Fort Alcatraz, a Civil War-era artillery post, was converted to a military prison in 1907. In 1934 it became a federal maximum-security penitentiary, inspiring films and folklore that have continued long after the prison closed in 1963. Eighty-nine American Indian protesters occupied the island in 1969–71, claiming it as Indian land. Bookstore, exhibits, audio tour, guided tours. Access to Alcatraz is by tour boat only; board ferry at Pier 31–33 on the Embarcadero at Bay Street. Reservations required; book well in advance by phone, (415) 981-ROCK (7625), or at www.alcatrazcruises.com.

(Map courtesy Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.)