



# Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site

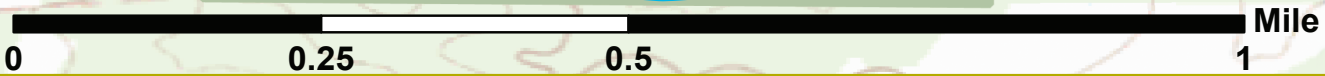


ATC ZONES

NO ATC PAST THE BRIDGE

CHALLENGING TEARRAIN

- LEGEND**
- Visitor Center
  - Staff Residence
  - Ravine Overlook
  - Station Stops
  - Picnic Area
  - Group Shelter
  - Cabin
  - White Loop (1.1 miles)
  - Red Loop (2 miles)
  - Blue Loop (1.5 miles)
  - Brand House Trail (3 miles round trip from Visitor Center)
  - Purple Connector
  - East Side Nature Trail (half mile loop from Group Shelter)
  - Cabin Connector (half mile one way from Visitor Center)
  - Paved Road
  - Rivers / Creeks



Knox Chapel Road, Rutledge, GA 30663 • 706-557-3001 • Reservations: 800-573-9659 • Emergency: 911 • GaStateParks.org

## Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site Trail Map



# Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site



Pickett's Mill is one of the best preserved Civil War battlefields in the nation. Visitors can travel roads used by Federal and Confederate troops, see earthworks constructed by these men, and walk through the same ravine where hundreds died. An authentic 1800s pioneer cabin is furnished and open for tours during certain events.

On May 27, 1864, the Federal Army, having been stopped in its advance on Atlanta two days earlier by the Battle of New Hope Church, attempted to outflank the Confederate position. Some 14,000 Federal troops were selected for the task, and General Howard was given command. After a five-hour march, Howard's force reached the vicinity of Pickett's Mill and prepared to attack. Waiting were 10,000 Confederate troops under the command of General Cleburne. The Federal assault began at 5 p.m. and continued into the night. Daybreak found the Confederates still in possession of the field. The Federals had lost 1,600 men compared to the Confederate loss of 500. The Confederate victory resulted in a one-week delay of the Federal advance on Atlanta.



## Cabin Connector – 0.5 Mile - Easy Hike

This trail features the Pickett's Mill Road and an original 1853-dated log cabin. From the ravine overlook, turn left and walk down the wide path known as Pickett's Mill Road. You will come to an intersection with Leverett's Mill Road. Continue straight at this intersection and the log cabin will be ahead on your right.

## White Trail – 1.1 Miles (green trail on map) – Moderate to Strenuous Hike

This trail will be marked with white paint markings on trees along the route and features trenches, artillery encampments, original roads, and beautiful views. Beginning at the ravine overlook, take the left onto Pickett's Mill Road. You'll come to an intersection with another wide path known as Leverett's Mill Road. Turn right at this intersection and follow Leverett's Mill Road north past a large wheat field. After you pass the wheat field, watch for Union trenches on a hill to your left. Continue towards the Federal staging area where they prepared to advance into the ravine, where you'll also find Union artillery earthworks. This trail will merge with the red and blue trails and you will begin to see all three colored markings on trees near the path to indicate that the trails have merged.

## Blue Trail – 1.5 Miles – Moderate to Strenuous Hike

This trail mirrors much of the original Pickett's Mill Road and is marked by blue paint blazes on trees along the route. You will see trenches, artillery encampments, original roads, the Pickett's Mill site, and the entrance to the Brand House loop. From the ravine overlook, turn right and proceed past the Y intersection with the red trail. As you approach Pickett's Mill creek, stay left and walk parallel to the creek, past the mill site. Part of the blue trail merges with the red trail, and you will see both colors of paint markings on the trees. You will see the entrance to the Brand House loop to your right. The final leg of the Blue Trail will merge with the red and white trails and you will begin to see all three colored markings on trees near the path to indicate that the trails have merged.

## Red Trail – 2.0 Miles – Moderate to Strenuous Hike

This trail leads from the ravine overlook to the cornfield. The first leg of this trail is merged with the blue trail and you will see markings in both colors on the trees along the route. From the ravine overlook, take the trail to the right. At the "Y" intersection in the trail, the blue and red trails diverge. Follow this fork to the right to continue on the red trail. You will come to a cornfield that was the scene of desperate fighting to save the Confederate flank during the battle. From the cornfield, continue along the trail until it merges again with the blue trail. The rest of the trail is merged first with the blue trail and then with the white trail as it loops back around through the ravine where much of the fighting took place during the battle.



## Brand House Trail – 3.0 Miles – (orange trail on map) – Moderate to Strenuous Hike

To access this trail, take the right-most trail from the ravine overlook and follow the blue trail (see above), indicated by blue markings on trees along the route. Just short of 1 mile from the start of the blue trail, you will see the entrance to the Brand House loop to the right. After entering the Brand House loop, follow it left. This one-way loop should be hiked clockwise to ensure that the orange trail markings on trees along the route will remain in your view. During the battle, this area was held by US General William Carlin's brigade. Carlin's men destroyed the Brand House and used the logs to reinforce their earthworks and trenches. On the morning of May 30th, it witnessed a Confederate attack by two Confederate brigades under General Thomas Hindman. When you have hiked the loop you will return to the intersection with the blue trail.

## Purple Connector – 0.5 Miles (purple trail on map) – Easy Hike

This trail begins just past the corn field on the Red Trail and cuts through the forest to rejoin the Red Trail at Wildcat Falls. Wildcat Falls is the highest, (3 feet), and most scenic waterfall at Pickett's Mill SHS.



## Safety Tips & Etiquette

- Tell someone your itinerary and expected return time.
- Be prepared for unexpected weather changes by dressing in layers and carrying rain gear.
- Take a map, water, snacks, first aid kit, flashlight and whistle. Three short blasts on a whistle are known as a call for help.
- Do not stray from trails. If you become lost, stay in one location and wait for help. This will make it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Don't count on cell phones to work in the wilderness, but if they do, be able to give details about your location.
- Invest in good hiking socks such as those found at sporting goods stores. Avoid blisters by carrying "moleskin" and applying it as soon as you feel a hot spot on your feet. Available in the foot care section of drug stores, moleskin is like felt that sticks to your skin.
- Be prepared for unexpected rain and wind which can lead to hypothermia. Always carry quality rain gear and turn back in bad weather. If you become wet or cold, it is important to get dry and warm as quickly as possible.
- Dress in layers and avoid cotton. Luckily, today's hikers can choose from numerous fabrics that wick moisture, dry quickly or conserve heat. Many experienced hikers wear a lightweight shirt that wicks moisture, while carrying a fleece pullover and rain jacket.
- Pack out all trash.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times. This is strictly enforced. Maximum leash length is 6 feet.
- Do not pick flowers or disturb wildlife.
- Protect the landscape by staying on trails.
- Alcohol is prohibited in public areas of the park.
- A Georgia ParkPass is required to be displayed in your vehicle. Passes are available at all major parking lots and inside the Visitor Center & Trading Post.