

Optional Tour

Tour: Friday, March 25, 2022: **Tour of Manassas National Battlefield Park (NBP)**

Time: 12:45 PM-2:45 PM; Bus departs main entrance of hotel at 12:45 PM; Return Trip: Departs Manassas NBP for hotel at 2:45 PM

Cost: Free

Tour Description: We will arrive at the Henry Hill Visitor's Center at 12:50 PM; the park orientation film "*Manassas: End of Innocence*" will begin at 1:00 PM. This 45 minute film covers both the First and Second Manassas. After learning about the battles you can tour the interactive Visitors Center, visit the gift shop and walk the actual battlefield. You can read overviews about each battle, learn about the opposing commanders, and explore the importance of each engagement. Full orders of battle provide a complete list of the regiments that fought here. The bus departs the battlefield for the return trip to the hotel at 2:45 PM.

Battle Descriptions:

The First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) marked the first major battle of the Civil War. On July 21, 1861, Union and Confederate armies clashed near Manassas Junction. The engagement began when approximately 35,000 Union troops marched from the Federal capital in Washington, D.C. to attack a Confederate force of approximately 20,000 troops along a small river know as "Bull Run". Many dignitaries traveled from the Capital to see the engagement. After fighting on the defensive for most of the day, the rebels rallied and were able to break the Union right flank, sending the Federals into a retreat towards Washington.

The Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) was a much larger battle than the first. It began on August 29, 1862 as a large Union force (approx. 51,000) commanded by Gen. John Pope waited for Gen. George McClellan's Army of the Potomac. In anticipation of the large offensive, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee decided to strike first. Lee sent half of his army to hit the Federal supply base at Manassas. Led by Stonewall Jackson the rebels seized supplies and burned the depot. The next day Pope's forces clashed with Jackson's men, with heavy losses on both sides. The following day, the rest of Lee's army (approx. 28,000) arrived; led by Gen. Longstreet they counterattacked, forcing Pope to withdraw his army toward Washington that night.