



Ai Weiwei's Alcatraz Exhibition '@Large' Opens September 27th

By Andrew Dalton
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Photo Sam Breach

Celebrated Chinese dissident, architect and artist Ai Weiwei's [highly anticipated](#) exhibition "[@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz](#)" will open this fall on September 27th and run through the end of April 2015. The exhibition will feature seven site-specific installations in four different locations on the former federal prison island, three of which are not normally open to the sightseeing public. The exhibition is being put on by San Francisco's [FOR-SITE Foundation](#) along with the stewards of the island at the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. According to this morning's [official announcement](#), it will offer "a new cultural lens through which to experience the notorious military and federal penitentiary turned national park."

The works are meant to explore questions of human rights and freedom of expression in the context of incarceration, detainment and protest. Ai himself was secretly detained by the Chinese government for 81 days in 2011 on charges of tax evasion. Since his passport was revoked and he is still not permitted

to leave the country, don't expect the artist to make an appearance at the site. The works were developed in Ai's Beijing studio.

From [the official announcement](#):

The large-scale sculpture, sound, and mixed-media works will be installed in the two-story New Industries Building where “privileged” inmates were permitted to work; the main and psychiatric wards of the Hospital; the A Block cells, the only remaining section of the military prison that was constructed in the early 20th century; and the Dining Hall.

Aside from the dining hall, all of those locations are usually off limits to visitors. During the exhibition's five-month run, they will all be open to the ticket-buying public.



Tickets go [on sale to the general public](#) through Alcatraz Cruises next month on June 27th and will include access to the exhibition as well as the general Alcatraz audio tour. Tickets to Alcatraz typically sell out weeks in advance, but expect them to go even faster with the extra cultural draw. A limited number of same-day tickets will be set aside for anyone who can make it to the Early Bird boat at 8:45 a.m. daily. Tickets will be \$50 for adults and juniors, \$38.25 for children (5-11), and \$48.25 for seniors.

[Official Site](#)

[Tickets via Alcatraz Cruises](#)

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