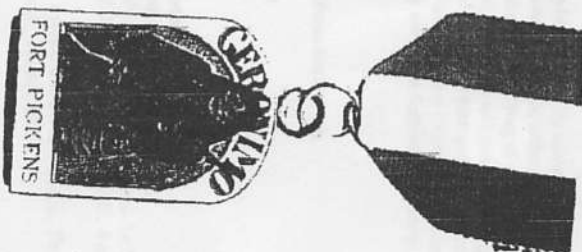
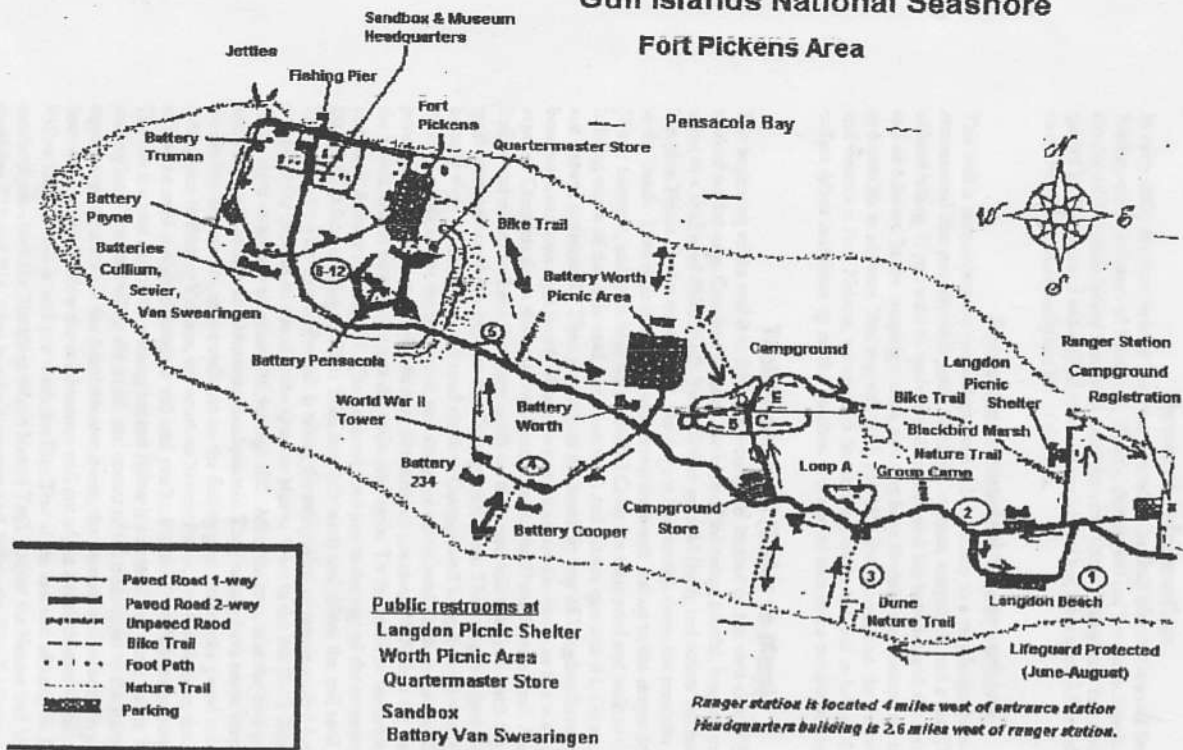


Gulf Islands National Seashore Fort Pickens Area



Created and sponsored by BSA Troop 3 of
Pensacola, Florida in conjunction with the
Gulf Islands National Seashore, Fort Pickens facility.



The Fort Pickens Historical Trail

The Fort Pickens Trail was created and is sponsored by BSA Troop 3 of Pensacola, Florida in conjunction with the Gulf Islands National Seashore - Fort Pickens facility.

General Information

In early 1982, the Fort Pickens Trail was created at the Gulf Islands National Seashore - Fort Pickens Facility, ten miles south of Pensacola, Florida, directly west of Pensacola Beach. It has a well-developed historical facility that dates from the early 1800's as a military fort and prison. Tours guided by Rangers and self-guided tours are available. Also, there are wildlife exhibits and shows that cover the fish animals and plant life of the area.

Equipment needed/Reservations

This trail is unique because you will go from a dark battery to a very bright beach. On this trail, we recommend that you take with you a flashlight, canteen, sunglasses, and a hat. The trail takes 3 hours of hard hiking. If you want to explore and look around the batteries and the fort, it might take as long as 5 or 6 hours. In the camping season, you may have to make reservations for the group campsite up to 6 months in advance. You may call (850) 934-2623 for reservations. As a service to future Scouts and visitors at Fort Pickens, we ask each Scout troop hiking the trail to bring a few trash bags to collect debris that floats up on the beaches. It is a good turn and a service project for your troop.

Trail Directions (Refer to Map)

The beginning of the trail is in the 'group campsite' located on the west side of Battery Langdon marked on the map. Continue through the back of the camp, (north), keeping to the right until you come to a shell road (Bike Trail). You will then go right (east), and follow the trail until you come to Langdon Picnic Shelter on your left. Go to your left (north), down the concrete road until you come to the beach. Turn right (east), and walk down the beach and up to the ranger station (see map). [Water fountain, and trash bags are available.] Cross the main road and walk to the small concrete building south of the main road (see X on map) and answer question #1. Go on to Battery Langdon and answer question #2. Then go south to the beach by way of Langdon Beach parking lot and boardwalk and turn right (west). Please do not cut across the dunes as this is a major cause of dune erosion. Continue down the beach until you come to the Dune Nature Trail. Answer question #3. Follow the nature trail and then turn north on the boardwalk until you reach the main road. Take the main road west until you come to the Campground Store. This is a good spot for a rest break and its balcony view. Follow the paved road north to Campground Loop B, then west to Battery Worth. Proceed south across the main road and along the paved road south to Battery Cooper. Follow the paved road to the west and visit Battery 234. Answer question #4. Follow the paved road north, past the World War II tower and cross the main road again. To the north of the main road is a plantation cemetery. Answer question #5. The unpaved road just to the east of the cemetery leads north to the Bike Trail. After reaching the Bike Trail, turn left (west) and follow the trail until you reach the Fort Pickens parking lot. Part of the trail is taking the self-guided or ranger-guided tour of the fort. The pamphlet for this can be found at the Quarter Master Store to the left (S-E). Read the pamphlet and all the signs to answer questions #6 through #12. After the tour, take the foot path to the north west and visit the Sand Box and Museum Headquarters. They usually have some very interesting exhibits on display. Afterwards, take a walk out on the fishing pier. Follow the paved road west past the fishing pier to Battery Truman, the south to Battery Payne, etc. Continue to the intersection and follow the road straight through, it will lead you back to the Fort Pickens parking lot. Take the Bike Trail on the east end of the parking lot and follow it east until you come to the Battery Worth parking lot. Take the trail on the north east corner of the parking lot to the Amphitheater. They hold regular evening shows in the Amphitheater during the summer and information can be obtained from the Rangers. Follow the southeastern trail out of the Amphitheater to the campground loops. Follow loops B and E until you reach the Bike Trail at the east end of Loop E. Follow the Bike Trail east until you reach the Blackbird Marsh Nature Trail. Follow the Nature trail loop and answer questions #13 and #14. After leaving the nature trail, follow the Bike Trail east until you come to the area where you left camp.

Questions for the Fort Pickens Historical Trail

1. What do you think the small concrete building was used for? _____
2. When was Battery Langdon completed? _____
3. How long is Santa Rosa Island? _____
4. How many weapons are mounted at Battery 234 and nearby Battery Cooper? _____
5. How old was George Underhill when he died? _____
6. How many cannon was Fort Pickens designed to mount? _____
7. Who was the engineer that built Fort Pickens? _____
8. Why was the concept of coastal defense system abandoned? _____
9. Why is Bastion D missing? _____
10. The battery in the center of Fort Pickens originally manned two 12 inch _____
11. What is the advantage to the shape of Fort Pickens? _____
12. Who was the famous Native American that was imprisoned at Fort Pickens? _____
13. What is the name of the plant whose dried leaves were used during the Civil War as a substitute for coffee? _____
14. This plant's berries have a large amount of wax and were once collected for candle making. What is it? _____

Patch and Medal Information

Patches \$4.00 • Medals \$8.00 • Both \$10.00

Patches and medals may be obtained by completing the question and answer sheet. All hikers should answer the questions. Patch and medal orders should be consolidated on one sheet. An adult must sign the patch and medal order certifying all patches and medals were earned by the hikers. They are earned by hiking the trail, taking the self-guided or Ranger-guided tour of the fort, and answering the questions. The patch and medal are pictured on the front cover. The patch symbolizes the areas Spanish explorers and founders; Fort Pickens, whose construction dates 160 years ago; and the islands two hundred year old battle fortification history. Send patch and medal orders, your payment, and trail answers to:

Oct., 2011

BSA Troop 3
co: Chris Sams
2075 Elaine Circle
Pensacola, FL 32504

Other trails in the Pensacola area:

JACKSON TRAIL, 21 miles, near Milton, Florida
NAS TRAIL, 10 miles, aboard the Pensacola Naval Air Station
PENSACOLA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC TRAIL, 4 miles - downtown Pensacola

The above trails all have a patch and medal available. For further information write: John Seiger, 8100 Monticello Drive, Pensacola, Florida 32504