



WAR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

GUAM

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)?
- 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

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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 Super typhoon Pongsona, War in the Pacific has been without a museum, contact facility, or administrative offices for almost one year. Management objectives for the upcoming year are to develop a new contact facility for park visitors, establish new administrative offices for park staff, and identify a curatorial facility.

The interpretation division is increasing its interpretive tours and outreach programs to schools, and is active in local and national events such as Earth Day and National Public Lands Day. The Cultural Resource Division will conduct a 200 acre archeology survey within the park, and will continue its commitment to maintaining and rehabilitating existing cultural resources--such as its monuments and historical structures. The park will complete a Cultural Landscape Inventory of Asan and Agat beaches, and finish its first Administrative History. The Natural Resources division is actively conducting studies to document sedimentation on the island's coral reefs and documenting the effects of wildfire on tropical savannah grasslands, so the park can establish best management practices for reducing erosion. As participants in a nation-wide coral reef monitoring program, the park is dedicated to long-term monitoring of Guam's coral reefs, and is committed to completing comprehensive inventories of the park's flora and fauna.

Together with the Government of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Arizona Memorial Museum Association, the National Park Service is partnering to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Liberation of Guam. Events will occur on Saipan and Guam in 2004 to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those who served and perished in the Pacific Theater of war. Events will include monthly educational programs, island-wide interpretational programs, exhibits, wreath laying ceremonies, and parades.

[War in the Pacific National Historical Park Home Page»](#)

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This panoramic vista shows the historical Asan Invasion Beach. This is one of two beaches where on July 21, 1944, American troops came ashore to liberate the island from the Japanese. The recapture of Guam cost more than 7,000 American and about 17,500 Japanese casualties.

[▶ Return to Previous Page](#)

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