



# Your National Parks

## Message from the Superintendent

Greetings!

We welcome you to South Carolina's Lowcountry National Park sites. Charleston and surrounding communities have a long history in the development of our nation. Our three sites, Fort Sumter National Monument, Fort Moultrie (a unit of Fort Sumter) and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, span America's history from the Revolutionary War through World War II. Each site highlights major events on our path to the liberties we all share today.

In the National Park Service, our job is to preserve these national treasures and to provide you, the park visitor, with a fulfilling experience. As you go through these sites where the famous and the not so famous played a role in our history, take time to learn, appreciate and understand why these sites are important. Help us to protect them and keep them available as learning laboratories for our children.

Browse through this guide and stop at our visitor centers with any questions you may have as you begin your visit to the lowcountry. We hope you have a safe, enjoyable and memorable visit.

Sincerely,

John Tucker  
Superintendent



## General Information

### Our Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired, the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world.

The National Park Service was founded by an act of Congress on August 25, 1916. In the Charleston area, the National Park Service operates several park sites: Fort Sumter National Monument, the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square, Fort Moultrie and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. Although at first these places might appear to have little in common, visitors soon realize that the underlying theme for all the sites is liberty.

As conservation educators, the interpreters of the Visitor Services Division provide guided walks, talks, audiovisual programs and other educational activities. Written materials such as brochures, site bulletins and this newsletter are also produced.

### Ranger Programs

Interpretive talks are offered at Fort Sumter for each arriving tour boat. At Fort Moultrie, ranger talks are regularly scheduled during the summer

season. Ranger programs are offered on weekends at Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. Each site hosts special events and programs throughout the year, including costumed programs, music presentations and cultural demonstrations. Check the local newspapers or call (843) 883-3123 for the current schedule. Schools and other groups should call ahead to make reservations.

### Park Publications

Official park brochures are available for each site. The following site bulletins are also available:

- 18 Pounder American Revolutionary War Cannon
- African Americans at Snee Farm
- Archeology... A Window to the Past
- Battery Jasper
- Battery Wagner
- Edgar Allan Poe
- Flags of Fort Sumter
- Fort Moultrie Reservation, 1898- 1947
- HECP - Harbor Entrance Control Post
- H. L. Hunley
- How Does a Cannon Work?
- Osceola

### Eastern National

Each park site has a bookshop offering interpretive materials for sale. These bookstores are operated by Eastern National, a non-profit cooperating association. A percentage of proceeds from all sales are donated to the park's interpretive program.

## Where to Go

Fort Sumter National Monument can be reached by ferry from two locations. One ferry departs from the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center in downtown Charleston, and the other departs from Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant. Tour schedules vary with the seasons. The Visitor Education Center is located at Liberty Square at the foot of Calhoun Street on the Cooper River. Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information call (843) 577-0242 or visit Fort Sumter on the World Wide Web at: [www.nps.gov/fosu](http://www.nps.gov/fosu)

For the current ferry boat schedule and fees call the park's concessioner, Fort Sumter Tours, Inc., at (843) 881-7337 or visit them on the World Wide Web at: [www.spiritlinecruises.com](http://www.spiritlinecruises.com)

Fort Moultrie is located at 1214 Middle Street on Sullivan's Island. From Charleston, take U.S. 17N (business) to Mt. Pleasant and follow the signs for SC 703 and Sullivan's Island. At Sullivan's Island turn right onto Middle Street. The fort is located 1.5 miles from that intersection. Fort Moultrie is open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information call (843) 883-3123 or visit Fort Moultrie on the World Wide Web at: [www.nps.gov/fomo](http://www.nps.gov/fomo)

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site is located at 1254 Long Point Road, just off U.S. 17 or I-526 in Mount Pleasant. The site is open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except for January 1, Thanksgiving Day and December 25. For more information call (843) 881-5516 or visit the park on the World Wide Web at: [www.nps.gov/chpi](http://www.nps.gov/chpi)

## Fort Sumter National Monument

Fort Sumter National Monument commemorates defining moments in American history within a military continuum spanning more than a century and a half. Two seacoast fortifications preserve and interpret these stories. At Fort Moultrie, the first American victory over the British Navy in 1776 galvanized the patriots' cause for independence. Less than a century later, America's most tragic conflict ignited with the first shots of the Civil War at Fort Sumter.

### Liberty Square

Seated on the water's edge, Liberty Square is a gateway to Fort Sumter. It traces the evolution of liberty in America from the time of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 to the Civil Rights Movement of the 20th Century. Visitors can walk through the square and find bronze plaques containing messages from the past highlighting America's search for liberty. In this quiet setting, visitors can reflect upon the meaning of liberty as seen through the eyes of Americans from all walks of life.

### Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center

This new state-of-the-art facility is the primary departure point for visitors to Fort Sumter. Before your boat ride to the fort, take time in the center to explore the interpretive exhibits and audiovisual programs. National Park Service rangers will answer questions to help you achieve a better understanding of the causes of the Civil War, and why it began at Fort Sumter.

### What You Can Do Here

- Spend time reading the exhibits in the main hall.
- Ask a park ranger any questions.
- Watch the harbor traffic.
- Enjoy the shade and breezes under the main building and in the Liberty Square gazebos.
- Visit the Eastern National bookshop.
- Take the ferry to Fort Sumter.

### Fees

Admission is free. See page 3 for ticket prices for the concession-operated ferry boat to Fort Sumter.



The Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square opened in August, 2001.

# Fort Sumter

## A Brief History

Situated in the harbor to protect the city of Charleston from enemy fire, construction of Fort Sumter began in 1829 as part of the Third System of American Seacoast Defense. It was first used in 1861 when Major Robert Anderson, commander of the Union troops at Fort Moultrie, moved his garrison to the more defensible Fort Sumter. The first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter when Anderson refused to surrender the fort to the Confederacy. Historic resources include original brickwork, cannons and Battery Huger, a structure added to the fort in 1898 and used through World War II. Inside the battery you will find a Civil War museum. From the upper level of the fort you have a panoramic view of the city and harbor.



Fort Sumter in 1861



Fort Sumter today

## What You Can Do Here

- Attend a ranger's talk.
- Using your park brochure, take the tour of the fort.
- Be sure to examine the museum.
- Try to locate the island and mainland batteries that fired on the fort.
- Enjoy the panoramic views.
- Visit the Eastern National bookshop.

## Fees

Fees are charged for the concession-operated ferry boat ride to Fort Sumter. Prices are subject to change.

Adults: (12-61) \$12.00

Seniors: (62+) \$11.00

Children (6 to 11): \$6.00

Children (5 and under): free.

# Fort Moultrie

## A Brief History

From the first crude palmetto log structure of the Revolutionary War to the reinforced concrete of World War II, Fort Moultrie's weapons and fortifications mirror nearly 200 years of American coastal defense. After World War II, technological advances in warfare made this seacoast defense system obsolete. In 1947, after 171 years of service, Fort Moultrie was deactivated. Today Fort Moultrie is an outdoor museum.



Fort Moultrie's outdoor museum is a timeline of American seacoast fortification. Visitors can see the evolution of the fort and cannons from 1809-1947.

## What You Can Do Here

At the visitor center:

- Watch the 22-minute orientation film.
- Examine the exhibits.
- Visit the Eastern National bookshop.
- Enjoy a picnic near the dock.

At the fortification across the street:

- Discover the reason why Fort Moultrie was

- built three times at the same location as it relates to Charleston Harbor.
- See the changes in artillery and fortification through various wars.
- Visit the underground rooms of the Harbor Entrance Control Post.
- Walk the beach.

## What Kids Can Do Here

- Earn a Junior Ranger badge.
- Feel the barrel of a cannon to see if it is rifled or not. Does it have grooves to make the projectile go farther?
- Learn about semaphore signaling with flags and lights.
- Calculate a projectile's distance, knowing that Fort Sumter is a mile from Fort Moultrie.
- Walk the beach.

## Fees

Admission to the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center, the film and grounds outside of the fort is free. However there is a user fee to tour the fort itself.

Adults (17-61): \$3.00

Senior Citizens (62+): \$1.00

Children (16 and under): Free

Family (regardless of size): \$5.00

# For Your Safety

As monuments to the people who fought and died for liberty, these forts are special places. Many parts of the fort are fragile and so are you! Please keep yourself and the fort from being injured today.

- Do not climb on any structures or hills.

- Stay on designated paths.
- Watch your step. Check for uneven surfaces and slippery walkways. Use handrails when climbing stairs.
- Do not enter closed areas.
- Do not remove or disturb any part of the

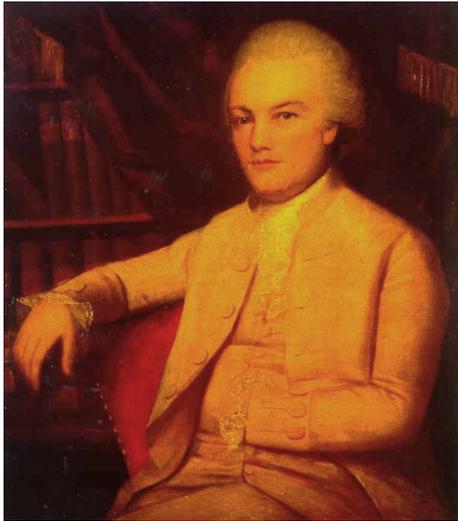
fort structure.

- Drink plenty of water.
- Bring sun screen and insect repellent.
- Smoking is not permitted.
- Pets are permitted outside the forts and other buildings, but not on the ferry boats.

# Charles Pinckney National Historic Site

## A Brief History

The National Park System was given the last 28 acres of Snee Farm by the Friends of Historic Snee Farm in 1990, and opened this site to the public in 1995. It interprets the life and times of Charles Pinckney and presents his contributions to the development of



*Charles Pinckney*

South Carolina and the new nation. A member of the landed gentry, Pinckney owned seven plantations, the smallest of which was Snee Farm. He was a principal framer and signer of the United States Constitution and held many political offices. In the house, a lowcountry cottage, are exhibits pertaining to all these topics.

## What You Can Do Here

- Watch a 19-minute interpretive video.
- Read the many informative exhibits.
- Walk the interpretive trail.
- Enjoy the varied plant and animal life.
- Sit on the front porch and admire the view while listening to the songbirds and wind in the pines.
- Visit the Eastern National bookshop.

## What Kids Can Do Here

- Older children will enjoy the exhibits and will find them useful for studies.
- Young children can find objects in the exhibits such as a child's ring, a horseshoe, medicine bottles, a gourd ladle, blue beads, an 1826 coin and a sweetgrass basket.



Today the House at Snee Farm, built circa 1828, serves as a museum. This house occupies the site of the Pinckney farmhouse.

## For Your Safety

- Many wild animals still live here. Always give them plenty of room.
- Beware of fire ants and other insects.
- Part of the park is still wooded, so briars and poison ivy are abundant.
- Never remove or disturb any living thing or artifact.
- Drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks out of the sun during the summer.

*Your National Parks* is published by the National Park Service for the orientation and education of visitors to Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site.

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## Comments? Write to:

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Sullivan's Island, SC 29482



## Volunteers In Parks

Each year Volunteers In Parks, or VIPs, give thousands of hours to the National Park Service. A vital supplement to paid staff, volunteers bring special skills, dedication and fresh approaches to our work.

If you are interested in volunteering please pick up an application at any visitor center, call our headquarters at (843) 883-3123 or email us at: [fosu\\_ranger\\_activities@nps.gov](mailto:fosu_ranger_activities@nps.gov)

