

A pentagonal brick fort with both inner and outer walls, Fort Clinch was a safe haven for blockade-runners during the Civil War. Briefly occupied by Confederate forces, its recapture by Federal troops in early 1862 gave the Union control of the adjacent Georgia and Florida coasts. The fort was used in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, but was abandoned until the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) restored it in the 1930s. A Florida State Park, Fort Clinch is interpreted as the base of Union operations in the area throughout the Civil War.

A part of the park system since 1935, Fort Clinch is one of the best-preserved 19th century forts in the country. Although no battles were ever fought here, it was garrisoned during both the Civil and Spanish-American wars. During World War II the fort was used by the military for storing equipment and supplies, in case there were any threats to the Southern coastal waters.

Daily tours with period re enactors depicting garrison life bring the fort to life for visitors.

The park site offers a days worth of activities for the entire family. Sunbathing, swimming and beachcombing are popular activities at the nearby beaches. Anglers can fish from the pier or take advantage of excellent surf fishing. Hikers and bicyclists can enjoy a six-mile trail through the park. Self-guided nature trails provide opportunities to learn about and observe native plants and wildlife. A full-facility campground and a youth camping area provide overnight accommodations.

IF YOU GO ...

Fort Clinch State Park is open daily from 8 a.m. until sunset. Admission is \$3.25 per carload and \$2 per person. An annual pass good for admission to all Florida state parks is available for \$32.10 (individual) and \$64.20 (family pass). Pets are allowed in designated areas. It is recommended that campers make reservations. For more information contact Fort Clinch State Park, 2601 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach, Fla. 32034, or call (904) 277-7274.



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