



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

World War II Valor in the
Pacific National Monument

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World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Pearl Harbor Visitor Center Fact Sheet

The New Pearl Harbor Visitor Center:

The new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center which will be officially dedicated on December 7, 2010, replaces the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center shore side facility. Built in 1980, the original building was failing and a new complex was needed to better accommodate the more than 1.5 million annual visitors. Through innovative design and technology, the new Visitor Center has been built on 17.4 acres in an “open campus” setting and features the application of environmentally friendly materials. The new complex features indoor and outdoor galleries, state-of-the-art interactive exhibits, two movie theaters, an amphitheater, research and education center, centralized ticket center, restrooms, concession and administrative and support areas.

Museum:

A greatly expanded museum offers a comprehensive interpretation of the attack on Oahu/ Pearl Harbor and WWII in the Pacific. Interpretation includes the many facets of history, people and events leading up to the attack, the attack itself and its aftermath. Galleries depict civilian and military life on Oahu; the mindset of America and Japan prior to the war; a dramatic multimedia re-enactment of the attack; intricately designed replicas of historic aircraft carriers, battleships and airplanes; displays of rare artifacts and tactical films; and the personal stories and experiences of Pearl Harbor Survivors, WWII Veterans, civilians, Japanese aviators and other eye-witnesses. Key exhibit areas include:

Road to War:

Visitors begin their journey in the Road to War Gallery where artifacts, historic newsreel footage, exhibits, and photos depict the time before the start of hostilities between the United States and Japan. Visitors will note a collection of photographs of men and women of different ages and walks of life.

When they arrive in the “Attack and Aftermath Gallery,” they will find out their fate on December 7, 1941. Exhibits graphically explain why the two nations’ profound differences led inexorably to war. Visitors will feel international tensions rising as apprehension, uncertainty, and fear

combine to produce an incendiary pre-war climate. Of particular interest will be exhibits on code breaking and espionage. Two interactive exhibits will allow the visitor to solve coded words and to spy on the Pacific Fleet.

Two in-depth exhibits in particular, *State of Mind America* and *State of Mind Japan*, allow visitors a deeper understanding of the two countries' worldviews as they veered toward armed conflict. Interviews with military and civilian survivors tell the story from the perspective of common people caught in grip of extraordinary times.

Equally compelling are the exhibits that describe the defense of Oahu and the preparation for possible war. The models of the battleship *Arizona* and the aircraft carrier *Akagi* denote the changing military capability of both nations. Visitors will learn about the influence of naval air power ending the era of the battleship and bringing about the dawn of the aircraft carrier.

O'ahu 1941:

The open air central gallery between the two exhibit halls is a crossroads, much like Hawai'i prior to 1941. Visitors will experience what Hawai'i was like before the influx of defense workers, why Pearl Harbor was considered so strategic, and the issues that caused Hawai'i to change forever.

Visitors experience the dismay of the Native Hawaiians at the loss of their lands and how the Reciprocity Treaty would cause some Native Hawaiians to view America's intentions with suspicion. At the same time, visitors will be introduced to the thoughts and feelings of the military members transferred to the Islands – many leaving home for the first time. Before entering the next gallery, visitors are reminded of the last night of peace.

Attack and Aftermath:

Entering the building, the visitor stands beneath a 1/3 scale model of a Japanese Type 97 B5N2 Nakajima Torpedo Bomber known later in the war as a Kate. Suspended above, the plane is posed as though it is seconds before it drops its shallow-water torpedo into the waters of Pearl Harbor – it's a moment frozen in time that will change the world forever.

The focal point of these exhibits is the December 7, 1941 attack – how it happened and what followed. The story of the USS *Ward*, the Opana radar and the attack are told in pictures, artifacts, film and oral histories. Interactive displays of the radar, help visitors learn how difficult it was to track aircraft.

Dynamic exhibits of the wreckage of the *Arizona* and the recovery of the only Japanese torpedo ever found at Pearl Harbor leave the visitor in awe that these relics are on display. An 11.5 minute film titled, "Battlefield Oahu," give the visitor a straight forward, tactical explanation of how the

Japanese carried out their massive air attack on the island of Oahu. Visitors appreciate the fighting spirit of America, the salvage of the fleet, turning points of the war, and the conflicts of interned Japanese-Americans. Artifacts consisting of uniforms, medals and ordinance highlight the material culture of the monument's museum collection.

The final exhibit is a highly detailed scale model of the USS *Arizona* as she is today lying on the bottom of Pearl Harbor. The memorial and the mooring quays juxtapose the position of the ship to give the visitor an orientation of the layout of the wreck. A large television screen shows underwater footage of the *Arizona*'s environment today.

Central Ticketing Center for USS *Arizona* Memorial Tours and Pearl Harbor Historic Partners Attractions

Serving as a gateway to the other Pearl Harbor Historic Sites, the new ticket center allows visitors to obtain information and tickets for all major Pearl Harbor sites including the USS *Arizona* Memorial, The Battleship *Missouri* Memorial, The USS *Bowfin* Submarine Park and Museum and the Pacific Aviation Museum - Pearl Harbor.

Newly Expanded Bookstore

The newly expanded bookstore has more than doubled in size and offers an expanded selection of book titles, audio tapes, posters and other mementos of the USS *Arizona*, the Pearl Harbor Attack and War in the Pacific that visitors can purchase as a reminder of their visit and to further educate themselves on the subject. The bookstore is operated by Pacific Historic Parks, formerly known as the Arizona Memorial Museum Association. Sales proceeds from its bookstore and online website (www.PacificHistoricParks.com) support and fund educational materials, museum exhibits, and interpretive programs for four national parks throughout the Pacific: [World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument at Pearl Harbor](#), [Kalaupapa National Historical Park](#) on the island of Molokai, [American Memorial Park](#) in Saipan and [War in the Pacific National Historical Park](#) in Guam. Formed as a non-profit cooperating association with the National Park Service in 1979, Pacific Historic Parks changed its name in June 2010 to better reflect its increased scope of support.

Research & Education Center

The state-of-the-art Research & Education Center offers a resource area with digitized documents, photos and oral histories; a classroom and video conferencing room are also available.

New Wayside Exhibits

One of the popular exhibits that have been completely redone are the Wayside Exhibits. These are outdoor interpretive panels placed along the shoreline of the park along a lovely waterfront promenade, where visitors can see the scene of the attack as they gaze out onto Pearl Harbor and through the interpretive exhibit panels, visualize the events of that fateful Sunday morning.

Walking along the shoreline esplanade, the visitor will come to the Contemplation Circle where they can pause and reflect on their visit to the memorial. Aiding in the reflective moment are a series of quotes by Americans that experienced the events of Pearl Harbor and WWII. These poignant quotations are meant to provide a personal interpretive experience.

The Tour Program:

When guests enter the Visitor Center, they are asked to line up for a numbered ticket, which provides free admission to the USS *Arizona* Memorial tour. While waiting for the tour to begin, many visitors take a self-tour of the Visitor Center and its many attractions. When the number that appears on their ticket is called, visitors are asked to assemble at the entrance to the theaters in preparation for the tour to begin.

The guided tour of the USS *Arizona* Memorial includes a 23-minute documentary film depicting the attack on Pearl Harbor, a short boat trip and a self-guided exploration of the Memorial. Within the Memorial itself, visitors will see three distinct areas:

The Entry Room holds flags of the nine states for whom the eight great battleships and the auxiliary gunnery ship USS *Utah* were named. Today, the USS *Utah* still rests on the west side of Ford Island in Pearl Harbor.

The Assembly Room is an open area where ceremonies are held and visitors may reflect and more closely examine the shadowy remains of the *Arizona* below.

The Shrine Room holds the great marble plaque with the names of the 1,177 sailors and marines that perished on the *Arizona*. The Shrine Room also honors the USS *Arizona* survivors who have chosen to be interred along with their shipmates.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) US Green Building Council Certification.

LEED designs such as gently curving rooflines and large east-facing louvers provide optimum ventilation and limit the need for air-conditioning. Roof materials are low heat absorption. Other design features include low-flow toilets, computerized energy-efficient lighting system, 265 photovoltaic panels generating about one fourth of the site's energy needs; landscaping is low water variety; recycled materials. A designation of "Gold" is being sought through the US Green Building Council Certification process.

Construction Timeline:

The new visitor center was built in phases allowing it to remain open to the public during its entire 2-year construction period.

- Groundbreaking: November 5, 2008
- Soft Opening of Phase I which included facilities for central ticketing for USS *Arizona* Memorial tours and Pearl Harbor Historic Partner attractions, a new bookstore, Research & Education Center, and administrative offices: February 17, 2010
- Grand Opening and Dedication Date for the entire complex: December 7, 2010

Cost:

\$56 million

Size:

- Land Area – 17.4 acres
- Visitor Center Facility and Museum – 23,600 square feet
 - Central Ticket Station - 560 sq ft
 - Research & Education Center - 1,455 sq ft
 - Bookstore - 2,000 sq ft
 - Museum - 7,500 sq ft
 - Theaters – 5,500 sq ft

Project Managers:

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific and the National Park Service.

Architect and Design Team:

The Portico Group and Glenn Mason Architects

Exhibit Design Team

AldrichPears Associates

Harper's Ferry Design Center, National Park Service

Exhibit Fabrication Team

Color-Ad, Inc
Pacific Studio, Inc

Audiovisual Production

Aperture Films, Inc.

General Contractor:

Watts Constructors, LLC

Funding:

Pacific Historic Parks, formerly known as the *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association (AMMA), established the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund (PHMF) in partnership with the National Park Service to raise \$56 million in capital improvement and endowment funds from public and private sources. Half of the funds for this project came from private donations and the remaining from the US Navy, the National Park Service and the states of Hawai'i and Arizona.

Historical Note Regarding USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center (aka Previous Visitor Center): The predecessor to Pacific Historic Parks, the Arizona Memorial Museum Foundation (AMMF) created by the Pearl Harbor Fleet Reserve Honolulu Branch 46, also lead a grassroots fundraising campaign to build the first USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center which was dedicated in 1980. At that time, AMMF raised nearly \$1 million through it's grassroots fundraising campaign and support from branches, units, shipmates and supports of the Fleet Reserve Association.

History/Background

The USS *Arizona* Memorial, which spans the sunken ship, was built in 1962 with privately raised funds and a Congressional appropriation. The USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center, on Halawa Landing, was built with a Congressional appropriation by the United States Navy for visitors to the USS *Arizona* Memorial. It was dedicated in 1980 and the Navy turned over operations of the facility to the National Park Service.

The original one story, open air, visitor center and museum included a book store, interpretive center, two 152-seat theaters and assembly area for the tour boats that carry visitors to the memorial. The facility was on an 11 acre site owned by the Navy and operated by the National Park Service. It was designed to accommodate 750,000 visitors a year. However, today approximately 4,500 visitors use the facility daily and approximately 1.5 million people visit the attraction every year.

The original site of the visitor center was built on "re-claimed" land where good fill material was used to expand the Halawa Basin area. The land was designed to settle 18 inches. Unfortunately, the visitor center has settled 30 inches in some areas, far exceeding expectations. As a result, the lower level of the facility is

nearing the water table.

The structure was designed to be raised using hydraulic jacks and concrete shims. Over the years, it has been raised four times elevating the facility to the maximum extent possible. All of the lifting has also caused problems with the facility's concrete support structure allowing it to crack and permit moisture to permeate and sometimes reach the rebar.

Assessment of the deterioration resulted in engineers predicting a life expectancy of five to ten years (in 2003). In addition to the physical issues with the current facility, other concerns have initiated the replacement project:

(1) *Lack of Space* – The center's yearly visitation had doubled the original intent.

(2) *Inadequate Museum Condition* – The existing museum lacked sufficient space to display many of the thousands of artifacts that have been donated and remain in warehouses unavailable to the visiting public.

The original design of the museum, originally built with an open-air exhibit gallery to take advantage of the warm Hawaiian weather, did not allow for adequate atmospheric control and prohibited the display of many irreplaceable artifacts. Exhibit areas were also often over-crowded.

(3) *Incomplete Story* – The current museum tells only the basic story of Pearl Harbor. New exhibits now allow for a more comprehensive story and better recognition of those who fought and sacrificed at Pearl Harbor.

Hours Of Operation:

7:00 a.m. - 5 p.m., seven days a week, except Thanksgiving, December 25 and New Years Day. Tours to the USS *Arizona* Memorial begin every 15 minutes, with the last program starting at 3 p.m. Visitors should plan to arrive by 1 p.m. to ensure space availability. The entire program takes approximately one hour and 15 minutes. Admission is free and tours are given on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations needed.

Location:

1 *Arizona* Memorial Place, Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, 96818-3145.

The World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument – Pearl Harbor Visitor Center is located adjacent to Kamehameha Highway, near the Aloha Stadium, between Ford Island Bridge and Pearl Harbor's Makalapa Gate. To reach the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center from Waikiki, take the H-1 Freeway to the Airport Viaduct and follow the signs to the *Arizona* Memorial Exit 15A.

Information Number/Web Site Address:

To access recorded information, call (808) 422-3300. To reach a National Park Service representative, call (808) 423-7300. The web site address for the World War II Valor in the Pacific is www.nps.gov/valr.

About the National Park Service

The National Park Service has operated the USS *Arizona* Memorial since 1980, under a exclusive use agreement with the U.S. Navy. The National Park Service is responsible for the management of the memorial and shore side visitor center. The National Park Service is committed to preserving and interpreting historical resources and the memories, attitudes and traditions associated with the attack on Pearl Harbor. In December 5, 2008, President George W. Bush, under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906, issued an executive order establishing the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

The World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument includes nine historic sites of monuments and memorials representing various aspects of the war in the Pacific including:

Hawaii

- Pearl Harbor Visitor Center (formerly known as USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center)
- USS *Utah* Memorial
- USS *Oklahoma* Memorial
- Six Chief Petty Officer Bungalows on Ford Island
- Mooring Quays F6, F7, and F8, which formed part of Battleship Row

Alaska

- Battlefield remnants on Attu Island
- Japanese occupation site on Kiska Island
- Crash site of a B-24D Liberator bomber on Atka Island

California

- Tule Lake Segregation Center

About Pacific Historic Parks (PHP), formerly known as the *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association (AMMA)

Formed in 1979, PHP is a public membership organization whose purpose is to support the National Park Service in it's interpretive, educational efforts and historic research at USS *Arizona* Memorial; War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Piti, Guam; American Memorial Park, Garapan, Saipan and Kalaupapa National Historical Park on Molokai. PHP operates the bookstore at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument – Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Profits from sales are returned to the National Park Service to enrich interpretive and educational programs that promote park stewardship and enhance the visitor experience at the site, as well as at the other PHP-supported historical parks.

Website: www.PacificHistoricParks.com

About the USS *Arizona* Memorial

The battleship USS *Arizona*, which is the final resting place for the majority of the ship's 1,177 crewmen who lost their lives during the Pearl Harbor attack, and the Memorial are located 3/4 miles from the Visitor Center. The Memorial is accessible only by boat.

Significance: The USS *Arizona* is the final resting place for the majority of the ship's 1,177 crewmen who lost their lives on December 7, 1941. The 184-foot memorial structure, spanning the mid-portion of the sunken battleship, was built to honor American servicemen and civilians who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Oahu, on December 7, 1941.

This attack is one of the most well remembered and significant events in the history of our nation. Six military sites on Oahu were attacked, killing 2,390 Americans; over 320 aircraft were destroyed or damaged and 21 vessels sunk or damaged. The Pearl Harbor attack acted as a catalyst in bringing the U.S. fully and actively into World War II and served as a rallying cry to unify the country in that cause. Because the USS *Arizona* accounted for almost half of the casualties on Oahu, it has become the central symbol of commemoration.

The USS *Arizona* Memorial is one of America's most revered, sacred sites. It's a place of quiet contemplation, where visitors can reflect on the great sacrifice made by those who gave their lives to defend our freedom.

From the soaring beauty of the memorial, to the aching reality of the men entombed in the ship that lies beneath, visitors from around the world experience a pervasive sense of loss along with an enormous surge of gratitude and pride.

Design Specifications: The structure is 184 feet long, 36 feet wide and 21 feet high at the ends, tapering to 27 feet wide and 14 feet high at the center.

Architect/Design Concept:

The memorial was designed by renowned architect Alfred Preis. The gleaming white memorial straddles, but does not touch the sunken *Arizona*. The concave silhouette symbolizes America's initial defeat and ultimate victory in World War II. The one feature purposely designed into the structure is the Tree of Life, a universal symbol of renewal which also graces the pathway of the new visitor Center.

Cost: \$532,000

The Memorial: The first formal recognition of the USS *Arizona*, after the attack, came on March 7, 1950, when Admiral Arthur Radford ordered that the American flag fly over the sunken battleship. The Pacific War Memorial Commission wrestled with concerns over the message and the appropriateness of the proposed Memorial for years before settling on the final design. Construction on the Memorial then began in 1960.

The Memorial was designed to give the appearance of floating gracefully over the *Arizona*. In truth, two 250-ton steel girders and 36 concrete pilings driven deep into the bed of the harbor support the building. This solid and unwavering foundation is an apt metaphor for our remembrance of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which rests on the patriotism, bravery, honor and duty of all that served here.

Dedication Ceremony:

The soaring structure was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1962. “Upon this sacred spot, we honor the specific heroes who surrendered their lives ... While they were in full bloom, so that we could have our full share of tomorrows.” -- Olin F. Teague, Chairman, Veterans Affairs Committee.

The Attack On Pearl Harbor

The Attack: Japanese forces arrived undetected just 230 miles north of the Hawaiian Islands. At dawn, the six carriers launched their planes in two waves. The first wave of bombers and fighters struck Pearl Harbor at 7:55 a.m. For two hours, the planes roared overhead raining a torrent of bombs and torpedoes on the unsuspecting American forces.

The ignition of the forward magazine by an Ariel bomb on the USS *Arizona* was so devastating; she sank to the bottom in just nine minutes.

Japanese Forces: Six battle-ready aircraft carriers and 25 support vessels made up the task force. The carriers launched a total of 350 aircraft to participate in the attack. This included fighters, dive bombers, torpedo bombers and horizontal bombers that participated in the attack.

American Forces: Twenty-one vessels, including all eight first-line battleships, were sunk or damaged. One hundred seventy aircraft were destroyed and one hundred fifty were damaged.

Casualties Of The Attack:

On the American side, 2,388 servicemen and civilians were killed, including 1,177 on the USS *Arizona*. Only 337 of the *Arizona* crewmen survived.

Twenty-nine Japanese aircraft were lost. Fifty-five airmen were killed. Four midget submarines were sunk, and one was captured. Of the midget submarine crewmembers, nine were killed and one was captured and became America's first prisoner of war.

