

Ford Island is in the center of the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex, which has been a National Historic Landmark since January 29, 1964. Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) oversees all Ford Island facilities, including stewardship of its cultural and historic resources. The Ford Island Historic Trail was created by the CNRH to raise awareness and appreciation of the role that Ford Island and its surroundings played in military history and Hawaiian history and culture. The trail's purpose is to educate while communicating the importance of protecting cultural resources and instilling pride in military personnel, their families, and the community-at-large.



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THE FORD ISLAND HISTORIC TRAIL WAS CONSTRUCTED BY

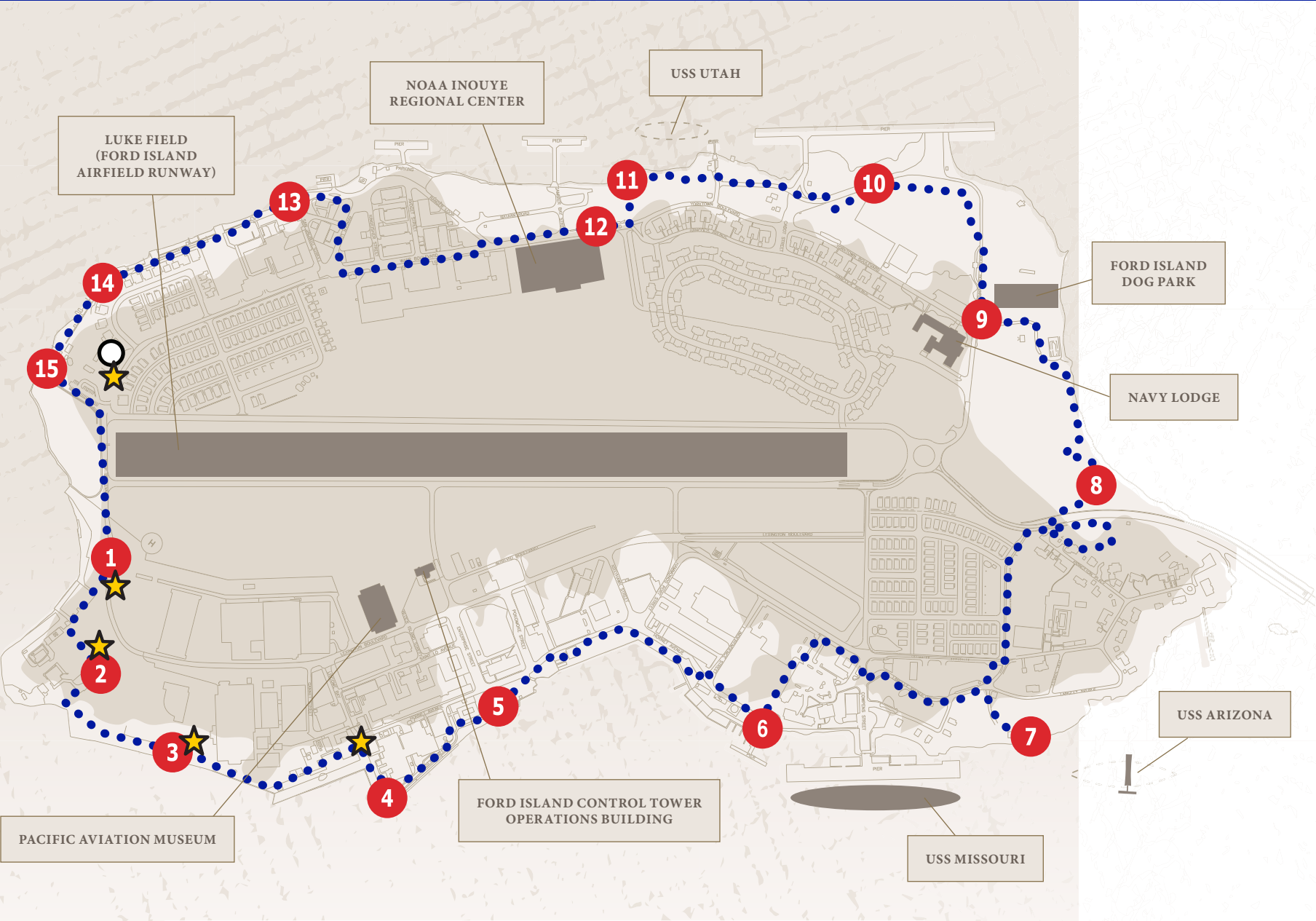


A 4-Mile-Long Trail Highlighting Ford Island's History at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



Ford Island is known mostly for the catastrophic damage and loss of life on its moored ships that it suffered during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. What's not common knowledge are the other chapters in the island's history. Known as Moku'ume'ume to native Hawaiians, the island was prized for its fishing grounds and was the site of Makahiki Festival events and other native cultural activities. Ford Island was later held in numerous private ownerships and cultivated for sugar cane. The island received its name from a former owner, Dr. Seth Porter Ford (1818–1866), a Honolulu physician. Military presence began on Ford Island in the early twentieth century. In 1916, part of the island was purchased from the John Papa "O" Estate by the U.S. Army for use by the 6th Aero Observation Squadron. In 1919, the airfield was dedicated to Frank Luke Jr., a World War I, U.S. Army Air Service fighter ace. Ford Island served as U.S. Naval Air Station (NAS) Ford Island between 1923 to 1962 and as part of Naval Station Pearl Harbor thereafter. Facilities on the island also played a significant role in Cold War activities.

FORD ISLAND HISTORICAL TRAIL MAP



Original Ford Island

Ford Island Today

Interpretive Node

Straying Sign

Trail Route

Restroom & Parking

INTERPRETIVE NODE OVERVIEW

- 1

SEEN FROM HERE
This spot provides dramatic views down towards the ocean and up to the Koʻolau mountains.
- 2

HOT AND COLD WARS
Various hangers were damaged and repaired. Other buildings were adapted for new uses.
- 3

MAJOR EVENTS
Pan American Airways once used the facilities on the Island for their transpacific flights. The attack on December 7, 1941 targeted Navy and Army planes in order to eliminate retaliation.
- 4

DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT
The number of docking berths on the Island increased from the 1920s through WWII.
- 5

CONTROLLING ACCESS — BY AIR AND WATER
The landmark tower of the Operations Building remains a visual marker for all of Pearl Harbor.
- 6

SHAPING THE ISLAND OVER TIME
Starting in the early 1920s, the rocky cliffs of the Island were filled to extend the area.
- 7

DECEMBER 7, 1941 — DAY OF DESTRUCTION
The Chief Petty Officer's (CPO) neighborhood suffered off-target bomb strikes, but survived with minimal damage.
- 8

DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENSES
Numerous structures and weapons have been erected and removed in response to various security needs over the last century.
- 9

WWII BUILDINGS — REMAINING AND REMOVED
The Navy built numerous structures on the former Army Air Corps side of the Island.
- 10

SHARKS AS GUARDIANS
In Hawaiian legend, the lives and spirits of sharks and humans are intertwined.
- 11

HALE PILI — GRASS HOUSES
Pili, a type of grass and main material for thatching Hawaiian houses, grew on the Island. Pili can be found growing at the front entrance of the NOAA facility.
- 12

MAKAHIKI — A PERIOD OF PEACE AND FEASTING
Makahiki was an annual harvest festival that extended over a four-month period.
- 13

LOST RICHES OF PEARL HARBOR
Pearl oysters could once be found here, the only place among the main Hawaiian islands.
- 14

WATER — SOURCE OF LIFE
The bounty and beauty of this harbor are renown in Hawaiian history and legends.
- 15

TWO DECADES OF ARMY AVIATION
The entire Island was acquired in 1917 and was developed for aviation activities.

