

DAILY NEWS NEW YORK

November 3, 2013

With its mix of compelling history and comfortable charm, Gettysburg makes a great American destination

The Pennsylvania site of the tide-turning Civil War battle of 150 years ago also boasts artsy shops, fine restaurants and even haunted-house tours

By **Gina Salamone**
New York Daily News

Gettysburg may be famous as the site of the Civil War's turning point — but its artsy shops, quaint farmhouse B&Bs and tasty Amish treats all add to its allure.

While it makes for the perfect long weekend getaway any time of year, this all is an ideal time to visit. Next month marks the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. And along with it comes a host of events like a parade, reenactments, musical performances and tours.

Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863, more than four months after the Battle of Gettysburg. The battlefield is the biggest draw for tourists in Gettysburg, a borough of Adams County, Pa., about four hours southwest of New York City by car.

It's the setting for the three-day fight (July 1–3, 1863) in which the Union Army stopped the Confederate forces from further invading the North. The battle had more casualties than any other in the Civil War, with about 50,000 soldiers from both sides killed.

Today, the National Park Service maintains the Gettysburg Na-



Gettysburg Hotel in Lincoln Square is one of the top lodging choices when visiting Gettysburg; it's had a multimillion-dollar renovation.

tional Cemetery, where more than 3,500 Union soldiers are buried and where Lincoln gave his address. NPS also maintains the Gettysburg National Military Park, home to much of the battlefield area.

There are a few different ways to tour the battlefield — which boasts monuments, cannons, historic buildings and observation towers — including in your own car or on a guided tour bus. Or just

stop by the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, housing a museum, a theater featuring a short film narrated by Morgan Freeman, and the restored Gettysburg Cyclorama.

The Cyclorama is an oil painting that surrounds visitors in a circular viewing room. It depicts Pickett's Charge, a failed Confederate infantry assault. Extending out from the Gettysburg Cyclorama, the

floor is planted with battle relics, stone walls, trees and broken fences. At the Visitor Center, a Battlefield Bus Tour costs \$30 for adults, \$18 for kids (6-12), while a Cyclorama, Film and Museum package is \$12.50 for adults, \$8.50 for children.

There are plenty of other museums around Gettysburg, but most of the fun is had walking around downtown or driving out to a farmhouse. A sled that holds snacks and juices for patrons of the Hickory Bridge Farm restaurant near Gettysburg. A sled that holds snacks and juices for patrons of the Hickory Bridge Farm restaurant near Gettysburg.

As the site where so many soldiers lost their lives, there are bound to be some ghosts around. At least according to a number of ghost and candlelit walking tours. One of them is Haunted Gettysburg, offering four different tours from the “The Original Spooky Back Alley Tour” (\$8) to the “Ghost Tour & Xtreme Paranormal Investigation” (\$33).

Possibly the most convenient hotel for tourists is the Gettysburg Hotel, lining the northeast side of Lincoln Square, the heart of downtown Gettysburg. Established in 1797, the hotel finished a multimillion-dollar renovation this past spring on its 119 guest rooms and lobby, also opening a new restaurant, One Lincoln. The upgrade is stylish and chic, while still maintaining the building’s historic charm.

Across the street are statues of Abraham Lincoln and a male tourist. Called “Return Visit,” it depicts Lincoln pointing his hat toward the second floor of the David Wills House, where it’s believed the President finished writing the Gettysburg Address.

From there, walk east on York St. to one of the most interesting stores in downtown Gettysburg. You’ll im-

mediately spot it by all the colorfully painted gourds, some shaped into birdhouses, displayed outside. But there are plenty more inside the huge shop, called Gallery 30. Storefront of Gallery 30, selling cured, painted gourds crafted into decorations. Storefront of Gallery 30, selling cured, painted gourds crafted into decorations.

Celebrating its 35th year, Gallery 30 sells mostly goods handcrafted in the U.S. That includes the gourd art, carved into everything imaginable — from seasonal ones like turkeys, snowmen, skeletons and Santas, to everyday ones like floppy-eared dogs, cats, candy dishes, wild flowers and American flags.

The decorations are all made from real gourds, and have a wooden look and feel. “They’re all grown here in Pennsylvania, they’re all crafted here,” says Gallery 30 owner Linda Atiyeh. “They’re [made by] a group of about 15 to 17 artisans. They’ve been at it for about 22 years so they’ve really perfected their craft.”

Of course, there’s one of Lincoln, made just for the store.

“It’s a two-year process from the time that they plant [the gourds] until we get them,” ex-

plains Peggy Rock, director of Gallery 30. “They cure them. So it takes over a year just to dry them. Then they have to be cleaned.” Decorative gourds sold at Gallery 30 in Gettysburg, Pa. Decorative gourds sold at Gallery 30 in Gettysburg, Pa.

Another cool shop on York St. is Artworks, selling accessories, “Haitian Metal Art” and a line of jewelry called Drops of Gettysburg. The line, which includes beaded bracelets for \$19, is inspired by the rivers and valleys in the area.

And plenty of area shops, including The Union Drummer Boy on York St., sell authentic Civil War artifacts. Besides the revolvers and uniforms, the most moving artifacts here are a mbrotype photos of soldiers, taken before they went off to war and left to their loved ones, encased in colorful frames.

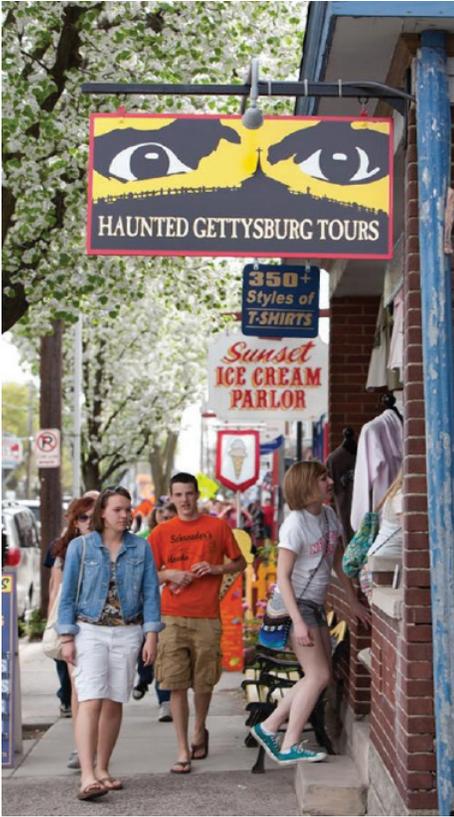
Also downtown is Subterranean Soul on Carlisle St., a record shop that stays relevant with cool music-inspired creations, like vinyl-record wall clocks and peace sign clocks.

For what may be the best — and most filling — meal in Adams County, drive 9 miles west of Gettysburg to Orrtanna, Pa. After passing lots of cows and crossing a railroad track,



Decorative gourds sold at Gallery 30 in Gettysburg, Pa.

you'll find Hickory Bridge Farm. It's not only a historic bed-and-breakfast, but is home to a restaurant in a restored barn that's worth the drive even if you're not staying overnight. Haunted Gettysburg Tours will



Haunted Gettysburg Tours will let you commune with the “other side” when you visit Gettysburg.

let you commune with the “other side” when you visit Gettysburg. Haunted Gettysburg Tours will let you commune with the “other side” when you visit Gettysburg.

Only serving dinner on limited weekend hours, the country-style restaurant offers a feast for \$25.50 per adult (cheaper for kids.) It's served family style and includes an unlimited variety of nonalcoholic drinks, and three main courses that rotate every night (a recent night offered fried chicken, roast beef and Crab Imperial), which come with five sides like stewed apples, broccoli with cheese, carrots, roasted potatoes and hush puppies.

Before that main course arrives, bread and apricots are served, along with a salad. And before you're even seated, guests are offered cheese and crackers and apple juice from a sled. It's just one of the cool collectibles decorating the huge, homey barn. The walls are tastefully hung with rustic-looking pots, pans, washboards and lanterns.

There's also a country store at the Hickory Bridge Farm. Just don't linger too long — it's tricky finding your way back to civilization once it turns dark. And the cows are no help.