

A scenic landscape photograph of the California Coastal Trail. The foreground shows a sandy, eroded hillside with sparse vegetation and a dirt path. The middle ground features a wide expanse of blue ocean meeting a sandy beach. In the background, there are rolling hills and a clear sky with a soft sunset glow. The text "California Coastal Trail" is overlaid in the bottom right corner.

# California Coastal Trail

The Presidio section of this state-wide trail traverses the wildest part of the park, showcasing beaches, wildflowers on the bluffs, and wind-blown cypress groves. Gun batteries from the late 19th century tell the story of the Presidio's emergence as an important military post.

**Length**

4.2 miles (6.8 km)

**Don't Miss**

The picnic area at Baker Beach is a serene "base camp" for a day at the shore. The beach offers fantastic opportunities for visitors to barbeque, fish, or stroll along the coastline.

**For Kids**

On the first full Saturday and Sunday of each month (11 am-3 pm), the National Park Service demonstrates a "disappearing gun" at Battery Chamberlin. The 50-ton gun defended the Golden Gate during World War II and was deactivated in 1948. A small seacoast defense museum is located inside the battery.

**Coming Soon**

Four new vantage points along the coastal bluffs will allow visitors to observe the rugged Pacific coastline: Golden Gate Overlook, Battery Godfrey Vista, Battery East Vista, and Pacific Overlook.



**California Wrentit**

The Coastal Trail is home to the last known population of Wrentits in the City of San Francisco.



**San Francisco Fence Lizard**

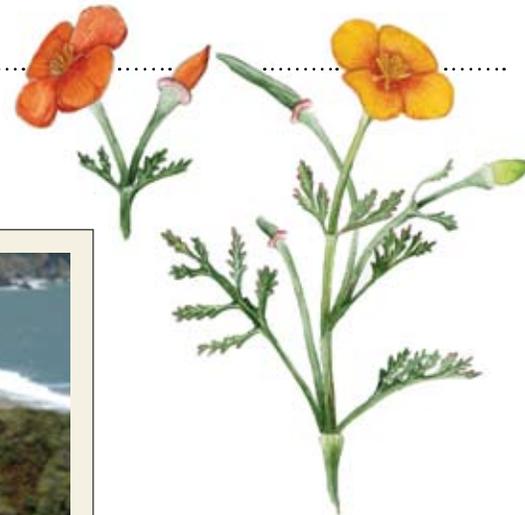
The coastal bluffs are the "wildest" part of the Presidio and are home to numerous reptiles and amphibians.

Fence lizards (shown here) are less common than alligator lizards, which have smoother scales. Look for tiny Fence Lizard young on Presidio trails in the late summer.



**Dunes**

The Presidio boasts the largest intact coastal dune habitat of the kind that once covered one-third of San Francisco.



**California Poppy**

California's state flower can be seen in both serpentine and dune soils. Golden yellow poppies bloom every month of the year throughout the Presidio.



**Acmon Blue Butterfly**

This "dune dweller" is frequently seen in spring and summer months.

**Serpentinite and Biodiversity**

A dramatic display of California's grey-green state rock can be viewed on the Coastal Trail (in striking contrast with the colorful orange Golden Gate Bridge). Due to these highly metallic soils, the park's serpentine plant communities have twice the species diversity of other native habitats in the Presidio.



**Forging the Trail**

Growing concern about public access to the California shoreline peaked in 1972 with the passage of a state initiative providing that “a hiking, bicycle, and equestrian trails system shall be established along or near the coast.” Over the course of thirty-five years, public agencies, non-profits, and land owners have assembled about half of the planned 1,200-mile route, which could ultimately traverse 15 counties from San Diego to the Oregon border. The Coastal Trail was declared California’s Millennium Legacy Trail in 1999.

**Batteries on the Bluffs**

In 1885, Secretary of War William Endicott led the charge to strengthen America’s coastal defenses. His commission recommended reinforced-concrete gun batteries (known as Endicott batteries) be placed at 22 seaports. San Francisco Bay was considered second only to New York harbor in strategic value. Battery Marcus Miller, constructed in 1891, was the first of seventeen to be built at the Presidio. Others were placed north of the Golden Gate, including at Fort Baker and Fort Barry. Two decades later, the Fort Winfield Scott campus was established in the Presidio as the coast artillery post, serving as the headquarters for most other artillery posts around the bay until just after World War II. **3**



**Emblematic Coastline**

The State Coastal Conservancy and its partners created a beautiful new emblem for the Coastal Trail, helping visitors to identify and link various segments of this lengthy route; the new crests are now being placed along the Presidio “leg” of the journey.



**Golden Gateway**

The western park gateway at Merchant Road was redesigned to offer a safe and welcoming entrance for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians arriving via the Golden Gate Bridge. Designs are complete for a new Golden Gate Overlook. **3**



**Doyle Drive**

The effort to replace Doyle Drive, the outdated highway connecting San Francisco to the Golden Gate Bridge, will reach a major milestone in 2008 when environmental review and design are completed. The new parkway will take an underground route near the shoreline, allowing the Main Post to be reconnected to Crissy Field. **1**



**Spectacular Trail Improvements**

A dramatic upgrade along the Batteries to Bluffs trail, which loops through cypress groves from Battery Godfrey to Battery Crosby, allows visitors to experience the wild western bluffs as never before, including new access to the beach. The project is part of the Trails Forever initiative and was led by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust. **4**



**Water Treatment Plant**

The Presidio Water Treatment Plant draws nearly a million gallons each day from nearby Lobos Creek for use by the park community. The Presidio is unusual in that most of its potable water needs are met by a local surface water source. The facility is the second longest continuously operating water treatment plant in California. **6**



**Baker Beach Native Plant Landscaping**

The landscapes in the north Baker Beach neighborhood are being restored with native coastal scrub as part of a five-year project. The wildflowers, nurtured by neighborhood volunteers, beautify the area and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. **5**

**Baker Beach Landfill Removal – Restoring the Pacific Bluffs**

Until the 1950s, the Army regularly disposed of debris by dumping it over the Presidio’s coastal bluffs. Since 1999, the Trust has removed five major landfills, but no remediation project has been more complex than the clean up above Baker Beach.

Between August and November of 2007, 73,000 tons of debris were unearthed and conveyed 250 feet along treacherous slopes to the top of the cliffs. The operation was conducted 12 hours a day, six days a week.

Objects of interest always surface during excavations: dog tags, mess kits, even horseshoes. The “stop everything” finds, however, are unexploded ordnance. Civil War-era ordnance were found at the Baker Beach sites – two 8-inch cannon balls and two 8-inch armor-piercing shells designed for the Rodman Rifle. All were exploded in place.

The nearby Coastal Trail is being restored, complementing the dramatic Batteries to Bluffs trail recently completed by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the National Park Service. A scenic overlook with views of the Golden Gate Bridge from the bluffs will create a “sense of arrival” at a new park entrance. **2**





# Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

This national historic trail commemorates the route followed in 1776 by the Anza expedition settlers, who traveled 1,200 miles from Sonora, Mexico to Alta California to establish a fort at the entrance to San Francisco bay. The Presidio portion of the trail offers glimpses of Mountain Lake, dune habitat, batteries and bunkers, forest groves, and the Pacific Ocean.

#### Length

2.7 miles (4.3 km)

#### Don't Miss

Enjoy an evening picnic at the Immigrant Point Overlook as the sun sets over the Pacific Ocean. **5**

#### For Kids

Rob Hill Campground, the only overnight group camping facility in San Francisco, welcomes families, scout troops, schools groups and Camping at the Presidio (CAP) program participants. **6**

#### Coming Soon

Trail enhancements along Battery Caulfield Road are on the drawing board. A new scenic overlook will survey the Lobos Creek Valley and western San Francisco neighborhoods.



#### Compost and Regeneration Center

At this facility, green debris such as grass clippings and tree trimmings are transformed into a nourishing soil amendment. In 2007, the program diverted 2,300 cubic yards of organic debris in an effort to retain and reuse as much material as possible within the park. **3**



#### Ensatina

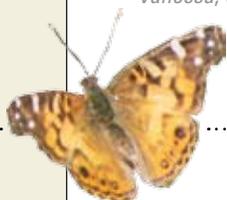
Also known as a yellow-eyed salamander, these uncommon Presidio amphibians have been observed at Mountain Lake.



#### American Lady Butterfly

The American Lady, one of 20 butterfly species seen in the Presidio, belongs to the genus *Vanessa*, which is Greek for butterfly. Johan

Christian Fabricius, a Danish entomologist, named the genus in 1807.



#### Gardens at Fort Scott Officers' Club

The little-known historic garden at the Fort Scott Officers' Club, near the YMCA tennis courts, features stone bridges and informal strolling paths that lead west toward Dragonfly Creek and the Presidio Nursery. **4**



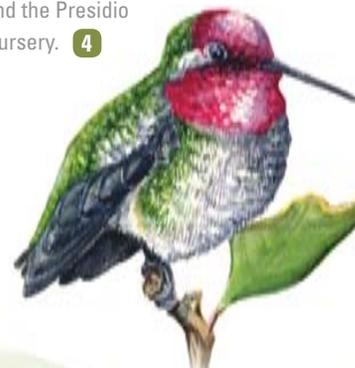
#### Quotable Wilson

In July 2007, traditional stone mason Christopher Stinehour chiseled President Woodrow Wilson's words at the Immigrant Point Overlook – "We opened the gates to all the world and said: 'Let all men who want to be free come to us and they will be welcome.'" **5**



#### San Francisco Lessingia

An endangered species success story, this tiny member of the sunflower family has responded well to habitat expansion in the Presidio's southwest dunes.



#### Anna's Hummingbird

Anna's hummingbirds live year-round in the park. In the 1800s Italian archaeologist Dr. Paolo Emilio Botta collected in or near the Presidio the first specimen of this hummingbird known. Its name refers to the wife of the Duke of Rivoli. Umunhum is the Ohlone word for Hummingbird. According to Ohlone folklore, the hummingbird stole fire from the badgers for cooking. While carrying the hot amber in its beak, the hummingbird's throat feathers turned the brilliant red color they are today.



#### Nike Missile Site

At the height of the Cold War in 1954, an Ajax missile launching pad was located north of the Public Health Service Hospital. It was the only Nike battery to be given a name – Battery Caulfield – after former commander Lt. Col. Thomas D. Caulfield. The site, one of 12 around San Francisco bay, was inactivated in the 1960s. **8**

While the American Revolution loomed on the Atlantic coast, European powers vied for control of the Pacific shoreline. By 1773 Spain, which had been present in the New World for two centuries, had established two small presidios (forts) and missions as far north as Monterey, seeking to counter incursions from Russia and Great Britain.

To supply these settlements and expand northward to a valuable new port at today's San Francisco bay, the Viceroy of New Spain enlisted Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza. On October 23, 1775, Anza set out from Sonora, Mexico with more than 200 soldiers and settlers and their livestock on a 1,200 mile overland trek. More than half of the expedition members were children under the age of 12. Anza, Padre Pedro Font, and Lieutenant Jose Joaquin Moraga arrived at Mountain Lake in March 1776.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates this route. During the 1976 bicentennial, public interest in the Anza journey was stirred, and a "day to day" reenactment undertaken. The Heritage Trails Fund then sparked the idea of establishing a national historic trail, and Congress added the route to the National Trails System in August 1990. The route originates in Nogales, Arizona, and crests at the Golden Gate in "Alta California," beckoning others to follow in the footsteps of the adventurers.



**Welcoming New Americans**

Immigrant Point Overlook, built with a gift from the Sarlo Foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund, is the second of eight planned scenic overlooks throughout the park. It is the backdrop for an annual naturalization ceremony with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. **5**



**Getting Connected**

Last fall, the Presidio blazed a new section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which now links to the Anza trail near the Immigrant Point Overlook and picnic area. The new multi-use pathway winds peacefully through the historic forest behind the Washington Boulevard neighborhoods. **7**



**Log Cabin**

Built in 1937, the rustic Log Cabin was originally a non-commissioned officers' club. It later served as an enlisted men's club, and later still as an officers' mess with bar and lounge. In 2007, the rustic cabin underwent structural repairs. It is one of the park's most popular venues for weddings and events. **1**



**Mission Revival Architecture**

Built in 1912 as headquarters for the Coastal Artillery Corps, Fort Winfield Scott's architectural style has become emblematic of the Presidio and is the inspiration for the park's logo. **2**



**Walk and Learn**

Released in fall 2007, the second installment in the *KIDS on Trails* series takes children along the route of the founding Anza expedition, and helps them explore both the history and the nature of Mountain Lake. **9**



**Camping at the Presidio – Bringing Children to the Park**

The Trust's goal is to provide a meaningful experience for every child in the city. Rob Hill Campground, the only camping facility in San Francisco, is both protected and close to some of the wilder areas of the park. Multiple trails skirt the site, taking hikers from historic neighborhoods to the coastal bluffs, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the bay. It is a perfect place to introduce city kids to the out of doors.

In order to create camping opportunities for underserved youth, the Trust and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy established Camping at the Presidio (CAP). The program trains adults from community organizations and schools to provide camping experiences for their youngsters. In its pilot year, CAP trained 26 adult leaders and brought 270 youngsters to Rob Hill. Within the next five years, the program will serve more than 10,000 children.

A gift from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund has made it possible to upgrade and expand Rob Hill Campground. The campground will be ready in time for the 2009 season.

