



National Park Service  
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# Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

## News Release

Release Date: December 29, 2011

### NPS to Increase Entrance Fee to the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla.: The National Park Service will be increasing the adult fee at the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument from \$6.00 to \$7.00 effective January 1, 2012. The fee increase will enable us to continue to fund projects that benefit our visitors at the same levels we have in the past. As everyone knows, fixed costs continue to rise. Our entrance fee has been the same since January 2005 and since that time the Consumer Price Index has increased 16%. The average cost for a family of four to attend local St. Augustine attractions is more than \$34.00. The fee to visit the Castillo will only be \$14.00 for a family of four, even with the one dollar increase. Children under 16 are admitted with no charge because we are prohibited by law from charging admission fees for children.

The Castillo de San Marcos National Monument retains 76% of our entrance fee revenue. Those funds are used for a variety of projects and services, including interpretive and living history programs, the ferry service to take visitors to Fort Matanzas National Monument, and a variety of historic preservation projects to preserve and maintain our primary resources. This fee increase will allow us to continue these services at current levels as we move towards the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Augustine. A major project this revenue will fund is rehabilitation of the Castillo restrooms. Because of system failures we are forced to close our restrooms and substitute portable toilets during peak visitation periods several times each year. This unacceptable visitor experience in our City's primary visitor attraction must be corrected, especially as we anticipate higher visitation levels in the coming years.

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 395 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

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