

Alcatraz Island

Preferred Alternative: Focusing on National Treasures

For more than 150 years, Alcatraz has been reworked and altered by human activity. This alternative would immerse visitors extensively in all of Alcatraz's historic periods, including Civil War military fortification and prison, federal penitentiary, American Indian occupation, and National Park Service historic site. Alcatraz's history would be interpreted, first and foremost with tangible and accessible historic resources, including archeology, museum collections, ruins, buildings, and cultural landscapes. These cultural resources contribute to the island's national historic landmark status and its recognition as an international icon.

The visitor's immersion in Alcatraz history would begin at the original Alcatraz dock at Fort Mason. At this park site, visitors could file aboard prison-themed ferries. Passing a network of warning buoys, the experience would continue at the island's arrival pier, marching up to the Main Prison Building through a landscape of fences and guard towers. While the primary visitor experience would focus on the federal penitentiary, visitors also would be exposed to the other layers of history, literally and programmatically, on "The Rock."

This alternative would require extensive stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources, as well as extensive and creative interpretation programs and visitor services. This high level of cultural resources stewardship would create opportunities for formal on-island education and conservation programs. The large population of gulls would be managed in the primary visitor use areas, but outside those areas, bird habitat would be protected and enhanced.

Proposed revisions to the preferred alternative:

- Add a **Sensitive Resources Zone**, extending 300 feet from the island shore. This will protect the marine environment and nesting seabirds from disturbances caused by tour boats better than the **Historic Immersion Zone**.
- Rezone the Laundry Building from **Historic Immersion** to **Evolved Cultural Landscape**. The preferred alternative proposes to rehab this highly functional building [core/shell, upgrade utilities, install restrooms, and make accessibility improvements] to support multiple purposes:
 - The **ground floor** would become a **cultural resources conservation center**
 - The **second floor** would be used for **exhibits and special events**

