

will see clusters of bushes on the right side of the trail. These are Japanese honeysuckle. The white and yellow flowers yield thick, sweet liquid. They are sweet smelling bushes which are not native to the United States. They squeeze out native plants much like kudzu does.



6. Georgia Overlook

This platform was built in 1964, the centennial observance 100 years after the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. On the front of this stone structure is a plaque that honors the 14 Confederate generals from Georgia who commanded troops during the Civil War.

In front of the gun emplacements, there are earthworks. Please do not climb on them because it will cause the grass that holds the dirt together to wear away. Then, during a rainstorm, the dirt will wash away, and in this process, called erosion, the earthworks may disappear forever. Just by looking at them you can tell which one has been climbed on the most. Notice that on both sides of the trail there are red oaks. The leaves get about 6 to 8 inches long, and the acorns are about one half of an inch long.



7. Gun Emplacement

There are four remaining fortifications. These were dug into the ground to protect the Confederate cannons who fired on the Union army below. As you continue towards the crest of Kennesaw Mountain, you will pass three more of these earthen

fortifications. The guns that are placed in these fortifications are Napoleon cannons and weigh about 1300 pounds each. Look on the barrel to find the exact weight.

Notice the large rocks on both sides of the trail. These rocks are thought to be Lower Paleozoic in age (about 300 million years old). They are called Gneiss (pronounced nice). This type of rock is quarried near the town of Kennesaw, northwest of the park. The lichen on the rocks is a type of plant. It can also be observed growing on the red oaks. Kennesaw Mountain consists of Big and Little Kennesaw. From a distance you can see the twin peaks.



8. Signal Platform

Both the Union and Confederate armies occupied Kennesaw Mountain at one time or another during the Civil War. When one army had control, it used this earthen structure as a signal platform. The armies sent flag (or "wig wag") signals from the top of the mountain.



BROCHURE AND TRAIL MARKERS
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KENNESAW MOUNTAIN TRAIL



KENNESAW
MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL
BATTLEFIELD
PARK

GEORGIA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Welcome to the Kennesaw Mountain Trail!



1. Rifle Pits

These pits were used by Confederate soldiers called "pickets." Pickets were posted in front of the line and alerted the main army of an attack. The Federal assault on this portion of the line was stopped by soldiers of the 1st Alabama at these rifle pits. Often, in battle, these pits would be captured by one side and then recaptured by the other.

When you reach the sign that says ".2 miles to Visitor Center," the trail continues to the right. **THE TRAIL DOES NOT GO STRAIGHT AHEAD.** Remember to always stay on the official trail and avoid shortcuts because it can be confusing to hikers and will damage earthworks and the mountain terrain. On the trail you will rise 700 feet above the Visitor Center to the mountain's crest, which is 1808 feet above sea level.



2. Springs

A spring is a place where water flows naturally out of the ground. This is just one of the numerous springs on Kennesaw Mountain. Some of the springs appear only after a rainstorm, but a few of them flow out of the ground all the time. Soldiers, both Union and

Confederate, filled their canteens from these springs. **During the Civil War, spring water was safer than today so please do not drink the water.**

Fun Fact: Though soldiers brought much food with them in their knapsacks, they still foraged (searched) for food in the woods. Some of the foods the soldiers looked for in the forest were persimmons, hickory nuts, sumac for "Indian Lemonade," blackberries, and chestnuts. These foods provided vitamins and nutrients, something absent in their military food rations.



3. Historic Road

Before war came to Kennesaw, settlers cleared a road up the mountain. This road cut across the wide trail on which you are now walking. If you look very carefully up the mountain, you can see this historic road. This road can also be seen from different vantage points on the mountain. The Confederate soldiers hauled their cannons up this road. The movement of supplies and equipment was its main purpose during the battle.

If you look at marker #4, you will see a perfect view of the trench going uphill. Also, you can see another shortcut going uphill. **Remember, please do not use it.**



4. Trench Line

If you glance around, frequently you will see the traces of the

Confederate trenchline, or earthworks. The Confederate Army used these trenches to provide cover while shooting at oncoming Union troops. The trenches that weave all around Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are some of the most complex and extensive trenchlines constructed during the Civil War. Soldiers used shovels, picks, mess kits, and even their hands when digging these trenches. You cross over them six times as you go up the mountain, so keep looking past marker #4.

Going up the trail, you will see several types of trees. One of these is the cedar tree. The leaves are thin, like pine needles; the bark is rough and flaky; and the fruit is purplish and round. There was a peach orchard on the mountain in the past. Look, and you might find several terraces where the trees were planted.



5. Historic Overlook

Before the Civil War, this was a popular place for the people of Marietta to take a picnic and enjoy the view of their small town below and the surrounding trees. Today you can see new developments, such as Dobbins Air Force Base and Kennestone Hospital. From this position on the mountain it was no longer possible to haul cannons by horse, so soldiers were detailed to help haul the guns to the crest.

As you approach the parking lot you