

# Golden Gate National Recreation Area



## Park Significance

- The park includes the largest and most complete collection of military installations and fortifications in the country, dating from Spanish settlement in 1776 through the 20th century. These installations served as command post for the Army in the Western United States and the Pacific. This long period of military presence has yielded one of the most extensive collections of historic architecture in the national park system.
- Alcatraz Island, the site of pre-Civil War fortifications, later was the nation's first military prison, became the most infamous maximum security penitentiary in the United States, and subsequently was the site of the occupation that helped ignite the movement for American Indian self-determination.



Statements of significance define what is *most important* about the park's resources and values, and are based on the purpose of why the park was created. These statements capture the attributes that make the park's resources and values important enough for Congress and/or the president to establish it as a unit of the national park system. The park significance statement, along with the park purpose, are used to guide all planning and management decisions made about the park.