

Things to see – Historic Sites

CIVIL WAR | FORT

Fort Morgan Historic Site

110 State Highway 180, Gulf Shores, AL 36542 Far west end of the island, just before the Ferry

<http://fort-morgan.org/>

Completed in 1834, Fort Morgan was active during four wars — the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World Wars I and II. The fort is most famous for its role in the Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay. Here, Union Rear Admiral David Farragut damned the torpedoes and went full speed ahead to win the battle. The massive fort contains more than 40 million bricks and pays tribute to the skilled masons, many of whom were enslaved African Americans.

The fort features an active living history program that interprets all the military periods and holds an annual event commemorating the Battle of Mobile Bay.

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Fort Barrancas, Gulf Islands National Seashore

1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

<http://www.nps.gov/guis>

Fort Barrancas, built primarily by slave labor between 1839 and 1844, was one of four fortifications protecting Florida's Pensacola Bay and the U.S. Navy Yard from enemy attack. Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island and Fort McRee on Perdido Key guarded the channel. Fort Barrancas and its water battery, situated on a bluff facing the harbor entrance, could support their crossfire and fire shots at ships that entered the bay and harbor. Ironically, during the Civil War the Confederates briefly held Fort Barrancas and exchanged gunfire with Federal forces at Fort Pickens on November 22 and 23, 1861.

According to Confederate General Braxton Bragg, "the action would rank with the heaviest bombardments in the world." In May of 1862, the Confederates withdrew to join forces elsewhere in the South and the Union forces reoccupied Fort Barrancas.

Fort Pickens, Gulf Islands National Seashore

1400 Fort Pickens Road. Gulf Islands National Seashore, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

<http://www.nps.gov/guis/index.htm>

Fort Pickens was one of four forts in the South to remain in Union control throughout the war. It exchanged artillery fire on Nov. 22-23, 1861 with Confederate batteries at Fort McRee and Fort Barrancas, and on Jan. 1-2, 1862 with Fort Barrancas. The fort served briefly as a prison for Confederate soldiers and civilian political prisoners. The Battle of Santa Rosa Island was fought one mile east of the fort on October 10, 1861.

Check website for availability as it was closed due to construction in 2/2023



The Mobile Bay Civil War Trail stretches from the Gulf of Mexico to north Mobile County - over 90 miles - and documents famous Civil War battles, including the [Battle of Mobile Bay](#) (August 1864) and the [Overland Campaign](#) (March - May, 1865). The trail includes stops at Fort Morgan, Fort Gaines, Blakely State Park, the Magee Farm and the Museum of Mobile. Forts Gaines and Morgan are open to visitors, and include a museum, gift shop, and living history events.

Camp Withers served as a central point for coordinating picket duties at various points along the coast during the Civil War. It was located approximately 22 miles east of Fort Morgan. The majority of cavalymen stationed in the camp were members of the 7th Alabama Cavalry. It is possible that as many as 200 soldiers could have been stationed there.



Historic Fort Gaines



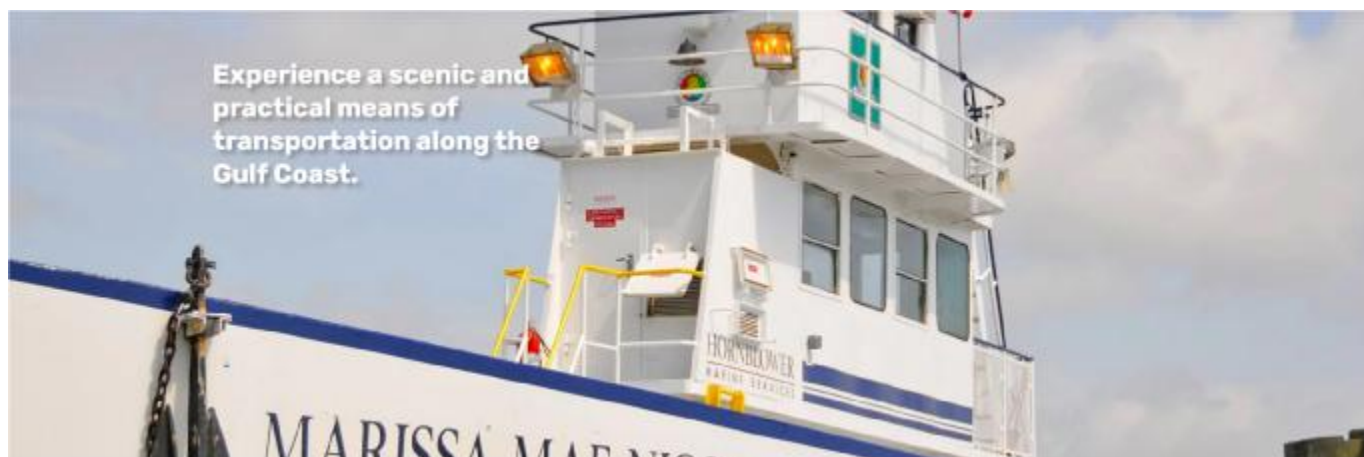
Fort Gaines, located at Dauphin Island along Mobile Bay, was a crucial site for the south during the civil war. The well-preserved ramparts of Fort Gaines have guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay for more than 150 years. Now a historic site, the Fort stands at the eastern tip of Dauphin Island where it commands panoramic views of the bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The Fort was recently designated as one of the Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites in America due to on-going shoreline erosion.

Fort Gaines is one of the key sites in the famous Battle of Mobile Bay where Admiral Farragut shouted his now-famous order, “Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!” The fort has original cannons, a blacksmith shop, kitchens, a museum, gift shop, and tunnels. Fort Gaines provides guided tours for groups of 15 people or more with at least two weeks in advanced notice for booking and that they are done by our own soldier in period uniform which will bring history to life including cannon firing demonstration and blacksmithing. <https://dauphinisland.org/fort-gaines/>



Have fun and take the ferry to Dauphin Island! See the following page for details

Welcome Aboard!



The Mobile Bay Ferry crosses beautiful Mobile Bay, Alabama and connects SR 193 at Dauphin Island on the west side with SR 180 at Mobile Point on the east. Considered “the Gulf-Coast’s Most Scenic Drive”, the ferry saves travelers hours of driving time plus the high cost of fuel by providing a travel link across the mouth of Mobile Bay.

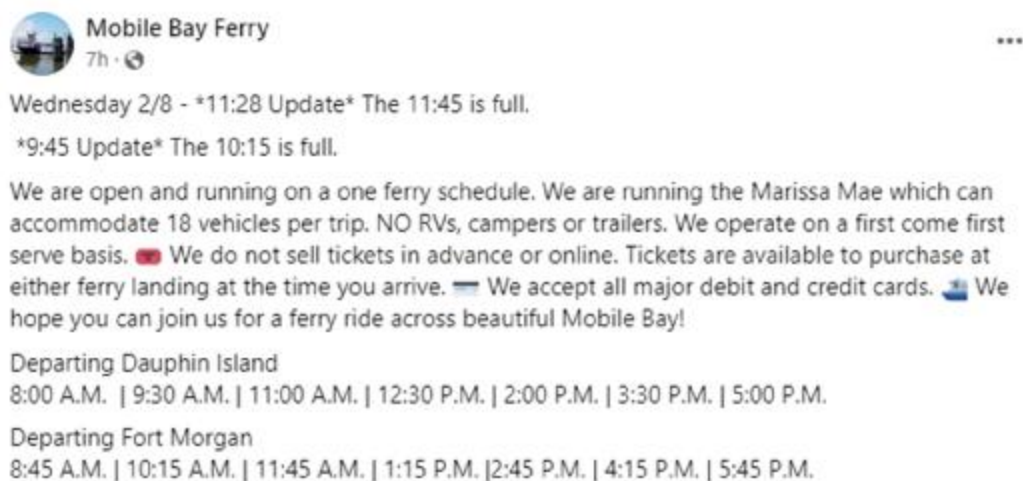
The trip between Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan at Mobile Point provides wonderful views of the two historic forts that have long guarded the entrance of Mobile Bay. The trip takes approximately 40 minutes and is a great way for passengers to view birds, sea life and other boats and ships.

The ferry service utilizes two ferries, the *Fort Morgan* and the *Marissa Mae Nicole* to carry passengers and vehicles across the Bay. At least one ferry operates year-round with both ferries operating during the busy summer months.

Please note: We will not run the 6:30 PM trip from Dauphin Island or the 7:15 PM trip from Fort Morgan except during Daylight Savings Time.

On your day of travel, make sure you check their Facebook Page Mobile Bay Ferry for any changes to that day’s schedule (yes, I learned the hard way!)

Here’s an example of a typical day’s FB update:





USS ALABAMA

Battleship Memorial Park



GENERAL ADMISSION
Children up to 5 = FREE
Ages 6-11 = \$6.00
Ages 12-55 = \$18.00
Ages 55+ = \$15.00

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY
AD Personnel = FREE
AD Dependents:
> Children up to 5 = FREE
> Ages 6-11 = \$5.00
> Ages 12-55 = \$13.00

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS
Veterans = \$15.00
AAA Member = \$16.00
Must be purchased in person
Must present Military ID or AAA Cards

Explore:

- USS Alabama Battleship
- USS Drum
- Aircraft Pavillion
- Tanks & Artillery
- Park Memorials
- Park History
- Recreational Area
- EcoSystem
- Check us out on YouTube

