The battlefield tour, shown on the map below, starts at the visitor center and moves to several points of interest where the action took place. Visitors are encouraged to use the map to guide their visit. The battlefield is large and it is recommended that visitors use the map to guide their visit. The battlefield tour is free and open to the public. For visitors who prefer a guided tour, there are several guided tours available. Visitors are encouraged to ask park rangers for information about the battlefield and the history of the war. The battlefield is open every day except December 25. Address all correspondence to the park superintendent, whose address is Shiloh, TN 38376.

Touring Shiloh Battlefield

1. Pittsburg Landing. Union base during the battle and a landing for river barge. Here on the night of April 6, General Buell’s Army of the Ohio marched off barge transports to reinforce Grant’s army. The next day a Federal counterattack forced the Confederates under Gen. R. J. T. Beauregard to withdraw.

2. Grant’s Last Line. While the Confederates moved to crush the Hornets’ Nest, Grant formed a defensive line along this ridge. The line of artillery marks the final position of Grant’s left on April 6. That night Buell’s reinforcements deployed toward Grant’s left and center while Wallace’s fresh division reinforced the right. At dawn, 50,000 Federals launched a counterattack against the Confederates.

3. Hornets’ Nest. At mid-morning on April 6, parts of three Union divisions occupied a dense oak thicket on this section of the federal front. For seven hours the Federals repulsed several piecemeal Confederate attacks on this sector of the federal front. For seven hours the Federals repulsed several piecemeal Confederate attacks on this sector of the federal front. In the late afternoon, while Grant prepared a last line of defense to the north, the Confederates surround ed and captured this position.

4. Ruggles’ Battery. After infantry attacks failed to break the Confederates. Next day, the Confederates repulsed the guns from 11 Southern batteries to bombard the Union position. Under cover of this barrage, Confederate artillery outflanked the Union position. As a result, Union Gen. William Wallace was mortally wounded and General Prentiss was captured along with 2,250 North ern troops.

5. Grant’s Last Line. Union rear guard. Here on the morning of April 6, Shiloh Church and cemetery are privately owned, but the log Methodist church that gave the battle its name. The Battle Begins

6. Union Lines of Defense. On the morning of April 6, the first shots of the battle were fired when Confederates attacked Pittsburg Landing. Fraley Field, where the Federals struck this area of the battlefield until forced to abandon it. Later Beauregard established his headquarters here. The present church and cemetery are privately owned, but park visitors are welcome on the grounds.

7. Union Reconnaissance Patrol. Here at 4:55 a.m. on April 6, the Confederate counterattack against this wet weather pond on April 7 halted the Union advances but failed to break the Union line. With chances for victory gone, Beauregard withdrew his army to Corinth.

8. Shiloh Church. Here stood Shiloh Meeting House, the log Methodist church that gave the battle its name. On this morning of April 6, Sherman’s division held this area of the battlefield until forced to abandon it. Later Beauregard established his headquarters here. The present church and cemetery are privately owned, but park visitors are welcome on the grounds.

9. Union Lines of Defense. On the low ridge in front of you General Prentiss formed his Union division into line of battle on the morning of April 6 in an attempt to halt the unexpected Confederate onslaught. The Federals held for about an hour, when a massive assault drove them back to their camps.

10. Confederate Retreat. The Confederate counterattack against this wet weather pond on April 7 halted the Union advances but failed to break the Union line. With chances for victory gone, Beauregard withdrew his army to Corinth.

11. Shiloh’s Casualties. After the battle, Union soldiers dug several trenches to bury the 1,728 Confederates killed in the fighting. This one is believed to be the largest of the five known mass burial trenches.

12. Illusion of the Union Camps. Here Prentiss’s division made a brief stand until it was overrun by Confederates at 9 a.m. While most of his survivors fled to Pittsburg Landing, Prentiss rallied 500 men and joined troops from other divisions in the Hornets’ Nest. The upright cannon marks where Capt. Ewell Peabody was killed while trying to rally his Union brigade.

13. Field Hospital. Here Federal surgeons established one of the first Union hospitals of the Civil War. By gathering tents from all over the battlefield and concentrating medical services, patient care was greatly improved and the death rate was lowered.

14. Death of General Johnston. The monument here marks the site where the Confederate commander Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was mortally wounded on April 6. He was the highest ranking Southern officer killed during the war.

15. The Peach Orchard. Sarah Bell’s orchard was in Union on April 6 as Confederate attacks hammered the Union left. Peach blossoms cut down by bullets reminded some observers of falling snow. After 2 p.m. the Federals withdrew north, holding a succession of lines until 4 p.m., when they conducted a fighting retreat to Pittsburg Landing.

16. Bloody Pond. During the battle, soldiers of both sides came here to drink and bathe their wounds. Both men and horses died in the pond, their blood staining the water a dark red.

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