

The Fog City Crier

13 February 2025

Marin and San Francisco Counties, California

Golden Gate Gate winter

'Cause it's California, Dude
*A surfer catches some rainy day waves on his
lunch break.*

Golden Gate winter

SOURCES: Underlined words link to them.

I drove up to the Golden Gate Bridge on Thursday because it was the opening day of a big Pacific storm that brought high winds and heavy rain to the Bay Area (and high winds and deep snow to the Sierra).

And because stormy weather makes for good pictures.

And because the bridge — for better or worse — is the iconic symbol of the area where I live, whether 50 miles south in San Jose, where our house is, or 60 miles north, where the most famous grapes grow.

And because I can, being retired and not bound by time scheduling rules — weekends, holidays, vacations only in summer — imposed on working people.

I've shot the bridge many times over the years. Five of the 13 pictures on the Structures section of the photography portfolio portion of my website are bridge photos.

The fact that the bridge is at the center of an urban/rural park called the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) created in 1972 under the control of the National Park Service means that there are plenty of roads and hiking trails to get to vistas of all angles of the bridge. The cover shots of my 2014 and 2015 New Year newsletters are different perspectives of the Point Bonita Lighthouse, which marks the entrance to the Golden Gate and is within the GGNRA.

Much of the land around the Golden Gate — referring to the ocean strait leading into San Francisco Bay, which the bridge crosses — contains now-decommissioned military installations. The first was the Presidio of San Francisco, built in 1779 by Spain and continuously operated as a base under Spanish, Mexican and United States control until 1994. The Presidio was incorporated into the GGNRA.

Fort Point, which now sits beneath the southern end of the bridge, was built by the United States in 1850, the year after the Gold Rush began and California was admitted as the 31st U.S. state. Additional forts were built to protect the Golden Gate during the U.S. Civil War, Spanish-American War, Philippine-American War, World Wars I and II and the Cold War. Old tunnels, fortifications, military buildings, airfields and Nike anti-aircraft missile launching sites are all now decommissioned and explorable by visitors to the GGNRA, which stretches over nearly 60 miles / 100 kilometers of ocean and bay shorelines.



Northern anchorage

This spot in Marin County is the site of decommissioned Fort Baker and still active U.S. Coast Guard Station Golden Gate.



Seaward

Three surfers watch an oil tanker head out of the bay to the Pacific Ocean.



Hawk Hill

World War II ended before construction was completed on Battery 129 here, which would have housed 16-inch naval guns.



Heavy sky

The Marin Headlands provide bridge vistas most sought by visitors because they include San Francisco. The Presidio is the dark forested area at the southern anchorage on the right.