PEN̓ÁW̱EṈ - Tl’x’óy7ten - Patos Island

For thousands of years, Tl’x’óy7ten (Samish) or PEN̓ÁW̱EṈ (Saanich) has been an important place for Coast Salish peoples to grow and harvest camas, which grows abundantly in the meadow at the western end of the island and in the campground near Active Cove.

A series of lighthouse keepers lived on Patos from 1893, when the lighthouse was built, until 1941. In the early years, the island was a central part of a busy maritime economy, and had nearly as many visitors as the island does today. Among the most frequent visitors were Coast Salish families, Chinese laborers from Vancouver, and women coming to visit the keepers’ wives. The development of the modern international border halted free movement between islands in the region, cutting off many of these visitors and isolating Patos from the wider regional economy.

In 1974, the light was automated; nighttime visitors will see its six-second cycle marking the hazardous shoals offshore. The surrounding mountains, Vancouver skyline, and deep-water shipping lanes provide scenic backdrops to this special place.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Patos is cooperatively managed with Washington State Parks, which collects fees for moorage, and campsites.
- Patos Island is open year round. The lighthouse is open between June and September, depending on the availability of volunteer docents. Interested in being a docent? Contact Keepers of the Patos Light at keepersofthepatoslight.org.
- Patos is only accessible by private or charter watercraft. Limited mooring buoys and camp sites in Active Cove are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- There is no fresh water available on site.

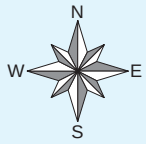
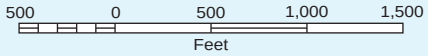
PATOS ISLAND

San Juan Islands National Monument

Bureau of Land Management
San Juan Islands National Monument
640 Mullis Street Suite 102
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Hiker access on Monument lands is limited to designated trails and unvegetated shoreline. Until trails are designated through the travel management planning process, access is limited to existing routes and unvegetated shoreline.

LEGEND

- Lighthouse
- Camping
- Small Boat Launch
- Historic Site
- Information
- Toilet
- Existing Route
- Bureau of Land Management

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