released within a few weeks, and there have already been a lot of requests for it.

Since 1986 the province has published the *New Brunswick Travel Guide*, a classy publication designed to attract vacationers to the province. Filled with tight, well-written text, and photos that make you feel like you're there, the 1990 *New Brunswick Outdoor Adventure Guide* is a companion publication, designed to help visitors find adventure once they've arrived.

No matter what kind of vacation adventure you're looking for, New Brunswick is the place to find it. And the place to find out where to do it, is in the province's new *Outdoor Adventure Guide*.

In addition to valuable information on the adventures available in the province, four companies offering vacation packages are profiled.

East Coast Adventures of Saint John, for example, offer a wide variety of hiking packages along the awesome Bay of Fundy coast. With tide changes that are higher than a five

storey building, there's never any shortage of thrills and excitement on one of these trips.

Ward Campbell of Covered Bridge Bicycle Tours is proud of the six day, lower St. John River/Bay of Fundy tour offered by his company. Combining fine dining with elegant accommodations, this tour offers some of the finest cycling available anywhere.

Split Rock Outfitter's newest adventure is a five day/night, sea kayaking trip to the West Quoddy Isles region of the Bay of Fundy. This thrilling trip provides the excitement of paddling a kayak in one of the world's most unique marine areas.

Inland, along the famous Miramichi River, Clearwater Hollow Expeditions, provides lodge to lodge canoeing excursions. During the day, surrounded by breathtaking scenery, guests float peacefully down one of the world's great rivers, while at night, they're pampered with fine dining and excellent accommodations.

If you'd like to experience the thrill of staring into the mysterious

eyes of a Right Whale or grappling down a granite cliff, or, if you can picture yourself hiking along rugged ocean trails, kayaking wilderness rivers, and cycling through countryside that would make Huck Finn feel at home, call now for your 1990 *New Brunswick Outdoor Adventure Guide*.

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