



Where to Go Camping

Orca Lodge #194, Order of the Arrow

Redwood Empire Council, BSA

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Local & National Tour Permits

The values of the tour permit.

Tour permits are required before your unit leaves on a camping trip or day activity. This is not intended as “red tape” but to serve two vital purposes. First, as a checklist for what you’ll need on your trip and second, as a safeguard to make sure your group has a safe and healthy time away from home. The Redwood Empire Council is concerned with the safety, welfare and success of its units. Good planning contributes to success in all things and the tour permit is designed to help you accomplish this. In cases of an emergency when calls come into the council service centers we should know the location of your unit. By completing the tour permit correctly, the council’s comprehensive General Liability Policy should cover your unit in the event of an accident or injury.

Please remember that when traveling as an official Boy Scout tour group, your group represents the image of Scouting. The Scout Oath and Law should be your guide.

Local Tour Permits

The local tour permit is required for tours or camps where travel is less than 500 miles from home. The application should be filled out and mailed or faxed to the Santa Rosa or Eureka service center two (2) weeks **prior** to the event. The council approves this application, and a portion is given to you as a permit.

National Tour Permit

The national tour permit is required for activities taking place more than 500 miles from home (local council camps exempted) or crossing national boundaries, into the territory of another country. This application should be submitted to the council service center, which is then forwarded to the Regional office for further approval. It is essential to read Campways, Tours, Expeditions No. 3734, before filling out this form.

Note: Sample forms available in appendix.

Order of the Arrow

Purpose

The purpose of the Order of the Arrow is fourfold:

1. To recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.
2. To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.
3. To promote Scout camping.
4. To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

History

E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson founded the Order of the Arrow (OA) in 1915 at the Treasure Island Camp of the Philadelphia Council, BSA. It became an official program experiment in 1922 and was approved as part of the Scouting program in 1934. In 1948 the OA, recognized as the BSA's national brotherhood of honor campers, became an official part of the national camping program of the Boy Scouts of America.

There are elements of Native American traditions in OA ceremonies designed for a dramatic effect. However, the Native American aspects of the Order should never obscure its purpose.

One becomes a member, not so much for what he has done, but for what he is expected to do. Scouts are elected into the OA by the vote of Scouts in their troops, not just those that are in the Order. Elections are held once per year. To be eligible, a Scout must have 15 days and nights of camping (only 7 of which can be from a long-term camp), hold the First Class rank, and live up to the Scout Oath and Law to the satisfaction of the Scoutmaster. Adult leaders of a unit holding a valid election for youth membership may select one adult for consideration for membership into the OA. Adult leaders in the OA are expected to strongly support the program in a number of available ways so to enrich the local OA lodge.

Membership

The OA has more than 176,000 members located in lodges affiliated with approximately 336 BSA local councils.



B.S.A. Facilities



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



For information on Camp Noyo contact the Santa Rosa office at 546-8137, and for information on Elk River Scout Camp call the Eureka office at 443-8345.

Camp Masonite Navarro

2240 Professional Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

(707) 895-3181—Camp

(707) 546-8137—Reservations
(707) 895-9927—Pay phone

Description

In 1954 the Scout way of camping changed and the summer-style camp was established. By this time the Masonite Corporation has purchased the land that runs along Highway 128 to Ukiah, and north and south for many miles. Late in 1955 the birth of a camp came to pass. The Masonite Corporation and the then Sonoma-Mendocino Area Council entered into a lease agreement at \$1 per year for what became Camp Navarro. In the early 1970's the council executive board started making progress towards the donation of the property. On August 29, 1973 Camp Navarro became property of the Boy Scouts of America. The name was changed to Camp Masonite-Navarro to show appreciation to the Masonite Corporation. In 1996, camp celebrated its 40th anniversary. (For a more complete description of the history of camp check out the council web page.)

Activities

- Camping—short & long term
- Swimming—seasonal
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Boating—seasonal
- Work Parties

Facilities

The most recent addition to camp is a two-story lodge. The upstairs is a complete dining hall, seating about 300 people with cooking, cleaning and receiving facilities. The lower level of the lodge houses offices, a medical room, storage rooms, restrooms and a trading post. The camp comes complete with archery and rifle ranges, scoutcraft areas, waterfront (seasonal), campfire center, staff shower building, staff and family cabins and parking.

There are 11 camps on the hill each with 1-5 three-sided cabins, sleeping up to eight people. Pit toilets and running water are available nearby. A fire ring and tables are provided in each campsite. Trash should be taken out with your group or check with the director of the particular your group may be attending. During the winter months when the river is prone to flooding the summer dam is removed and access to the other side of the river is limited and sometimes un-passable.

For complete reservation information contact the council service center in Santa Rosa.

Fire: Designated fire pits only.

Wood: Bring your own or check with the ranger.

Water: Available but check with the ranger to make sure it's turned on and drinkable.

<u>Council</u>	<u>Camp(s)</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Alameda, Alameda	Cederbrook	510-522-2772
California Inland Empire, Redlands	Emerson	909-793-2463
	Helendale	
Greater Yosemite, Stockton	John Messinger	209-944-0049
	McConnell—Cub Resident	
Golden Empire, Sacramento	Glacier Trail	916-929-1417
	Pahatsi	
	Lassen	
	Winton	
Long Beach Area, Long Beach	Sea Base	562-427-0911
	Tahquitz	
	Will Reid	
Los Padres, San Luis Obispo	French	805-543-5766
Los Padres, Santa Barbara	Rancho Alegre	805-967-0105
Los Angeles Area, Los Angeles	Circle X Ranch	213-413-4400
	Firestone Reservation	
	Lake Arrowhead	
Marin, San Rafael	Marin Serria	415-454-1081
	Tamarancho	
Monterey Bay Area, Salinas	Pico Blanco	408-422-5338
Old Baldy, Ontario	Holcomb Valley	909-983-4534
Orange County, Santa Ana	Lost Valley Reservation	714-546-4990
Redwood Empire, Santa Rosa & Eureka	Camp Masonite-Navarro	707-546-8137
	Camp Noyo	
	Elk River	707-443-8345
Desert Pacific, San Diego	Haul-Cu-Cuish	619-298-6121
	Mataguay Reservation	
	Balboa	
	Fiesta Island Sea Base	
San Francisco Bay Area, Oakland	Rancho Los Mochos	510-638-3600
	Royaneh	
	Wente Reservation	
San Gabriel Valley, Pasadena	Cherry Valley	818-351-8815
	Task Reservation	
	Cumora Crest	
Santa Clara County, San Jose	Chesebrough	408-280-5088
	Hi-serria	
Sequoia, Visalia	Chawanake	209-732-3424
Mt. Diablo-Silverado, Vallejo	Berryessa	707-644-0427
	Silverado	
	Hermes	
	Wolfeborrow	
	Linbald	
Southern Sierra, Bakersfield	Kern	805-325-9036
	Mirimichi	
Pacific Skyline, Palo Alto	Boulder Creek Reservation	415-327-5900
	Oljato	
	Cutter Reservation	
Ventura County, Camarillo	Three Falls	805-482-8938
Verdugo Hills, Glendale	(none)	818-243-6282

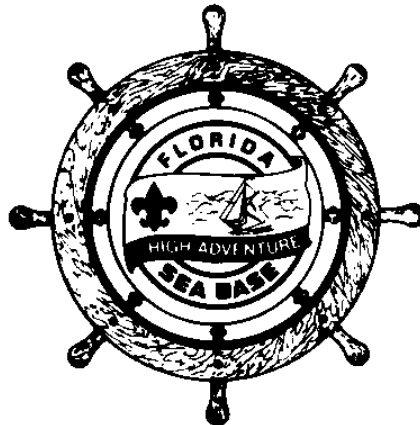
National High Adventure Bases are available for your use either as a unit or a small group of friends. For more information of each base's programs, location, costs and other details write to the base directly at the address below.

Northern Tier
National High Adventure Bases, BSA
PO BOX 509
Ely, MN 55731-0509
(218) 365-4811
www.ntier.org



Philmont Scout Ranch
Route 1, Box 35
Cimarron, NM 87714
(505) 376-2281
www.philmont.com

Florida High Adventure Sea Base
PO BOX 1906
Islamorada, FL 33036
(305) 664-4173
www.bsaseabase.com



California State Park System



For all camping reservations (unless otherwise noted)
please call 1-800-444-PARK

Angel Island State Park
P.O. Box 318
Tiburon, CA 94920

(415) 435-1915

Description

Angel Island is a mountainous, lush 740-acre island in the San Francisco Bay offering spectacular views of the surrounding bay counties, including the Golden Gate Bridge. A wide variety of animal and plant environments can be observed while on the island. Angel Island also has a varied and fascinating military history stretching back to the Civil War; as well as being hunting, fishing and past residence for the early America Oholone people. Trials and fire roads circle the island providing access to the 781 foot Mt. Livermore and several small sandy beaches. Access to the island is by commercial ferry, unless you have a friend with the right size boat!

Activities

- camping
- historical landmarks
- boating
- nature trail
- astronomy
- hiking
- interpretive displays & activities
- swimming
- fishing
- guided tours (seasonal)

Facilities

The park is mainly a day-use area, however there are 9 environmental campsites located on the island. Reservations are required for these campsites. Campsites contain a table with nearby pit toilets. The buildings and various other exhibits on the island reflect Juan Manuel de Ayala discovering of the island in 1775 through the use of the island as a staging area during World War II.

Fire: No wood fires on the island—charcoal/stoves only.

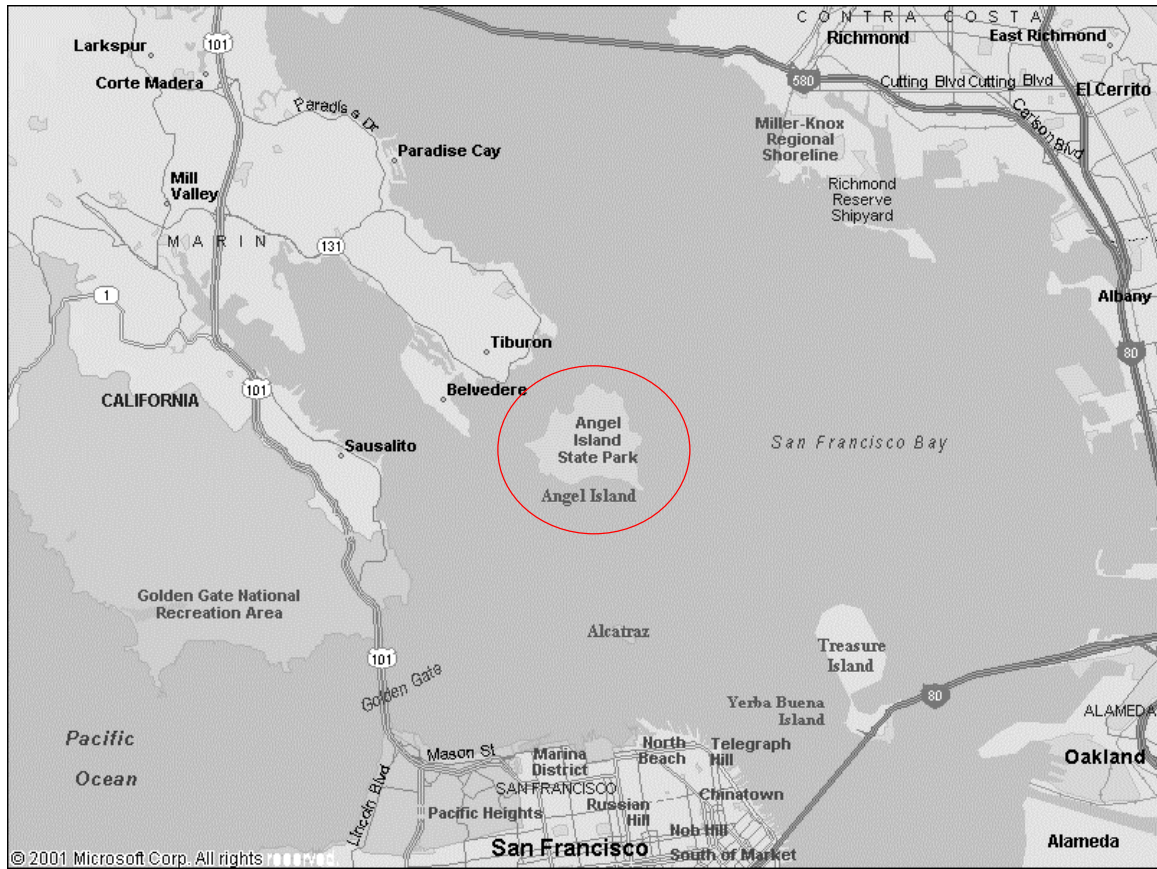
Water: Available nearby but bring a container for storage.

Wood: No wood fires are allowed on the island.

Comments

For information on ferry service from Tiburon please contact the Angel Island State Park Ferry Company at (415) 435-2131. After you arrive in Ayala Cove it will be about a three-mile hike to the campsites, so pack light. Bicycles are allowed on the island only if there is room on the ferry. State Park Rangers will often meet your group in Ayala Cove if arrangements are made prior to your arrival. Service projects are often plentiful on the island also (HINT: possible fee waiver).

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Austin Creek State Recreation Area
17000 Armstrong Woods Road
Guerneville, CA 95446

(707) 869-2015 OR
(707) 865-2391

Description

Located adjacent to Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, Austin Creek has miles of trails creating access to 4,236 acres of open forest and rolling hills. Be sure to stop at the Visitor Center on the way in for more information on the wide variety of flora and fauna that can be seen and explored within the park. Licensed anglers can fish BullFrog Pond, but all streams are closed in order to protect vitally important spawning habitats. Armstrong Redwoods offers trails and self-guided walks through old-growth coast redwoods. Check the Visitor Center for more information on these walks and other interpretive activities.

Activities

- camping
- fishing (designated areas only)
- exhibits
- horseback riding
- hiking
- nature study
- bird watching
- interpretive programs

Facilities

There are 24 family campsites located near BullFrog Pond. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis only. Tables, fire rings, flush toilets and portable water are provided. Three backcountry primitive campsites are located in the park. Permits are required and can be obtained at the Armstrong Redwoods park office during business hours, and are available on a first-come, first serve basis only. Each campsite has a table and fire ring. A horse riding and pack station concession is available in the park.

Fire: Designated fire pits only—no ground fires during high fire danger.

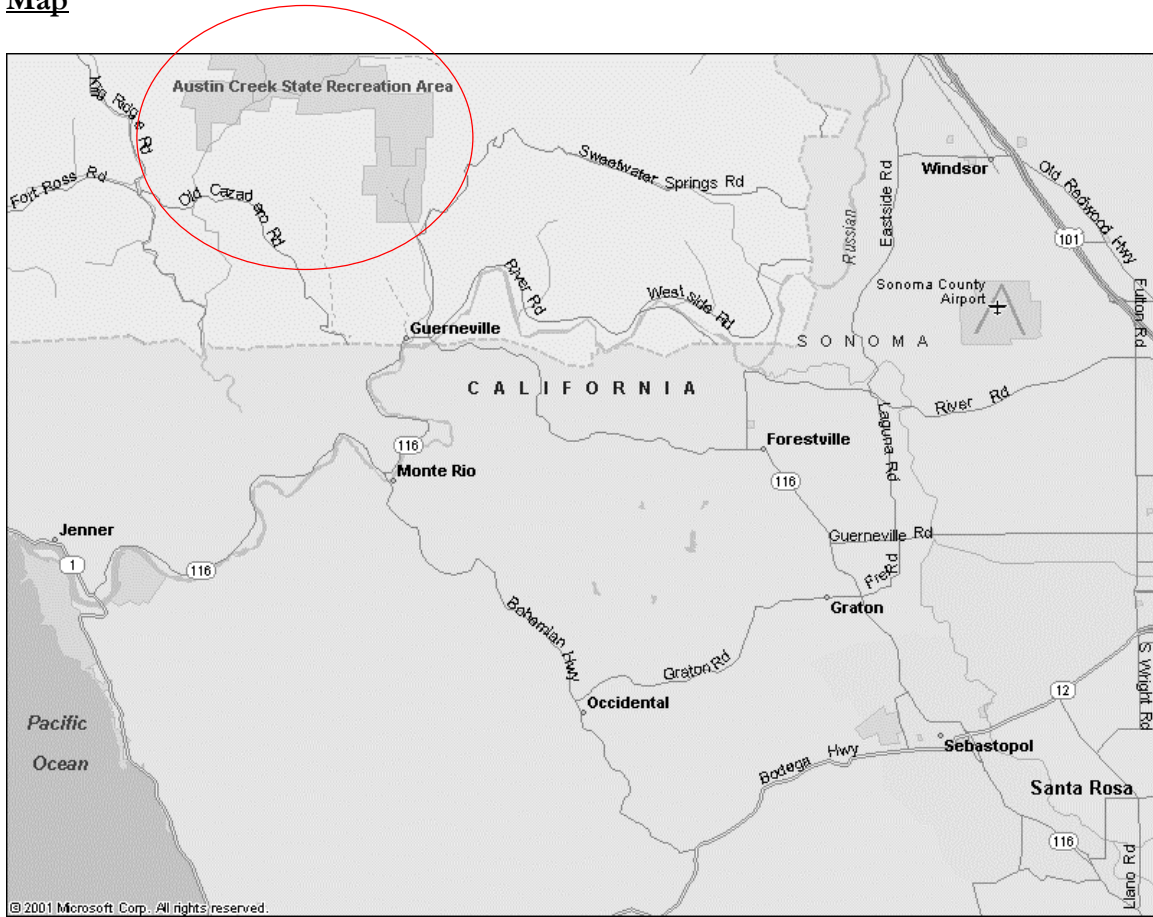
Water: In family camp water is O.K.—backcountry water should be purified prior to drinking. Use of a micro-filter is recommended.

Wood: See park staff-no wood gathering.

Comments

We recommend this park for a first time backpacking experience for young Scouts or a weekend experience in preparation for a weeklong trek. Also an excellent park for coast redwood study in Armstrong Woods Reserve.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Donner Memorial State Park

P.O. Box 9210
Truckee, CA 96162

Description

The park is located amid the pine and fir forest just east of Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada, which is surrounded by magnificent alpine scenery and directly adjacent to a beautiful three-mile-long lake. The forest is made up primarily of lodgepole pine, Jeffery pine and white fir. Because of its elevation-nearly 6,000-feet- there is no poison oak. The park is host to a variety of animal environments and is the site of some fascinating traces of the geologic process that shaped this portion of the Sierra Nevada. The park's main attraction is the historical Donner Party.

Activities

- Camping
- Boating
- Water-skiing
- Museum
- Hiking & Nature Trails
- Fishing
- Interpretive displays & activities
- Swimming

Facilities

The park includes a 154-site family style campground, with modern restroom and showers facilities. The Emigrant Trail Museum is located inside the park and provides displays on the crossing of America to California, highlighting the Donner Party experience. Donner Lake offers fun-filled water fun. Boating regulations are enforced by the local sheriff's department and a valid sport fishing license is required. Private concessionaire rent canoes, rowboats and jet skis for hourly and daily use.

Fire: Only in designated fire pits.

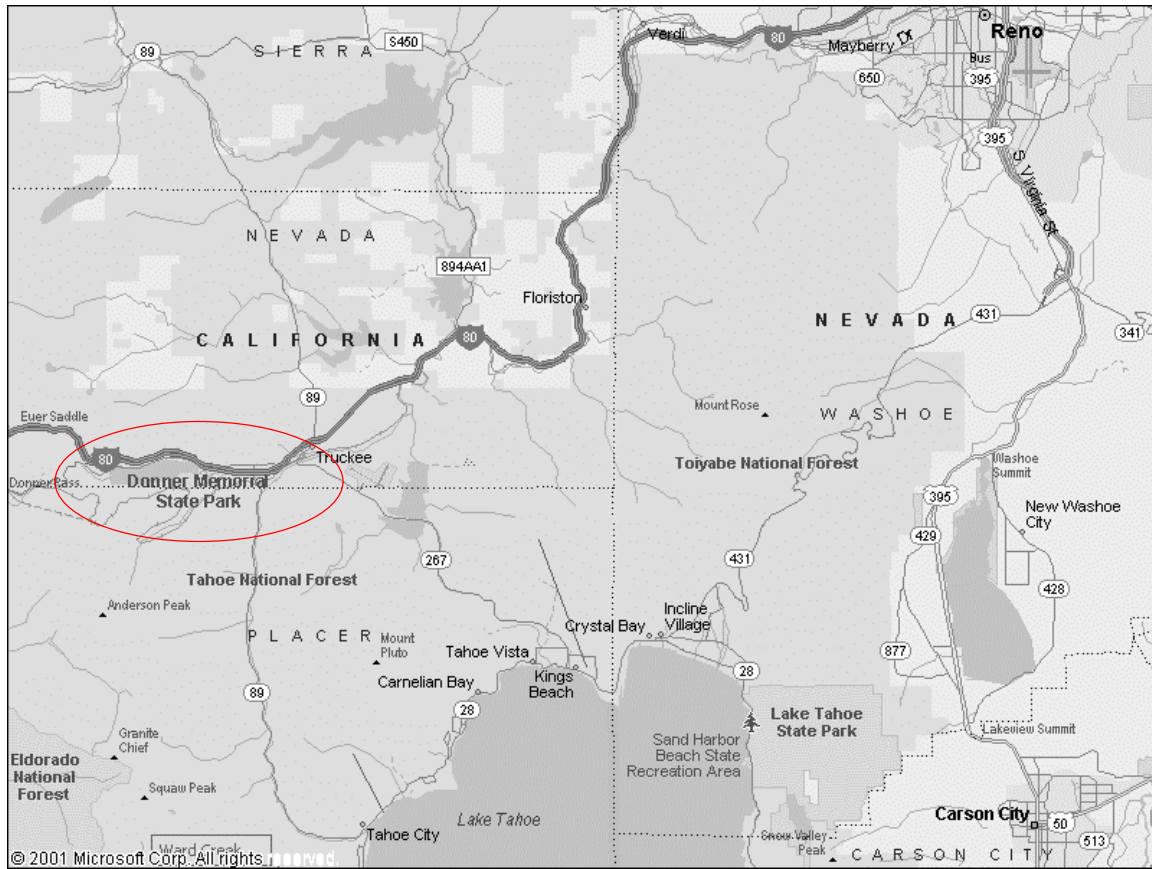
Water: Available throughout the campground.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff for wood sales.

Comments

Donner Memorial State Park provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the western expansion of the United States into California, as well as the unique geological make up of the Sierra Nevada area. Donner Lake provides endless summer fun in the chilly waters of the Sierra. If your unit doesn't make this an outing location, take your family. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

(415)488-9897

Samuel P. Taylor State Park

P.O. Box 251

Lagunitas, CA 94938

Description

Samuel P. Taylor is located in the steep, rolling hills of central Marin County. The park offers easy access to nearby Point Reyes National Seashore, Mount Tamalpais State Park, the Marin headlands, and Muir Woods National Monument. The natural landscape of the park ranges from fern-filled groves of coast redwoods to open grassland along rolling hillsides of dominant hardwood trees. Main attractions of the park include the trails leading to the top of Mount Barnabe; the historical and natural beauty of Devil's Gulch; and the winter migration of silver salmon and steelhead up Papermill Creek to spawn. Make sure to check-in with the visitor center on more information regarding the park's history.

Activities

- Camping
- Swimming
- Horseback Riding
- State Historic Landmark
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Fishing

Facilities

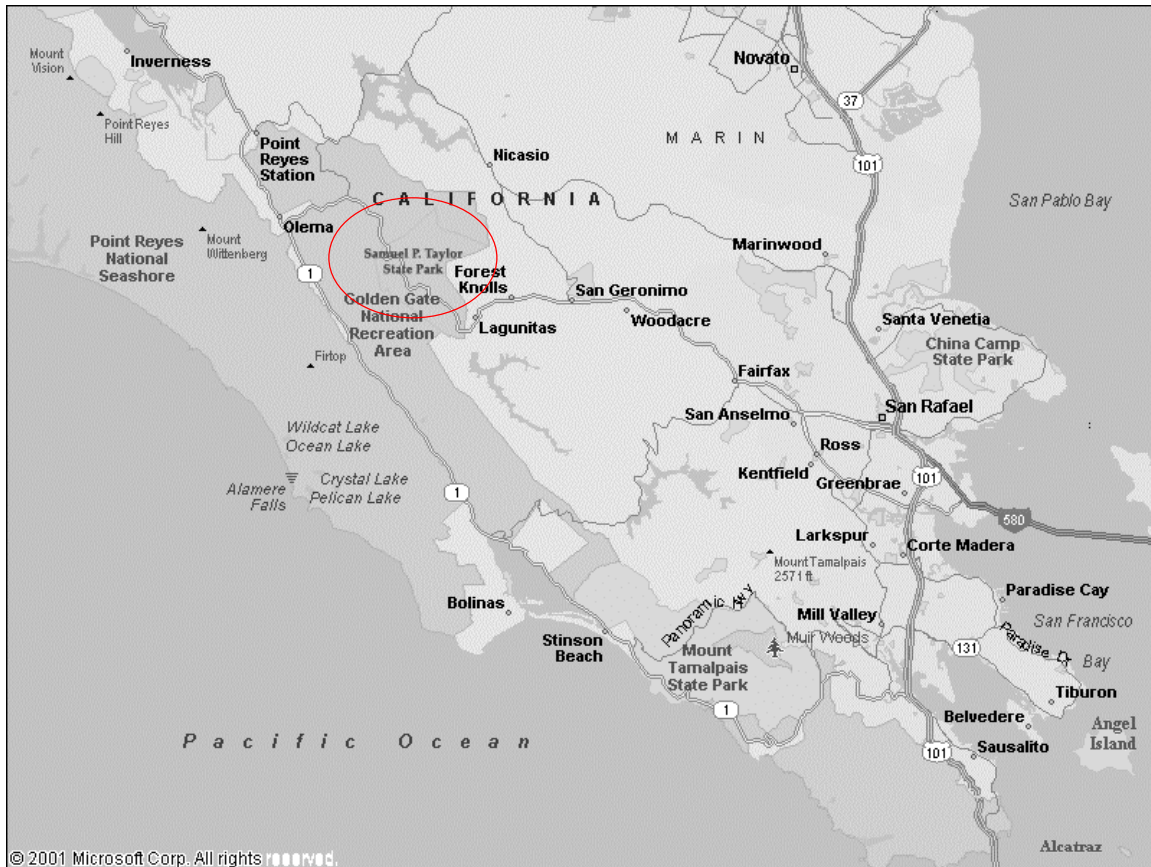
The campground features 60 family style campsites, with tables, BBQ's and showers. Two group campgrounds are also available for reservation with a combined capacity of 75 people. Several day-use areas and a visitor center are also available for the public's enjoyment.

Fire: Allowed only in designated fire rings.

Water: Available throughout the park.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](https://www.mapquest.com)

Description

Broad, shinning beaches, secluded coves, rugged headlands, natural rock arches, and craggy coastline with various tidalpools and reefs characterize the most splendid, unique and most untouched coastline in California—Sonoma Coast State Beach. This state beach is located between the coast towns of Jenner and Bodega Bay, with a portion of the park's bounty on the south bank the Russian River, heading inland. This particular portion of the coast offers the visitor a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities. Prior planning will make this a trip not soon forgotten by those participating.

Activities

- Camping
- Tide Pooling
- Whale Watching
- Designated Underwater Areas
- Beach Combing
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding

Facilities

A visitor center and small boat launch are located in the town of Jenner. Sonoma Coast State Beach offers several different unique camping areas, both developed and primitive.

They are:

Bodega Dunes—98 developed campsites, showers, flush toilets and water, campfire center and beach access.

Wright Beach—30 developed sites, flush toilets and water, no showers. This area is actually located on the beach.

Pomo Canyon—20 environmental campsites near the Russian River with portable restrooms. Bring your own water.

Willow Creek—11 environmental campsites along the Russian River with portable restrooms. Bring your own water.

Fire: Allowed only in designated fire rings.

Water: See above.

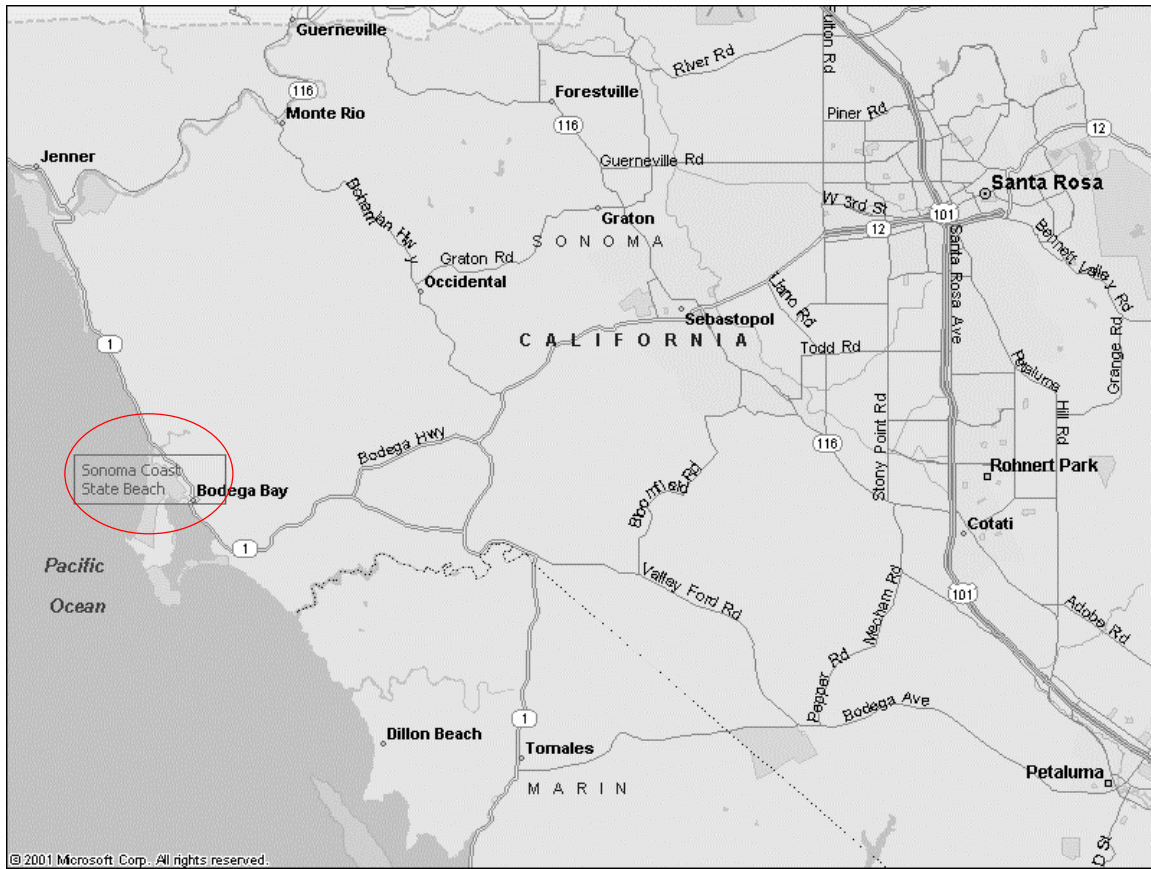
Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Comments

Warning-Hazardous Surf Area

Please be careful. Each year sleeper waves sweep unsuspecting visitors from what they thought were safe perches above the swirling Pacific Ocean. Don't gamble with your life. Obey all posted warning signs and fences.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

21600 Big Basin Way
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Description

Big Basin, located about forty-five minutes north of Santa Cruz, is California's first state park and not truly a real basin. Formed millions of years ago by the uplifting of its circular rim and the eroding of its center by stream action, this bowl-like depression in the Santa Cruz Mountains has as its only outlets the forks of Waddell Creek, which has cut deep gorges in the rim. The park contains over 19,000 acres of the most pristine virgin redwoods in the world and is home to various plant communities and wildlife. The first state park is still not complete with plans underway to acquire the remaining privately-held adjustment parcels to insure the future management of the park's watershed.

Activities

- Camping
- Nature study
- Horseback Riding
- Food Service & Supplies
- Hiking
- Exhibits & Displays
- State Historic Landmark
- Backpacking

Facilities

Big Basin offers a number of camping opportunities. There are family sites, group sites, trail camps and tent cabins. All are subject to reservations. Sequoia group camp and family campgrounds have flush toilets and coin operated showers. A visitor's center, nature lodge, camp store and gift shop will help prepare you for the park's 80 miles of trails. The popular Skyline to the Sea Trail connects the beautiful Pacific Ocean with the tranquility of the refreshing coastal redwood grooves.

Fire: Designated fire rings only—check on needed backcountry trail fire permits.

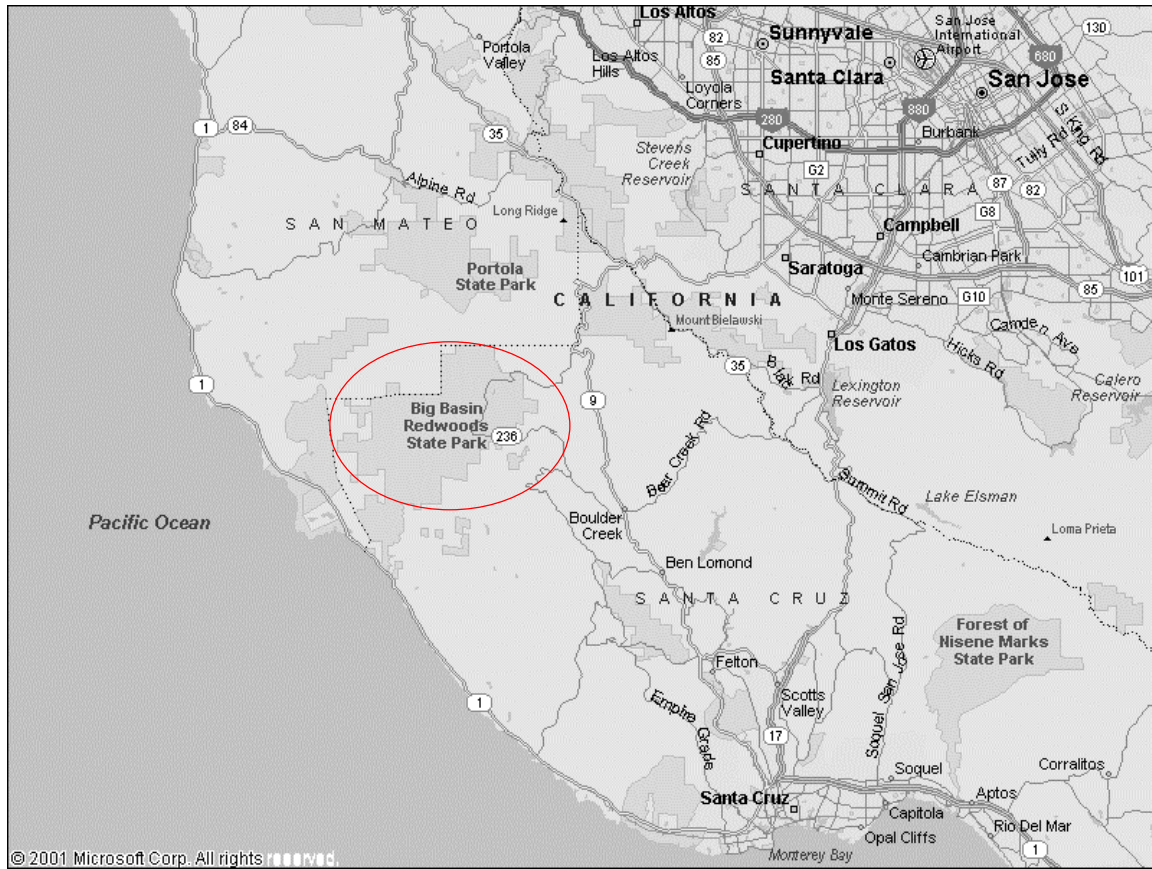
Water: Available in family & group sites—backcountry safety precautions recommended.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Comments

The Skyline to the Sea Trail is an excellent opportunity for a short-term backpacking experience for first-year and veteran scouts. The trail has much to offer along the way, including the Rancho del Oso nature and History Center. Check it out, you will not be disappointed!

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Salt Point State Park

25050 Coast Highway 1
Jenner, CA 95450

Description

Salt Point State Park is located on the rugged California coastline. The shoreline within the 6,000-acre park features rocky promontories such as Salt Point, which jut out into the Pacific Ocean; there are also a number of coves such as Grestle Cove in the lee of the point. The park includes one of the first underwater reserves in California, with all marine life completely protected in the Grestle Cove. The majority of the park, which includes Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve, is grass and forest lands. Past traces of several groups of southwestern or Kashia Pomo Indians provide continual archaeological importance to researchers in the area.

Activities

- Camping
- SCUBA Diving
- Horseback Riding
- Designated Underwater Area
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Nature Study
- Whale Watching

Facilities

Salt Point offers several different camping experiences, including a 130-unit family style campground (no showers), 20 walk-in sites, 10 hiker/biker sites and a group site. Camping is year-around with reservations available during March 2 to November 30. Group camping can be reserved year-around. A visitor's center is located at the Grestle Cove Reserve.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Water: Available in the family sites & group camp—other sites you'll need a container.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](#)

Reef Camp (Fort Ross State Park)
19005 Coast Highway 1
Jenner, CA 95450

(707) 847-3286

Description

Reef camp is located on the west side of Coast Highway 1, just two miles south of the historic Fort Ross State Park. A few coast redwoods and other evergreens provide some protection from sun and wind to the campground, with a natural rock formation also providing relief from ocean gusts. Campsites are on a first-come, first-serve basis for weary roadside travelers. Be careful on the trail down to the reefs, its steep and narrow.

Activities

- Camping
- Fishing
- Tidalpool Exploration
- Fort Ross State Park

Facilities

Each of the twenty primitive campsites has a table and fire pit. Pit toilets and waste disposal are also available.

Fire: Designated fire pits only.

Water: Available in the campground.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Comments

This facility makes good only if you plan on exploring nearby Fort Ross or the surrounding coastline.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

China Camp State Park

R.R. No. 1 Box 244
San Rafael, CA 94901

Description

China Camp is located on the southeast shore of San Pablo Bay, just three miles from downtown San Rafael in Marin County. The park is easily reachable by way of Highway 101. The 1,640-acre park has a variety of natural scenery and some fine trails along the San Pablo ridge that features magnificent 360-degree views of the North Bay. China Camp offers a rich history of the Coast Miwok Indians and the Chinese immigration in the area as early as the gold rush days.

Activities

- Camping
- Photography
- Exhibits
- Group Tour Reservations
- Hiking
- Boating
- State Historical Landmark
- Swimming

Facilities

The China Camp Historic Area offers picnic areas, museum, concession stand, swimming and hand –launch boating. There are 30 hike-in developed campsites with showers and flush toilets.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

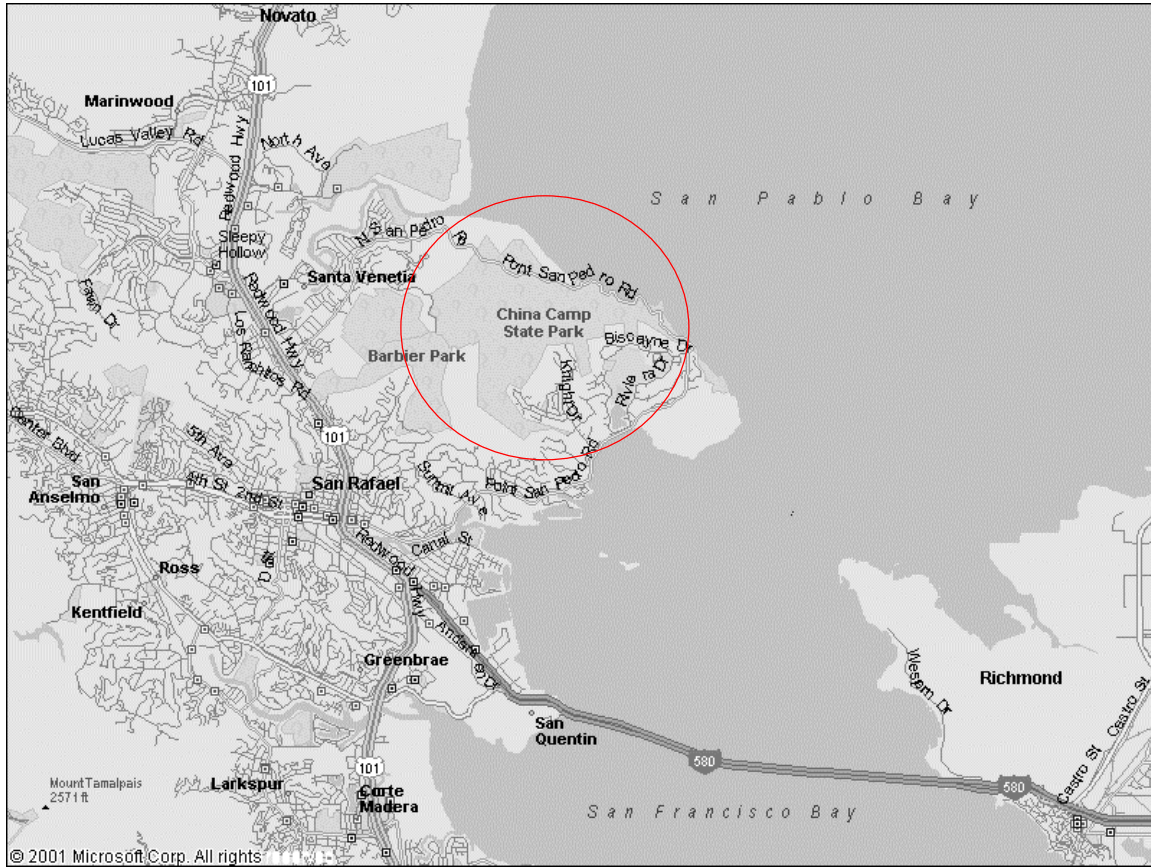
Water: Available in the campground.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Comments

State park rules are strictly enforced at China Camp in order to protect this unique natural and historical resource. For further information, please feel free to contact the park staff.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Mount Tamalpais State Park

801 Panoramic Highway
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Description

Mount Tamalpais (Tamal-pie-us) is located in the heart of Marin County with a dramatic combination of urban and natural scenery. The view from the peak of Tamalpais is among the most spectacular of its kind in the world (try a sunrise hike!). On a clear day one can often see the Farallon Islands, some 25 miles out to sea, and occasionally it is possible to look inland, across the Central Valley, to the snow-crested Sierra Nevada some 200 miles away. The park is a multi-use area and on a nice day will be packed with every type of activity imaginable. The neighboring Muir Woods National Monument, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Marin Municipal Water District help complement the dozens of trails available in the area. Part of the Rim-of-the-Bay Hike program (keep' on reading!).

Activities

- Camping
- Mountain Bicycling
- Hang Gliding
- Nature Study
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Fishing
- Exhibits & Displays

Facilities

Pantoll Campground—located on the Panoramic Hwy. With 16 family campsites that are a short walk (about 100 yards) from the parking lot. All sites have a table, rock stove, food locker and space for tent. Drinking water, firewood and restrooms with flush toilets are nearby. All sites are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

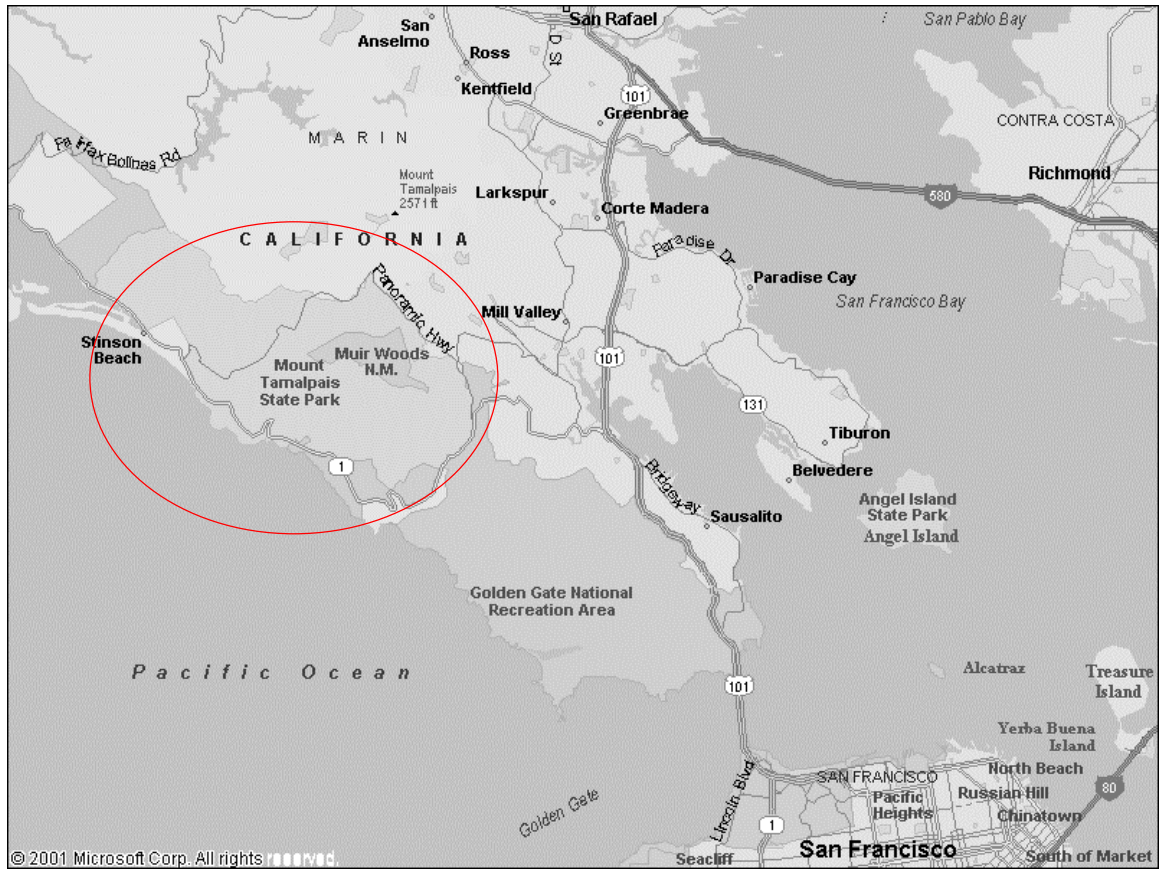
Alice Eastwood Group Camp—there are two group camps that are suitable for organized groups up to 75 people. Both camps have tables, primitive toilets, piped water, BBQ grills and a large area for tents. There is also a campfire center available. Reservations are through the statewide reservations system.

Steep Ravine Environmental Camp—located on a marine terrace about one mile south of Stinson Beach. The campground has 6 primitive campsites and 10 rustic cabins. Primitive toilets, water and firewood are located nearby. In order to protect the natural and scenic environment of this area, only one vehicle and five campers are allowed per site. Steep Ravine is very popular, so make reservations through the statewide reservation system.

Lee Shansky Backpack Camp—located two miles south of the Pantoll Ranger Station along the coastal fire road. The camp has two family campsites and one group site. Each site has a table and tent space with primitive toilets and trashcans nearby. No water is available and only portable camp stoves are permitted. Contact the park office for reservation info.

Contact the park for further information on the visitor center and East Park Summit facilities.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

MacKerricher State Park

P.O. BOX 440
Mendocino, CA 95460

Description

MacKerricher State Park is located approximately three miles north of Fort Bragg on State Highway One. Fresh-water Lake Cleone lies within the park, with non-motorized boats allowed. This beautiful park offers coastline fresh waters and forest environments.

Activities

- Camping
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Abalone Diving
- Fresh Water Fishing
- Bicycling
- Designated Underwater Area
- Whale Watching
- Bird Watching
- Tidalpooling
- Beachcombing
- Seal Watching
- Ocean Fishing

Facilities

The 143-site developed campground includes piped water with showers and flush toilets. There are also 10 walk-in campsites, no more than fifty-yards from the parking lot. The campground offers a campfire center with regularly scheduled seasonal programs and a seal watching station.

Fire: Designated fire pits only.

Water: Available throughout the campground.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](#)

(707) 895-3141

Hendy Woods State Park

P.O. BOX 440

Mendocino, CA 95460

Description

Located on the south side of Highway 128 eight miles west of Boonville, then .05 of a mile down Greenwood Road, is Hendy Woods State Park. This park is noted for its majestic virgin redwood groves, which are the last in the Anderson Valley. Through these gentle giants weave trails that are frequented by Colombian black-tail deer, raccoons, weasels, gray foxes, and other various small wildlife. A portion of the trail is accessible to the disabled. Hendy Woods is bordered by the Navarro River, which is enjoyed by fisherman, canoers and kayakers during the late winter and spring months. Be sure to check current Fish & Game regulation regarding river closures.

Activities

- Camping
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Boating
- Nature Study

Facilities

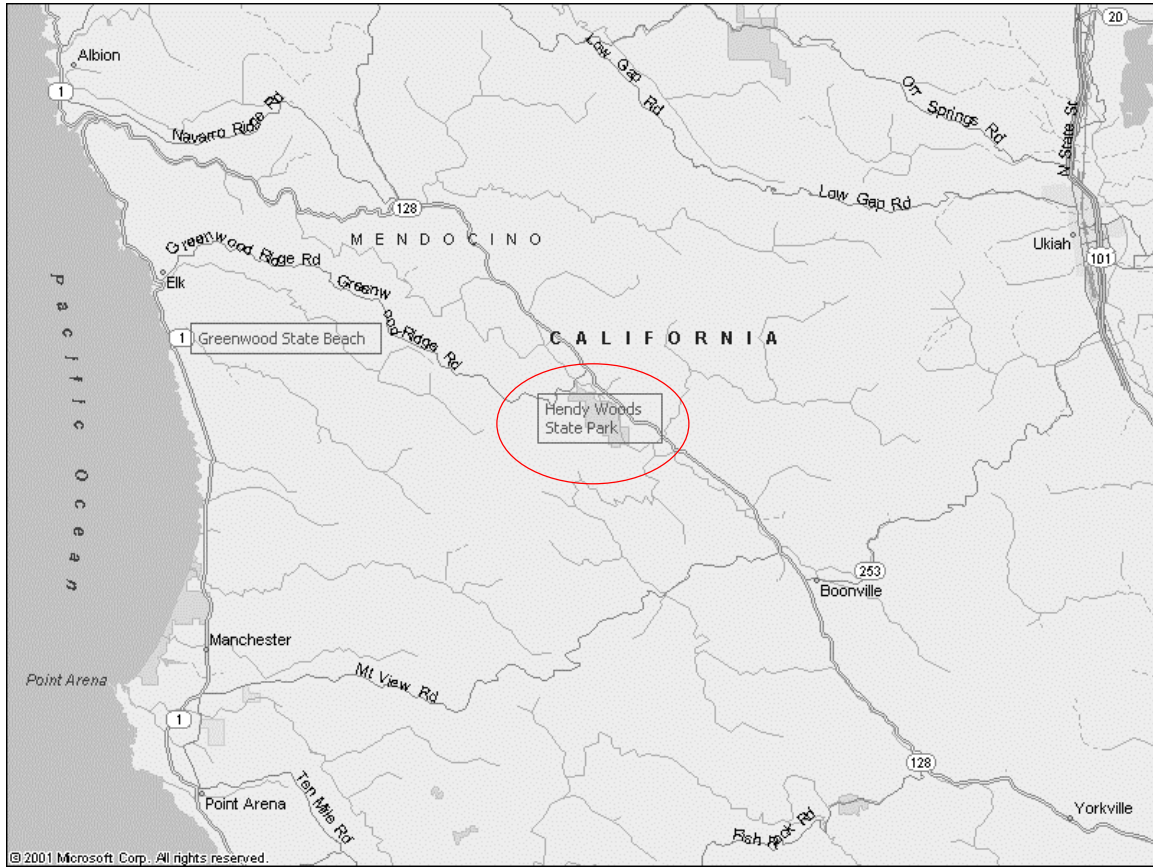
A 92-site family style campground with flush toilets and pay showers. Big Hendy Grove nature study and day-use areas.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Water: Available throughout the park.

Wood: No gathering of wood is permitted—see park staff.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

(707) 833-5712

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

2605 Adobe Canyon Road
Kenwood, CA 95452

Description

Sugarloaf is located northeast of Kenwood in the Mayacam mountains between the Sonoma and Napa valleys. There are over twenty-five of trails throughout the park which also connect to neighboring Hood Mountain Regional Park. Trails wind through three distinct ecological systems inside the park's landscape, chaparral-covered ridges, oaks and firs along several of the open meadows, and redwood stands in the canyon of Sonoma Creek. Visitors find Sugarloaf most enjoyable during the spring months when the creeks run with fresh mountain runoff and in the changing of the seasons during the fall months.

Activities

- Camping
- Horseback Riding
- Nature Study
- Hiking
- Exhibits & Displays

Facilities

The campground contains 50 developed family campsites with pit toilets, group campground for up to 50 people, a campfire center, a visitor center, and horse ranch with seasonal trail rides. Jack London State Historic Park is located nearby, about twenty minutes from the campground.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

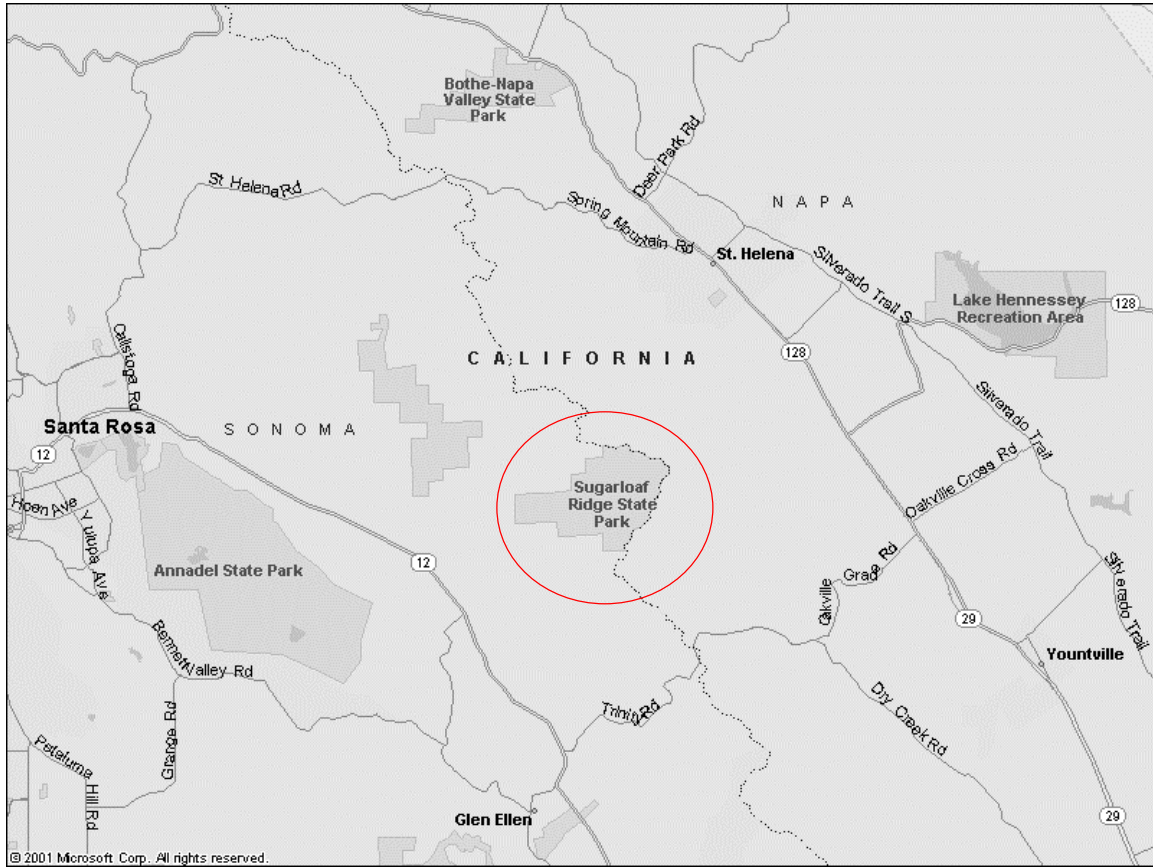
Water: Available throughout the park.

Wood: No gathering of wood—see park staff.

Comments

This is an excellent park for nature study and day hiking for all levels. Open fires in developed areas only. The park becomes timber-dry in the summer with the fire hazard high. As in all overnight campouts, make sure to secure food items at night!

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

(707) 882-2463

Manchester State Beach

P.O. BOX 440
Mendocino, CA 95460

Description

Just north of the town of Manchester and off Highway 1, on Kinney Road, seven miles north of Point Arena is Manchester State Beach. The wetland area is a haven for bird watchers of dozens of various migrating and year-around birds. During the winter Steelhead fishing is good in Alder Creek and the nearby Garcia River.

Activities

- Camping
- Nature study
- Fishing
- Underwater Designated Area

Facilities

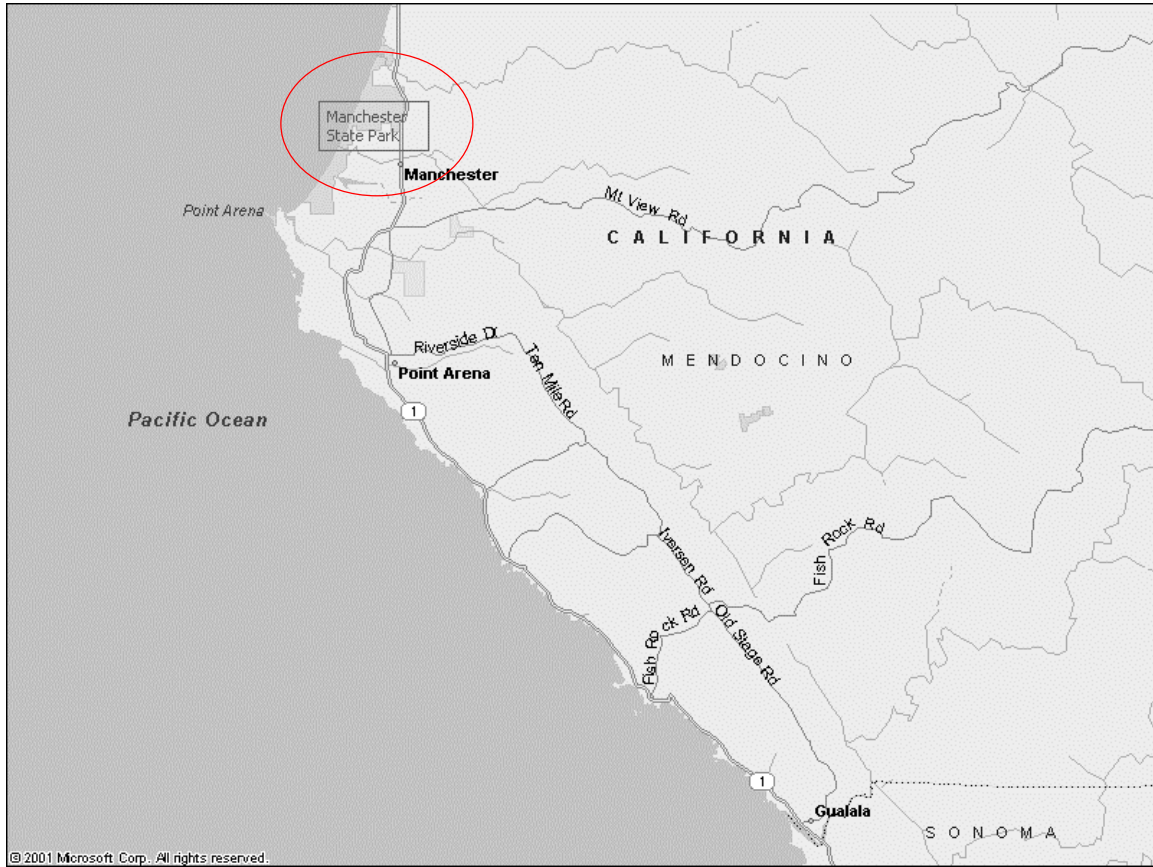
There are 48 primitive family campsites and a group campground with pit toilets and no showers.

Fire: Designated fire pits only—no fires on the beach.

Wood: See park staff.

Water: Available in the campground.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

(707) 937-5804

Van Damme State Park

P.O. BOX 440
Mendocino, CA 95460

Description

Van Damme State Park is located three miles south of the town of Mendocino on State Highway 1. Little River runs through the park and opens into Van Damme beach. It is home for spawning Steelhead and Salomon during the winter months. Make sure to check current Fish & Game regulation and park rules for updates and closures.

Activities

- **Camping**
- Beachcombing
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Designated Underwater Areas
- 3-mile Bicycle Trail
- Exhibits & Displays

Facilities

There are 74 family campsites, 10 walk-in/bicycle and a group camp (up to 40 people), available. Highlights of the park include a visitor center, pygmy forest trail and a campfire center.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

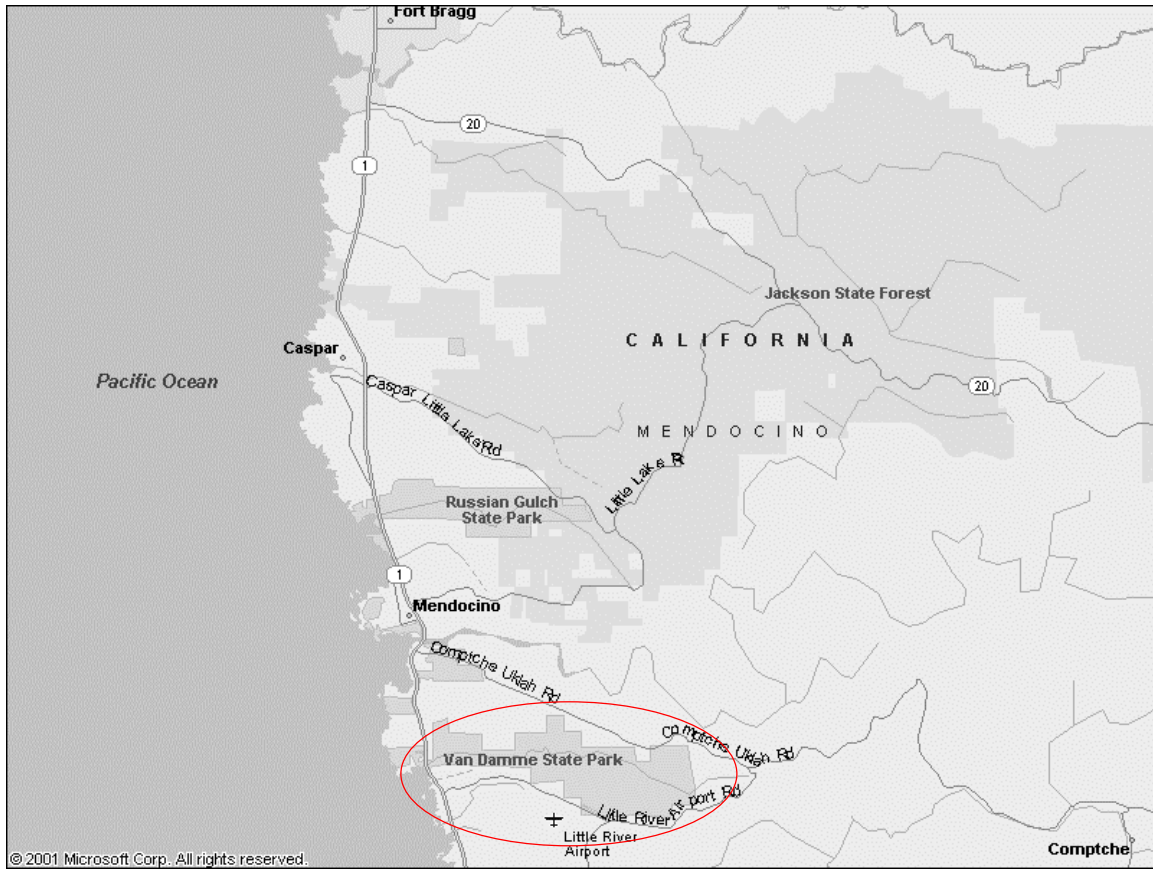
Wood: See park staff—no wood gathering.

Water: Available in campground.

Comments

Reservations are strongly recommended during the summer months.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](#)

Mount Diablo State Park

P.O. BOX 250
Diablo, CA 94528

Description

Atop of Mount Diablo's 3849-foot peak, one can enjoy some of the best views of the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. Mount Diablo is part of the Rim of the Bay Patch Program offered by the San Francisco Bay Area Council (more info is this book). The park's past history stems from the days of the gold rush and was a connecting route between the early communities of Walnut Creek and Danville. The geology of the park has given researchers clues as to the existence of pre-historic creatures and life in the area over 160-million years ago.

Activities

- Camping
- Nature Study
- State Historical Landmark
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Exhibits & Displays

Facilities

The park's 60 family campsites are located in three campgrounds—Live Oak, Juniper and Junction. Pit/flush toilets and piped water are available throughout the camp, however there are no shower facilities. There are also six environmental campsites with pit toilets. Campers need to bring in their own water and hike about a mile from the parking area to the campsites. The park's two group campgrounds—Wildcat and Buckeye—can accommodate up to thirty people each, with piped drinking water and pit toilets in each camp. Parking is limited. There are several points of interest in the park and with prior planning this can increase your group's awareness of the park's history, both past and present.

Fire: Designated fire rings only—high fire danger during the fire season.

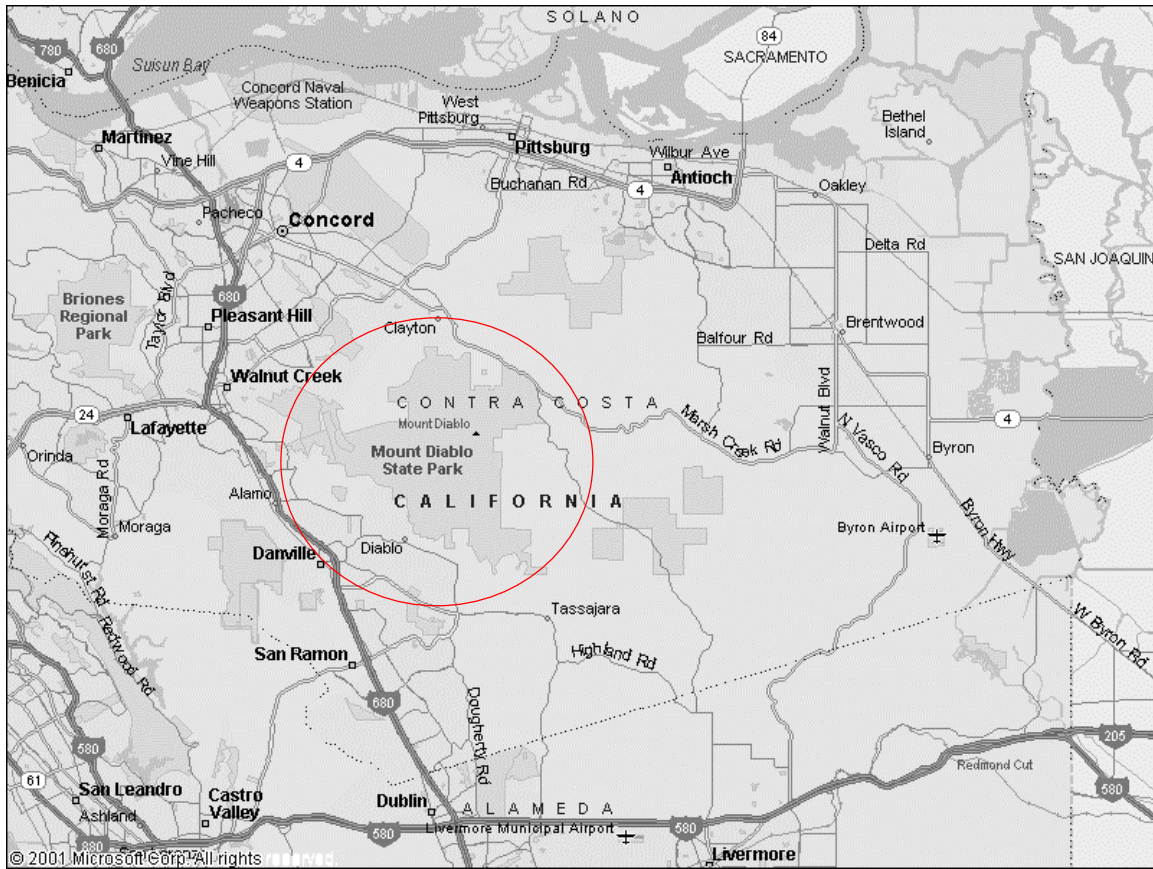
Wood: See park staff—no wood gathering.

Water: See above.

Comments

Mount Diablo offers a unique day trip or overnight camping experience for groups of all levels. With its close proximity to metro areas, the park still offers the beauty and tranquility of the 'wild' outdoors.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Humboldt Redwoods State Park

P.O. BOX 100
Weott, CA 95571

Description

Humboldt Redwoods State Park is located on the Eel River in northern California about 35 miles south of Eureka. The park includes some of the most impressive redwood groves and river frontage in the state. There are more than 100 miles of trails suitable for hiking and riding. Humboldt Redwoods offers many opportunities for outdoor education, including forest and river ecology's, Native American history and the early days of the railroad and logging era. Because of all the park has to offer it's best to request information in advance by contacting the park office.

Activities

- Camping
- Bicycling
- Nature Study
- Swimming
- Exhibits & Displays
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Fishing
- Boating—small
- State Historical Landmark

Facilities

The park has 248 family campsites in three campgrounds offering modern restrooms and showers. A group campground is available for up to 125 people, with restrooms but no showers. In addition, five trail camps are available for backpackers. A use permit must be filed at park headquarters and please do not forget low impact camping skills. Two environmental camps are located within the park with piped water and pit toilets nearby. It's about 100 yards walk from the parking lot to the sites. Other camping opportunities include hiker/biker sites and horse group camping sites. Always check with the park regarding closures and needed reservations for each of the various campgrounds.

The park also offers a visitor center, ancient-growth redwood grove and summer interpretive programs.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Wood: See park staff—no wood gathering.

Water: Piped water in developed sites—check with park staff.

Comments

Hikers to grasshopper Peak should leave early in the day and pack a sack lunch and bring plenty of water. The trail is steep and takes about 8-hours round trip. Always tell a friend or check in at the park office prior to departure.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Richardson Grove State Park

1600 U.S. Highway 101
Garberville, CA 95440-0069

Description

Richardson Grove State Park is located among the redwoods in southern Humboldt County. Established in 1922 and is named after the 25th governor of California, Friend W. Richardson. Highway 101 and the South Fork of the Eel River bisect the old growth redwood forest, with many of the trees over 1000-years old and more than 300-feet tall. The area has cultural roots back to the Sinkyone Indians who used the area as a seasonal encampment. The Save-the-Redwoods League continues to play an active role in preserving the redwoods, with recent additions adding over 1,000 acres to the current park bounties.

Activities

- Camping
- Nature Study
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Exhibits & Displays

Facilities

The 170 family campsites are located in three campgrounds throughout the park. Restrooms with flush toilets and showers are nearby. Only one of the campgrounds is kept opened year-around. The group campground is located along the river among the redwoods and accommodates up to thirty-five people and ten cars year-around. The park's visitor center features displays on the natural history of the area, along with trail guides on the surrounding area. Several day trips along the park's trails offer the visitor the magic of the redwoods and the tranquility of the Eel River.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Wood: See park staff-no wood gathering allowed.

Water: Available in the park.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](#)

Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area (707) 925-6482
Leggett, CA 95455

Description

Standish-Hickey is located along the South Fork of the Eel River just north of the town of Leggett. The coast redwood flourishes on the California coast from Oregon to Monterey, in a narrow strip where moderate climate combines with heavy winter rains and summer fog. The tallest trees of this species are found here in the North Coast region of California. In a virgin grove of redwoods, the branches of the trees prevent sunlight from reaching the forest floor, only allowing ferns, redwood sorrel and other shade-loving plants to grow. However, in Standish-Hickey's second-growth forests you'll see a variety of other trees and shrubs. The Eel River provides for a beauty of fish and bird watching in the early morning and evening hours.

Activities

- Camping
- Nature Study
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Boating--small

Facilities

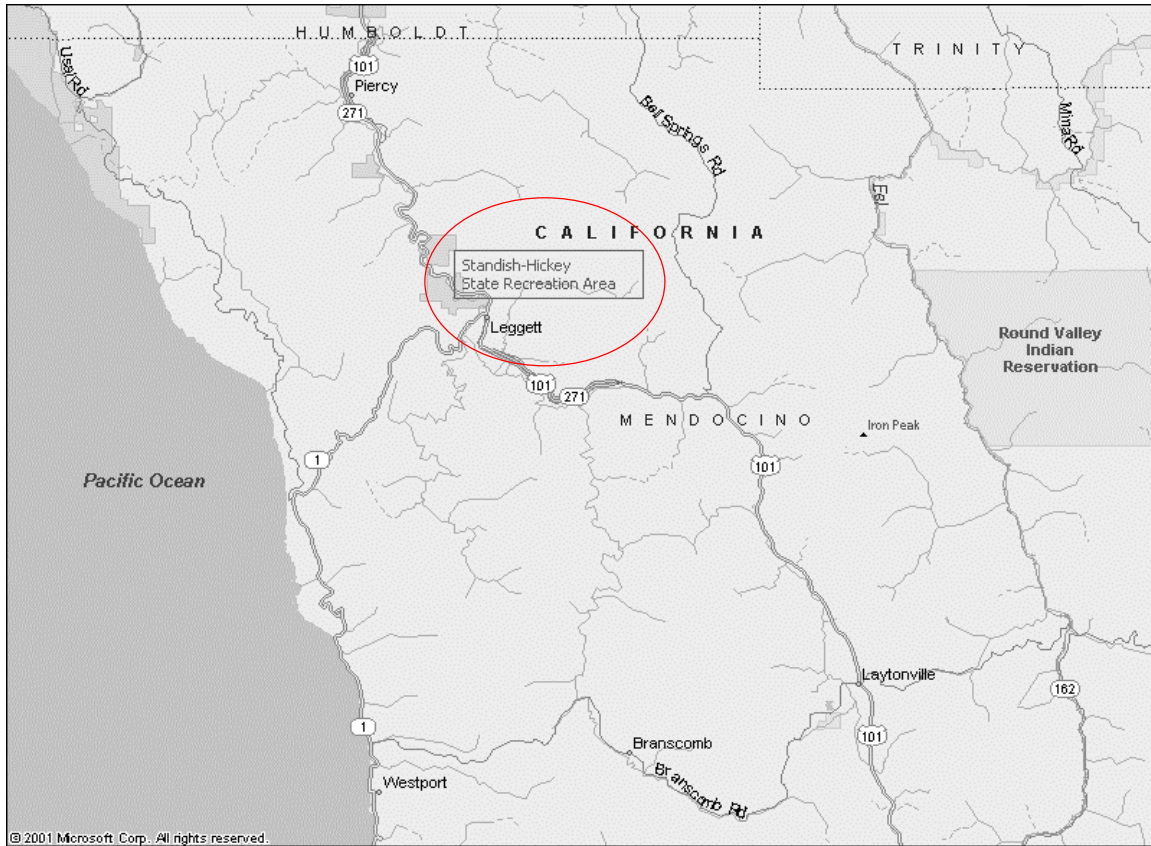
The park's 162 family campsites are located on three campgrounds, each with modern restrooms and showers. There are several swimming holes along the river and various trails to plan a variety of day trips. Make sure to check current Fish & Game regulations on fishing in the Eel River. Summer interpretive programs are planned for the summer months.

Fire: Allowed in designated fire pits only.

Water: Available, bring a container.

Wood: No wood gathering—see park staff.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](#)

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park

P.O. BOX 245

Whitethorn, CA 95489

Description

Sinkyone Wilderness also described as part of the 'Lost Coast', covers 26 miles of undeveloped Mendocino coast, encompassing more than 7,367 acres. The park is rich in history and gives the visitor a good look at what most of the early California coastline was like. Access and travel within the park in moderate to high difficulty and is not recommended as a long-term outing for first time scouts. The standard park publication provides a good introduction to the park; however Wilderness Press prints an excellent topographical map including history and in-depth descriptions of various camping areas within the park. Both publications are available from the park office or by contacting staff at Richardson Grove State Park.

Activities

- Camping
- Backpacking
- Swimming
- State Historical Landmark
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding

Facilities

All camping is on a first-come, first-serve basis only, with the only car camping available at the Usal Campground. Campers are asked to self-register at either the Usal Camp or Needle Rock Ranch House. Please remember to practice low impact camping skills and to pack out everything you packed in. All water must be treated within the park unless otherwise posted.

Usal campground has fifteen campsites with pit toilets and piped drinking water nearby.

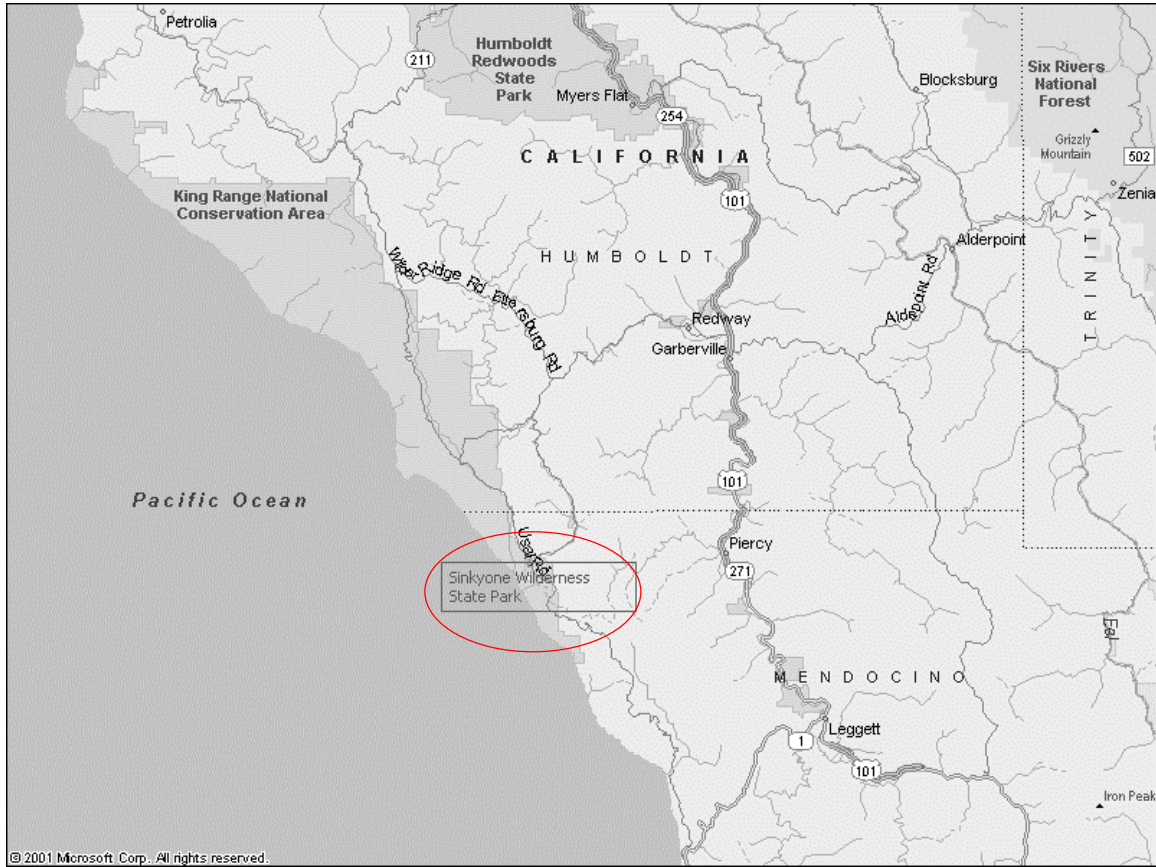
Jones Beach, Low Gap, Stream Side and Barn Primitive Campsites are all located within a 1.5-mile walking distance from Needle Rock Ranch Parking Area (northern section of the park).

Bear Harbor, Railroad and Orchard Primitive Campsites are located in the northern section of the park at the Orchard Trailhead.

Wheeler, Little Jackass Creek and Anderson Gulch are trail camps located in-between Bear Harbor and Usal. No fires are allowed in Anderson Camp.

Limited group camping is also available and interest groups should contact the park to obtain a Group Use Permit.

Map



[Directions using Mapquest.com.](http://www.mapquest.com)

Federal Land Use Areas



Areas included are The National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S Coast Guard and U.S. Forest Service.

(707) 433-9483

Lake Sonoma/Warm Springs Dam

3333 Skaggs Springs Road
Geyserville, CA 95541

Description

Lake Sonoma is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is located 11 miles west of Healdsburg on Dry Creek Road. The Corps built Warm Springs Dam, which Forms Lake Sonoma, in 1983. The compacted earth-filled dam serves as a deterrent to disastrous floods, stores water for irrigation and local municipalities, and creates a lake with dozens of recreational opportunities. The dam is 319-feet high, 3,000-feet long, and creates a lake with the capacity to hold up to 120 billion gallons of water. The visitor center and fish hatchery are located at the park entrance and are open year-around. Within the visitor center are exhibits that describe the local history of the Dry Creek Valley, including the Pomo Indian Tribes of the area.

Activities

- Camping
- Water-skiing
- Motorboating
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Small Boat Sailing

Facilities

There are 89 family campsites in the Liberty Glen Campground with flush toilets, showers, piped water, and tables. Two group campgrounds, which can accommodate up to 50 persons each, are also located in the Liberty Glen Campground. A visitor center, boat ramp and numerous trailheads are located throughout the park. All sites are on first-come, first-serve basis, except for the group campground (contact the park office for further information).

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Wood: See park staff—no wood gathering allowed.

Water: Available.

Lake Mendocino/Coyote Dam
1160 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 462-7581

Description

Lake Mendocino is set in the Coyote Valley, surrounded by rolling hills covered with oak and conifer forests. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' completion of Coyote Dam on the East Fork of the Russian River created Lake Mendocino in 1958. The dam is an earth-filled embankment 3,500-feet long and 160-feet high. The dam provides flood control, water conservation and hydroelectric power. The lake also is a focal point for a host of outdoor activities. A visitor center at the Pomo Recreation Area is molded after a Native American Roundhouse. It is operated jointly by the Corps and local Pomo tribes. The visitor center is open seasonally, so call ahead.

Activities

- Camping
- Nature Study
- Water-skiing
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Boating
- Fishing
- Local Studies

Facilities

There are more than 300 family campsites in three separate campgrounds located in the Northern portion of the park; including several sites around the lake's shore which are accessible by boat. All sites are on a first-come, first-serve basis, except for the group campgrounds (contact the park office for further information). Flush toilets, showers and piped water are available in the developed sites, with no water in the primitive sites.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Wood: See park staff—no wood gathering.

Water: See above

Point Reyes National Seashore

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

(415) 663-1092—Bear Valley Visitor Center

(415) 669-1534—Lighthouse Visitor Center

(415) 663-9029—Recorded Weather & Information

Description

Point Reyes National Seashore is 65,303 acres of beautiful wilderness areas combined with breath-taking views of the Pacific Ocean. The cultural and natural history still is much alive today through various displays, exhibits and working dairy ranches throughout the park. Located in southern Marin County the Seashore offers a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities ranging from Coast Miwok displays to the annual Grey Whale migration past the lighthouse. When you arrive at the park make sure to stop at the Bear Valley Visitor Center, which is located near park headquarters. This visitor center offers spectacular displays interpreting the park's main features and is the only location to obtain a valid camping permit. Located nearby are the Kule Loklo Coast Miwok village, the Earthquake Trail, and the Morgan Horse Ranch.

From the Bear Valley Visitor Center you can access the four hike-in campsites: Sky (12), Glen (12), Coast (14) and Wildcat (12). Camping is restricted to these campsites and is not permitted elsewhere in the park. All sites have pit toilets and drinking water. The number in parentheses above is the total number of sites per camp area, with eight people allowed per site. Call or write ahead of time to find out more information on mileage and trailhead locations available. Low-impact camping techniques are enforced.

Activities

- Backpack-style Camping
- Exhibits & Displays
- Nature Study
- Hiking
- Whale Watching (Dec to Apr)
- Boating

Facilities

Some of the other many things to do at Point Reyes include: exploring the Tule Elk range near Tomales Point; visiting the Drakes Beach visitor Center and learn more about Sir Francis Drakes' landing; viewing the wild flowers in bloom during the spring months at Chimney Rock; hiking or bicycling the numerous trails within the park; climbing Mt. Wittenberg, part of the Rim of the Bay Patch Program; or any of the other relaxing opportunities offered at the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Fires: Designated fire areas and only by permit—See park staff.

Wood: See park staff.

Presidio of San Francisco

Special Park Uses Group
Building 204, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

(415) 561-4304—Special Use Group

(415) 561-4323—Presidio Visitor Center
(415) 561-4305—Fax for Special Use Grp.

Description

The Presidio of San Francisco has an interesting military history dating back prior to the Civil War. The Presidio was transferred to the National Park Service in 1996 to become part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Camping is available in the Rob Hill campground and at Battery Chamberlin, which are located near and along Baker Beach. Spend the day exploring the Presidio's history through a self-guided tour, relax on the beach or walk across the Golden Gate Bridge.

Activities

- Camping
- Exhibits & Displays
- Historical Landmark
- Hiking
- Bicycling

Facilities

The Rob Hill campground is available for use April 1 through October 31. There are eight individual sites (6 people each) and two group sites (10-30 persons each). Parking is limited and no pets are allowed. There are restrooms with running water, tables and BBQ grills. There is one fire circle centrally located in the campground that is open to all campers.

Battery Chamberlin is available year around. Located on Baker Beach, groups must be a minimum of 10 persons and a maximum of 25 persons. Foam mattress pads are provided inside the bunker. Groups must bring sleeping bags. No pets are allowed. There are chemical toilets near the battery with flush toilets located nearby in the parking lot. Fire pits, drinkable water, and tables are located in the area.

Fire: See above.

Wood: Bring your own.

Water: See above.

Yosemite National Park

P.B. BOX 577
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

(209) 372-0265—General Park Info

(800) 436-7275—Camp Reservations
(209) 372-0264—Get a Real Person!

Description

Yosemite is probably the most visited park in the United States and offers the park visitor a wide range of recreational opportunities along with the most spectacular scenery in the world. In planning a trip to Yosemite, that your group will remember for years to come, make sure you contact the park for undated information regarding areas available and things to see and do (even if you have been there a thousand times before). Yosemite is located in the Sierra Nevada range of mountains forty-five minutes east of Modesto with several entrances into the park, (accessibility subject to weather and road conditions). Interesting places to visit in Yosemite include the main valley with views of Half Dome, El Capitan, and the Vernal Falls. The Happy Isles nature Center and Ahawhneechee Indian village both are must see exhibits. The valley is a busy place with camping, day-use activities, exhibits & displays, hotel and shopping facilities available. The valley can become a small town during the summer months or a winter wonderland of a snow lover's delight with few people during the week.

The outlying areas of Yosemite like Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, Tioga Pass and Big Oak serve not only as entrance points into the park but also offer your group opportunities to explore the history and natural beauty of that particular area. Each area offers information on camping in the immediate area, including trailheads offering the wilderness experience into the backcountry of the park.

The nearby Stanislaus and Toiyabe National Forests offer further possibilities of planning a 30 or 50-mile backpacking trip into even more of the pristine Sierra Nevada.

Yosemite can offer your group a very rewarding experience for years to come; however remember these two things. Obey all posted and written park rules and regulations (they really are for your safety and not because someone was bored). Plan ahead for trip details, equipment you'll be taking and, having fun!

Activities

- Camping
- Hiking
- Nature study
- Rock Climbing
- Boating
- Bicycling
- Backpacking
- Swimming
- Exhibits & Displays
- Horseback Riding
- Photography
- Etc., Etc., Etc.,

Fire: see park handout for hours, regulations and permit information.

Wood: See park staff—No wood gathering.

Water: O.K. in the valley—Treat in the backcountry.

(707) 765-7211

Two Rock Coast Guard Training Center
Petaluma, CA 94952

Description

This United States Coast Guard Training Center is located just seven miles west of Petaluma on Tomales Bay Road. There are two separate camping areas within the base. The first is used by the on base Scout Troop, which can also sometimes be used by other units with prior permission. The second is located in the Lake Recreation Area at the southeast end of the base off of Pennsylvania Avenue. There is little protection from trees or other natural barriers from the wind.

Activities

- Camping
- Open Field Areas
- Bicycling

Facilities

This area includes a 5-acre lake, picnic areas, camping sites and sport activity areas. As a Scout or Explorer unit we have been allowed to use some of the base facilities. As a guest of the Base Commander please make sure to follow all rules and regulations. Reservations are required for your particular event. If you have any special needs or requests, make sure to relay that information to your reservation contact person prior to your group's arrival.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Wood: Bring your own—no wood gathering.

Water: Drinking water is available—bring a container.

Comments

If the posted speed limit is 25mph, drive 25mph. Trust us!

Lava Beds National Monument

P.O. BOX 867

Tulelake, CA 96134

Description

The Lava Beds is located near the California-Oregon border east of Interstate 5 on Highway 139. The monument provides the park visitor with fascinating volcanic features, including the phenomenon of the lava tube caves. The caves are open to visitors with safety precautions strictly enforced. The area also holds cultural history of the Modoc Indians. The park is also located in the semiannual migration of birds along the Pacific Flyway, and includes the habitat necessary for the Bald Eagle. The park is surrounded by the Modoc National Forest with the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge to the north.

Activities

- Camping
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Cave Exploration
- Exhibits & Displays

Facilities

The Indian Well Campground has 40-site family style campground with flush toilets. A Visitor Center is located in southern portion of the park with exhibits & displays on the area with ranger-lead programs available during the summer season. Amazing panoramic views are available to those who wish to hike the trail up to the fire lookout, Schonchim Butte. When visiting the Monument make sure to plan time to visit the Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge.

Fire: Designated fire rings only.

Wood: See park staff—No wood gathering.

Water: Available in the campground during the summer months—near the visitor center during the winter.

(408) 389-4485

Pinnacles National Monument

Paicines, CA 95043

Description

The Pinnacles are the last remnants of an ancient volcano. The distinctive geological features are the reason why the National Park Service set this area aside as a national monument in 1908. An entrance fee of \$4.00 is charged. The park is separated into two districts with visitor service facilities at both locations. There is no road passing through connecting both sides of the monument. The distance between is approximately 7-10 miles. Open year around, the best time to visit is early spring and fall.

Activities

- Cave Exploration
- Camping
- Exhibits & Displays
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Technical Rock climbing

Facilities

There are no federally operated campgrounds on the eastside of the monument; however one mile outside of the park on Highway 146 is privately-owned Pinnacles Campground, Inc. The campground includes 78 family sites, 11 group sites for up to 20 people, swimming pool, store, amphitheater, flush toilets, and showers. For more information write to:

Pinnacles Campground, Inc.
2400 Highway 146
Paicines, CA 95043

Or by calling (408) 389-4462

Camping on the westside is permitted in the Chaparral Picnic Area from June 1st through February 10th, and thereafter Monday through Thursday nights the rest of the year. There are 18 walk-in sites, first-come first-serve basis only, with water and restrooms available nearby. Groups may make reservations for up to 36 people by calling (408) 389-4526.

Backcountry camping is not allowed due to the relatively small size and fragile nature of the area.

Fire: Designated fire rings only—subject to seasonal fire conditions.

Wood: available—no wood gathering is allowed.

Water: available within/near all campsites.

Lassen Volcanic National Park

P.O. BOX 100

Mineral, CA 96063-0100

Description

Lassen Park is located in northern California off Interstate 5 near Red Bluff. Several access roads lead into the park with Highway 36 taking you straight pass the park's headquarters. Lassen Peak plays a vital part in the geological study of the areas' volcanic and seismic activity and is also part of the Pacific Rings of Fire. It has been over seventy years since Lassen burst into eruption and today researchers are learning how the natural landscape that was once there is recovering. The Lassen area is also an important meeting point for several Native American groups and has seen the footsteps of travelers exploring the West. Located adjacent is Lassen National Forest and the Caribou Wilderness. The park is also located along the Pacific Crest Trail.

Activities

- Camping
- Backcountry use
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Boating

Facilities

The park's several campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis only. Each campground has modern restroom facilities and a group site for up to 25 people is available for reservation by contacting the park staff. A wilderness permit, free of charge, is required for groups staying overnight. There are over 4 dozen lakes inside the park that offer fishing and non-powered boating. Rentals are not available within the park and some lakes hold restrictions. Check with park staff prior to your arrival and make sure to stop at a ranger station on your way in.

Fires: within the campgrounds in designated fire rings only; backcountry users must use self-contained stoves.

Wood: See park staff—no wood gathering.

Water: All water should be treated unless otherwise posted.

Comments

Thermal Warnings—boiling water may be present at or near the surface in park thermal areas. Stay on trails and boardwalks where provided. The crusts over some thermal features are brittle. Breaking through can plunge you in boiling water. Keep close watch and physical control of all small children. The man who named Bumpass Hell lost his leg as a result of falling into the boiling waters

Smith River National Recreation Area

(707)457-3131

Six Rivers National Forest
Gasquet Ranger Station
P.O. BOX 228
Gasquet, CA 95543

Description

The Smith River National Recreational Area (NRA) is located within the Six Rivers National Forest and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The Smith River is in the heart of the largest wild and scenic river system in the United States. Twenty-seven miles of the Smith River Scenic Byway weave along the beautiful Smith River and is the main travel route through the NRA. Smith River is 20 miles from Redwood National Park and Jedediah Smith Redwood State Park, and 20 miles from the Siskiyou Wilderness.

Activities

- Camping
- White Water Rafting
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Nature Study
- Hunting
- Bicycling

Facilities

There are four campgrounds located within Smith River NRA, along or adjacent to the river. Amenities and services include tables, fire grills and pit toilets. There are no showers. Big Flat campground has 30 sites, no water and is a great get away from it all spot. Fees are collected at all overnight facilities.

Primitive camping is available within the NRA, unless otherwise posted. You must camp ¼-mile from developed sites and adhere to these following rules: obtain a campfire permit for anything that make a flame or produces heat (stoves, lanterns, camp fires); pack it in, pack it out; store food to properly protect from wildlife; bury all human waste as specified.

For more information on trail maps and general park information please write to the address above.

Fire: Designated fire rings only—backcountry users need self-contained stoves.

Wood: See park staff—no wood gathering.

Water: Available at all campgrounds except the sites at Big Flat—treat unless posted.

For more camping opportunities check these out:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreational Areas

1-800-47-SUNNY

Call for free camping information

Interesting places in our neck of the woods include Cache Creek, Cow Mountain and Samoa Dunes.

Redwood National & State Parks

707-464-6101—general park info for both facilities

800-444-PARK for camping reservations at Redwood State Park

Humboldt County Parks



11606 2nd Street
Eureka, CA 95501
707-445-7651

Humboldt County's parks and recreation areas are located along the Eel, Van Duzen, Mattole and Mad Rivers and the Pacific Ocean. Included in this system are beaches, virgin redwood groves, boat ramps and fishing accesses. The parks offer camping, day-use, swimming, boating, beachcombing and clamming for the enjoyment of all.

Because of the lack of financial resources, most of the parks are less developed than most of the neighboring park systems. However many park users find this a star attraction, making their outdoor experience more enjoyable. All campgrounds are equipped with restroom facilities and cold running water. All campsites are on a first-come, first-serve basis only, no reservations are accepted. If litter cans are not at the facility you are enjoying please take your trash with you.

http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/portal/living/county_parks/humparks.pdf

MAP

A.W. Way

Cost:

The day use fee is \$3, the overnight fee is \$14.

Description

A.W. Way is 31 miles west of Highway 101, south of Ferndale. Take the South Fork/Honeydew Exit between Garberville and Ferndale. It has camping and day use areas. Reservations are not accepted; camping is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Activities

- Fishing
- Camping
- Swimming
- Picnicking
- Playground

Facilities

The park has 30 tent sites for overnight camping. There are flush toilets and one cold shower available. The park is one of the more rustic: it lacks horse trails, RV hookups, and bike trails.

Fire: Permitted only in fire rings. No beach fires are allowed.

Water: Available. Bring a container.

Wood: No wood gathering is permitted. Wood is available from the Camp host on a limited basis.

Big Lagoon

Fees:

Day use is \$2, overnight is \$14

Description

Big Lagoon Park is 7 miles north of Trinidad, off Highway 101. Take the Big Lagoon exit, and follow the signs to this park. Located on the Pacific Coast, it offers beautiful sunsets, beachside camping, and a remote location.

Activities

- Fishing
- Camping
- Swimming
- Beachcombing
- Picnicking

Facilities

Big Lagoon has 25 tent sites for camping. There are flush toilets, but no showers. There are no RV hookups, no horse trails, and no bike trails.

Fire: Beach fires are permitted. Cooking is in fire rings only.

Water: Available. Bring a bucket.

Wood: Firewood can be gathered from the beach, or purchased from the host.
Clam Beach

Clam Beach

Fees:

Free day use, \$10 Camping fee

Description:

7 1/2 miles north of Arcata (near McKinleyville) off HWY 101 (exit Clam Beach Park off-ramp). Located on the Pacific Ocean.

Activities:

- Beachcombing
- Camping
- Fishing
- Clamming
- Picnicking

Facilities:

Clam beach features one of the few horse trails found in Humboldt County. It also has 15 RV hookups, compared to 12 tent spaces. No showers are available, and the toilets are more latrines.

Fire: Cooking only in existing fire rings. Beach fires are permitted.

Water: Potable. Bring a container.

Wood: Can be bought from the host, or gathered on the beach.

Samoa Boat Ramp

Fees

Free day use, \$14 camping fee.

Description

From Eureka, turn west on HWY 255, cross Samoa Bridge; 5 miles south on New Navy Base Road. Primarily a day use area, designed for boaters.

Activities

- Boat launching
- Camping
- Beach Combing
- Clamming
- Fishing

Facilities

No tent sites are provided in this location; it also lacks showers. There are 25 RV sites for all your car camping needs. The only use at this site are day hikes along the beach, and boat launching.

Fire: Allowed in existing fire rings

Water: Yes

Wood: See park staff – no wood gathering is allowed.

Van Duzen: Pamplin Grove

Fees

\$3 day use, \$14 overnight fee.

Description

12 miles east of Highway 101 on Highway 36. Good spot for picnics. Reservations can be made for groups in advance.

Activities

- Virgin Redwood Groves
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Camping
- Swimming
- Picnicking

Facilities

For your camping pleasure, 10 tent sites are available. There are no showers, and vault toilets. There is hiking aplenty, but no horse or bike trails.

Fire: Only in designated fire rings

Water: Provided

Wood: Available to purchase from the campground host.

Sonoma County Regional Park System



2403 Professional Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-527-2041

Doran Beach Regional Park

(707) 875-3540

P.O. Box 372

Bodega Bay, CA 94923

Description

This park is located at the south end of town, just off of Highway 1. The park is a narrow peninsula of 127 acres that forms the southern boundary of the Bodega Harbor, and the northern boundary of Bodega Bay. The main feature of this park is a two-mile long stretch of sandy beach. During low tides visitors are often able to access the Pinnacle Gulch beach by climbing over a moderate rock formation. Pinnacle Beach can also be accessed by a foot trail in the over-viewing housing development. The peninsula can be best described as a human-made sandbar, complete with a jetty and habitat of native plant and animal species.

Activities

- beach-combing
- rock & surf fishing
- camping
- dune ecology
- marine life observation
- crabbing
- tidal pool exploration
- bird watching
- saltwater marsh ecology
- astronomy

Facilities

There are 8 tent-only sites and generally 125 family campsites available. Each site has a table and fire ring and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis only. A group campsite is available for reservation and accommodates between 25 and 60 people. There are three shower houses located throughout the campgrounds. Park staff-lead interpretive programs are often presented during high use months. A boat launch, fish cleaning station and rock jetty is also available. Tours of the U.S. Coast Guard Station, located inside the park, are available by appointment only. Please call 875-3596 for further information.

Fire: In designated fire rings only.

Water: Yes

Wood: See Park Staff—No wood gathering is allowed

Comments

Even the most well seasoned campers will enjoy Doran Beach with its long sandy beach perfect for playing games and doing activities that would otherwise be too rough on normal ground. Make sure to include gear for windy conditions. The University of California has a working marine lab located on the opposite side of the harbor. Tours are available every Friday between 2:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. For further information please call 875-2211.

Gualala Point Regional Park

(707) 785-2377

P.O. Box 95
Gualala, CA 95445

Description

Located on scenic Highway 1 just south of the Sonoma-Mendocino county line, Gualala Point is a splendid combination of 195 acres of ocean, river and forest environments. The ecological diversity and balance make this park an excellent learning tool in teaching topics ranging from marine life to redwood forest habitats. The park is open year-around for vehicle and bicycling camping on a first-come, first-serve basis only. The campground is located in a redwood grove near the river with vehicle or trail access leading to the ocean shoreline.

Activities

- hiking & bicycling trails
- fresh & salt water fishing
- nature study
- swimming
- beach-combing
- camping
- whale watching
- tidal pool exploration

Facilities

There are 7 walk-in/bicycle campsites and 18 family campsites; each with a table, food locker and fire ring. Over looking the ocean a visitor center is available with changing displays and a wind generator, which provides power to the center.

Fire: In designated fire rings only.

Water: Yes

Wood: See Park Staff—No wood gathering is allowed

Comments

An outstanding park for teaching nature and other outdoor skills, especially for beginning units embarking on a simple overnight stay.

Spring Lake Regional Park

5390 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

(707) 539-8092 park office
(707) 539-8082 campground office
(707) 539-2865 visitor center

Description

Spring Lake Park is located in eastern city limits of Santa Rosa covering 317 acres of oak-studded woodlands, including a 72 acre lake containing bass, bluegill and trout for excellent year-around fishing. The park is owned by the Sonoma County Water Agency as a flood control project and operated by the Regional Parks Department for recreational purposes. Access to the campground portion of the park is on Newanga Avenue off of Summerfield Road; while vehicle access to the visitor center and swimming lagoon is on Violetti Road off of Montgomery Drive. Spring Lake Park is located in-between Santa Rosa's Howarth Park and Annadel State Park, providing miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding and bicycling.

Activities

- camping
- swimming
- fishing
- nature trails
- nature study
- hiking & bicycling trails
- boating
- horseback riding
- par-course trail

Facilities

There are 31 family campsites available for reservation. Each includes a table, food locker and fire ring. A group campsite is also available for reservation and can accommodate 25 to 60 people. Modern restroom and shower facilities are available. A Visitor Center is located inside the park with days and hours varying. Interpretive programs are offered year-round. From Memorial Day through Labor Day a 3-acre sandy beach and warm spring fed swimming lagoon are open. Canoes, rowboats and paddleboats are available for rental with non-powered boating permitted year-round on the lake.

Fire: In designated fire rings only.

Water: Yes

Wood: See Park Staff—No wood gathering is allowed

Stillwater Cove Regional Park (707) 847-3245

P.O. Box 95
Gualala, CA 95445

Description

The 393-acre Stillwater Cove is located just 3.5 miles north of famous Fort Ross along Sonoma County's rugged coastline on Highway 1, and 13 miles from Jenner at the mouth of the Russian River. The cove offers a beautifully rocky shore and sheltered beach well known for its great scuba and skin diving, rock fishing and tidal pool viewing. Shaded redwood trails with scattered picnic sites, hiking trails and nature studies abound for the land lover through redwood grooves.

Activities

- scuba & skin diving
- hiking trails
- tidal pool viewing
- marine life observation
- camping
- rock fishing
- nature study

Facilities

There are 21 family campsites with a table, food locker and fire ring. Modern restrooms with showers are also available. The restored Fort Ross School is available for exterior viewing only.

Fire: In designated fire rings only.

Water: Yes

Wood: See Park Staff—No wood gathering is allowed

Camping Awards



For further information on these and other camping awards that are available contact either of the council service centers or your unit commissioner.

Mile Swim BSA

You can earn this award by completing the requirements outlined in the Swimming Merit Badge Pamphlet, including swimming one mile.



BSA Lifeguard

If you hold Swimming, Lifesaving, Rowing, Canoeing, and First-Aid merit badges, you can earn this certification upon completion of further requirements with a qualified counselor.



50 Miler Program

The primary objective of this program is to stimulate Boy Scout and Explorers interest in the ideal of the movement and to promote activity that will result in Personal Fitness, Self-reliance, and knowledge of practical understanding of Conservation. The 50-miler award is presented to each qualifying individual for satisfactory participation in an approved trip. In order to qualify for this award, the group of which the individual is a member must fulfill all of the following requirements.

- Make complete and satisfactory plans for the trip, including the possibilities for advancement
- Cover the trail or canoe route of not less than 50 consecutive miles (a maximum 10 miles per day); take a minimum of 5 consecutive days to complete the trip without the aid of motors.
- During the time on the trail or

waterway, complete a minimum of 10 hours of group work on projects to improve the trail springs campsites, portage or other areas. If after checking with the recognized authorities and it is not possible to complete 10 hours each of group work on the trail, a similar project may be done in the unit's home area. Unit or tour leader must file the 50-miler application with your local service center.

The Historic Trails Program

Love the America and devotion to our Country depends upon a thorough appreciation of the ideals, principals, and traditions that have made our country strong. Historic Trails Award requirements emphasize cooperation between historic societies and Boy Scouts. A unit should establish a close relationship to a local society as soon as possible when planning an historic activity - most communities have such societies.

To earn the award, members of the unit must plan and participate in a historic activity. A unit historic activity requires members to:

- Locate a historic trail or site and study information relating to it.
- Hike or camp two days and one night along the trail or in the vicinity of the site.
- Cooperation with an adult group such as an historic society, to restore and mark all or parts of this trail or site. Or cooperate with such a group to plan and stage a historic ceremony or other public event related to the trial or site.
- Your unit leader must then file a Historic Trails Award application with your local BSA Council Office.



Hometown USA Award

This award is jointly sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, INC. and the BSA Patch #00356 (Worn as a temporary patch) is purchased through your local service center.

- Earn three merit badges from this list: Citizenship in the Community, Communications, Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management, Forestry, Gardening, Geology, Landscape Architecture, Nature, Plant Science, Public Speaking, Soil and Water Conservation.

Perform a Community service project, this must involve a minimum of eight hours of time, of two are involved in planning and the other six in carrying out or managing the project. The project should help keep America beautiful and benefit the community either physically or financially. Your Council Service Center has suggestions for these projects.

World Conservation Project

Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts may earn the conservation award. The award is earned by completing certain Conservation achievements for Cub Scouting ranks, or earning Environment Science, Citizenship in the World, and either Soil and Water Conservation or Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badges for Boy Scouting.

Paul Bunyan Woodsman

As a member of the Boy Scout of America, Teach the Totin' Chit to a Scout using a hand axe. Then study Chapter 6 in the Fieldbook and, using a 3/4 axe, demonstrate to your scout leader or qualified person designated by him the following:

- Cut a log 6-8' long and 4" or more in diameter into 2' lengths. Then split the 2' lengths into quarters.
- With approval and supervision do one of the following: (A) Clear trails or fire lanes for two hours, (B) Demonstrate how to fell a standing tree 4" or more at the butt. Lop branches, make a brush pile and cut tree into 2' lengths and stack. (C) Trim a downed tree, cut into 4' lengths and stack, make a brush pile of smaller branches.

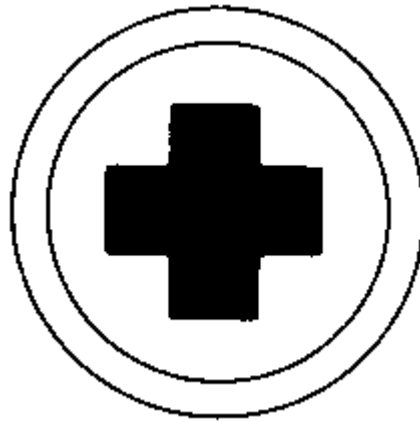
Hornaday Awards

Dr. William Temple Hornaday, then the director of the New York Zoological Park initiated this conservation award program in 1914, in an effort to inspire the Boy Scouts of America to work constructively for conservation. It was funded for 20 years through his permanent Wildlife protection fund. Upon his death, the award was named the William T. Hornaday Award for Distinguished Service to Conservation, thus appropriately paying tribute to the nation's outstanding pioneer wildlife conservationist.

For many years, it has inspired large numbers of scouts and their leaders to work constructively for conservation.

The Hornaday Award may be given in one of many five forms. For more information, contact the Council Service Center for a fact sheet on the William T. Hornaday Award.

Health & Safety



“Be Prepared”

The First concern of parents when their children are engaged in an activity that takes them away from home is their health and safety. It must be your first consideration as a leader.

PURE DRINKING WATER

A constant supply of drinking water is essential. Thermos jugs, plastic water containers, or canteens are all satisfactory for the storage and dispensing of water. Serious illness can result from drinking unpurified water. Protect your health; don't take a chance on using water that you're unsure of. If there is a doubt of the purity of the water, one of four purification methods may be used:

- Use an approved water pump and follow manufactures recommendation.
- Boil water for five minutes and pour back and forth from one container to another before drinking
- Add Potable Aqua Tablets and let water stand for 30 minutes (Tablets available from the BSA Catalog.
- Add five drops of 2% Tincture of Iodine to one quart of water, and let stand for 30 minutes. **DO NOT USE Iodine drops or tablets in aluminum containers**
- Add two drops of household bleach to one quart of water and let stand for 30 minutes.

DISHWASHING

To make sure that dishes are clean, someone should be directly responsible for inspecting all eating and cooking utensils and dishes before they are packed away after being washed. Dishwashing is easy if a regular system is used. See Camping Merit Badge pamphlet No. 3256 for full details. For an easy system, follow these four steps carefully:

- Have a plate scraper, or a supply of paper towels at refuse pail, each member scrapes their own plate and eating utensils.
- Next step is the wash pot containing liquid soap. Using a plastic pad or sponge, each person washes his own plate, cup and utensils.
- Two rinses should be used: the first in warm water to remove all the soap; the second should be nearly boiling water to sterilize and to make the dishes hot enough to dry without wiping. Use a chemical sanitizer tablet to ensure proper sanitation. Allow dishes to remain in the rinse water for at least 30 seconds.

Air-dry the dishes on a clear plastic sheet at the end of the line. Put a ridge stick beneath it to rest the dishes on, so that they will drain and dry rapidly. As soon as the dishes are dry, each member should pick up his dishes and inspect them and store them immediately.

Sanitation

“When on the trail, don’t throw or bury. If you can’t burn, be sure to carry.”

Cans and aluminum should not be thrown in fires—they will not burn. If there are trash containers provided nearby, foil and cans may be thrown away or recycled. Otherwise, they must be cleaned, flattened, and carried away in a litterbag.

DO NOT BURY GARBAGE OR TRASH

In temporary camps, where there are no facilities, a simple latrine needs to be made. Soap and wash water should be near the latrine. Also a small trowel and toilet paper should be nearby.

WOODTOOLS

Scouts and Explorers should be properly instructed in the use and care of wood tools. A knife, axe, and saw are necessary camping tools. Wood tools should never be used to hack, scar, or disfigure trees or buildings.

FIRES

Be careful with fire. Never leave your fire until you are certain that it is completely out and cold. When extinguishing your fire, mix the hot coals with soil and water, stir it completely, and feel the ashes with your hands to be sure that the coals are completely cold.

FIRST-AID KIT

A first-aid kit, well stocked with the basic essentials is indispensable. It should be large enough to hold the contents so they are readily visible, and so that any one item may be taken out without unpacking the whole kit. It should be sturdy and lightweight, and should have the list of contents readily available for easy refilling. The kit should be kept in a convenient location. There should be one person responsible to keep the kit filled. The size and quality of the kit will depend on the size of your group. It is also important that there be one or more persons trained in the principles of first aid. Contact your local Red Cross Chapter for classes on first aid and CPR training.

Suggested Items for a Basic First-Aid Kit:

Bar of soap	Triangular Bandage	Assorted Gauze Pads
2” Roller bandage	Adhesive Strips	Scissors
1” Roller bandage	Tweezers	Small Flashlight
1” adhesive	Safety Pins	Needles
3x3 sterile pad	Latex Gloves	CPR Mask
Assorted Band-Aids	Neosporin	Burn Kit
Moleskin	Instant Ice Pack	Matches

Appendix

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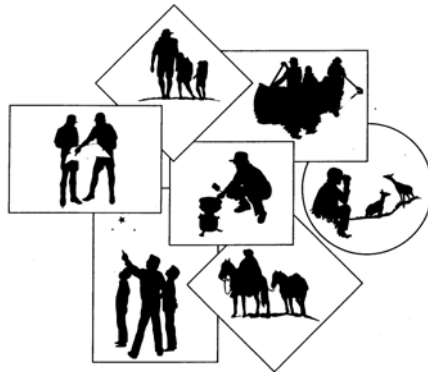
[More Park Addresses](#)

[Local Tour Permit](#)

[National Tour Permit](#)

[Campfire Program Planner](#)

[Medical Record](#)



For more information on camping areas associated with these areas please call or write for further information.

National Park Service (Western Region)
405 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94123
415-556-4122

California State Parks (Northern Region)
396 Tesconi Cir.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-576-2185

Lake Pillsbury Resort
P.O. BOX 37
Potter Valley, CA 95469
707-743-1581

Six Rivers National Forest
Orleans Ranger District
P.O. BOX Drawer B
Orleans, CA 95556
916-627-3291

U.S Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
630 Sansome St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
415-556-0122

Department of Parks & Beaches
County of Mendocino
Courthouse
Ukiah, CA 95482
707-463-4267

Six Rivers National Forest
Lower Trinity Ranger District
P.O. BOX 668
Willow Creek, CA 95573
916-629-2118

Six Rivers National Forest
Mad River Ranger District
P.O. BOX 300
Bridgeville, CA 95526
707-574-6233

