John Brown

"In The Footsteps of John Brown"
One Day Tour – West Virginia

John Brown believed he could free the slaves, and he selected Harpers Ferry as his starting point. Determined to seize the 100,000 weapons at the Arsenal and to use the Blue Ridge Mountains for guerrilla warfare, abolitionist Brown launched his raid on Sunday evening, October 16, 1859. His 21-man "army of liberation" seized the Armory and several other strategic points. Thirty-six hours after the raid begun, with most of his men killed or wounded, Brown was captured in the Armory fire engine house (now known as "John Brown's Fort") when U.S. Marines stormed the building.

Brought to trial at nearby Charles Town, Brown was found guilty of treason, of conspiring with slaves to rebel, and murder. He was hanged on December 2, 1859. John Brown's short-lived raid failed, but his trial and execution focused the nation's attention on the moral issue of slavery and headed the country toward civil war.

Some say he was crazy, some say he was a saint. You decide.

Explore sites such as:

- **Kennedy Farm**
- **Harpers Ferry**
- **Charles Town**
- **Courthouse site**
- **Hanging site**
- **Historian Guide**

Call Civil War Tours.net
1-888-681-5333