Exploring USS Narcissus
Underwater Archaeological Preserve

USS Narcissus was built in 1863 during the Civil War, in East Albany, New York. A fourth rate, wooden-hulled screw tug, her hull measured 81 feet 6 inches, with a beam of 18 feet 9 inches, and a depth of hold of 8 feet. She was originally armed with one 20-pounder Parrot rifle and one heavy 12-pounder smooth bore cannon. In August 1864, she served at Fort Morgan during the Union victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay. After the war, she ran aground on a sand bar off Egmont Key on January 4, 1866. While trying to break free her boiler exploded, killing the entire crew.

The wreck of USS Narcissus is situated approximately 2.75 miles off Egmont Key, outside of Tampa Bay. The site is in 15 feet of water and the wreckage rises several feet off the seafloor. Please use the moorings to avoid damaging the shipwreck with an anchor. The moorings are located at latitude 27° 37.548’ N, longitude 82° 47.991’ W and at latitude 27° 37.532’ N, longitude 82° 47.981’ W.
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Diving at Narcissus
Be prepared for potentially low visibility on the site. Remember to display a “diver down” flag when diving. Sand movement can expose or cover features.

USS Narcissus is protected by Florida laws that prohibit unauthorized disturbance, excavation, or removal of artifacts. The site is also protected by the Sunken Military Craft act (H.R. 4200) and remains property of the US Navy. Please help keep the site intact for future visitors.