

# Triangle of Fire

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In the 1800s, Admiralty Inlet was considered so strategically important for the defense of Puget Sound that land was set aside for military fortification. Three forts with large guns were built around the entrance, forming a “Triangle of Fire”. Whidbey Island’s point in the triangle was Fort Casey, which was equipped for defense and used until the 1940s as a training facility. Washington State Parks took over the fort in 1955.



The strategic military advantage of the site now translates to breathtaking views over the waterway where Puget Sound meets the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Explore the fortified bunkers and see the mounted guns, including two rare 10-inch disappearing guns. What was once a parade field is



**TOP LET:** Worth Battery military reenactment. Photo: Sherrye Wyatt. **TOP RIGHT:** One of two 125-ton, 10-inch guns on retractable carriages. **BOTTOM:** Gun emplacements and raised fire control booth.

## Camp Casey Conference Center

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**TOP:** The Colonel's House. **BOTTOM:** Quartermaster's Building. **RIGHT:** Camp Casey Military Reenactment. Photo: Sherrye Wyatt.

now a popular place to fly kites or enjoy a picnic. Educational displays and a gift shop can be found at the Admiralty Head Lighthouse or park office.

At one time Fort Casey housed 10 officers and 428 enlisted men, so there are plenty of vintage homes and barracks still standing resplendently. In the 1950s when the bunkers and lighthouse became part of a state park, Seattle Pacific University (SPU) took ownership of the grand parade field and area where troops were housed. Today it is known as Camp Casey Conference Center, where SPU offers educational programming and hosts school groups, retreats, family reunions and more. Many of the antique buildings are available as accommodation. Stay in noncommissioned officers' housing and use this historical crossroads as a perfect base from which to explore.

**Explore Fort Casey at 1280 Engle Road, Coupeville and Camp Casey at 1276 Engle Road, Coupeville.**