



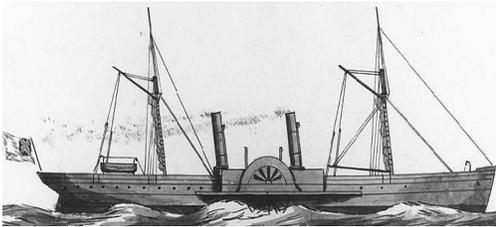
## Fort Fisher State Historic Site

1610 For Fisher Blvd. South, Kure Beach, NC 28449

Phone: (910) 458-5538 Fax: (910) 458-0477

Email: [john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov)

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm>



In the Civil War, the agricultural South depended on Europe for manufactured goods and war materials. To stop the importation of these items, President Abraham Lincoln declared a naval blockade of Confederate ports. Wilmington's proximity to Bermuda and the Bahamas added to the rail connections to Virginia made it the lifeline of the Confederacy.

Nicknamed "the Gibraltar of America," Fort Fisher's massive earthen walls stretched almost a mile and a half and averaged 30 feet high. The fort also had 30 underground bombproofs and magazines. Under the protection of Fort Fisher's 44 big guns, 4 field pieces, and 3 mortars, tens of millions of dollars worth of goods and war materiel came into the Confederacy.

After two attacks, Fort Fisher was finally captured in January 1865. The Confederacy's main supply line was severed. Three months later, out of supplies and hope, the Confederacy surrendered and the Civil War ended. The fighting at Fort Fisher would be the largest operation undertaken by the US Army and Navy of the Civil War and wouldn't be surpassed until June 6, 1944. It also included the largest naval bombardment in the world up to World War II!



### Hours of Operation

Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday and most major state holidays.

### Facilities

Civil War Museum/Exhibit hall

Audiovisual program (10 minutes)

Fiber-optic map depicting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle (10 minutes)

Gift shop

¼ mile tour trail around the Fort remains

Restrooms

On-site bus parking

Handicapped-accessible visitor center and tour

Vending machines

Tour trail markers

### Directions to Fort Fisher State Historic Site

*From Interstate 40:* Take College Road (NC 132) south through Wilmington to US 421 (Carolina Beach Road). Stay on US 421 South for about twenty miles through Carolina Beach and Kure Beach. Fort Fisher is on the right, just south of Kure Beach.

## Activities and Tours

A complete visit to the site takes at least 1½ hours. Guided tours take approximately 45 minutes, but can vary by age group and group number, excluding any special demonstrations. Thematic tours and activities are done on a limited basis and are subject to staff availability. There is no charge for activities; however, a small donation is required for artillery firings to offset the cost of powder.

Self-Guided Tour: You can walk the ¼ mile tour trail on your own while reading about the history of the site on fourteen wayside exhibits. The handicapped accessible trail winds around the remaining earthworks. *30 minutes, suitable for all ages, no limit on participation.*

Basic tour: The general tour explaining the first and second battles at Fort Fisher, as well as a discussion of the importance of blockade running and the Wilmington port. *30 to 45 minutes, suitable for all ages, limit participation to 75 individuals or less.*



Battle walk: Mainly for military organizations with the tour themed around troop movements of the second (final) battle, including the naval assault. *1 hour, suitable for military personnel, no limit on participation.*

BSA youth walking tour: A tour created by Eagle Scout Brendan Carr, this self-guided worksheet can be completed as your troop or scout walks around the fort. On completion, patches are available at the Wilmington scout store.

“Ready, Aim, Fire!”: Learn about Civil War small arms, including those brought in through the blockade, with a costumed interpreter. The demonstration will conclude with a firing of a reproduction 1853 Enfield Rifle. *15 minutes, 1st grade and up, maximum of 75 people (including chaperones).*



“Cannoneers, Attention!”: using the site’s reproduction 12 lb bronze Napoleon field piece, visitors will learn about Civil War artillery and have a chance to practice period field artillery drill under the command of a costumed interpreter. This is a *non-firing* program subject to weather conditions and to staffing availability. *30 minutes, 4th grade and up, maximum of 30 participants.*

## Additional Teaching Resources

“Teacher’s Packet” containing information on Fort Fisher, activities geared towards Elementary or Middle School students, and a suggested bibliography can be mailed or emailed on request. Further information can be found at <http://civilwarexperience.ncdcr.gov/fisher/fisher.htm> or on the Fort Fisher State Historic Site webpage (<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/fisher.htm>). Included on the website is detailed information on the first and second battles at Fort Fisher, maps of the fort and battles, the O’Sullivan images, and discussions on blockade running, Wilmington, Fort Fisher and WWII, and African American troops at Fort Fisher.

# Group Visit Confirmation



## Fort Fisher State Historic Site

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Kure Beach, NC 28449  
[www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/](http://www.nchistoricsites.org/fisher/)

Contact person: **John Moseley**  
Phone: (910) 458-5538 ext. 201  
Fax: (910) 458-0477  
Email: [john.moseley@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.moseley@ncdcr.gov)

**Date of visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time of visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Group name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Group leader(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total # in group:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of chaperones:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of students:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of classes:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Desired tour options:

- Video Program
- Map Program
- Exhibit Hall
- Guided Tour

**Group will visit gift shop? Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No:** \_\_\_\_\_