



## Fort Sumter & Fort Moultrie NHP News Release

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### Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park continues to increase recreational access for Fort Sumter starting on June 5, 2020

Sullivan's Island, SC – Following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local public health authorities, Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park (NHP) is increasing additional recreational access. The National Park Service (NPS) is working service wide with federal, state, and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.

Beginning Friday, June 5, 2020, Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie NHP will increase access to:

- Fort Sumter
- Ferry trips with limited capacity will depart to the fort from:
  - Liberty Square at 9:30 am, 12:15 pm and 3:00 pm
  - Patriots Point at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm
- Liberty Square Visitor Education Center, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm with limited capacity

In addition, the following spaces continue to be available:

- Fort Moultrie grounds outside of the fort
- Fort Moultrie Visitor Center parking lot (half capacity), portable restrooms, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Fort Moultrie dock, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

With public health in mind, the following facilities remain closed to the public at this time:

- Fort Sumter Museum
- Water fountains
- America's National Park museum stores at Fort Sumter and Liberty Square
- Fort Moultrie and Battery Jasper interiors
- Fort Moultrie Visitor Center and restrooms

Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance at [www.fortsumtertours.com](http://www.fortsumtertours.com) especially since each trip will have limited visitor capacity. Visitors should plan to bring water with them since the water fountains are not available at Fort Sumter or Liberty Square. The museum at Fort Sumter remains closed.

“We look forward to opening Fort Sumter for visitors on Friday. The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners continues to be a priority,” stated Superintendent Tracy Stakely. “By following CDC public health guidelines, we are working to ensure visitors

and staff can remain safe. We encourage park users to visit responsibly, take all necessary precautions, and follow established guidance to help us keep our parks safe.”

At Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie NHP, our operational approach will continue to examine each facility function and service provided to ensure those operations comply with current public health guidance and will be regularly monitored. The park is working closely with the NPS Office of Public Health using CDC guidance to ensure public and workspaces are safe and clean for visitors, employees, partners, and volunteers.

While these areas are accessible for visitors to enjoy, a return to full operations will continue to be phased and services may be limited. When recreating, the public should follow local area health orders, practice [Leave No Trace](#) principles, avoid crowding and avoid high-risk outdoor activities.

The [CDC has offered guidance](#) to help people recreating in parks and open spaces prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We will continue to monitor all park functions to ensure that visitors adhere to CDC guidance for mitigating risks associated with the transmission of COVID-19 and take any additional steps necessary to protect public health.

Details and updates on park operations will continue to be posted on our websites [www.nps.gov/fosu](http://www.nps.gov/fosu) and social media channels. Updates about NPS operations will be posted on [www.nps.gov/coronavirus](http://www.nps.gov/coronavirus).

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

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