

## Nature & History

Named for General Duncan Lamont Clinch, a prominent figure of the Second Seminole War, construction of Fort Clinch began in 1847. It is one of a series of masonry forts constructed between 1816 and 1867 known as the *Third System Fortifications*. The fort was built at the mouth of the St. Mary's River to protect the natural deep-water port of Fernandina—the eastern link of Florida's only cross-state railroad. Never fully completed, the fort still served as a military post during the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War II.

Fort Clinch became one of the state's first parks in 1935. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began restoring the buildings at the fort in 1936. In 1937 the CCC began building roads and campgrounds. Today, visitors can tour the fort and see how it may have looked in 1864 as it was being built by Army Engineers.

Within this 1,427-acre park are several natural communities. Maritime hammocks, with large Spanish moss-draped live oaks, are prevalent. Coastal grasslands meet the hammocks and stretch along the shore behind dunes on the Atlantic Ocean and Cumberland Sound. Both areas offer great wildlife viewing and are home to gopher tortoises, deer, raccoons, bobcats and numerous species of birds and reptiles.

Willow Pond Trail winds around a series of freshwater ponds that offer prime habitat for alligators and turtles. Egan's Creek Marsh borders the west boundary of the park, providing a saltwater estuary for an abundance of marine life. The salt marsh offers scenic vistas and views of many species of wading birds while the beaches provide a critical foraging and nesting habitat for colonial shorebirds and sea turtles. Please respect posted areas and give resting birds a wide berth.

## Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

### Fort Clinch State Park

2601 Atlantic Avenue  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
(904) 277-7274

[FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org)

## Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. An additional fee is required for the fort. Historic Fort is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily.
- Contact staff if you encounter cannonballs or other ordnance. Removal of artifacts is prohibited. For your safety and protection, park rules in section 62D of the Florida Administrative Code are enforced.
- Helmets are required for children under 16 and anyone riding the off-road bicycle trail. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Pets are allowed in the campground. Pets are not permitted on the beach, boardwalks, in buildings or the fort. Pets must be well behaved and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Swimming is allowed in designated areas only. Fishing license is required.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit [ReserveAmerica.com](http://ReserveAmerica.com).
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

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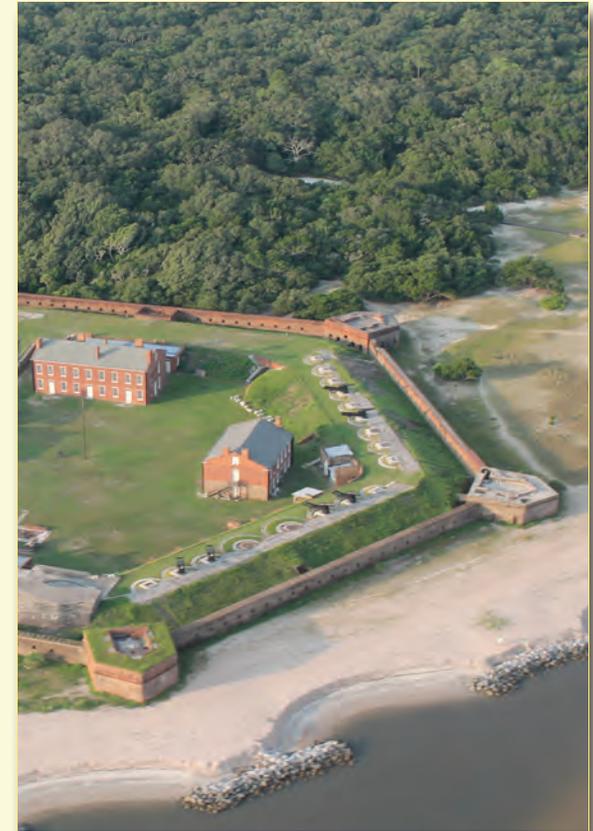
**FLORIDA**  
State Parks  
*...the Real Florida*  
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Northeast  
Florida

# Fort Clinch State Park

*A historic fort surrounded by alluring beaches*



*...the Real Florida*<sup>SM</sup>



**National Gold Medal Winner**

Florida State Parks - "America's First Three-Time Winner"

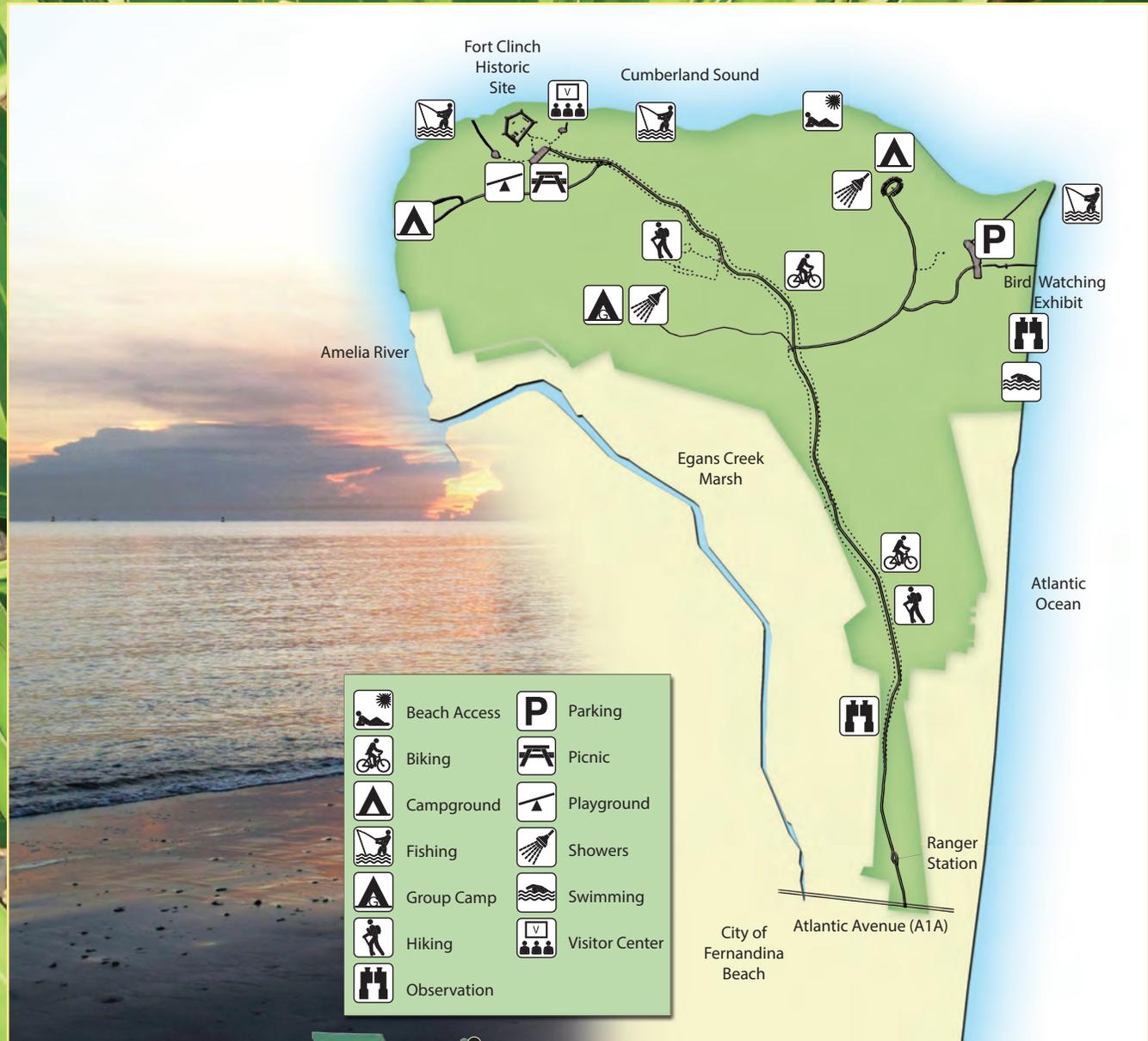
## Real Fun in ...the Real Florida<sup>SM</sup>

While you are at Fort Clinch State Park, experience the diversity of Florida's northernmost barrier island. Although the Civil War-era fort is the main attraction, don't miss the beautiful **beaches** and scenic **hiking trails**.

Fort Clinch has 63 campsites in two **campgrounds** equipped with electricity and water as well as six **primitive tent campsites** along with a **primitive group camp**. **Swimming** is a popular activity here, as is **fishing** from several locations. The park offers a guided **nature walk** at Willow Pond every Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Try bicycling on the three mile tree-canopied park drive or on the challenging six mile off-road **shared use trail**. Visitors can enjoy **birding** at several locations including the park's *Gateway Station to the Great Florida Birding Trail*. **Shark tooth hunting** and **shelling** along the beaches are excellent.

Soldiers perform **reenactments** of everyday fort operations depicting relevant historic era's on *Fort Garrison Weekends* during the first weekend of each month. Historical markers at the Plaza Fort San Carlos in Old Town Fernandina detail the territorial disputes waged. Check with the ranger station for other events.



### Directions

Take I-95 to Fernandina/Callahan exit 373. Proceed 16 miles east on highway A1A (follow the brown park signs). Turn right on Atlantic Avenue. Park is on the left within two miles.

