

# The Olympic Peninsula Explorers Volkssport Club Welcomes You to the Port Townsend – Artillery Hill Walk

The walk is 5k (2B) and 10k (2C) and are on well groomed trails with very few obstacles with some moderate hill or stair climbing. Strollers: No, Wheelchairs: No, Pets: Yes, Restroom: Yes, several on the routes.

<https://parks.state.wa.us/511/Fort-Worden>

Enjoy the military history and beauty of Fort Worden - featuring 100 historic structures and miles of saltwater shoreline with spectacular views of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains, and the San Juan Islands.

The walks start and end at Fort Worden State Park, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend WA. From WA 20, turn left on Kearny St and follow the signs to Fort Worden. After entering the main gate, turn left on Eisenhower Ave. Parking is available in lot across the street from McCurdy Pavilion on the right.

## **Walk Registration:**

Registration takes place online using the

AVA Online Start Box, on <http://my.ava.org>. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

## **Walk Completion and Walk Credit:**

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the “My Start Box” tab, then the “Finish Table” tab, then click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

## **Table of Contents:**

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WELCOME TO OUR YEAR-ROUND VOLKSSPORT EVENT  
**FORT WORDEN STATE PARK – ARTILLERY HILL WALK**  
**OLYMPIC PENINSULA EXPLORERS VOLKSSPORT CLUB**

**5km Rated 2B, 10km Rated 2C**

**YRE 1828**

**ESVA Challenges:** 39 Counties – Jefferson, Discovering Our State and National Parks (Ft. Worden State Park)

**AVA Challenges:** Walk the USA A-Z 50 States/51 Capitals, Lighthouses II, Step to the Beat, Anniversaries  
Hurrah

Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete the event. Do NOT mix and match. For example, if you register using the OSB, do not complete your event by using the PSB (nor sign the PSB log sheet). The sponsoring club only receives credit for an OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB.

The walks start and end at Fort Worden State Park, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend WA.

- From the physical start box, drive on Water Street away from downtown (facing the ferry terminal, turn RIGHT). At the next light, turn RIGHT on Kearney Street and then RIGHT on Blaine Street. Turn LEFT on Walker Street following it straight (it changes to Cherry Street after crossing F St) to Fort Worden State Park. At the four-way stop inside the park, turn LEFT onto Eisenhower Avenue.
- From WA 20, turn LEFT on Kearny St and follow the signs to Fort Worden. After entering the main gate, turn LEFT on Eisenhower Ave.)

Parking is at an unmarked lot at the corner of NCO Row and Eisenhower Av (across the street from the McCurdy Pavilion).

There are restrooms in the Guardhouse café next to the start/finish parking area and numerous restrooms along Harbor Defense Way in the campground. Once up in the Artillery Hill trail network, there is a restroom at the main intersection of Upper Gun Line Road and Battery Way East near the main gun line batteries.

Friends of Fort Worden (fwfriends.org) publish good maps of the park:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bc60aff11f7844e8339e840/t/644dc50f38b786135762acec/1682818320867/Ft.WordenTrails\\_2023.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bc60aff11f7844e8339e840/t/644dc50f38b786135762acec/1682818320867/Ft.WordenTrails_2023.pdf)

1. Step out of the parking lot and turn LEFT on the sidewalk towards Fort Worden Way. restrooms on the right as you walk towards the lighthouse.
2. Turn RIGHT on Fort Worden Way.
3. At Pershing Ave. (tennis courts), turn LEFT and cross Fort Worden Way. Continue on Pershing Ave.
4. Turn LEFT at Harbor Defense Way.
5. Cross Eisenhower Ave at the crosswalk and continue down the hill on Harbor Defense Way. When the sidewalk ends, carefully cross the street and continue walking on the bike/pedestrian lane. There will be
6. You will continue on Harbor Defense Way almost until the end. Just before the end, turn LEFT on Knapp Circle (entrance) and stay RIGHT to immediately enter the Knapp Circle Trail and get off the road. (no sign, look for empty signpost on left of the trail with a white top).
7. Knapp Circle Trail ends and you will be back on Knapp Circle. Stay on Knapp Circle and then turn RIGHT on the trail just before the 'yield' sign for Harbor Defense Way.

In case of emergency: Dial 9-1-1 - Event related assistance: Todd Oberlander: 360-620-0810

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8. Stay RIGHT to cross between Battery Vicars and the shore and go to the middle of the next battery (Battery Kinzie). Use one of the many sets stairs to go to ground level and look for a concrete remnant shaped like an arch between the battery and the parking lot (opposite side from the shore). Take the trail that starts under the arch and walk away with the battery behind you.

9. Just before the parking lot, take this trail until it meets another trail and veers LEFT. Return on this trail (can be overgrown and hard to follow) to Harbor Defense Way, cross Harbor Defense Way, and turn RIGHT onto a bike/pedestrian lane along the road.

10. Cross to sidewalk on the other side. Just past the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, you will see Bliss Vista Trail (unmarked, just past kayaks) towards the right. Take this trail to the top of the bluff. If overgrown, take the sidewalk up and turn right on the lawn before reaching the street.

11. At the top of the bluff, veer RIGHT keeping the building on your left and the hedge on your right to Battery Way (unmarked, first paved street at stop sign).

12. Right on Battery Way.

**5k Option Directions:**

13. Continue on Battery Way and at the stop sign when it meets Fort Worden Way (a little ways past the Commons Building and before reaching Copper Canyon Press),

veer STRAIGHT/LEFT keeping the “Copper Canyon Press” building on your right.

14. Stay on this road veering right toward the yellow building all the way to Mule Barn Rd. (Mule Barn Rd is the gravel path to the right of the fenced asphalt service road.)

15. Continue on Mule Barn Rd. until it meets Peace Mile Trail. Turn LEFT on Peace Mile Trail.

16. Stay on Peace Mile Trail to Eisenhower Ave and turn RIGHT. Just before the gate, turn LEFT and pay your respects at the Fort Worden Military Cemetery.

17. Leaving the Cemetery, return to Eisenhower Ave. and turn RIGHT.

18. Continue to your vehicle.

**10k Directions**

19. Continue on Battery Way and at the stop sign where it meets Fort Worden Way (just past the Commons Building), turn RIGHT (walk by “Copper Canyon Press” building on your left) and continue following the road past the “Port Townsend Woodworking School”.

20. You will go up the hill past the white barricade and walk a short distance.

21. Take the first RIGHT and continue up the hill until you reach the path that goes to the “Memory Vault”. Turn LEFT onto this path.

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22. Keep right and when the path reaches the road, turn LEFT on the road. (directly across from the bunker) and turn LEFT.
23. Just after a trail from a park bench on a bluff to your left comes in to the road and the road enters an area of forest OR after the first fire hydrant on the right, take the trail to the RIGHT towards concrete batteries and take a short stroll away from the road past Batteries Brennan before rejoining the road.
24. Turn RIGHT on the road keeping Battery Powell on your immediate right.
25. Soon after rejoining the road, there will be a “Y” with directions to four different park features and two road directions below. Veer to the RIGHT and follow the directions to the “Main Gun Line” or “Battery Benson” on Radar Road (also labelled as Gun Line Road on maps). Continue past the decrepit building on left (“Radar Building”).
26. At the top of the hill turn RIGHT (through a grassy area) on Upper Gun Line Road where it “Y’s” with the road you are walking on. If you get to Battery Benson you have gone too far.
27. After a short walk on Upper Gun Line Road, take first RIGHT on Cistern Road.
28. It will be hard to find to find the trail, but at the end of the wooden fence along the right hand side of Cistern Road, turn RIGHT follow a narrow trail up and over a small hill leading to and going up some stairs. At the end of the first flight of stairs continue straight on the path to the “Harbor Defense Command Post” sign. Walk to the tree line
29. Continue STRAIGHT on this path (Command Post Road) past all intersections and past a concrete bench until it meets a paved road intersection with a white building directly across the open area.
30. Turn LEFT staying on the pavement (Battery Way East).
31. Stay on the road (Battery Way East) until it reaches an open area with the paved road continuing right and downhill, a non-ADA bathroom stall is in a small building off the road on the right and a short paved path leads off to the left (Main Gun Line). Turn LEFT.
32. Stay right and walk along the trail immediately in front of numerous batteries. Feel free to explore the batteries as you walk past them (Batteries Randol, Quarles, and Ash).
33. At the Joseph Ash battery, make a “U” turn and return on the Main Gun Line two track dirt road gravel road or on the trail by the batteries.
34. After returning and passing “Battery Randol”, turn LEFT and follow the sign for “Point Wilson Light Scenic Overlook” and walk the Bluff Trail. At the next fork in the path, take the LEFT trail to Point Wilson continuing on the Bluff Trail.
35. Continue to the fence, veer RIGHT and enter the viewpoint overlooking the Beach

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Campground and lighthouse. Enjoy the view.

36. Turn LEFT at the fence, climbing away from the water and where the viewpoint trail meets another trail, stay RIGHT and continue on the Bluff Trail through an open grassy area.

37. Continue downhill to the concrete cube and turn RIGHT, passing “Battery Tolles” on the waterside of the battery.

38. Turn RIGHT at the next intersection onto Searchlight Road (unmarked).

39. At 4-way intersection at Battery Samuel Walker, continue STRAIGHT on Searchlight Road.

40. The road will eventually meet North Beach Trail. Turn LEFT on Mule Barn Road.

41. At the “Y”, stay to the RIGHT and continue on Peace Mile Trail.

42. Stay on Peace Mile Trail until you come to Eisenhower Ave. Turn RIGHT towards the West Gate.

43. Just before the gate, turn LEFT and pay your respects at the Fort Worden Military Cemetery.

44. Return to Eisenhower Ave. and turn RIGHT.

45. Continue to your vehicle.

Be sure to log back into the OSB system ([my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org)) to “finish/complete” your online registration after doing the walk if that is how you registered. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from a walker’s Event Bank until they have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that walker is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from the user’s Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fees are credited back to a walker’s Event Bank when he/she submits the walk completion info as a paying for credit walker.) Note however that the \$2 “coupon” for the downloaded PDF expires in 60 days.

**We hope that you enjoyed the history and beauty of Fort Worden State Park!**

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# Ft. Worden (Artillery Hill) 5 Km



# Fort Worden (Artillery Hill) 10 Km

