

## DRAFT ALTERNATIVES for ALCATRAZ ISLAND

	<b>Current Conditions and Management</b>	<b>Connecting People with the Parks Alternative 1</b>	<b>Preserving and Enjoying Coastal Ecosystems Alternative 2</b>	<b>PREFERRED: Focusing on National Treasures Alternative 3</b>
<b>Overview</b>	<p>Alcatraz is one of the most popular destinations in the park. The only former federal penitentiary open to the public, it attracts more than 1.4 million visitors each year. But the prison era is only part of its long and fascinating history. Alcatraz also was a fort during the Civil War, the home of the West Coast’s first lighthouse, and birthplace of the American Indian “Red Power” movement. There is also a natural side to Alcatraz. Gardens, tidepools, and birdlife are among its attractions, and a walk on the island promises panoramic views of the city skyline, ships, bridges, and bay waters.</p> <p>The island is managed to preserve the historic and natural resources, and provide public access to the variety of settings and experiences where appropriate and safe. The primary visitor experience is day use, beginning with a ferry ride from San Francisco. The island experience is centered on the federal penitentiary; however, other periods of the island history are also interpreted.</p> <p>The harsh island environment, deterioration of buildings and landscapes, and the use of many of these features as bird habitat, limit visitor access to much of the island, at least for part of the year. Rehabilitation of historic buildings and landscape areas is ongoing, and subject to available funding.</p> <p>The island supports one of the largest concentrations of colonial nesting water birds in San Francisco Bay. Many areas of the island are closed during breeding season to protect the colonies from human disturbance. Western gulls are managed in areas open to the public through the use of bird exclusion measures and other deterrents to protect visitor health and safety. Education and outreach inform visitors about the importance of the island to nesting birds, and what the public can do to help protect them.</p>	<p>Many who visit Alcatraz are drawn by the island’s notorious prison reputation. Others want to see the crumbling ruins set against the spectacular scenery of San Francisco and the Golden Gate. Still others are looking for the island’s human dimension: the American Indian occupation or the gardens tended by guards and their families.</p> <p>In this alternative Alcatraz would be managed to provide an expanded variety of settings and experiences that will pleasantly surprise visitors attracted by the notoriety of the prison, and connect them to the greater breadth of the island’s resources and stories. The park would seek to enrich the scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities in the heart of San Francisco Bay.</p> <p>Visitors would have access to the majority of the island’s historic structures and landscapes to experience all of the layers of island history, natural resources, and settings. The indoor and outdoor spaces currently inaccessible to visitors would be reopened to expand the range of available activities.</p> <p>All historic structures would be preserved; most would be rehabilitated and adaptively reused for visitor activities and park operations. Food service, meeting and program space, and overnight accommodations (possibly including a hostel or camping) would be provided.</p> <p>Sensitive wildlife areas, like the shoreline, would be protected. Park managers would provide visitors with opportunities to see wildlife and to participate in resource stewardship activities. Gulls would be managed to reduce conflicts in core visitor use areas.</p>	<p>Isolation—whether for soldiers, prisoners, birds, or plants—is a recurrent theme in the story of Alcatraz. This alternative would highlight the island’s inhospitable and isolated—yet strategic—location at the entry to the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay. The island’s past and present significance to colonial nesting birds and its layers of human history—the Civil War fortress, the lighthouse, the prison and penitentiary—all derive from its position in the bay.</p> <p>The island’s changing natural and built landscape would continue to evolve, further enhancing habitat for nesting birds. Only those buildings and features necessary to maintain the island’s national historic landmark status would be preserved; the natural elements would reclaim other features as part of the wilding of Alcatraz.</p> <p>Visitors would be immersed in opportunities that showcase the island’s isolation, its natural resources, and all the layers of history that can be found at the Main Prison Building. Visitor experiences would include ecotourism, outdoor learning, and natural and cultural resource stewardship programming delivered in partnership with Bay Area nonprofits.</p> <p>While access would be managed to protect sensitive resources, visitors would be able to more freely explore, discover, and experience nature reclaiming Alcatraz, and understand the role the island plays in the broader marine ecosystem (reaching from San Francisco Bay to the Farallon Islands) as a result of its strategic location.</p>	<p>For more than 150 years, Alcatraz Island has been reworked and altered by human activity. This alternative would immerse visitors extensively in all of Alcatraz’s historic periods, including the Civil War military fortifications and prison, federal penitentiary, and American Indian occupation. Alcatraz’s history would be interpreted, first and foremost with tangible and accessible historic resources, including the buildings, ruins, cultural landscape, archeology, and museum collection. These resources contribute to the island’s national historic landmark status and its recognition as an international icon.</p> <p>The visitor’s immersion in Alcatraz history would begin on a ferry from one or more embarkation points that could include the original Alcatraz dock at Fort Mason. Passing a line of historic warning buoys, the experience would continue at the island’s arrival dock, with greater access to restored portions of Building 64, the historic “bomb-proof” barracks. Visitors would ascend to the Main Prison Building through a landscape of preserved historic structures and features. 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.”</p> <p>This alternative would require extensive stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic resources, as well as creative interpretative and educational programs and visitor services. It would create opportunities for cultural resource stewardship programs.</p> <p>Visitors would have opportunities to learn about the natural history of San Francisco Bay. The colonial waterbird habitat that has grown in regional importance would be protected, enhanced, and interpreted. Visitor access to the island perimeter would be managed to protect these sensitive populations while providing opportunities to observe them. The large population of gulls would be managed to reduce conflicts in primary visitor use areas like the Parade Ground.</p>
<b>Arrival area</b> (including the entry pier, Building 64)	The arrival area includes a mix of structures and landscape areas that support the high volume of visitation. Building 64, the historic barracks, is adaptively used for administrative purposes and some	<b>Diverse Opportunities Zone</b>  Similar to Alternative 3, this area would be managed to welcome visitors and provide orientation to the	<b>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</b>  Similar to Alternative 3, this area would welcome visitors while protecting the layers of cultural resources.	<b>Historic Immersion Zone</b>  Here, the park would welcome, orient, and begin to immerse visitors in the island’s prison landscape, re-

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(historic barracks), and the Sallyport)	visitor services, including a small gift shop, exhibits, and a theater. The upper floors have not been rehabilitated and remain unused. All visitors pass through the Sallyport, one of the oldest structures on the island.	expansive opportunities on the island. Building 64 would be rehabilitated as a multi-purpose facility to host an expanded variety of visitor services that could include hospitality (food service and overnight accommodations), interpretation and exhibit space, an audiovisual center, and administrative areas.	<p>However, Building 64 would be adaptively reused to support the science, education, and stewardship programs. It could include space for offices, classrooms, labs, minimal food service, and hostel-like overnight facilities for program participants. Co-locating these functions would promote interactive learning and association among the scientists, teachers, and student participants. Administrative functions would also be housed in this building.</p> <p>The park would also manage the structures and landscaped areas (such as the Guardhouse and gardens) between the entry pier and the Main Prison Building to protect and interpret the layers of history.</p>	creating the atmosphere evocative of its layers of history. Selected areas of Building 64 would be restored to tell the story of its history and use. Period restoration in the building would include the post office, canteen, and a prison-era guard apartment to extend the immersive experience. Other areas would be rehabilitated for visitor services and administrative functions and could include modest dorm-like overnight accommodations for participants in education, conservation, and stewardship programs. The upper floors would be stabilized to preserve the structure's integrity.
<b>Main Prison Building Area</b> (including the basement citadel, main cellblock, hospital wing, administration wing, and recreation yard, New Industries Building, Officer's Club, and Parade Ground)	The Main Prison Building and several adjacent areas, like the Recreation Yard, have been rehabilitated to represent the federal penitentiary era. They are managed as part of the central visitor experience. Visitors have access to most of the building and yard. Several areas, like the Civil War-era Citadel (located below the Main Building) and part of the building's hospital wing are closed. Visiting the Main Prison Building is primarily a self-guided experience facilitated by an audio tour. Many adjacent landscape areas are minimally preserved and inhabited by seabirds both seasonally and year-round.	<p><b>Historic Immersion Zone</b> (Main Prison Building)</p> <p>The park would manage this area to immerse visitors in the federal penitentiary period. A variety of programming and exhibits would bring prison history alive. Rehabilitation or restoration, where appropriate, would enhance resource integrity.</p> <p><b>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</b> (Guardhouse, Officers Club, and gardens)</p> <p>In this alternative, the park would also manage the structures and landscaped areas surrounding the Main Prison Building to protect and interpret the layers of history. The Officers Club and Warden's house would be stabilized as ruins and the Guardhouse would be rehabilitated.</p> <p><b>Diverse Opportunities Zone</b> (Hospital Wing of Main Prison Building, Recreation Yard, New Industries Building, and Parade Ground)</p> <p>These buildings and outdoor spaces would be rehabilitated to provide a range of visitor activities that could include informal gatherings, interpretive programs, and special events. The New Industries Building would be rehabilitated as a multi-purpose facility. It would include flexible space that could accommodate interpretation, special events, classrooms and meetings and would include service areas to support these uses. The perimeter trail would use the existing path on the west side of the structure with appropriate separation to protect nesting birds on the cliff below.</p>	<p><b>Historic Immersion Zone</b> (Main Prison Building, including the Hospital Wing and Recreation Yard)</p> <p>These historic structures would be managed to provide visitors with access to the wide range of resources in historically accurate conditions, from the military period through the Indian occupation. Rehabilitation or restoration of historic resources would enhance their historic integrity.</p> <p><b>Natural Zone</b> (New Industries Building, Parade Ground and western side of island)</p> <p>The park would manage these structures and adjacent areas to enhance bird habitat and protect sensitive resources. Visitor use would be managed and controlled to support natural resource management goals. The New Industries Building and would be stabilized as a ruins, and no efforts would be made to avoid the loss of these buildings to coastal erosion. Visitor access could be provided for wildlife viewing, research, and education but would be highly controlled. The rubble piles on the Parade Ground would be retained to maintain and enhance seabird habitat.</p>	<p><b>Historic Immersion Zone</b></p> <p>The many historic resources of the Main Prison Building would provide visitors with the opportunity to explore the federal penitentiary's history. Visitors would also have access to the wide range of historic structures and features, in historically accurate conditions that tell stories about the different layers of island history. Park managers would look for opportunities to expose visitors to the tangible resources (including artifacts in the park's museum collection) of the federal penitentiary and military eras.</p> <p>Treatments ranging from upgrades to exhibits and furnishings to more complete restoration would continue with the goal of increasing access and interpretation of the structure's history.</p> <p>In this alternative the park would also manage most of the adjacent areas, such as the Warden's House and the Parade Ground to reinforce the sense of history as visitors move around the island. The Parade Ground would be rehabilitated to portray its historic period and support year-round visitor exploration of this area to the extent that management of Western gulls proves feasible. Design would incorporate measures to support wildlife and would remove the piles of building rubble.</p> <p>The Officer's Club would be stabilized as a ruin while providing visitors with opportunities to explore this historic structure. Additional preservation would be possible with the involvement of partners to make a more complete visitor experience and interpret the</p>

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		The rubble on the Parade Ground would be removed and bird populations would be managed to accommodate enhanced visitor access.		building's long history.  <b>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</b> (New Industries Building)  The New Industries Building would be rehabilitated as a multi-purpose facility. It would include flexible space that could accommodate interpretation, special events, classrooms and meetings and would include service areas to support these uses. The discovery trail would connect through the building and provide bird viewing opportunities from its interior.
<b>Lighthouse</b>	The lighthouse is managed for its historic function as an early aid to navigation in San Francisco Bay. Visitor access is highly controlled.	<b>Historic Immersion Zone</b>  Same as Alternative 3.	<b>Historic Immersion Zone</b>  Same as Alternative 3.	<b>Historic Immersion Zone</b>  The lighthouse and surrounding area would be preserved to give visitors opportunities to learn about the maritime history of Alcatraz and its strategic location in the bay. Access and interpretation would be enhanced.
<b>North end of the Island</b>	These buildings and adjacent yards were once active parts of the prison. They are presently used by the park for operations and maintenance functions, and house the island's diesel generators. The state of preservation is minimal and visitors are not generally permitted in this area.	<b>Park Operations Zone</b>  The historic structures in this zone, including part of the Model Industries Building, would be rehabilitated and adaptively reused for maintenance, storage, and public safety functions. They could house green, sustainable infrastructure technologies. Where appropriate, visitor access would be provided to showcase the technologies and interpret the island's energy history.	<b>Park Operations Zone</b>  Similar to Alternative 3, except that the zone would include the Officer's Club and exclude the Model Industries Building.  The Officer's Club would be stabilized as a ruin to preserve the exterior of the structure. An interior shell could be constructed within the ruin to support park operational functions if needed.  The Model Industries Building would be stabilized as a ruin to allow expanded habitat for nesting birds. No efforts would be made to avoid the loss of the building to coastal erosion. Visitor access could be provided for wildlife viewing, research, and education but would be highly controlled. Maintenance activities and visitor access outside and nearby these structures would be managed to prevent disruption of nearby sensitive natural resources.	<b>Park Operations Zone</b>  The Quartermaster Warehouse would be rehabilitated and used as an operational center for maintenance, public safety, and a conservation workshop.  The Power Plant would be stabilized to house green, sustainable infrastructure technologies. Where appropriate, visitor access would be provided to showcase the technologies and interpret the island's energy history.  To prevent disruption of nearby sensitive natural resources, the Model Industries Building, the courtyard, and lower cliff area would be closed to general visitation and operational uses. The building would be stabilized as a ruin.
<b>Island Perimeter</b>	The perimeter of the island, including the steep cliffs and immediate shore, is managed to preserve habitat for birds and marine wildlife. Visitor access is on primary trails that are open year-round, and on seasonal trails such as the Agave Trail. Other areas are	<b>Natural Zone</b> (Northeastern and southern perimeter of the island)  This area would be managed to protect natural habitat values while providing opportunities for visitors to walk	<b>Sensitive Resources Zone</b> (Majority of the island perimeter)  The majority of the perimeter of Alcatraz Island would be preserved to protect natural habitat values. Visitor	<b>Evolved Cultural Landscape Zone</b> (Majority of the island perimeter)  The perimeter of the island, including the coastal cliffs, would be managed to support interpretation of the

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	closed year-round for visitor safety and seabird habitat protection.	on trails around more of the island's perimeter, at all times of the year.  <b>Sensitive Resources Zone</b> (Western coastal cliffs)  Visitor access along the western coastal cliffs and tide pools would be highly managed to protect visitors and natural habitat values. Seasonal closures would protect sensitive seabird habitat.	use and access would be highly managed. The existing Agave Trail would protect natural habitat while providing seasonal access to the shoreline for visitors.	island's evolving cultural and natural history, and to provide greater access for visitors. Significant historic resources would be stabilized, and a trail would lead visitors around much of the island to discover its cultural and natural history. Sensitive design and seasonal closures of the trail would protect nesting bird habitat.
<b>Offshore Marine Environment</b>	The NPS has jurisdiction over the marine environment extending approximately 1,000 feet from the island's shore. This area is not actively managed, although access to the island is only through the park's ferry concessionaire.	<b>Sensitive Resources Zone</b> (Extending 100 feet from the island's western shore)  This area would be managed to protect marine resources. The NPS would prohibit boat landing in this area and exclude boat tours from this area.  <b>Scenic Corridor Zone</b> (Extending beyond the Sensitive Access Zone and along the island's eastern shore)  As in Alternative 3, this area would be managed to accommodate ferry service to the island. Boat tours around the island and some types of water-based recreation could be permitted. The area adjacent to the entry pier would be managed to expand the capacity and range of uses that may occur. This would enable the island to be part of the San Francisco Bay Water Trail, welcoming nonmotorized boats via permits or reservations.	<b>Sensitive Resources Zone</b> (Extending 300 feet from the island's western shore)  Same as Alternative 3.  <b>Scenic Corridor Zone</b> (Extending beyond the Sensitive Access Zone and along the island's eastern shore)  As in Alternative 3, this area would be managed to accommodate ferry access to the island. Some other types of water-based recreation could also be permitted. Enforcement of resource protection measures and visitor access regulations would be strengthened. For example, tours near the island would be regulated.	<b>Sensitive Resources Zone</b> (Extending 300 feet around most of Alcatraz Island)  This zone extends out 300 feet and would be managed as a marine protected area to preserve coastal resources and seabird colonies using the island's cliffs. The area would be closed to boats during seabird breeding season.  <b>Historic Immersion Zone</b> (Extending from the Sensitive Resources Zone out to 1,000 feet from the island's shore)  The NPS would manage this area to accommodate ferry service to the island. Park managers would mark and interpret the historic no-trespass zone that was in place during previous periods. The zone would be demarcated by buoys circling the island. Only approved vessels, like the visitor ferry, would be allowed to approach and use the island's dock.
<b>Off-island Ferry Dock Location(s)</b>	Access to the island is exclusively from Pier 31 in San Francisco. The NPS contract for ferry service includes a ticketing and reservation system, basic visitor services in the Pier buildings, docks, and other support services.	Service to the island would be the same as Alternative 3.	Service to the island would be the same as Alternative 3.	The visitor's immersion in Alcatraz history would begin at one or more off-island ferry dock locations that could include the original Alcatraz dock at Fort Mason and provide connections between Alcatraz and other National Park sites. <u>Primary ferry embarkation would remain from San Francisco. (Embarcadero?) Orientation and visitor services would be provided at any location.</u>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Same as Alternative 3.	Same as Alternative 3.	Same as Alternative 3.	The NPS would continue to develop and implement sustainable approaches to meet the island's energy, water, and waste water needs. The infrastructure technologies would be interpreted and where possible.