

## Chapter 1 : Gardens of Alcatraz (TV Series " ) - IMDb

*The Alcatraz Historic Gardens Project preserves, rebuilds, and maintains the gardens created by those who lived on the island, and interprets their history, horticulture, and cultural significance for visitors.*

By Anne Balogh Share: With good soil and carefully selected plants, a garden can thrive anywhere, even on the Rock. Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay has a delightful surprise in store for visitors who expect to see nothing but abandoned prison cells and a stark, barren landscape. Thanks to a decade-long partnership of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Garden Conservancy, and National Park Service, the historic Gardens of Alcatraz have been fully restored and are now alive with fragrant roses, fig trees, wildflowers, and colorful succulents. The gardens at Alcatraz needed tough plants that could survive with little water or care. Many of the species were imported from other Mediterranean climates and flourished despite 40 years of neglect after the prison closed. Today, volunteer crews from the bay area work with Garden Conservancy staff to help plant and maintain the restored gardens. In an effort to cultivate the barren island, the military imported soil from nearby Angel Island and the Presidio, and as early as , army officers began planting Victorian-style gardens. In the s, the military and the California Spring Blossom and Wildflower Association initiated an island-wide beautification project and prisoners planted hundreds of trees and shrubs and many pounds of flower seed. In , when the Federal Bureau of Prisons took control of Alcatraz, they were surprised to find the island adorned by hillside terraces, a rose garden, and a greenhouse. In this photo, Calendula, Centranthus, and bearded iris bring cheer to the Rock. After the prison closed in , the gardens were abandoned for 40 years and the landscape deteriorated. The ambitious project included removing 40 years of overgrowth and decay, gathering historic documentation, and developing an ambitious volunteer garden program. More than species of ornamental plants survived the long period of neglect and the challenging growing environment. Historic plantings that were lost have been replaced by new low-maintenance plants with water needs more suitable to the harsh climate conditions. Many succulents, such as the Aeonium seen here, have been able to thrive despite the challenging environment. More than species of ornamental plants survived the harsh growing conditions. The Gardens of Alcatraz are open to the public year-round, but the best time for viewing is from January to September, especially during the spring. Docent-led tours are available on Fridays and Sundays. For more information and to take a virtual tour, visit the Gardens of Alcatraz. The gardens tended by the prisoners of Alcatraz became a refuge from the tensions in the cell house. A view of San Francisco can be seen across the bay. Rose Terrace and Greenhouse Complete with a new greenhouse, propagation tables, and composting space, the rose terrace is once again functioning as the center of garden activities at Alcatraz. See more gardens in the Bay Area Free Weekly Newsletter Sign up for weekly gardening inspiration and design tips Join thousands of readers, from avid to casual gardeners, for plant information, gardening solutions, and design inspiration to make the most of your outdoor spaces.

### Chapter 2 : Make an Escape to the Gardens of Alcatraz | Garden Design

*For years, a succession of soldiers, families of correction officials, and inmates cultivated gardens hewn on the rocky, windswept island of Alcatraz.*

The final selection of all paintings and drawings chosen for the Gardens of Alcatraz Florilegium is now available for online viewing! Please click the button to visit the Florilegium Gallery! The Florilegium Returns to the Rock! Visit our Exhibitions page for hints on planning your visit. Florilegium Catalog Now that the collection is complete, we have also produced a catalog containing all images plus extra information on the history of the island, the gardens, and our project! Click here for ordering information. But how many are aware of the Gardens of Alcatraz? Soon the government had realized that it was a great location for a secure military prison. The Gardens of Alcatraz were born! Privileged inmates were allowed to work in the gardens and western horticultural experts recommended plants that might do well in the harsh environment. But in the prison era ended and the gardens were left to fend for themselves for the next 40 years. The environment is hostile: Plants unable to survive without maintenance and irrigation soon vanished but others spread wild across the island. Today the Gardens of Alcatraz are once again colorful, alive with fragrant old roses, fig trees, bulbs, and huge succulents. The Florilegium Project Work on the florilegium paintings begins with the artists visiting the island under the guidance of the Garden Conservancy volunteers. The volunteers introduce the plants in the various parts of the island and each artist may select a plant to depict. The artist may take photographs of their chosen plant, do sketches, or may collect a small sample of the plant to take home to their studio. Working from the information they collected, the artist then works to create an accurate botanical portrait of the specimen. Some artists even make multiple visits to the island to collect additional samples and photos. The final selection of images has now been made and a catalog of all of all images will be published soon. In addition, the collection will continue to be exhibited in a number of venues. Please be sure to view the Florilegium Gallery to see the full selection of images. And do check back regularly to follow the progress as this important effort nears completion! Copying, saving, reposting, republishing of artwork prohibited without express permission of the artist.

**Chapter 3 : The Graduation of the Gardens of Alcatraz : The Garden Conservancy**

*The Alcatraz Historic Gardens Project preserves, rebuilds, and maintains the gardens created by those who lived on the island, and interprets their history.*

January 19, On Alcatraz, the residents include Dorothy Perkins – one of the many rose varieties that bloom in the gardens that have flourished since the late s, when the island was a military installation. National Park Service Alcatraz, the forlorn island in San Francisco Bay, is known for the hard-bitten men whose names are among the legends of the Rock. But on a misty October morning, I boarded an Alcatraz Ferry in search of other colorful residents of the windswept fortress. As we pulled away from Pier 33, sailboats leaned with the wind, slicing the fog. The city rose behind us. Ahead, about a mile from shore, the former federal pen loomed forbidding and drab, luring visitors toward the rocks, sirenlike in its perverse appeal. But then we disembarked and met Monica Beary. Sporting a head bopper with bouncing flowers, she stood ready to soften the hard edges of the sandstone citadel. Beary is a volunteer docent for the Gardens of Alcatraz, and hers is one of several tours and talks on offer. The storied setting – an s-era military installation turned maximum-security lockup – is now a National Historic Landmark and part of the expansive Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Before we gaze upon Mrs. Langtry and other such Alcatraz plants with names, Beary displays the earliest known photograph of the Rock. The image depicts a bare ocean outcrop. In the late s, soil was brought in from nearby Angel Island to support cannons. Military families stationed there used the soil to plant flowers. Soon, Alcatraz began to sprout like a Chia Pet. By the time the Federal Bureau of Prisons assumed control in , much of the acre island was landscaped. Freddie Reichel, secretary to the warden at the time, arrived and observed, "There were flowers all over the leeward side of the island, [including] a beautiful rose garden. He convinced the prison to collect gray water [bathwater] and also incinerator ash and kitchen scraps for compost. He and other prisoners built terraces from rubble rock. Swope and his wife, Edna, a sociable flower enthusiast, who is pictured in one archival photo standing beside the garden in a flowered dress and high heels. It also earned him a sense of normalcy. Michener became a houseboy of sorts for the Swopes and built them a greenhouse. He and Edna Swope shared a mutual affection for horse racing. On the sly, she placed bets for him based on the newspaper racing results. When Michener was transferred from Alcatraz, he mourned the plants and wrote to the warden, "I believe that my best and only practical course is to get back to Alcatraz [from Leavenworth prison]. At Alcatraz, I could at least grow Bell roses and delphiniums seven days a week and enjoy considerable freedom and trust, and in general make the best of things. Both worked in horticulture. In a letter, Michener wrote again to Swope: Will you send us a bush of our old [Gardenia] rose? Thirteen years after Michener left Alcatraz, the prison was shuttered. The beds became overgrown and birds established nesting colonies there. Plants, including nine rose bushes, did their own hard time, surviving austere conditions and neglect. The restoration involved labor-intensive sleuthing to determine what remained beneath thickets of wild blackberries and other invasives. After inventorying their finds – such as the cape tulip that appeared when brambles were cleared – they used photographs to guide careful relandscaping. Fritz says that visitors, especially from the Bay Area, can glean ideas for plants that are tolerant of wind and drought. They also may spot residents that inhabit the island voluntarily, including eight types of bees, plus hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, pelicans, and oystercatchers. Along one path, Beary pointed out the white-margined nightshade. You have to be tough to live here. But prisoner-planted trees – fig, apple, black walnut, and New Zealand Christmas – along with globe artichokes still grow beneath a decaying gun tower where a guard once kept watch. That western hillside, Michener wrote, "provided a refuge from the disturbances of the prison, the work a release, and it became an obsession. This one thing I would do well. In a recorded interview, he said he pitied the men who worked in the prison laundry "because that was pure drudgery. While walking the tended grounds, Beary acknowledged that contrast. The hours of operation vary with the season. Departures are available about every half hour throughout the day beginning at 8: Limited bathroom facilities on the island are located at the dock and at the top of the island. Food service is available on the ferry but not on the island; picnic areas are designated only at the dock. Tickets for day tours:

Additional tours vary in cost and availability depending on the season. January 19, -

### Chapter 4 : On Alcatraz, the prison gardens are in full flower

*The gardens at Alcatraz needed tough plants that could survive with little water or care. Many of the species were imported from other Mediterranean climates and flourished despite 40 years of neglect after the prison closed.*

### Chapter 5 : The Gardens of Alcatraz

*Gardens of Alcatraz, San Francisco, CA. K likes. For more than a century, the residents of Alcatraz created gardens to lift their spirits and soften.*

### Chapter 6 : Succulents and More: The gardens of Alcatraz, part 1

*13 reviews of Historic Gardens of Alcatraz Project "The audio tour through Alcatraz provides a glimpse into the daily lives of the families living on the island, but you don't see the residential facet of Alcatraz until you see the gardens they.*

### Chapter 7 : The Gardens of Alcatraz – String and Twig

*"When the garden preservation project began in , a plant inventory was done and it was found there were more than species of plants still surviving on their own and coping with the neglect of over 40 years," explains Shelagh Fritz, Alcatraz Gardens program manager.*

### Chapter 8 : Gardens of Alcatraz

*The Gardens of Alcatraz are on Alcatraz Island. Created by the families of correctional officers and the inmates themselves, they made maximum use of limited space and added touches of beauty to the otherwise forbidding atmosphere of "The Rock."*

### Chapter 9 : The Gardens of Alcatraz - San Francisco CA | [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*Gardens of Alcatraz Paperback - December 1, by John Hart Author) – Visit Amazon's John Hart Page. Find all the books, read about the author, and more.*