



The island that became Alcatraz was found in 1775 when Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala traveled through San Francisco Bay. He named it “La Isla de los Alcatraces”, which means “Island of the Pelicans”.

Alcatraz was a prison that is located in the middle of San Francisco Bay. It was called "The Rock" because of what it looked like and because of its location. You could see the Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge from "The Rock".



Alcatraz



Because Alcatraz is located in a bay, it is often foggy and hazy. It has been known to be damp and often rainy. The best season on Alcatraz is often fall.



A typical dinner menu included soup, salad or vegetable, starches (bread/rolls, potatoes, rice or pasta) meat main dish, and dessert like pie, cake or ice cream. Special meals, usually including turkey with oyster dressing, were served at holidays along with special gift packages.

Alcatraz is now a popular tourist spot and there are museums which contain things made by the prisoners. Beautiful gardens were planted outside of Alcatraz to make it look better. Many birds and other wildlife live on the island.



Alcatraz



Many prisoners said that life at Alcatraz wasn't too bad. Everyone had their own cell. Prisoners could earn rewards for good behavior.