

Built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1908, this historic trail climbs up the steep crater wall to Fire Control Station Diamond Head at the summit.

The Station — with its tunnels, underground command posts, and camouflaging — was an engineering marvel of its time. You will walk the same path used by mules and soldiers during its construction and operation.

The steep, narrow trail consists of many switchbacks, steep stairways, and long, dark tunnels. As you emerge from the Station at the top, a panoramic view of the ocean and the southern coast of O'ahu awaits you.

Hike into history



Enjoy the panoramic view from the summit at 761 feet (232 m) above sea level.

Exit into daylight from Level 3 of the Fire Control Station and take the stairs to the summit.

Ascend a spiral staircase to Level 3. Use a flashlight here.

Enter a tunnel on Level 1 of the Fire Control Station.

A steep climb up 99 steps—straight up.

Enter a 225-foot long tunnel. Flashlight

It's only 74 steps. Count them.

Take a break at the winch and cable platform. This is about the halfway point of the trail.

Follow switchbacks in and out of small gullies.

Take the concrete walkway on the first part of the trail.

You are here at the trailhead kiosk.

Last chance to use the restroom and fill your water bottle...

Kahala Tunnel — where you entered Diamond Head Crater.

*"This morning the expedition to the summit of [Diamond Head] came off... I don't think you ever climbed one that was built of dust and ashes without a sprig of anything to catch hold of... To my mind it was a nightmare."
(Anne Winslow, March 21, 1908)*

U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii

Stay on the trail.

No smoking on the trail