**Presidio of San Francisco**

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Presidio** | |
| — [**Neighborhood of San Francisco**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neighborhoods_in_San_Francisco) — | |
| A map of the Presidio | |
| Presidio  Location within California | |
| Presidio  Location within San Francisco | |
| Coordinates: [37°47′53″N 122°27′57″W﻿ / ﻿37.79806°N 122.46583°W﻿ / 37.79806; -122.46583](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Presidio_of_San_Francisco&params=37_47_53_N_122_27_57_W_type:city(2233))[Coordinates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [37°47′53″N 122°27′57″W﻿ / ﻿37.79806°N 122.46583°W﻿ / 37.79806; -122.46583](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Presidio_of_San_Francisco&params=37_47_53_N_122_27_57_W_type:city(2233)) | |
| **Government** | |
| **• Type** | [Board of Supervisors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Board_of_Supervisors) |
| **Area** | |
| **• Total** | 7.66 km2 (2.956 sq mi) |
| **• Land** | 7.66 km2 (2.956 sq mi) |
| **Population** (2008) | |
| **• Total** | 2,233 |
| **• Density** | 292/km2 (755/sq mi) |
|  |  |
| [**ZIP Code**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ZIP_Code) | 94129 |
| [**Area code(s)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbering_plan) | [415](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Area_code_415) |
|  | |
| **Presidio of San Francisco** | |
| [U.S.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [National Register of Historic Places](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places) | |
| [U.S. National Historic Landmark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Historic_Landmark) | |
| **Area:** | 1,480 acres (6.0 km2) |
| **Built:** | 1776 |
| **Architect:** | [Spanish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain)/[Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico)/[United States Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) |
| **Architectural style:** | [Spanish Colonial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Colonial_style), [Spanish Revival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Colonial_Revival_Style_architecture), [Colonial Revival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Revival), [Classical Revival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Revival) |
| **Governing body:** | United States Army |
| **NRHP Reference#:** | 66000232 |
| **Significant dates** | |
| **Added to NRHP:** | 15 October 1966 |
| **Designated NHL:** | 13 June 1962 |

The **Presidio of San Francisco** (originally, **El Presidio Real de San Francisco** or **Royal Presidio of San Francisco**) is a park and former military base on the northern tip of the [San Francisco Peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Peninsula) in [San Francisco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco), [California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California), and is part of the [Golden Gate National Recreation Area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Gate_National_Recreation_Area).

It had been a fortified location since September 17, 1776, when [New Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Spain) established it to gain a foothold on [Alta California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alta_California) and the [San Francisco Bay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Bay). It passed to Mexico, which in turn passed it to the United States in 1848. As part of a 1989 military reduction program, Congress voted to end the Presidio's status as an active military installation. On October 1, 1994, it was transferred to the [National Park Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Park_Service), ending 219 years of military use and beginning its next phase of mixed commercial and public use.

In 1996, the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) created the Presidio Trust to oversee and manage the interior 80% of the park's lands, with the National Park Service managing the coastal 20%. In a first-of-its-kind structure, Congress mandated that the Presidio Trust make the Presidio financially self-sufficient by 2013, which it achieved 8 years earlier.

The park is characterized by many wooded areas, hills, and scenic vistas overlooking the [Golden Gate Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Gate_Bridge), [San Francisco Bay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Bay) and the [Pacific Ocean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Ocean). It was recognized as a [National Historic Landmark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Historic_Landmark) in 1962.

The visitor centers are operated by the [National Park Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Park_Service):

* Presidio Visitor Center — offers changing exhibits about the Presidio, information about sights and activities in the park, and a bookstore.
* [Battery Chamberlin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battery_Chamberlin) — seacoast defense museum and artillery display at [Baker Beach](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baker_Beach) built in 1904.
* [Fort Point](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Point,_San_Francisco) — 1861 brick and granite fortification located under the Golden Gate Bridge. The visitor center, open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, offers video orientations, guided tours, self-guiding materials, exhibits, and a bookstore.
* [Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_the_Farallones_National_Marine_Sanctuary) Visitor Center — This center offers hands-on marine-life exhibits, and is located in a historic Coast Guard Station at the west end of Crissy Field. The building was used by the Coast Guard from 1890 to 1990.
* [Golden Gate Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Gate_Bridge) Pavilion — opened May 2012 for the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Pavilion is the first visitor center in the history of the Golden Gate Bridge. It is located just east of the southern end of the bridge.

**Crissy Field Center**

Crissy Field Center is an [urban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_area) [environmental education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_education) center with programs for schools, public workshops, after-school programs, summer camps, and more. The Center is operated by the [Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Gate_National_Parks_Conservancy) and overlooks a restored [tidal marsh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tidal_marsh). The facilities include interactive environmental exhibits, a media lab, resource library, arts workshop, science lab, gathering room, teaching kitchen, café and bookstore. The landscape of Crissy Field was designed by [George Hargreaves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Hargreaves). The project restored a naturally functioning and sustaining tidal wetland as a habitat for flora and fauna, which were previously not in evidence on the site. It also restored a historic grass airfield that functioned as a culturally significant military airfield between 1919 and 1936. The park at Crissy Field expanded and widened the recreational opportunities of the existing 1~~+~~1⁄2-mile (2.4 km) San Francisco shore to a broader number of Presidio residents and visitors.

**History**



The Presidio was formally established on September 17, 1776



The Presidio in 1817



[Battery Chamberlin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battery_Chamberlin)

The [Presidio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidio) was originally a Spanish Fort sited by [Juan Bautista de Anza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juan_Bautista_de_Anza) on March 28, 1776, built by a party led by [José Joaquín Moraga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Joaqu%C3%ADn_Moraga) later that year. In 1783, the Presidio's garrison numbered only 33 men.

The Presidio was seized by the U.S. Military in 1846, at the start of the [Mexican-American war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican-American_war). It officially opened in 1848, and became home to several Army headquarters and units, the last being the [United States 6th Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_Sixth_Army). Several famous U.S. generals, such as [William Sherman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Sherman), [George Henry Thomas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Henry_Thomas), and [John Pershing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Pershing) made their homes here.

During its long history, the Presidio was involved in most of America's military engagements in the Pacific. Importantly, it was the assembly point for Army forces that invaded [the Philippines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Philippines) in the Spanish-American War, America's first major military engagement in the Asia/Pacific region.



The [San Francisco National Cemetery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_National_Cemetery) in the Presidio is the only cemetery remaining within the city of San Francisco.

The Presidio was the center for defense of the Western U.S. during World War II. The infamous [order to intern Japanese-Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_American_internment), including citizens, during World War II was signed at the Presidio. Until its closure in 1995, the Presidio was the longest continuously operated military base in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States).

From the 1890s, the Presidio was home to the [Letterman Army Medical Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letterman_Army_Hospital) (LAMC), named in 1911 for [Jonathan Letterman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Letterman), the medical director of the [Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War) era [Army of the Potomac](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_of_the_Potomac). LAMC provided thousands of war-wounded with high quality medical care during every US foreign conflict of the 20th century.

One of the last two remaining cemeteries within the city's limits is the [San Francisco National Cemetery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_National_Cemetery). Among the military personnel interred are: General [Fedreick Funston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Funston,_Sr.), hero of the [Spanish-American War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish-American_War), [Philippine-American War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine-American_War), commanding officer of the Presidio at the time of the [1906 earthquake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1906_San_Francisco_Earthquake); General [Irvin McDowell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irvin_McDowell), Union Army commander who was defeated by the Confederates in the first battle of [Bull Run](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Battle_of_Bull_Run) (or Manassas).

The Marine Hospital operated a cemetery for merchant seamen approximately 100–250 yards (91–230 m) from the hospital property. Based on city municipal records, historians estimate that the cemetery was in use from 1885 to 1912. As part of the "Trails Forever" initiative, the Parks Conservancy, the National Park Service, and the Presidio Trust partnered to build a walking trail along the south side of the site featuring interpretive signage about its history.

The Presidio also has four creeks, that are currently being restored by park stewards and volunteers to expand the former extents of their riparian habitats. The creeks are [Lobos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobos_Creek) and [Dragonfly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragonfly_Creek) creeks, [El Polin Spring](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Polin_Spring), and [Coyote Gulch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coyote_Gulch_(California)).

**Chronology**

* 1776 — Spanish Captain Juan Bautista de Anza led 193 soldiers, women, and children on a trek from present day [Tubac, Arizona](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tubac,_Arizona), to San Francisco Bay.
* September 17 (1776?) — The Presidio began as a Spanish [garrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garrison) to defend Spain's claim to San Francisco Bay and to support [Mission Dolores](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_Dolores); it was the northernmost outpost of [New Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Spain) in the declining [Spanish Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Empire).
* 1794 — [Castillo de San Joaquin](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Castillo_de_San_Joaquin&action=edit&redlink=1), an [artillery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artillery) emplacement was built above present-day Fort Point, San Francisco, complete with iron or bronze [cannon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannon). Six cannon may be seen in the Presidio today.
* 1776–1821 — The Presidio was a simple fort made of adobe, brush and wood. It often was damaged by earthquakes or heavy rains. In 1783, its company was only 33 men. Presidio soldiers' duties were to support Mission Dolores by controlling Indian workers in the Mission, and also farming, ranching, and hunting in order to supply themselves and their families. Support from Spanish authorities in Mexico was very limited.
* 1821 — Mexico became independent of Spain. The Presidio received even less support from Mexico. Residents of Alta California, which include the Presidio, debated separating entirely from Mexico.
* 1827, January — Minor earthquake in San Francisco, some buildings were damaged extensively.
* 1835 — The Presidio garrison, led by [Mariano Vallejo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariano_Vallejo), relocated to [Sonoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidio_of_Sonoma). A small detachment remained at the Presidio, which was in decline.
* 1846 — American settlers and adventurers in Sonoma staged the [Bear Flag Revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bear_Flag_Revolt) against Mexican rule. Mariano Vallejo was imprisoned for a brief time. Lieutenant [John C. Fremont](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_C._Fremont), a U.S. Army officer, with a small detachment of soldiers and frontiersmen crossed the [Golden Gate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Gate) in a boat to "capture" the Presidio unresisted. A cannon that was spiked by Fremont remains on the Presidio today.



The Presidio ca. 1850

* 1846–1848 — The [U.S. Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Army) occupied the Presidio. The Presidio began a long era directing operations to control and protect Native Americans as headquarters for scattered Army units on the West Coast.
* 1853 — Work was begun on Fort Point, which became a fine example of coastal defenses of its time. Fort Point, located at the foot of the Golden Gate in the Presidio, was the keystone of an elaborate network of fortifications to defend San Francisco Bay. These fortifications now reflect 150 years of military concern for defense of the West Coast.
* 1861–1865 — The American Civil War involved the Presidio. Colonel [Albert Sydney Johnston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Sydney_Johnston) protected Union weapons from being taken by Southern sympathizers in San Francisco. Later, he resigned from the Union Army and became a general in the [Confederate Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_Army). He was killed at the [Battle of Shiloh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Shiloh). The Presidio organized regiments of volunteers for the Civil War and to control Indians in California and [Oregon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon) during the absence of federal troops.
* 1869–1870 — Major General George Henry Thomas, who was an American Civil War hero, led the [Division of the Pacific](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Division_of_the_Pacific&action=edit&redlink=1). General Thomas died in 1870 and was buried in [Troy, New York](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy,_New_York).
* 1872–1873 — [Modoc Indian Campaign](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modoc_War) involved some Presidio troops and command in this major battle, the last large scale U.S. Army operation against Native Americans in the Far West.
* 1890–1914 — Presidio soldiers became the nation's first "park rangers" by patrolling the new [Yosemite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yosemite) and [Sequoia National Parks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sequoia_National_Park).
* 1898–1906 — The Presidio became the nation's center for assembling, training, and shipping out forces to the Spanish-American War in the Philippine Islands and the subsequent Philippine-American War (Philippine Insurrection). Letterman Army Hospital was modernized and expanded to care for the many wounded and seriously ill soldiers from these campaigns. The Philippine campaign was an early major U.S. military intervention in the Asia/Pacific region.
* 1903–President [Theodore Roosevelt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) visited the Presidio. His honor guard was from the [African American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) "[Buffalo Soldier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Soldier)" [10th Cavalry Regiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/10th_Cavalry_Regiment_(United_States)), then at the Presidio. This regiment took a role in Roosevelt's famous charge of [San Juan Hill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Juan_Hill_(Cuba)) in [Cuba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba).



A refugee camp at the Presidio after the San Francisco earthquake

* 1906 — The [San Francisco Earthquake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Earthquake) of April, 1906, led to an immediate Army response directed by General [Frederick Funston](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Funston), who had earned the [Medal of Honor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medal_of_Honor) for his bravery in the Philippines. Army units provided security and fought fires at the direction of the city government. After the fire that resulted from the earthquake, Presidio soldiers gave aid, food, and shelter to refugees. Temporary camps for refugees were set up on the Presidio.
* 1912 — [Fort Winfield Scott](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Winfield_Scott) was established in the western part of the Presidio as a coast artillery post and the headquarters of the Artillery District of San Francisco.
* 1914–1916 — The Presidio Commander, General [John J. Pershing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_J._Pershing) commanded the [Mexican Punitive Expedition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_Punitive_Expedition) to eliminate the threat of [Pancho Villa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pancho_Villa), a Mexican rebel and bandit, who conducted raids across the U.S. border. General Pershing's family died in a tragic fire while he was away. As a result of the 1915 fire in General Pershing's quarters, the [Presidio Fire Department](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidio_Fire_Department) was established as the first fire station staffed 24 hours per day on a military post.
* 1915 — Part of the [Panama-Pacific International Exposition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama-Pacific_International_Exposition) was located on the Presidio waterfront, which was expanded by landfill for the purpose. Soldiers supported the Exposition with parades, honor guards, and artillery demonstrations. The Exposition was to celebrate opening of the [Panama Canal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama_Canal).
* 1917–1918 — The Presidio rapidly expanded with new cantonments and training areas for World War I. Recruiting, training, and deploying units again become the Presidio's role. An officer training camp was located here. The waterfront area was covered by quickly assembled buildings and the railroad track into the Presidio was busy with wartime traffic. During the war, the [30th Infantry Regiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Infantry_Regiment_(United_States)), "San Francisco's Own," whose motto, "OUR COUNTRY NOT OURSELVES," fought with distinction in World War I as a key fighting element of the 3rd Infantry Division who earned the title "Rock of the Marne." The 30th Infantry Regiment was frequently based at the Presidio.
* 1918–1920 — The Presidio was the center for forming and training the [American Expeditionary Force Siberia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Expeditionary_Force_Siberia). This was a little-remembered force that moved into Siberia during the [Russian Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Civil_War). The mission of this force changed often. It encountered hostility from another part of the Expeditionary Force, Japan, while fighting bandits, and protecting Allied civilians.
* 1920–1932 — The Presidio became home to [Crissy Field](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crissy_Field), the major pioneering [military aviation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_aviation) field located on the West Coast. Trail breaking transpacific and transcontinental flights occurred here. At Crissy, future General "Hap" Arnold developed techniques for the new military aviation. Arnold later commanded the [Army Air Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army_Air_Corps) in World War II.
* 1941–1946 — World War II saw intense activity at the Presidio. It continued as a coordinating headquarters, deployment center, and training site, as it was for most of its existence. The Western Defense Command was responsible for the defense of the West Coast. For a time this included supervising combat in the [Aleutian Islands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleutian_Islands). The Presidio again was crowded with temporary barracks and training facilities. Letterman Army Hospital was filled with casualties. At one point, entire trains filled with war-wounded arrived at the Presidio from the battles of [Okinawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Okinawa) and [Iwo Jima](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iwo_Jima). A Japanese Language School was set up to train Japanese-Americans to be interpreters in the war against Japan. Ironically, some of these soldiers' families were interned in camps for the rest of the war, while they performed bravely in the Pacific.
* 1941–1945 — The Commanding General of the [Western Defense Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Defense_Command), General [John L. DeWitt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_L._DeWitt), responded to public hysteria directed against all Japanese on the West Coast. He recommended removing all Japanese, including citizens, from the Western Seaboard. The [Federal Bureau of Investigation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Investigation) and some Western politicians also expressed alarm, although no incidents of sabotage occurred. President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, to direct removal of ethnic Japanese residents to [internment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment) camps.
* 1946 — After World War II, the Presidio command was redesignated the Sixth U.S. Army. It was responsible, again, for Army forces in the Western U.S., training, supplies, and deployment. It also was the federal agency to coordinate disaster relief by the military. During this year, President [Harry Truman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Truman) had offered the Presidio as the site for the future [United Nations Headquarters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Headquarters). A United Nations Committee visited the Presidio for the purpose of examining its suitability for the site, but the [UN General Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UN_General_Assembly) ultimately voted in favor of its current New York City location instead.
* 1950–1953 — The [Korean War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War) tasked the Presidio's headquarters and support functions. Letterman Army Hospital was mobilized to care for casualties from the war.
* 1951 — The Presidio hosted ceremonies for signing the [ANZUS Treaty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANZUS_Treaty), a security pact of [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia), [New Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand), and the U.S. The [Japan-US security treaty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan-US_security_treaty) was signed at the Presidio, while the Japanese Peace Treaty was signed in downtown San Francisco.
* 1961–1973 — The Presidio filled a supporting role during the [Vietnam War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War). Antiwar demonstrations took place at the Presidio's gates.
* 1968 — Richard Bunch shot, initiating the [Presidio mutiny](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidio_mutiny) at the Presidio stockade prison.
* 1969–1974 — Letterman Army Hospital (LAMC) was modernized and Letterman Army Institute of Research (LAIR) was built.
* 1991 — The Presidio sent its few remaining units to war for the last time in [Desert Storm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert_Storm), the First Gulf War. The role of Sixth Army was management of training and coordinating deployment of National Guard and Reserve units in the Western U.S. for Desert Storm.
* 1994 — [Sixth Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixth_United_States_Army) was deactivated. The Presidio was transferred to the National Park Service.
* 1996 — Park becomes privatized through congressional action.
* 2001 — Letterman Army Hospital was demolished. Later, the [Letterman Digital Arts Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letterman_Digital_Arts_Center) was constructed on the site.
* 2005 — [The Bay School of San Francisco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bay_School_of_San_Francisco) opens in Building 35.
* 2009–2015 — [Doyle Drive Replacement Project](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doyle_Drive_Replacement_Project) - Demolition of the Doyle Drive viaduct, to be replaced by an 8-lane boulevard, including 2 pairs of tunnels between Crissy Field and the Main Post and a pair of elevated viaducts, at a total project cost of approximately $1 billion. The original Doyle Drive was demolished April 27–30, 2012.



Presidio of San Francisco from the air

**Preservation**



After a hard-fought battle, the Presidio averted being sold at auction and came under the management of the Presidio Trust, a US Government Corporation established by an act of Congress in 1996.

The Presidio Trust now manages most of the park in partnership with the National Park Service. The Trust has jurisdiction over the interior 80 percent of the Presidio, including nearly all of its historic structures. The National Park Service manages coastal areas. Primary law enforcement throughout the Presidio is the jurisdiction of the [United States Park Police](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Park_Police).

One of main objectives of Presidio Trust's program was achieving financial self-sufficiency by fiscal year 2013. Thanks to rents from residential and commercial tenants, this happened well ahead of schedule, in 2006. Immediately after its inception, the Trust began preparing rehabilitation plans for the park. Many areas had to be decontaminated before they could be prepared for public use.

The Presidio Trust Act calls for "preservation of the cultural and historic integrity of the Presidio for public use." The Act also requires that the Presidio Trust be financially self-sufficient by 2013. These imperatives have resulted in numerous conflicts between the need to maximize income by leasing historic buildings, and permitting public use despite most structures being rented privately. Further differences have arisen from the divergent needs of preserving the integrity of the National Historic Landmark District in the face of new construction, competing pressures for natural habitat restoration, and requirements for commercial purposes that impede public access. As of 2007, there was only a rudimentary visitors' center to orient visitors to the Presidio's history.

Crissy Field, a former airfield, has undergone extensive restoration and now serves as very popular recreational area. It borders on the San Francisco [Marina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marina_District,_San_Francisco) in the East and on the Golden Gate Bridge in the West.



Elevation data of the historic Presidio Officers' Club, derived from a [laser scan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3D_scanner) project conducted by nonprofit [CyArk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CyArk)



The Old Coast Guard Station and Golden Gate Bridge

The park has a large inventory of approximately 800 buildings, many of them historical. By 2004, about 50% of the buildings on park grounds had been restored and (partially) remodeled. The Trust has contracted commercial real estate management companies to help attract and retain residential and commercial tenants. The total capacity is estimated at 5,000 residents when all buildings have been rehabilitated. Among the Presidio's residents is The Bay School of San Francisco, a private coeducational college preparatory school located in the central Main Post area. Others include The [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_and_Betty_Moore_Foundation), [Tides Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tides_Foundation), [Internet Archive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Archive), the [Arion Press](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arion_Press), and a museum in the memory of Walt Disney. Many various commercial enterprises also lease buildings on the Presidio, including, recently, [Starbucks Coffee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starbucks_Coffee). The [San Francisco Art Institute](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Art_Institute) maintained a small student housing program in the Presidio's MacArthur neighborhood from 2002 to 2007.

Sections of the Letterman Army Hospital were preserved by the Thoreau Center for Sustainability.

The Presidio of San Francisco is the only U.S. national recreation area with an extensive residential leasing program.

**Recent developments**



An aerial view of the Presidio

The Trust entered a major agreement with [Lucasfilm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucasfilm) to build a new facility called the Letterman Digital Arts Center (LDAC), which is now the headquarters of [Industrial Light and Magic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Light_and_Magic) and [Lucas Arts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LucasArts). The site replaced portions of what was the Letterman Hospital. [George Lucas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Lucas) won the development rights for 15 acres (6.1 ha) of the Presidio, in June 1999, after beating out a number of rival plans including a leading proposal by the Shorenstein Company. A $300 million development with nearly 900,000 square feet (84,000 m2) of office space and a 150,000-square-foot (14,000 m2) underground parking garage with a capacity of 2,500 employees, LDAC replaced the former ILM and Lucas Arts headquarters in [San Rafael](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Rafael,_California). Lucas Learning Ltd., Lucas Online, and the [George Lucas Educational Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Lucas_Educational_Foundation) also reside at the site. Lucas's proposal included plans for a high-tech Presidio museum and a 7-acre (2.8 ha) "Great Lawn" that is now open to the public.

In 2007, [Donald Fisher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Fisher), founder of [the Gap](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gap_(clothing)) clothing stores and former Board member of the Presidio Trust, announced a plan to build a 100,000-square-foot (9,300 m2) museum tentatively named the Contemporary Art Museum of the Presidio, to house his art collection. Fisher's plan encountered widespread skepticism and even outright hostility amongst San Francisco preservationists, local residents, the National Park Service, the Presidio Trust, and city officials who saw the Presidio site as 'hallowed ground.' Due to such criticism, Fisher withdrew his plans to build the museum in the Presidio and instead donated the art to the [San Francisco Museum of Modern Art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Museum_of_Modern_Art) before his death in 2009.

As the [Doyle Drive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doyle_Drive) viaduct was deemed seismically unsafe and obsolete, in 2008, construction was started on the demolition of Doyle Drive which is to be replaced with a flat, broad-lane highway with a tunnel under a part of [Crissy Field](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crissy_Field), called the [Presidio Parkway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doyle_Drive_Replacement_Project). The project costs $1Billion and is scheduled to be completed by 2013.

The Trust plans to create a promenade that will link the Lombard gate and the new Lucasfilm campus to the Main Post and ultimately to the Golden Gate Bridge. The promenade is part of a trails expansion plan that will add {[convert|24|mi}} of new pathways and eight scenic overlooks throughout the park.

In October 2008, artist [Andy Goldsworthy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andy_Goldsworthy) constructed a new sculpture "Spire" in the Presidio. It is 100 feet (30 m) tall and located near the Arguello Gate. It represents the tree replanting effort that has been underway at the Presidio.

**Popular culture**

The Presidio has been featured several times in the media of popular culture:

* In the fictional universe of [*Star Trek*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek), the Presidio is the location of Starfleet Academy, while the [Fort Baker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Baker) cantonment (opposite the Presidio) and the Marin Headlands are the grounds of [Starfleet Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starfleet#Starfleet_Command).
  + In the final episode of [*Star Trek: Voyager*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek:_Voyager), Admiral Janeway points out to her present-day self that the [USS *Voyager*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Voyager_(Star_Trek)) is preserved and located on the grounds of the Presidio.
  + In [*Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek_IV:_The_Voyage_Home), [Kirk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_T._Kirk) and [Spock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spock) have a discussion while walking on the shore adjacent to Fort Point in present-day 1986.
* [*The Presidio*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Presidio_(film)), a 1988 American action movie starring [Mark Harmon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Harmon), [Sean Connery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sean_Connery), and [Meg Ryan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meg_Ryan) is set in and around the military base.
* As seen in the 2004 [Metallica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metallica) movie, [*Some Kind of Monster*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Some_Kind_of_Monster_(film)), the band members start recording their new album [*St. Anger*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Anger) at the Presidio in January 2001.
* The Presidio appeared as *Paradiso* in the 2004 video game [*Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Theft_Auto:_San_Andreas).
* The 2005 television movie [*Murder at the Presidio*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Murder_at_the_Presidio&action=edit&redlink=1) is loosely based on actual events.
* The Presidio was featured in the [Sci-fi Channel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syfy) reality show, [*Ghost Hunters*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_Hunters), on October 3, 2007 in the episode entitled "Spirits of San Francisco."
* The Presidio was featured as a racing track in the 1999-2000 [video game](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_game) [*San Francisco Rush 2049*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Rush_2049)

**See also**

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|  | [***San Francisco Bay Area portal***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:San_Francisco_Bay_Area) |

* [49-Mile Scenic Drive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/49-Mile_Scenic_Drive)
* [Military Districts in Spanish California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_missions_in_California#Military_districts)
* [Sinforosa Amador](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sinforosa_Amador&action=edit&redlink=1) (1788–1841) - Born, baptized and married at the Presidio.
* [Rancho San Ramon (Amador)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_San_Ramon_(Amador))

This page was last modified on 4 October 2012 at 05:20.