

# Presidio of San Francisco

The Presidio of San Francisco is an inactive military base in San Francisco. Spanish colonists from Mexico founded it as a fort in 1776. In 1822, after Mexico won its independence, the Presidio became Mexico's property. 24 years later, The United States seized the Presidio. It evolved into one of the most important bases on the Pacific coast, and played a role in many U.S. conflicts until it was closed in 1994. The Presidio is now owned by the National Park Service and is a historical focal point in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a section of public land in San Francisco and Marin counties that surrounds the Golden Gate Bridge.



Presidio gun turrets, San Francisco, CA



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Why do you think the Spanish chose to build a fort along the coastline?
2. Do you think it is important to preserve historic buildings like the Presidio? Do you think they should be open to the public? Why or why not?

## Vocabulary

*inactive*: no longer being used.

*evolved*: became, turned into.

*focal point*: an important or eye-catching item in a group.