



Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge

Points of Interest



Barbara Schmidt/ Egmont Key Alliance

Battery Charles Mellon (1899)

This battery offers one of the best views from Egmont Key, overlooking the Gulf to the west and St. Petersburg to the east.



Barbara Schmidt/ Egmont Key Alliance

Battery Guy Howard (1906)

All of the island's batteries allow visitors to enter their many rooms that will transport you back 100 years.



Keith Ramos/ USFWS

Battery James McIntosh (1898)

The grounds of McIntosh offer the best historical landscape of the island. McIntosh is currently the best preserved battery with the most rooms.



Barbara Schmidt/ Egmont Key Alliance

Plotting Towers (1905)

On the island's west trail you will find these 30-foot high towers. From atop, officers could observe nearby ships.



USFWS

Battery Henry Burchsted (1898) & Battery John Page (1909)

These batteries once stood on land and have now become underwater treasures to those who like to snorkel/dive. These batteries are accessible by boat only. Swimming from land (sanctuary) is prohibited.



FORT DADE-1898

In 1898, amidst hostilities between Spain and the United States, citizens of Tampa demanded their bay be protected from attack. The U.S. Army built the Fort Dade Military Reservation, including 70 buildings and a small military garrison of 300 residents. The facility was deactivated in 1929. The following sites are some of the remnants that remind visitors of this island's unique historical past.



Barbara Schmidt/ Egmont Key Alliance

Cable & Mine Repair Tank (1917)

Many building remains are present on the island. The vegetation-covered structures offer a wild historic setting.



Richard Meyers/ USFWS

Lighthouse (1858)

The original lighthouse was completed in 1848, but was damaged by a hurricane. It was rebuilt to "withstand any storm" and stands 87 feet high.



Ivan Vicentel/ USFWS

Fort Dade Guard House (1911)

This former jail had capacity for 28 prisoners and 12 guards. It has been restored to become Egmont Key's Visitor Center.



Ivan Vicentel/ USFWS

Palmetto Trail (1905)

Made of Copeland and Enlis brick, this one-mile trail provides an inspiring hike near several historic buildings and widely dispersed cabbage palms (Sabal palmetto).