

## *Everything You Want To Know About Alcatraz*

Question: *How long was the prison an active prison?*

Answer: *It was a prison from 1934 to 1963.*

Question: *Where is Alcatraz Island?*

Answer: *Alcatraz Island is close to the Golden Gate Bridge in the San Francisco Bay. About 1.25 miles from the San Francisco shore.*

Question: *Who lived on the island?*

Answer: *Prisoners lived on the island along with the guards and their families.*

Question: *How big is Alcatraz?*

Answer: *Alcatraz Island is 22 acres.*

Question: *What is currently happening on Alcatraz?*

Answer: *Alcatraz Island is currently open for tours around the island and inside the prison. There are volunteers all around the island helping tend the gardens and work around the prison maintaining it.*

Question: *How was the "Great Escape" possible?*

Answer: *Prisoners had to clean and do maintenance in the prison. That means that the prisoners knew the prison really well and could possibly make an escape plan.*

Question: How many people escaped from Alcatraz?

Answer: Actually there was never any confirmed escapes! A total of 36 inmates put the supposedly "escape-proof" Alcatraz to the test. Of those convicts, 23 were captured, six were shot to death and two drowned. The other five went missing and presumed drowned but nothing was clarified.

Question: What does "Alcatraz" mean?

Answer: The original name of the island is "La Isla de los Alcatraces" which means Island of the Pelicans because the island used to be full of pelicans. The name eventually became Anglicized and later changed to "Alcatraz."

Question: How did the prison start?

Answer: The first inmates were military prisoners and Native Americans who had a problem with the federal government.

Question: Why did it close?

Answer: It closed because the prison was too expensive to continue operating.



