



Gulf Islands Guide



The Gifts of Gulf Islands

Patience, patience, patience, is what the sea teaches. Patience and faith. One should lie empty, open, choiceless as a beach—waiting for a gift from the sea. Anne Morrow Lindbergh, 1955

Whether this is your first, second, or tenth visit to Gulf Islands National Seashore you will always receive a gift. It may be a sunset, a shell to hold memories or it may be time to truly relax while enjoying the sound of waves. Spending time on one of the barrier islands shows how Gulf currents and weather change them daily. The barrier islands shelter the mainland from seasonal storms and provide crucial habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

Gulf Islands provides not only the gift of natural beauty but historical riches. The Seashore contains one of the most complete collections of fortifications including the Water Battery at Fort Barrancas, and Forts Massachusetts and Pickens. These forts offer tangible evidence of the evolution of our nation's seacoast defense system from colonial times through World War II.

Along with the natural and historical resources, the Seashore possesses a rare combination of recreation opportunities including camping, sightseeing and water activities on offshore barrier islands. Protecting the gifts of Gulf Islands National Seashore requires continued public support. According to a park visitor, "this is one of the few nearly pristine, unspoiled beaches of the Gulf Coast. Nature thrives in this beautiful place..."

International Visitors

Bienvenidos a Islas del Golfo Nacional. Folletos disponibles en Centro Visitantes.

Un renseignement en français sont disponibles aux centres des visiteurs dans le parc.

Willkommen zu unserem Nationalpark und seinen prachtvollen Inseln am Golf von Mexiko. Details in Deutsch im Besuchszentrum zu erhalten.

Welcome to Gulf Islands National Seashore! The Seashore offers many recreational opportunities including camping, swimming, fishing, picnicking, and hiking. Educational programs for all age groups are offered throughout the year.

Make your visit a safe one by following posted safety warnings. If you observe unsafe conditions, please report them to a park ranger. This is your park; help us to make it even better.

Jerry Eubanks,
Superintendent



Park Information
FL 850-934-2600
MS 228-875-9057
www.nps.gov/guis

EMERGENCY
Dial 911
FL-Cell *55

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Visitor Information

Visitor Centers



Mississippi

William M. Colmer Visitor Center
(228) 875-9057
Open Daily
March-Oct. 8:30a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Nov-Feb. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Florida

Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center
(850) 934-2600
Open Daily - Core Hours, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Fort Pickens Visitor Center
(850) 934-2635
Open Daily
March-Oct. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Nov. - Feb. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fort Barrancas Visitor Center
(850) 455-5167
Open Daily
March - Oct. 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Nov. - Feb. 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Entrance Fees - Florida Only

Type of Pass	Cost	Length of Pass
Single Vehicle	\$8.00	7 days
One person - by foot, bicycle or motorcycle	\$3.00	7 days
Gulf Islands Park Pass	\$25.00	1 year from month of purchase
Night Owl Permit	\$30.00	valid with annual pass only
Commercial Vehicles - Vans and Minibusses (7-25 passengers)	\$40.00	7 days
Commercial Vehicles - Motorcoaches (26 + passengers)	\$100.00	7 days
Golden Age (U.S. Resident, 62 or older)	\$10.00	Lifetime
Golden Access (U.S. Resident, permanent disability)	Free	Lifetime
National Parks Pass	\$50.00	1 year
Golden Eagle upgrade	\$15.00	1 year
Mississippi District	Free	

Pets



- Do not leave your pet unattended in your car, especially on warm days.
- Pet owners are required to pick up after their pets and dispose of waste properly.

Pets are permitted on a 6 foot leash:

- In all campgrounds
- Along roads
- In parking lots
- On trails
- On Mississippi barrier islands

Pets are not permitted:

- On Florida beaches
- In historic structures
- On the Ship Island Excursion Ferry and West Ship Island swim area (Mississippi)
- In public buildings

Accessibility



Mississippi

- Beach Wheelchairs are available on Ship Island.
- Orientation film at William M. Colmer Visitor Center is close-captioned.
- William M. Colmer Visitor Center trails and Fort Massachusetts (lower level) are wheelchair accessible.

Florida

- Beach wheelchairs are available at Langdon Beach, Opal Beach and Johnson Beach. Contact the lifeguards when on duty, or call the Fort Pickens Visitor Center.
- Orientation films are available at all visitor centers and close-captioned at Naval Live Oaks.
- Perdido Key Discovery Trail and Dune Discovery Trail are wheelchair accessible.

Camping

Campgrounds



Name	Reservations	Fee	Sites	Dump Station	Beach Access	Comments
Mississippi						
Davis Bayou Campground	No	\$16.00 (electric) \$14.00 (non-electric)	51	Yes	No	45 feet maximum vehicle length (some sites), no pull-throughs, Golden Age and Golden Access passes accepted, 20/30/50 amp. hookups, campfires permitted in grills, fallen deadwood may be collected, sites 26 & 31 are accessible
Florida						
Fort Pickens Campground	Yes (1-800-365-2267) or http://reservations.nps.gov . Enter "GUL" at prompt. (Unreserved sites may be available on a first-served basis.)	\$20.00 (electric)	200	Yes	Yes	50 feet maximum vehicle length (some sites), no pull-throughs, Golden Age and Golden Access passes accepted, 20/30/50 amp. hookups, campfires permitted in grills, fallen deadwood may be collected, sites E58 & E59 are accessible

Group Camping

Primitive Camping

10-25 people: \$20.00 per night
26-40 people: \$30.00 per night

Davis Bayou - MS **Naval Live Oaks - FL**
(228) 875-3962 (850) 934-2622
Fort Pickens - FL
1-800-365-2267

Mississippi: (228) 875-3962
Primitive camping permitted on Horn, Petit Bois, East Ship and Cat Islands. No permit required except for groups of 10 or more.

Florida: (850) 492-7278
Free permit required for camping on Perdido Key

Pavilion Reservations

Some pavilions may be reserved for exclusive use. Groups using special equipment (i.e. generators, music systems, public address systems and rides) and/or have over 100 people require a special use permit.

Mississippi

(228) 875-3962

Davis Bayou Pavilion #1
Davis Bayou Pavilion #3
Davis Bayou Pavilion #5

1-99 people: \$25.00
100+ people: \$100.00

Florida

(850) 934-2622 - Naval Live Oaks Group Area Pavilion - \$50.00

Call 1-800-365-2267 for:

Fort Pickens: Battery Langdon (bayside) - \$30.00
Battery Worth (A or B) - \$30.00
Perdido Key - East Pavilion (A or B) - \$30.00
Santa Rosa - Opal Beach (A or B) - \$30.00

National Seashore News Briefs

Birdwatchers Take Note

Fort Pickens, Perdido Key, and the Naval Live Oak areas were selected as sites for the Great Florida Birding Trail by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A published guide will be available in the spring.



General Management Plan

Meetings with park planners to start work on a General Management Plan to replace the Seashore's 1978 version began in the fall of 2003.

Public scoping meetings in Ocean Springs, MS and Gulf Breeze, FL will be held throughout the process to receive input from the public concerning the long-range strategy for park management, protection of resources, and visitor use for the next 20 years. Development of the plan is expected to take 3-5 years.

The "Battle" of Ship Island

You might know some of the famous Civil War battles such as Shiloh, Vicksburg, or Gettysburg, but even the most knowledgeable Civil War buffs may never have heard of the "Battle" of Ship Island. Unlike the famous battles of the war, no people were killed, no ships were sunk, and no forts were taken during the only armed confrontation at Ship Island, Mississippi.

After Mississippi seceded from the United States in January 1861, the state militia took control of the unfinished, unarmed, and unnamed fort on Ship Island. The Mississippi soldiers left the island by the end of the month, but the Federal navy's blockade of the Southern coastline and its harassment of Confederate shipping prompted the Confederate army to reoccupy the island in early July. The crew of the USS *Massachusetts*, one of the blockading vessels, approached the island on July 9, 1861 after noticing the Confederate encampment. The Confederates fired cannons at the federal ship.

Sailors aboard the *Massachusetts* fired back, only to find their guns outranged by the Confederate cannons. The *Massachusetts* withdrew from the brief, bloodless and only battle at Ship Island during the Civil War. Despite the successful show of force and an attempt to resume construction of what they called Fort Twiggs, the Confederates withdrew from the island on September 17, 1861. The *Massachusetts* returned to the island the same day and reoccupied it. The Federal sailors nicknamed the fort after their ship. Fort Massachusetts remained in Federal hands and under construction for the rest of the war.

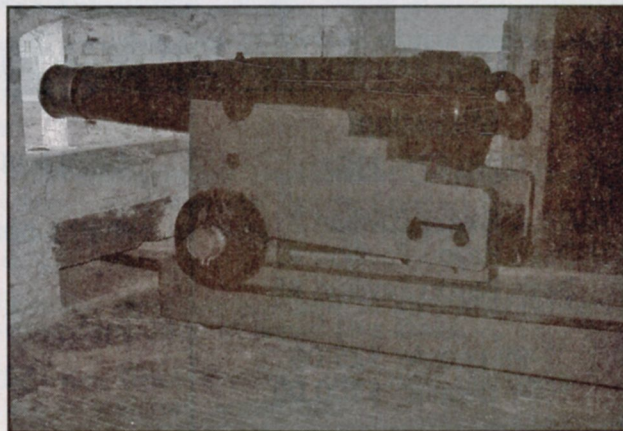
Though it was never the site of a great battle, Ship Island and its little brick fort were deemed worth protecting by the American people in 1971. Your continued support will protect the island in the future.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Visitors at Fort Pickens can experience something new this year in the old fort, thanks to a generous donation from some park friends. The Bonnie Becker and George Mohanco Family of Pensacola, FL donated funds to build a casemate carriage for a 32-pounder cannon.

This authentic reproduction was built using 1841 drawings designed for the original carriages. Historian David Ogden oversaw the three-year project to ensure historical accuracy.

Thanks to the generosity of friends and the efforts of National Park Service employees, current and future generations of visitors can enjoy yet another unique experience at Fort Pickens



Make Your Visit Safe

Beach Safety

A hot summer day seems to invite a swim in the Gulf, but water currents and threatening weather can be dangerous. Florida lifeguarded beaches are located at Perdido Key, the Santa Rosa Area, and Langdon Beach at Fort Pickens. Lifeguards always recommend that swimmers:

- know their own limits
- observe the safety flags
- always swim with a buddy.

Both Florida and Mississippi beaches occasionally have rip currents, especially during periods of heavy surf and storms. Rip currents can be deadly. Protect yourself by knowing what to do.

What should I do if I am caught in a rip current?

1. Swim parallel to the shore in either direction.
Do not try to swim directly back to shore against the flow of the current.
2. Rip currents usually end past the breaking waves. If you cannot swim out of the current, wait until the current stops flowing and then swim back to shore at an angle.

Florida Lifeguarded Beaches

Langdon Beach at Fort Pickens and
Johnson Beach at Perdido Key:
March 13 to May 28, weekly, Wednesday -Sunday
March 13 to April 3, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
April 4 to May 28, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Langdon Beach at Fort Pickens
Johnson Beach at Perdido Key,
and Opal Beach at Santa Rosa Area:
May 29 to September 6, daily
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Langdon Beach at Fort Pickens
Johnson Beach at Perdido Key:
September 7 to September 26, Weekends only
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Bicycling



Florida law requires bicyclists age 16 or younger to wear a helmet. Bicycles are allowed on roadways and multiuse paths. They are not allowed on nature trails, except for the Florida National Scenic Trail. Observe all traffic regulations. Keep to the right of the road and ride in single file.

Things that Bite and Sting

Stingrays: Decrease your chances of getting stung by doing the "Stingray Shuffle!" Shuffle your feet when wading to give these shy bottom feeders a chance to swim away from you. Stingrays are common year round, but most stings occur during July and August.

Jellyfish: Jellyfish float at the mercy of the currents and rely on stinging cells called nematocysts to immobilize their prey. While their sting can be painful, it is not life-threatening unless the person stung has an allergic reaction. Apply full strength vinegar to the sting and avoid rubbing the area.

Sharks: Most species of sharks that live in Gulf waters are shy and avoid people. To decrease your already slim chance of shark attack, do not wear flashy jewelry while swimming, avoid the water at dusk and at night (when sharks are most active), don't swim where live bait fish or chum are in the water and **never** swim alone.

Lightning

In 2001, the Greater Pensacola Area had two lightning fatalities. If you can see lightning or hear thunder you could be in danger of being injured from lightning.



Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle. Avoid being near trees or tall structures with antennas. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last time you heard thunder to go back to the beach.

Avoid Heat Exhaustion

- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Drinking alcohol in the summer sun will quickly lead to dehydration.
- Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen with a SPF of at least 15.
- Avoid direct sun exposure between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- If your shadow is shorter than you, it is time to seek shade!

What is there to do?

Mississippi

Do you have a half-day or less . . .

- Enjoy orientation films and exhibits at the William M. Colmer Visitor Center
- Walk one of several short trails
- Enjoy a picnic lunch by the bayou
- Fish or throw a cast net off the fishing pier
- Become a Junior Ranger
- Look for alligators at the alligator pond



. . . or a full day or more?

- Take the ferry to West Ship Island and enjoy the beach on a remote barrier island
- Take your own boat or charter a vessel and travel to Petit Bois, Horn, East Ship or Cat Islands for primitive camping

Florida

Do you have a half-day or less. . .

- Enjoy orientation films and exhibits at the Naval Live Oaks, Fort Pickens or Fort Barrancas Visitor Centers
- Walk the short trails around the visitor centers
- Stroll the white sand beaches of Santa Rosa Island and do some beachcombing



. . . or a full day or more?

- Explore the wild beaches of Perdido Key
- Snorkel or sail
- Join a ranger-led program
- Become a Junior Ranger
- Swim at a lifeguarded beach in the clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico

Hiking and Biking Chart - Mississippi and Florida



Trail Name	Trail Length	Comments
Mississippi		
William M. Colmer Visitor Center Trails	500 yards	Provides the best views of Davis Bayou; ends overlooking the Mississippi Sound 
Nature's Way Trail	.5 mile loop	Explore the southern maritime forest
Live Oaks Bicycling Route	15 miles	Winds along roads in the park (2 miles) and the adjacent community of Ocean Springs (13 miles)
Florida		
Blackbird Marsh Trail (Fort Pickens Area)	.5 mile	Crosses wetlands and relic dune communities 
Dune Nature Trail (Fort Pickens Area)	.5 mile	Uses boardwalks to cross dunes to Gulf beaches 
Florida National Scenic Trail (Fort Pickens Area)	28.2 miles	Starts the 1300-mile trail to Big Cypress National Preserve
Brackenridge Nature Trail (Naval Live Oaks Area)	.8 mile	Follows two loops and provides information on historic uses of live oak trees in shipbuilding
Andrew Jackson Trail (Naval Live Oaks Area)	2.4 miles	Follows historic St. Augustine - Pensacola Road
Multi-use Path (Naval Live Oaks Area)	2.0 miles	Asphalt trail for hikers, cyclists and roller blades
Perdido Key Discovery Trail	.25 mile	Crosses a saltmarsh, maritime forest and rolling dunes 
Trench Trail (Fort Barrancas Area)	.5 mile	Connects Ft. Barrancas to the Advanced Redoubt

Visiting West Ship Island - Mississippi

West Ship Island is located 11 miles off the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The trip to the island takes about one hour.

Passenger ferries depart from the Gulfport, Mississippi Yacht Harbor located at the intersection of U.S. Highways 49 and 90.



Ship Island Excursions is a National Park Service-approved concessionaire.

Prices (Round Trip)

Adults: \$20.00
Children (ages 3-10): \$10.00
Seniors (age 62+): \$18.00
Military (active ID): \$18.00

For More Information:

(228) 864-1014
1-866-466-7386 - toll free
www.msshipisland.com

Spring Schedule March 6th - May 9th	Summer Schedule May 10th - August 22nd	Fall Schedule August 23rd - October 31st
<u>Monday - Friday</u> <u>Departs Gulfport</u> 9:00 a.m. <u>Departs Ship Island</u> 2:30 p.m.	<u>Monday - Friday</u> <u>Departs Gulfport</u> 9:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 3:30 p.m. (boat ride only) <u>Departs Ship Island</u> 10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	<u>Monday - Friday</u> <u>Departs Gulfport</u> 9:00 a.m. <u>Departs Ship Island</u> 2:30 p.m.
<u>Saturday and Sunday</u> <u>Departs Gulfport</u> 9:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 3:30 p.m. (boat ride only) <u>Departs Ship Island</u> 10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	<u>Saturday and Sunday</u> <u>Departs Gulfport</u> 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon 2:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. (boat ride only) <u>Departs Ship Island</u> 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	<u>Saturday and Sunday</u> <u>Departs Gulfport</u> 9:00 a.m. 12 noon 3:30 p.m. (boat ride only) <u>Departs Ship Island</u> 10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.

Things to know before you go

What is there to do on West Ship Island?

- Beachcombing, swimming, birding, fishing, relaxing, touring Fort Massachusetts with a ranger, and becoming a Junior Ranger (children ages 6-11) or a Sea Star (children ages 3-5).

Note: Lifeguards may not be on duty. Pay attention to the color of the surf flag on the South Beach for information on surf conditions.

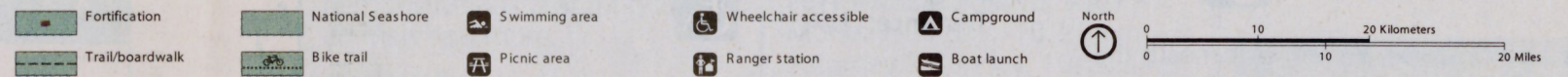
Read the Beach Safety information on page 5 of this newspaper!

Tips for an enjoyable visit

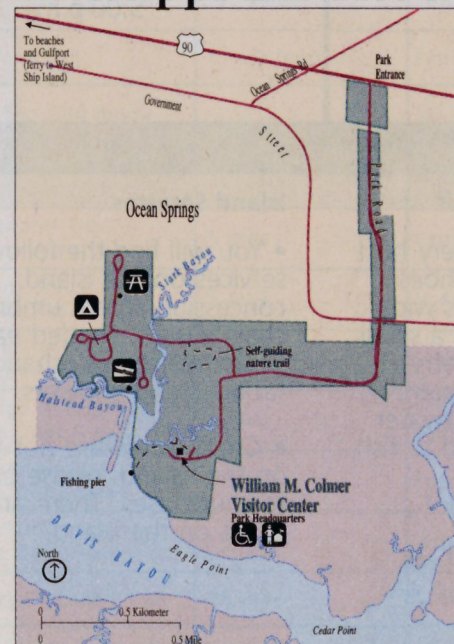
- The boardwalk gets very hot! Save your feet - wear shoes.
- The island is 580 yards wide. You may prefer to bring a small cooler with wheels to carry food/drinks this short distance.
- A Mississippi state saltwater fishing license is required to fish anywhere on the island.
- Glass containers are not allowed on the island.
- Shade is very limited; hats, sunglasses and sunscreen are highly recommended.

Island Services

- You will find the following services on the island: concession stand, umbrella and chair rentals, shaded eating areas, restrooms, changing facilities and showers.
- Credit cards are not accepted on the island; please bring cash for purchases. There are no ATMs on the island.



Mississippi District Map



Safety in the Water Observe the Warning Flags

- Red Flag: Dangerous surf and strong rip currents. Swimming is not advised.
- Yellow Flag: High surf and possible currents. Use caution when entering the water.
- Green Flag: Calm water. No high surf or strong currents.

Surf Conditions in Florida
call (850) 932-SURF (7873).

Rip currents are strong river-like currents moving away from the shore. Stay calm. Wave for assistance. Don't swim against the current. Swim parallel to shore. See page 5 for more information.



Mississippi Program Descriptions

Fort Massachusetts Tour - What was the strategic importance of having a fort on West Ship Island, 11 miles off the mainland? Who built it, and when? Join a park ranger to learn the answers to these questions and more during a guided tour of historic Fort Massachusetts. Organized groups of 12 or more may call (228) 875-9057 ext. 106 to arrange for possible additional tours.

Location: West Ship Island

Length: 40 minutes

Distance: 300 yards



(Lower Level Only)

Cast for your Catch - The art of throwing a cast net has a long tradition on the Gulf Coast. Try your hand at this free fun activity. No experience required!

Location: William M. Colmer Visitor Center

Length: 1 - 1.5 hours

Distance: 300 yards



Night Walk - What is the bayou like after the sun goes down? Join a park ranger for a nighttime exploration of the bayou. Flashlight use discouraged during the walk.

Location: William M. Colmer Visitor Center

Length: 1 hour

Distance: 500 yards



Crabs and Critters - What lives beneath the surface of the bayou? How does a crab trap work? Cast nests will be thrown, time permitting.

Location: William M. Colmer Visitor Center

Length: 1 hour

Distance: 100-400 yards



Greens, Loggerheads, Kemp's and More - Sea turtles are huge reptiles that spend their entire lives at sea, coming up on land only to lay eggs. What kinds of sea turtles live at Gulf Islands?

Location: William M. Colmer Visitor Center

Length: 1 hour

Distance: N/A



Marsh Walk - Explore a salt marsh with a ranger and learn about the unique plants and animals that live in one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth. Wear shoes and clothes you don't mind getting muddy!

Location: William M. Colmer Visitor Center

Length: 1 hour

Distance: 500 yards



Bird Walk - Gulf Islands is an important refuge for many species of migrating birds. Come along on this program and learn to identify common bird species. Beginners are welcome; a limited number of binoculars are available.

Location: William M. Colmer Visitor Center

Length: 1 hour

Distance: 500 yards



War Dogs on Cat Island - Did you know that this remote island off the Mississippi Gulf Coast was home to hundreds of dogs and soldiers during World War II? Why were they there? Learn about this unique part of our nation's history.

Location: William M. Colmer Visitor Center

Length: 1 hour

Distance: N/A



All programs are subject to change; check with the William M. Colmer Visitor Center (228) 875-9057 for details. All programs are free.

Mississippi Ranger Programs

April Programs

Fort Massachusetts Tour *

Everyday starting March 6
Monday - Friday: 10:15 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10:15 a.m.
1:15 p.m.

Armchair Tour of Gulf Islands and the Naval Air Museum

William M. Colmer Visitor Center
Saturday, April 3
2:00-3:30 p.m.
Join longtime Gulf Islands volunteers Jim and Jeanne Kalis for an orientation program.

Earth Day Festival

William M. Colmer Visitor Center
Saturday, April 17
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Celebrate Earth Day with Gulf Islands National Seashore. This free annual festival features over two dozen booths with hands-on activities for children, special demonstrations featuring live animals and more.

Bird Walk

Saturday, April 24
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

May Programs

Fort Massachusetts Tour *

Monday - Friday: 10:15 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10:15 a.m.
1:15 p.m.

Greens, Loggerheads, Kemp's and More

Sunday, May 2
2:00-3:00 p.m.

Marsh Walk

Sunday, May 9
2:00-3:00 p.m.

Crabs and Critters

Saturday, May 15
10:00-11:15 a.m.

War Dogs on Cat Island

Saturday, May 22
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

June Programs

Fort Massachusetts Tour *

Monday - Friday: 10:15 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10:15 a.m.
1:15 p.m.

Junior Ranger (ages 6-11) and Sea Star (ages 3-5) Programs

Wednesdays and Saturdays
10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
See page 12 for details

July Programs

Fort Massachusetts Tour *

Monday - Friday: 10:15 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10:15 a.m.
1:15 p.m.

Junior Ranger (ages 6-11) and Sea Star (ages 3-5) Programs

Wednesdays and Saturdays
10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
See page 12 for details

August Programs

Fort Massachusetts Tour *

Monday - Friday: 10:15 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10:15 a.m.
1:15 p.m.

Cast For Your Catch

Saturday, August 14
10:00-11:15 a.m.

Founder's Day Celebration

William M. Colmer Visitor Center
Saturday, August 21
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Celebrate the founding of the National Park Service and learn about the agency that helps preserve our nation's heritage. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Night Walk

Saturday, August 28
8:00-9:00 p.m.

September Programs

Fort Massachusetts Tour *

Monday - Friday: 10:15 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10:15 a.m.
1:15 p.m.



Sunday afternoon on Davis Bayou by Adam Wilson

* This program takes place on West Ship Island. See passenger ferry schedule on page 7.

Mississippi Junior Ranger Programs

June

Junior Rangers (ages 6-11)

Can You See Me Now?

Wednesday, June 2

Saturday, June 5

Many animals rely on camouflage for protection from predators. Test your camouflage skills!

Cast For Your Catch

Wednesday, June 9

Saturday, June 12

Learn the traditional art of throwing a cast net. Limited to 20 children. Call (228) 875-9057 ext. 114 to sign up.

Knees from Trees

Wednesday, June 16

Saturday, June 19

Shipbuilders in the 19th century used live oak trees to construct the most durable ships of that time. Can you find live oak trees that would make good "knees", "stems" and other ship parts?

Investigate an Insect

Wednesday, June 23

Saturday, June 26

Have you ever wanted to explore the amazing world of insects? Come along and help catch and release some of the park's smaller residents.

All Junior Ranger and Sea Star programs are free and meet at the William M. Colmer Visitor Center.

Junior Ranger Programs are held from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Ship Island Field Trip

Wednesday, July 28

8:30 a.m.

Junior Rangers that attend at least 4 different programs will earn a FREE* ride to Ship Island!

Ship Island activities will include seining, cast netting, and touring Ft. Massachusetts. Light refreshments will be provided.

Only Junior Rangers themselves are eligible for the free ticket. All family and friends must pay the normal fee. (See schedule and prices on page 7.)

* Free tickets provided by Ship Island Excursions.

July

Junior Rangers (ages 6-11)

Cast For Your Catch

Wednesday, June 30

Saturday, July 3

Learn the traditional art of throwing a cast net. Limited to 20 children. Call (228) 875-9057 ext. 114 to sign up.

Secret Animal Messages

Wednesday, July 7

Saturday, July 10

People communicate by talking, writing, and using phones and computers. How do animals send messages to each other? Can you learn to send messages the animal way?

Investigate an Insect

Wednesday, July 14

Saturday, July 17

Have you ever wanted to explore the amazing world of insects? Come along and help catch and release some of the park's smaller residents.

Dynamic Dolphins

Wednesday, July 21

Saturday, July 24

Discover the world of bottlenose dolphins! Do they have families? What do they eat? How do they catch their food? Can you use your senses like a dolphin can? Join this program and find out!

What "gifts" have you received from Gulf Islands?"

Do you have a favorite memory about Gulf Islands that you would like to share? Have you observed a dolphin breaking through the waves or witnessed a breathtaking sunset over the Gulf? Have you learned to throw a castnet? We'd like to hear from you.

Draw a picture, take a photograph or write a poem or a story about your "gift" from Gulf Islands. Drop off your work to either the Florida or Mississippi Visitor Centers and include your name and address on your submission. The staff will select a few photographs and essays for display or for collection in an album.

It is said that it is better to give than to receive. Donate your time to Gulf Islands by picking up litter on the beach that could potentially harm wildlife. Take a ranger-led tour and share what you learn about the seashore with others. You may also volunteer your time. For more information, please call 228-875-0074 extension 2 in MS or 850-934-2600 in FL.



Learning to throw a cast net

Florida Ranger Programs

See Program Descriptions on page 15

April Programs

Fort Pickens Tour
Trees for Defense
Fort Barrancas Tour

Everyday
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Birding

Wednesdays
April 7, 14, 21, 28
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Advanced Redoubt Tour

Saturdays
April 3, 10, 17, 24
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Barrier Island Walk

Saturdays
April 10, 17
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

13th Coast Artillery Open House

Saturday, April 3
Battery Cooper, Fort Pickens Area
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tours: 11:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:00 p.m.

Artillery Tour of Fort Pickens

Saturday, April 24
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Join park rangers for a dedication of the new 32-pounder cannon exhibit and an in-depth look at the artillery of Fort Pickens.

May Programs

Fort Pickens Tour
Trees for Defense
Fort Barrancas Tour

Everyday
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Advanced Redoubt Tour

Saturdays
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Spring Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, May 1
Langdon Beach Pavilion
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Volunteers can join efforts to clean up the seashore. Call Fort Pickens Visitor Center for more information. (850) 934-2635



Birding

Wednesday, May 5
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Island Treasures

Saturdays
May 8, 15, 22, 29
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

International Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 8
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Fort Pickens Visitor Center parking lot
Discover the importance of barrier islands to migratory birds.

June Programs

Astronomy

Friday, June 4
8:30 p.m.

Island Treasures

Saturday, June 5
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 5
6:00 p.m.
Join a ranger for a sunset hike on the Florida National Scenic Trail.
Location: Opal Beach
Length: 2.5 hours
Distance: 4 miles

See chart on page 14 for programs starting June 7

July Programs

See chart on page 14

August Programs

Fort Pickens Tour
Trees for Defense
Fort Barrancas Tour

Everyday
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Advanced Redoubt Tour

Saturdays
August 7, 14, 21, 28
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Island Treasures

Saturdays
August 7, 14, 21, 28
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Astronomy

Friday, August 13
8:30 p.m.

Founder's Day

Saturday, August 28
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Langdon Beach Pavilion
Celebrate the founding of the National Park Service by discovering island treasures of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Refreshments will be served.

September Programs

Fort Pickens Tour
Trees for Defense
Fort Barrancas Tour

Everyday
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.

Advanced Redoubt Tour

Saturdays
September 4, 11, 18, 25
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

Island Treasures

Saturdays
September 4, 11, 18, 25
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

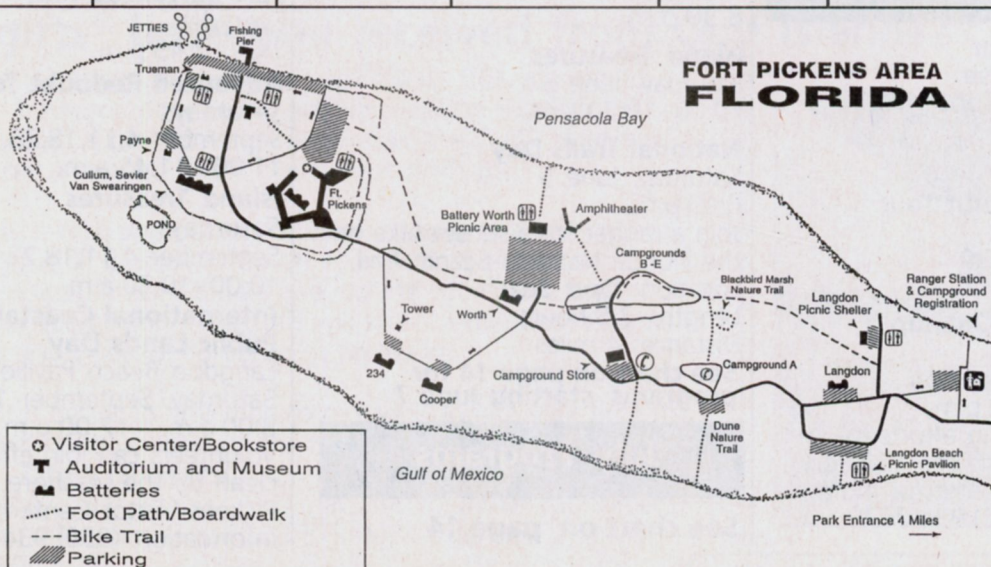
International Coastal Cleanup & Public Lands Day

Langdon Beach Pavilion
Saturday, September 18
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Volunteers can join efforts to clean up the seashore. Call Fort Pickens Visitor Center for more information. (850) 934-2635

All programs are subject to change; check with the visitor center for details.

Florida Ranger Programs: June 7-July 31

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 a.m.			Jr. Ranger Day Camp * (June 15 - July 27)				
10:00 a.m.		Apaches of Fort Pickens		Gulf Islands Almanac (June 16 - July 28)	Battery Worth Tour	Unearthing Santa Rosa Pensacola (June 11 - July 23)	Snorkeling*
11:00 a.m.							Advanced Redoubt Tour
2:00 p.m.	Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas Tours	Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas Tours	Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas Tours	Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas Tours	Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas Tours	Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas Tours	Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas Tours
2:00 p.m.	Trees for Defense	Trees for Defense	Trees for Defense	Trees for Defense	Trees for Defense	Trees for Defense	Trees for Defense
3:30 p.m.	Island Treasures	Air-Conditioned Astronomy (June 14-July 26)	Creepy Critters (June 15 - July 27)	Battery Cooper Tour	Gulf Islands Almanac (June 17 - July 29)	Where in the World is Fort McRee?	Sea Turtles (June 19 - July 31)
7:00 p.m.				Unearthing Santa Rosa Pensacola (June 16 - July 21)			
8:00 p.m.			Candlelight Tour of Fort Pickens (June 15 - July 27)				
8:30 p.m.						Astronomy (June 18, July 16, 30)	



* Reservations required. Call or stop by the Fort Pickens Visitor Center. (850) 934-2635

Florida Program Descriptions

All programs are subject to change; check with the visitor center for details.

Air-Conditioned Astronomy

Learn the basics of the summer sky from the comfort of the Fort Pickens Auditorium.

Length: 45 minutes

Distance: N/A



Advanced Redoubt Tour

Located onboard the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

Location: Advanced Redoubt

Length: 45 minutes

Distance: 0.25 mile

Apaches of Fort Pickens

Why were Apaches held prisoner at Fort Pickens?

Location: Fort Pickens Auditorium

Length: 45 minutes

Distance: N/A



Astronomy

Join astronomers for slide show and telescope viewing.

Location: Battery Worth Amphitheater

Length: 1.5 hours

Distance: N/A



Barrier Island Walk

Discover the island's plants and animals. Sunscreen and water recommended.

Location: Dune Nature Trail

Length: 1 hour

Distance: 0.25 mile



Battery Cooper Tour

Self-guided tour through 1906 bunker.

Location: Battery Cooper (Fort Pickens Area)

Length: 1 hour

Distance: N/A



Battery Worth Tour

Explore the World War II Harbor Command Post.

Location: Battery Worth (Fort Pickens Area)

Length: 1 hour

Distance: N/A

Birding

Join a local bird watcher for a walk along the Florida National Scenic Trail.

Location: Meet at Fort Pickens Visitor Center parking lot.

Length: 1-2 hours

Distance: 0.25 mile

Candlelight Tours of Fort Pickens

Join a ranger for a different look at Fort Pickens. Bug spray and flashlight are recommended.

Location: Fort Pickens entrance

Length: 1-1.5 hours

Distance: 0.25 mile



Creepy Critters

What creepy critters live on the islands?

Location: Fort Pickens Auditorium

Length: 45 minutes

Distance: N/A



Fort Barrancas Tour

Discover the military history of this 1839 fort and the 1797 Spanish Water Battery.

Location: Fort Barrancas

Length: 30-45 minutes

Distance: 0.25 mile

Fort Pickens Tour

Introduces homeland defense at Fort Pickens.

Location: Fort Pickens

Length: 30 - 45 minutes

Distance: 0.25 mile



Gulf Islands Almanac

Discover the extraordinary pleasures of the passing seasons at Gulf Islands.

Location: Fort Pickens Auditorium

Length: 45 minutes

Distance: N/A



Island Treasures

Discover what washes in from the Gulf.

Location: Langdon Beach Pavilion

Length: 30 minutes

Distance: N/A



Junior Ranger Day Camp*

Location: Fort Pickens Visitor Center

Length: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Distance: 0.25 mile

Sea Turtles

Learn about the lives of sea turtles.

Location: Fort Pickens Auditorium

Length: 45 minutes

Distance: N/A



Snorkeling*

Discover the underwater world of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Gear provided. Wet activity!

Location: Langdon Beach Pavilion

Length: 1.5 hours

Distance: N/A, water activity

Trees for Defense

A historic look at Live Oak trees for homeland defense.

Location: Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center

Length: 30 minutes

Distance: N/A



Unearthing Santa Rosa Pensacola Wednesday Evening

Hear about new discoveries of the 18th century Spanish community on the island.

Location: Fort Pickens Auditorium

Length: 1 hour

Distance: N/A



Unearthing Santa Rosa Pensacola Friday Morning

Hear about new discoveries of the 18th century Spanish community on the island. A walk to the site follows the indoor presentation.

Location: Fort Pickens Auditorium

Length: 1-2 hours

Distance: 0.5 mile

Where in the World is Fort McRee?

Location: Fort Pickens Auditorium

Length: 45 minutes

Distance: N/A



* Reservations required. Call or stop by the Fort Pickens Visitor Center. (850) 934-2635

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Serving America's National Parks
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The National Park Service cares for the
special places saved by the American
people so that all may experience our
heritage.



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Photo credit: Snowy Egret Sunset by Adam Wilson