

National Park Service

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



War In The Pacific



National Historical Park
Guam

Marine troops landing on Guam

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War in the Pacific National Historical Park

War in the Pacific National Historical Park is located on the tropical island of Guam, approximately 13 degrees north of the equator and about 3,300 miles southwest of Hawaii. On Guam there is an embracing "hafa adai" attitude that welcomes visitors and makes the island a friendly travel destination and a unique place to live in the United States.

While Guam is only 212 square miles, the island is rich in history. Only hours after Pearl Harbor was attacked, the Japanese began aerial bombings on Guam. After two days of strafing, the Japanese came ashore and hours later the naval governor surrendered the American territory. The island remained under Japanese control for 31 months until July 21, 1944 when the United States returned and liberated the island. Many lives were lost and the suffering was great for all those involved in the battles on Guam and throughout the Pacific theater. In order to remember the United State's and Guam's involvement in World War II, War in the Pacific was established in 1978 to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the campaigns of the Pacific Theater of World War II and to conserve and interpret outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values and objects of the island of Guam.

While the park is most noted for its historical resources, the warm climate, sandy beaches, and turquoise waters beckon visitors and residents to discover and rediscover the island's history, environment, and recreational opportunities.

DID YOU KNOW

- War in the Pacific NHP has more water acres (1002) than land acres (926)?

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- The Fonte Plateau Unit was the site of a former Japanese naval communications center on Guam during World War II.
- The three Japanese coastal defense guns located at the Piti unit were never fired?
- That more than 50 years ago, by forced labor, the Chamorros built many of the Japanese fortification and defense structures that can be seen throughout the park and island?
- Within the seven park units there are coral reefs, limestone forests, wetlands, a mahogany forest, and tropical savannah ecosystems?
- War in the Pacific has one of the highest levels of species diversification within the park service and has one of the most diverse coral reefs?
- During the Japanese occupation the area now known as Asan Beach Unit was a rice paddy?

DON'T MISS ATTRACTIONS

- Asan Bay Overlook with its panoramic view and its Memorial Wall which LINKS: contains 16,142 names of Chamorro and American casualties who suffered or died during the war on Guam.
- The 20 cm short-barrel Japanese Coastal Defense Gun and the Japanese Twin Mount 25mm Anti Aircraft Gun that are located at Ga'an Point.
- Liberator's Memorial commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam. This monument honors the armed forces that participated in the 1944 landing on Guam.
- Over 3,500 marine species and 200 species of coral that are located within the scuba and snorkeling areas of park waters including the endangered hawksbill sea turtle and the threatened green sea turtle.
- Over 100 historical sites, caves, bunkers, pill boxes, emplacements, latrine foundations, plaques, and structures that can be seen throughout War in the Pacific's landscape.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRIORITIES

As a result of the devastating effects of Supertyphoon Pongsona, War in the Pacific has been without a museum, contact facility, or administrative offices since December 2002. Management objectives for the upcoming years are to develop a new contact facility and museum for park visitors, establish new administrative offices for park staff, and identify a curatorial facility.

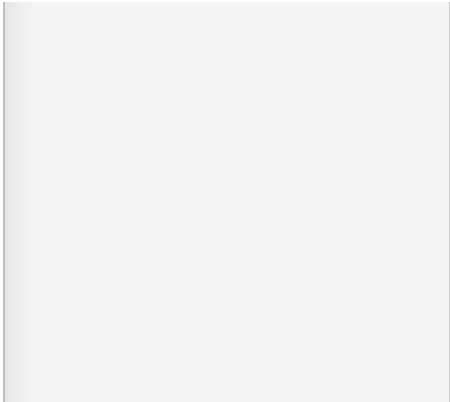
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

While the Dec. 8, 2002 Supertyphoon Pongsona may have destroyed the War in the Pacific's museum, visitor center and administrative offices, it hasn't stymied the park's enthusiasm or eagerness to share its resources and knowledge with the public. During the rebuilding period, they are using their creativity to fulfill their commitment to the community.

Supt. Eric Brunnemann accepted an invitation for the NPS to participate in "Career Day" at Andersen Middle School in Yigo, Guam. In efforts to show the students the natural, historical and cultural resources that abound on Guam and in the park, Eric brought with him Park Ranger Ali Spittler, Park Ecologist Dwayne Minton and Museum Curator Tammy Duchesne. Each brought resources, samples, items or artifacts that would help explain the island's cultural prehistory, the natural resources and the events of WWII.

Students were rotated from one special interest table to another so they could see how the War in the Pacific NHP works towards its mission to "commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the Pacific Theater of World War II" and to conserve and interpret the "outstanding natural, scenic and historical objects on the island of Guam for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." Students enjoyed the diverse presentation and there was clearly something that appealed to everyone.



This was the first occurrence of the park taking staff members and resources off-site since the typhoon damage and the park has done similar visits to other local schools. For more information about the park's recovery efforts visit www.nps.gov/wapa.

By Tammy Duchesne, museum curator

Last Updated: 26-May-2004

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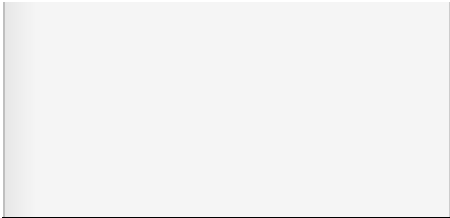
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 - The Japanese Occupation of Guam
 - Papua and New Guinea
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 - Internment Camps
- **From Shanghai to Corregidor: Marines in Defense of the Phillippines**

1942

- **Bataan Death March**
- **Doolittle's Raid**
- **Midway**
- **From Makin to Bougainville: Marine Raiders in the Pacific War**
- **Cape Gloucester: The Green Inferno**
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 - Chronology
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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get to the various park units?

Directions to Park Units: From A.B. Won-Pat International Airport

Fonte Plateau: This is the site of a former Japanese Naval Communications Center. From the airport, travel down Route 10A to the intersection of Marine Corps Corps Drive (Route 1). Turn left and travel south along Marine Corps Corps Drive for approximately 5 miles. At the intersection of Marine Corps Corps Drive (Route 1) and Route 6 (Adelup Point), turn left onto Route 6. Travel up this road approximately 1.5 miles, and the park unit is located on the right.

Asan Bay Overlook: This site contains a Memorial Wall in honor of Chamorros and Americans who died on Guam during the war years and the Son's of Guam Pearl Harbor Memorial. From the airport, travel down Route 10A to the intersection of Marine Corps Corps Drive (Route 1). Turn left and travel south along Marine Corps Corps Drive for approximately 5 miles. At the intersection of Marine Corps Drive and Route 6 (Adelup Point), turn left onto Route 6. Travel up this road approximately 4 miles and the park unit is located on the right.

Asan Beach Unit: This site was the landing site of the 3rd Marine Corps Division in the recapture of Guam, July 21, 1944. From the airport, travel down Route 10A to the intersection of Marine Corps Drive (Route 1). Turn left and travel south along Marine Corps Drive for approximately 6.5 miles to Asan. The park unit will be on the oceanside.

Piti Guns Unit: This site has a quarter mile trail up the cliff-side leading to three Japanese coastal defense guns. From the airport, travel down Route 10A to the intersection of Marine Corps Drive (Route 1). Turn left and travel south along Marine Corps Drive for approximately 7.5 miles. Turn left on J.M.Tuncap Street, located right after the 7-eleven. Drive to the end of the street and turn right at the stop sign. Take the very next left onto Father Mel Street and park on the right under

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the monkey pod tree next to the church social hall. The trail head is just behind the wayside exhibit panel at the base of the hill.

Apaca Point: This site was part of the area for the landing of the southern forces in the recapture of Guam, July 21, 1944. From the airport, travel down Route 10A to the intersection of Marine Corps Drive (Route 1). Turn left and travel south along Marine Corps Drive for approximately 13 miles. The road will end at the front gates of the Navy base. Turn left onto Route 2 and travel south for approximately 2 miles, there will be a Y in the road. Take the Y on the right, drive to the stop sign. The park unit is right across the road.

Ga'an Point: This site was part of the areas for the landing of the southern forces in the recapture of Guam, July 21, 1944. From the airport, travel down Route 10A to the intersection of Marine Corps Drive (Route 1). Turn left and travel south along Marine Corps Drive for approximately 13 miles. The road will end at the front gates of the Navy base. Turn left onto Route 2 and travel south for approximately 3.5 miles. The park unit is located on the oceanside, right after the fire station.

What are your hours of operation?

Apaca Point, Ga'an Point, and Piti Guns are open to the public (restrooms are open 8am -3pm). Asan Bay Overlook is open Sunday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 3:00pm. Asan Beach Unit is open for motor cars and vehicles from 7am - 3pm and is open for pedestrian traffic 24 hours a day. The restrooms at the Asan Beach Unit are open from 7am-3pm. For more information, please call the park at (671) 472- 7240.

Is there a museum or contact facility?

At this time War in the Pacific NHP has no museum or contact facility. Some of the older maps on the web site or some of War in the Pacific NHP's older publications may make reference to the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center, the museum, or the War in the Pacific administrative offices. Unfortunately, the devastation from Supertyphoon Pongsona forced War in the Pacific NHP to evacuate the Haloda building and thereby inevitably closed the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center, the bookstore, and the museum.

Where are your administrative offices located?

Currently, our administrative offices are temporarily located within the park's maintenance facility at 460 North Marine Corps Drive, Piti, Guam, 96915. The main number for our administrative offices is (671) 472- 7240- At this location there are NO visitor services available.

Who do I contact if I want to reserve a picnic area at the park, have a special event in the park, or have professional or commercial photographs taken within the park?

Please contact Liz Cruz, Park Ranger, at (671) 472- 7240 (x 236).

Who do I contact if I would like to participate in a

park tour or if I would like to schedule for War in the Pacific rangers to give an informative presentation to my school, agency, or organization?

Please contact Liz Cruz or Anita Cruz at (671) 472- 7240 (x 236).

Who do I contact if I want to purchase WWII books or media?

Our bookstore, which was once located in the Haloda building, is closed until further notice. Specific titles may be requested by contacting Cindy Rapadas, the Arizona Museum Memorial Association's regional manager for Guam and Saipan, at (671) 472- 7240 (ext. 234) or by going through the Arizona Museum Memorial Association's website at

<http://www.arizonamemorial.org/cgi-bin/catalog/bookstore|usarph.db?PROG:action=init>

What do I do if I specific questions about WWII in the Pacific?

While we will do are best to help you with any questions you may have, extensive damage from Supertyphoon Pongsona has inevitably and unavoidably forced the closure of our research library. Considering almost all the historical resources we would use to answer specific inquiries remain in dead storage and are inaccessible at this time, we might not be able to answer all information requests until we are once again able to access our research library, our museum collection, our files, or our other historical resources. Please email WAPA_Administration@nps.gov and they will direct your inquires to the appropriate person.



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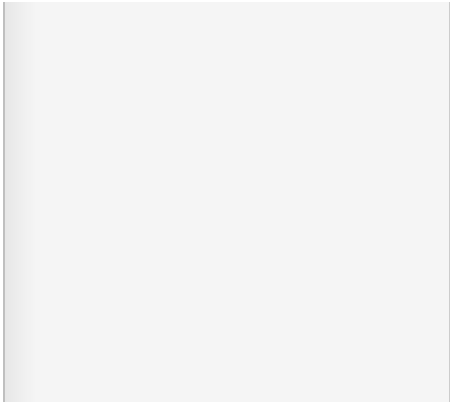
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By Tammy Duchesne, museum curator

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KONSEHILON
TINAOTAO
G U A M



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HUMANITIES
COUNCIL

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Guam Humanities Council, in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The council, an independent, nonprofit association, makes grants in support of projects which help to broaden citizen understanding and appreciation of the humanities disciplines.

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The Arizona Museum Memorial Association



The Micronesia Seminar



The National Archives

NARA



Marine Corps History and Museums Division



The University of Guam



National Park Service Volunteer from Seattle

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