

# Dry Tortugas National Park



# Slave Labor at Fort Jefferson

Over the lengthy construction of Fort Jefferson, enslaved workers were employed by the US Army, often hired from owners in Key West. By 1863, the use of slaves was discontinued at this remote Union outpost. The fort protected the strategically located harbor of the Dry Tortugas, and served as a military prison until 1874.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/drto](http://www.nps.gov/drto)

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**