



The Island Guide

Plan Your Visit—Where to Go and What to Do



Tim Hauf, www.timhaufphotography.com

Welcome and Park Report from the Superintendent

The park staff and I wish to welcome you to Channel Islands National Park, one of North America’s magnificent treasures. Close to the California mainland, yet worlds apart, the park encompasses five of the eight California Channel Islands (Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara) and their ocean environment, preserving and protecting a wealth of natural and cultural resources.

The park bridges two biogeographical provinces, and in a remarkably small place, harbors the biologic diversity of nearly 2,500 miles of the North American coast. The Channel Islands are home to over 2,000 plant and animal species, of which 145 are found nowhere else in the world.

Like the Galápagos Islands of South America, isolation has allowed evolution to proceed independently on the islands. Marine life ranges from microscopic plankton to the blue whale, the largest animal to live on Earth. Archeological and cultural resources span a period of more than 13,000 years of human habitation.

The protection of these fragile island resources was ensured when Congress, in the act that created Channel Islands National Park in 1980, established a long-term ecological monitoring program to gather information on the current health of resources and predict future conditions. This information provides park and managers with useful products

for recreation planning, conservation and restoration programs, and early identification of critical issues.

The islands were set aside by Congress not only to preserve these resources, but also to provide for your enjoyment. If you visit the park, you will be one of a very select group. Few people actually see this park because it is not easy to get to—you can’t drive to the islands. A short-but-exciting ocean voyage or a commercial flight in a small airplane is required. The park is one of the least visited of America’s national parks. The relatively light visitation enhances the islands’ feeling of solitude and assists in the protection of fragile resources. In establishing the park, Congress recognized the value of solitude by allowing for low intensity, limited entry visitation. So a visit to this national park will always provide a marked contrast to the bustle of southern California most people experience. It will always be a place where you can step back in time and experience coastal southern California the way it once was.

We are delighted you are interested in this marvelous place. Thanks for making the effort! We hope our park newspaper encourages you to safely explore and discover Channel Islands National Park while taking care to protect and keep these beautiful and fragile islands unimpaired for future generations.

Russell E. Galipeau, Jr., Superintendent
please see PARK REPORT, 20



Kathy deWet-Oleson

Hiking, Santa Cruz Island

Channel Islands National Park

Named for the deep trough that separates them from the mainland, the islands off the California coast and their encircling waters are home to plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. Isolation over thousands of years and the mingling of

warm and cold ocean currents give rise to the rich biodiversity of these islands. Today, five of the islands, their submerged lands, and the waters within one nautical mile of each island are protected as Channel Islands National Park.

Mailing Address

Park Superintendent
Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Dr.
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Phone

805-658-5730

Park Website

www.nps.gov/chis/

E-mail

chis_interpretation@nps.gov

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Tim Hauf

Aerial view, Channel Islands National Park

When to Visit—Through the Year



Visitors often ask what time of year they should visit Channel Islands National Park. Since the park is located in “sunny” southern California, it may seem that the obvious answer is “any time of year.” And, true, you can visit throughout the entire year. But, believe it or not, we do have seasons here in southern California. While the seasonal changes are nothing like one would find in Minnesota, there are differences that visitors should take into consideration when visiting the park. Each season has its own character and casts a unique mood over the islands.

In addition, visitors also should be aware

that ocean and weather conditions vary considerably from day to day and island to island. Although this makes planning your visit a little difficult, remember that this unpredictable and, at times, unforgiving weather is one of the main reasons the islands have been afforded so much isolation and protection from the rapid changes seen on the mainland. It is, in part, what makes the Channel Islands such a unique and wonderful place.

We encourage you to take the opportunity to fully enjoy the islands throughout the entire year. Channel Islands National Park is truly a place for all seasons.

Climate

In general, the islands have a Mediterranean climate year round. Temperatures are relatively stable, with highs averaging in the mid 60s°F and lows in the low 50s°F. The islands receive most of their precipitation between December and March. Spring starts the warming trend toward summer when temperatures average in the low 70s°F.

However, visitors must be prepared for high winds, fog, rough seas, and sea spray at any time. Winds are often calm in the early morning and increase during the afternoon. High winds may occur regardless of the forecast, especially

on the outer islands, Santa Rosa and San Miguel (30-knot winds are not unusual). Anacapa, eastern Santa Cruz, and Santa Barbara Islands have more moderate winds. The calmest winds and sea conditions often occur August through October. Dense fog is common during the late spring and early summer months, but may occur at any time. Ocean water temperatures range from the lower 50s°F in the winter to the high 60s°F in the fall.

Spring



Rainbow and coreopsis, Santa Barbara Island

- Although temperatures are becoming warmer, strong winds often occur during this season.
- Dense fog is common during the late spring.
- The islands are green and wildflowers reach peak bloom, especially the brilliant yellow coreopsis flowers. During a normal year of rainfall, this occurs by late January through March.
- Western gulls and other seabirds begin nesting.
- Island fox pups are born.
- Spring bird migration is underway.
- Gray whale watching season ends.
- California sea lions and northern fur seals start to gather at their rookery sites.
- Peregrine falcons and other landbirds begin nesting.
- Channel Islands Live programs continue throughout the entire year on Anacapa Island with live broadcasts to the mainland visitor center, classrooms, and park website.

Summer



Hikers at Webster Point, Santa Barbara Island

- Afternoon winds are common, fog diminishes near midsummer.
- Calm winds and seas become more frequent near the end of summer.
- Ocean temperatures begin to warm, reaching the high 60°F by end of summer. Underwater visibility increases.
- Summer is the ideal time for sailing, snorkeling, diving, kayaking, and swimming.
- Seabird and landbird chicks fledge (leave the nest and fly).
- Although the vegetation begins to dry out, some plants like gumplant, buckwheat, poppies, and verbena continue to bloom.
- Whale watching begins for blue and humpback whales.
- California sea lions and northern fur seals begin pupping.
- Most people visit the park during the June through August period.
- Backcountry beach camping season begins mid-August on Santa Rosa Island.

Fall



Kayaking Arch Rock, Anacapa Island

- The best chance for warm weather, calm winds, and seas continues. However, beginning around October, strong east or Santa Ana winds are possible.
- Ocean temperatures may reach 70°F in early fall and visibility may reach 100 feet.
- Many consider the fall as the best time of year for snorkeling, diving, kayaking, and swimming.
- Blue and humpback whale watching comes to an end in early fall.
- Fall bird migration is underway.
- Northern elephant seals begin to gather at their rookery sites in late fall.

Winter



Gray whale, Santa Barbara Channel

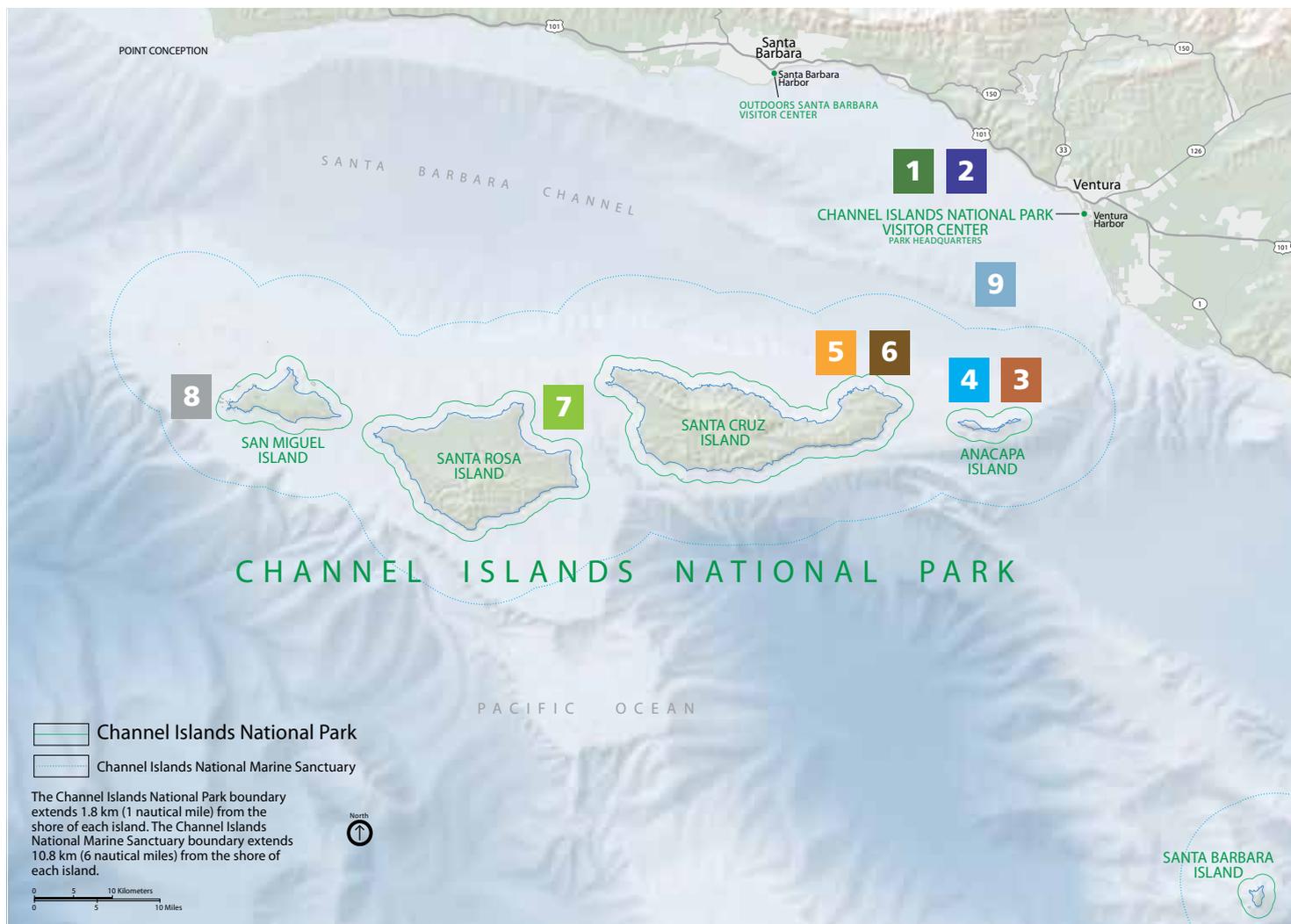
- Temperatures begin to cool. Winter storms start to appear, with most rain falling between December and March. Nevertheless, beautiful sunny, clear winter days occur between storms.
- Some of the best sunsets of the year occur during this time of year.
- Gray whale watching begins at the end of December and lasts until April.
- Northern elephant seals begin pupping in early winter.
- Harbor seals begin pupping in late winter.
- Islands begin to turn green and wildflowers start blooming during the late winter months.
- California brown pelicans begin nesting.

Park Highlights—Places to Go and Things to Do Anytime of Year



Since Channel Islands National Park encompasses five islands and their surrounding one mile of the ocean, the decision of where to go and what to do can be challenging. So compiled below is a list of park highlights that we feel should not be missed and can be experienced at anytime of year.

For more suggestions, please read the island descriptions (pages 6–15) and “Things to Do” (page 16–19).



1 Visitor Center



Tim Haut

The Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center at Channel Islands National Park in Ventura features a bookstore, exhibits, native plant garden, and park movie. The fully accessible visitor center is open 8:30 am until 5:00 pm daily; closed on Thanksgiving and December 25th.

📍 Page 4, 805-658-5730, nps.gov/chis

2 Channel Islands Live



Bill Kendig

If you can't visit the islands, then take a virtual visit to the Channel Islands through live, interactive broadcasts and webcams (including the popular Bald Eagle Webcam) that highlight the remarkable natural and cultural resources of the islands and their surrounding waters.

📍 Page 16

3 Inspiration Point, Anacapa Island



Tim Haut

Even on a foggy day, this is one of the best views in the park—and appropriately named. Island Packers runs full-day and half-day trips to Anacapa Island throughout the year.

📍 Pages 4 and 6

4 Snorkeling/Diving/Kayaking



Chuck Graham

After an island hike, there is no better way to cool off than to snorkel, dive, or kayak in the Landing Cove on Anacapa Island or at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island. The water can be clear and calm anytime of year, but don't forget your wetsuit.

📍 Pages 4, 6, 8, and 18

5 Cavern Point, Santa Cruz Island



Tim Haut

A hike to Cavern Point not only rewards you with great views, but on the way you can stop off at the visitor center in the historic ranch house and then end your trip with a snorkel in Scorpion Anchorage. Island Packers runs full-day and half-day trips to Santa Cruz Island throughout the year.

📍 Pages 4 and 8

6 Camping, Santa Cruz Island



Kathy deWet Oleson
Tim Haut

Although all the islands have great campgrounds, Scorpion Ranch Campground on Santa Cruz Island is the most convenient and provides the most recreational opportunities—from hiking to snorkeling to kayaking to guided interpretive programs.

📍 Pages 4, 8, and 19

7 Torrey Pines, Santa Rosa Island



Tim Haut
NPS

It's a little harder to get to but well worth the effort. See one of the rarest trees in the world while admiring the view of Bechers Bay. Channel Islands Aviation flies year round to Santa Rosa Island. Island Packers runs trips spring through fall.

📍 Pages 4 and 10

8 Point Bennett, San Miguel Island



Definitely hard to get to (4-hour boat ride—summer through fall only; 16-mile round-trip hike) but you will not be disappointed. Here you can view one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in the world with over 30,000 seals and sea lions and up to five different species.

📍 Pages 4 and 12

9 Whale Watching



Over 30 different marine mammal species call the Santa Barbara Channel home, including gray whales, elephant seals, common dolphins, and California sea lions. While some species can be viewed from a distance on the island, Island Packers offers trips year round that allow for closer viewing.

📍 Pages 4 and 17

Things to Know Before You Go

A visit to the Channel Islands is an exercise in preparation and self-reliance. Since there are no services on the islands, there are no remedies for poor planning once you have arrived. The following information will help you prepare for your visit.



Visitor Centers

The **Robert J. Lagomarsino Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center** features a bookstore, a native plant garden, a display of marine aquatic life, and exhibits featuring the unique character of each park island. Visitors also will enjoy the new, award-winning park film. Open 8:30 am until 5:00 pm daily. Closed Thanksgiving and December 25th. Located at 1901 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura, CA 93001, 805-658-5730.

The **Outdoors Santa Barbara Visitor Center** not only has one of the best views of Santa Barbara, but also offers visitors exhibits and information about Channel Islands National Park, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, and the City of Santa Barbara. Open 11 am until 4 pm daily. Located at 113 Harbor Way, 4th Floor, Santa Barbara, CA 93109, 805-884-1475, outdoorsb.noaa.gov/.



Interpretive Information

Books and materials about the park are available for sale through Western National Parks Association either in the park visitor center or by mail order.

This nonprofit organization supports the educational and research programs of the park. Western National Parks Association, 805-658-5730, www.wnpsa.org.



Accessibility

The mainland visitor center is fully accessible. Due to their isolation and transportation requirements, the islands are not readily accessible for individuals in wheelchairs or those with limited mobility. Limited wheelchair access is available with the park boat and air concessioners, Island Packers and Channel Islands Aviation.



Fees

There are no entrance fees to visit the park. However, a reservation fee is charged for camping on the islands. The \$15.00 per night-per site fee includes both the National Park Service fee that supports the operation and maintenance of the campgrounds and the reservation fee charged by the contractor that manages the national reservation service.

For general information on national park entrance fees and the America the Beautiful—National Parks and Federal Recreational

Lands Pass, please visit NPS Fees and Entrance Pass Programs at nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm. Passes may be obtained in person at the park, by calling 1-888-ASK-USGS ext. 1, or via the Internet at the USGS store.



Goods and Services

There are no goods, services, or accommodations (lodging) available on the islands. Visitors must bring all their own food, supplies, and water (except at Scorpion Ranch Campground on Santa Cruz Island and Water Canyon Campground on Santa Rosa Island where potable water is provided). Public phones are not available.



For mainland services—ventura-usa.com/ and santabarbaraca.com

How To Plan Your Trip

- Decide how long your visit will be.
- Read this paper and the park website (www.nps.gov/chis) to determine which islands and activities appeal to you most.
- Contact the concessioners for island transportation information and make your reservation. If you are a private boater, read "Boating," page 18.
- If you plan to stay overnight on any of the islands, read "Camping," page 19, and make a campsite reservation.
- Contact rental shops to reserve any gear required (kayaks, snorkeling gear, etc.).
- Shop and pack for the trip. Read "Climate" on page 2, "Goods and Services" on page 4, and "Clothing and Gear" and "Your Safety" on page 5.

How to Get There—Island Transportation

While the mainland visitor centers in Ventura and Santa Barbara are readily accessible by car or public transportation, the islands are only accessible by park concessioner boats and planes or private boat. Advanced planning is highly recommended.

Please note that there is no transportation available on the islands—all areas must be accessed on foot or by private boat or kayak. Bicycles are not allowed on the islands.



Channel Islands Aviation, Santa Rosa Island



Public air transportation is available year round to Santa Rosa Island by park concessioner Channel Islands Aviation. Flights depart from Camarillo Airport.



Channel Islands Aviation

305 Durley Ave. 805-987-1301
Camarillo, CA 93010 flycia.com

Private aircraft may not land within park boundaries. All aircraft must maintain a minimum 1,000-foot altitude above land and sea surfaces within the park and sanctuary. However, FAA regulations state that pilots are requested to maintain a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground level over national parks.



nps.gov/chis/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm



Private boat, Anacapa Island



Island Packers, Santa Cruz Island



Public boat transportation is available year round to all five islands by park concessioner Island Packers. Boats depart from Ventura and Channel Islands (Oxnard) Harbors.



Island Packers, Inc.

1691 Spinnaker Dr. 805-642-1393
Ventura, CA 93001 islandpackers.com

Private boaters may land on all five islands within the park throughout the year. However, personal watercraft such as jet skis are not allowed in park waters.



Page 18, "Boating and Kayaking"

General Public Transportation Schedule

Island	Frequency of Trips	Travel Time (one way from Ventura)	Landing Conditions
Anacapa	Year round: variable schedule 5-7 days/week	1 hour	Visitors must climb from the boat up a steel-rung ladder to a dock. Once ashore, visitors must climb 157 stairs to the top of the island. Non-landing trips are available.
Santa Cruz	Year round: variable schedule 5-7 days/week	1 hour	Visitors must climb from the boat up a steel-rung ladder to a pier at Scorpion Anchorage and Prisoners Harbor.
Santa Rosa	Spring to fall: 8-12 days/month Flights: 7 days/week, year round	3 hours Flight: 25 minutes	Visitors must climb from the boat to a steel-rung ladder to a pier or be prepared for beach landings by skiff. Strong winds and rough seas are possible. Plane lands on a graded dirt airstrip. Turbulence is possible.
San Miguel	Spring to fall: 8-12 days/month	4 hours	Skiff landings on the beach—be prepared to waterproof gear and possibly to get wet. Strong winds and rough seas are possible.
Santa Barbara	Spring to fall: 4 days/month	3 hours	Visitors must climb a steel-rung ladder to the top of the pier from a skiff. Once ashore, visitors must walk uphill 1/4 mile with 131 long steps to the top of the island.
Multi-island trips	Year round: 3 trips/month	Varies depending on destination	Trips include visits to at least two islands. These trips include meals and shipboard lodging.

Refer to concessioner's transportation schedule for more detailed information: flycia.com and islandpackers.com

Things to Know Before You Go



Clothing and Gear

Due to the weather variation on the islands, the landings, and long treks to campgrounds, please follow these regulations and suggestions:

- Dress in layers. Plan light clothing for warm afternoons and add layers such as long sleeves, jackets, gloves, and hats for cool mornings and evenings. Bring short and long pants, fleece jacket or sweatshirt, windbreaker, hat, sunscreen, and waterproof outer clothing. In addition, visitors should wear sturdy hiking shoes with non-slip soles.
- Pack as light as possible. Concessioners limit each bag of gear to 45 pounds. Pack food and gear in easily carried duffels, backpacks, or coolers with handles.
- Since there is no pier at San Miguel and landing is by skiff, bags should be waterproof and visitors should consider reefwalkers or old tennis shoes for the landing.

- All food containers should be mouse proof.
 - Plan meals carefully, keep them simple, and repackage your food at home first to reduce space, weight, and litter.
 - Bring extra food in case your return transportation is delayed.
 - There is no water available on the islands except in the Scorpion Ranch campground on Santa Cruz Island and in Water Canyon campground on Santa Rosa Island, where some visitors find it has an unpleasant taste. Bring one gallon of water per person per day in containers no larger than 2.5 gallons each.
 - Clean any seeds or insects from gear and boots to protect fragile island ecosystems from introduced species. Overnight campers should shake out their tents, sleeping bags, and packs to clean them of seeds and soil, paying special attention to clinging burrs and foxtail grass seeds.
- nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/non-native-pests.htm



Your Safety

911 Due to the remote and primitive nature of the islands, a safe visit to the park depends on visitors assuming individual responsibility for planning their trips and visiting safely. For your safety, please remember:

- Weather conditions change rapidly; dress in layers.
- There are no supplies on the islands. Take water, food, and other necessities.
- Watch your step—ladders, railings, and stairs may be wet.
- Stay back from cliff edges; they may be crumbly or undercut—a fall could be fatal.
- Do not approach marine mammals, such as whales, seals, and sea lions.
- Check for ticks and watch out for poison oak and cactus.

- Deer mice on the islands may carry diseases, including hantavirus. Avoid all contact with mice and other wild animals. Keep food in rodent-proof containers.
nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hantavirus.htm
- The park is located within a tsunami hazard zone. In case of an earthquake, go to high ground or inland.
nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/tsunami.htm
- In an emergency on the islands, contact a ranger or concession employee. If a phone is available, contact the National Park Dispatch Center at 559-565-4221. This is the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Dispatch Center that handles all emergencies, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for Channel Islands National Park. On the water, use a marine radio to contact the US Coast Guard on VHF Channel 16.
- For safety information on a specific outdoor activity, please see “Things To Do” on pages 16–19.

Park Regulations



Everyone who visits this national park plays an important role in safeguarding the island plants, animals, cultural sites, and artifacts. Help protect your park by following the regulations listed below as well as additional regulations listed on the park website.

nps.gov/chis/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm

Everything is protected.

As in all national parks, do not feed, collect, disturb, or harm park wildlife, plant life, or other natural and cultural features.

Hike only on designated trails.

Hikers must stay on established trails on Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and Santa Miguel Islands.

Remove your garbage and secure your food.

Pack out what you pack in, including your garbage. Also, secure your food and trash from birds and animals at all times.

Warning:

Proper Food Storage Required

Store all food, trash, and scented items in a secure, animal-proof container.

Failure to store these items properly may result in a fine.

KEEP YOUR CAMP CLEAN



Your food and trash harm island wildlife

No fishing within marine reserves.

Marine protected areas, including marine reserves and marine conservation areas, are found throughout the park, marine sanctuary, and state waters. Within these areas it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource. Limited harvest is allowed in marine conservation areas.

dfg.ca.gov/marine/channel_islands

No pets.

Domestic house pets can carry diseases that could harm the rare island fox or other animals. Service animals require a permit from the park superintendent.

No campfires or charcoal fires.

Due to extreme fire danger, no campfires or charcoal fires are permitted on the islands. Use only enclosed gas campstoves for cooking.

Smoking allowed only on beaches.

Please take cigarette butts off the islands with your other trash.

No personal watercraft.

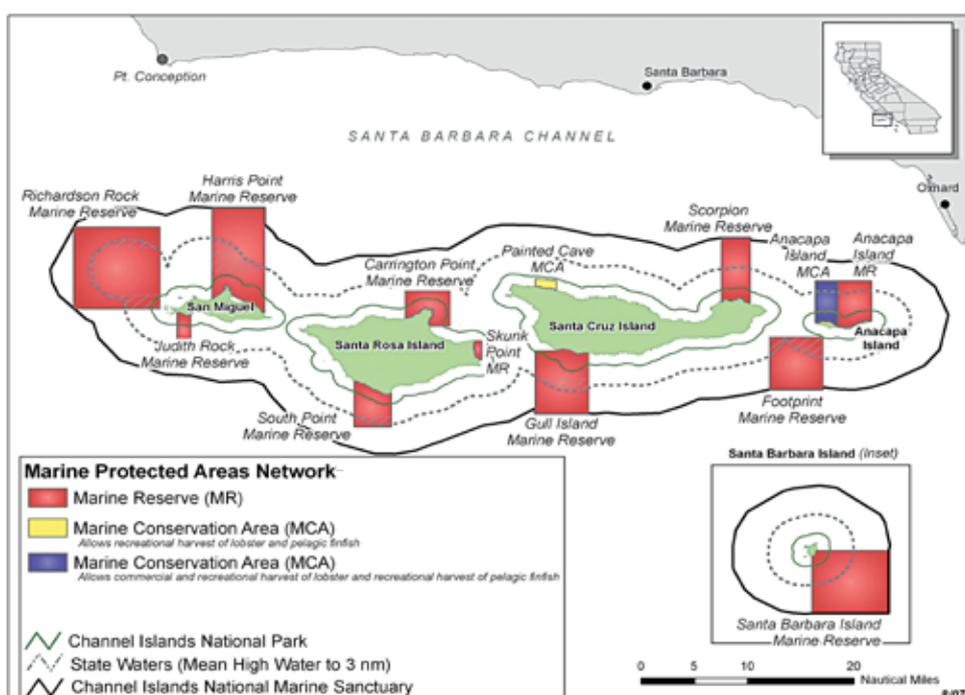
Personal watercraft such as jet skis are not allowed in park waters.

No landing on offshore rocks.

Landing is not permitted on offshore rocks and islets.

Each island has specific closures.

- *San Miguel*: Waters around Point Bennett are closed to protect pinnipeds. The shoreline is closed to landing except at Cuyler Harbor.
- *Santa Rosa*: To protect wildlife, the beaches at Sandy Point are closed year round. From March 1st to September 15th, Skunk Point back beaches and sand dunes are closed. Please remain on the wet sand (below mean high tide) or the road throughout this area. Fishing is prohibited on the pier due to its proximity to the marine reserve.



• *Santa Cruz*: The shoreline between Arch Point and the east boundary of Potato Harbor is closed to landing to protect seabirds..

• *Anacapa*: West Anacapa Island is closed to protect nesting pelicans. Middle Anacapa is closed except for ranger-led tours.

• *Santa Barbara*: The shoreline is closed to landing except at the Landing Cove.

Certain items are prohibited on the islands.

To help prevent the introduction of nonnative species, protect native species and ecosystems, and reduce safety risks, the following items may not be brought to the park: single-use plastic grocery bags; live or potted plants; soil; cut flowers; firewood or any untreated, unfinished wood (including hiking sticks); corrugated boxes; tools or equipment with attached soil; motorized vehicles; and bicycles.

Firearms prohibited in park facilities.

Federal law prohibits firearms in certain

facilities in this park. Those places are marked with signs at all public entrances.

Follow wildlife viewing guidelines.

• Avoid areas where birds and pinnipeds are roosting, resting, nesting, or pupping. Under federal law it is illegal to disturb and/or harm these animals.

• Look ahead and give animals at least a 100-yard clearance. Sit calmly at a safe distance. Let the animals adjust to your presence, and you will be rewarded with exciting displays of natural behavior.

• For your safety as well as theirs, do not approach sick or injured animals. Alert a ranger or a boat concession employee.

• Take advantage of the islands' best weather by kayaking during September and October. Most seabirds, shorebirds, and pinnipeds have completed their reproductive cycles by this time.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/limiting-your-impact.htm

Anacapa Island

Crossing the channel to Anacapa Island, one begins to understand why the island's name was derived from its Chumash Native American Indian name *Anypakh*. Seeming to change shape in the summer fog or afternoon heat, the three islets of Anacapa look like an island of deception or a mirage. Almost five miles long, these islets (appropriately named East, Middle, and West Anacapa Islands) are inaccessible from each other except by boat. They have a total land area of about one square mile (700 acres). Waves have eroded the volcanic island, creating towering sea cliffs, sea caves, and natural bridges, such as forty-foot-high Arch Rock—a symbol of Anacapa and Channel Islands National Park.

Exploring East Anacapa's two-mile trail system allows visitors to experience the island's native vegetation, wildlife, and cultural history. Although for much of the year the island vegetation looks brown and lifeless, the winter rains transform the landscape. Emerging from dormancy, the native plants come alive with color. The strange tree sunflower, or coreopsis, blossoms with bright yellow bouquets that are so vivid and numerous they can sometimes be seen from the mainland. Vibrant red paintbrush, island morning glory, and pale buckwheat add

touches of color to the island's palette.

Seabirds are probably the most conspicuous wildlife on Anacapa Island. Thousands of birds use Anacapa as a nesting area because of the relative lack of predators on the island. While the steep cliffs of West Anacapa are home to the largest breeding colony of endangered California brown pelicans, all the islets of Anacapa host the largest breeding colony of western gulls in the world. Western gulls begin their nesting efforts at the end of April, sometimes making their shallow nests just inches from island trails. Fluffy chicks hatch in May and June and fly away from the nest in July.

The rocky shores of Anacapa are perfect resting and breeding areas for California sea lions and harbor seals. The raucous barking of sea lions can be heard from most areas of the island. Two overlooks (Cathedral Cove and Pinniped Point) provide excellent spots to look down on seals and sea lions in the island coves.

Anacapa's rich kelp forests (ideal for kayaking, snorkeling, and diving) and tidepool areas provide visitors with the opportunity to meet some of the resident ocean animals up close. Visitors may also catch a glimpse of the fascinating undersea world of the kelp forest

without getting wet. During the spring and summer, park rangers dive into the Landing Cove on East Anacapa with a video camera. Visitors can see, through the eye of the camera, what the diver is seeing—bright sea stars, spiny sea urchins, and brilliant orange Garibaldi—by watching video monitors located on the dock, in the mainland visitor center auditorium, in classrooms, or via the Internet. And, divers can answer questions from visitors as part of this distance learning program.

Anacapa Island has a rich human history as well. Shell midden sites indicate where Chumash people camped on the islands thousands of years ago. In addition, visitors can view the 1932 light station whose mission revival style buildings include the lighthouse, fog signal building, one of four original keeper's quarters, a water tank building, and several other service buildings. The original lead-crystal Fresnel lens, which served as a beacon to ships until an automated light replaced it in 1990, is on exhibit in the East Anacapa Visitor Center.

Island Facts

- Located in Ventura County.
- Fourteen miles from Ventura.
- Five miles long and 1/4 mile wide.
- Average rainfall is between eight and thirteen inches per year.
- Supports 265 species of plants, including two found only on Anacapa and 20 found only on the Channel Islands.
- The Anacapa deer mouse is only found on Anacapa Island.
- West Anacapa is home to the largest breeding colony of California brown pelicans.
- Scripps's murrelet colonies are recovering following rat eradication in 2002.
- Frenchy LeDreau lived at Frenchys Cove from 1928 to 1956.
- The Anacapa lighthouse, turned on in 1932, was the last permanent lighthouse built on the West Coast.
- Harbor seals and California sea lions rest and breed on the island.
- Home to 30 sea caves.

Places to Go and Things to Do on Anacapa Island

Anacapa Island is the perfect place for a half-day, one-day, or short overnight camping trip. If you have time to visit just one island, this may be the place. As with all the Channel Islands, visiting Anacapa Island is an exercise in preparation and self-reliance. Since there are no services on the islands, there are no remedies for poor planning once you have arrived.



Boat Transportation

Island Packers offers trips year round. Travel time is about one hour. Almost all trips are to East Anacapa Island. A limited number of trips are offered throughout the year to Frenchys Cove on West Anacapa Island. Visitors must climb from the boat up a steel-rung ladder to a dock. Once ashore, visitors must climb 157 stairs to the top of the island. Non-landing trips are also available.



Goods and Services

There are no goods, services, or accommodations (lodging) available on the island. Visitors must bring all their own food and supplies. Public phones are not available.



Water

There is no water available on the island. Visitors must bring all their water with them.



Picnicking

Picnic tables are available at the visitor center.



Visitor Center

A small visitor center is located in one of the historic Coast Guard buildings. Features include displays on the natural and cultural resources of the island and the original lead-crystal Fresnel lens from the Anacapa Lighthouse.



Interpretive Programs

Rangers and naturalists offer guided hikes on most days of the year. Hikes generally begin 30 minutes after Island Packers boats arrive on the island. In addition, a self-guided trail booklet is available. During the spring and summer, Channel Islands Live programs are offered where park rangers with special microphone-equipped dive masks and underwater video cameras descend into towering kelp forests and interact with you on this virtual underwater hike.

Page 16: Guided Hikes, Channel Islands Live
nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/channel-islands-live-nps.htm



Hiking

Although hiking options are limited with only two miles of trails, the scenery is unmatched. Except for the staircase to the top of the island, the figure eight-shaped trail system is relatively flat and easy while meandering over gentle slopes to dramatic overlooks, magnificent coastal views, and the last permanent lighthouse built on the West Coast. Hikers must stay on trails to protect fragile vegetation and nesting seabirds and for visitor safety. Middle Anacapa is open to ranger-led tours only. Contact the visitor center for more information. West Anacapa is not open to hiking. It is set aside for the island

wildlife except for Frenchys Cove on West Anacapa that can be reached only by boat. Please refer to the map and hiking table for hike destinations and visit our website for a more detailed hiking map and guide.

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nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hiking.htm



Camping

Primitive camping is available (seven sites; \$15 per night per site; reservations required). Picnic table, food storage box, and pit toilet are provided. No water is available. Distance from landing to campground is one-half mile and includes a 157-stair climb.

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nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/camping.htm



Watersports

Ideal place for swimming, diving, snorkeling, and kayaking, but there are no lifeguards on the island. Since Anacapa is a cliff island, access to the water is only at the Landing Cove on East Anacapa via a dock. There are no other accessible beaches unless you have a watercraft. Excellent watersports can be experienced at the Landing Cove. The underwater visibility is usually very good and the water is teeming with life since it is located within a marine reserve. Kayaking east towards Arch Rock or west towards Cathedral Cove provides great wildlife viewing, sea caves, and arches.

Pages 17–18: Watersports



Fishing

No fishing is allowed within the marine reserve that is located on the

north side of Anacapa Island, including in the the Landing Cove. Also, no fishing is allowed (except for commercial and recreational lobster and pelagic finfish) in the marine conservation area on the north side of West Anacapa Island. Fishing is allowed outside these marine protected areas. To fish in Channel Islands National Park, possession of a valid California state fishing license with an ocean enhancement stamp is required and all California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations apply.

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Wildlife/Wildflower Viewing

There is excellent wildlife viewing on Anacapa. A variety of seabirds can be seen throughout the year, including brown pelicans, cormorants, pigeon guillemots, and western gulls (gull nesting and chicks can be observed from the end of April through July). Seals and sea lions may also be viewed from Pinniped Point, Cathedral Cove, and the boat. During a normal year of rainfall, wildflowers are best viewed in late winter and spring. The brilliant yellow coreopsis flowers usually peak between late January and March. In addition, some plants like gumplant, buckwheat, poppies, and verbena continue to bloom during the summer.

The only accessible site on Anacapa Island for tidepooling is at Frenchys Cove on West Anacapa Island. A limited number of trips are offered throughout the year by Island Packers. There is no access to Frenchys Cove or any other tidepools from East Anacapa.

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Aerial view, Anacapa Island



Campground, Anacapa Island



Landing Cove, Anacapa Island



Cathedral Cove, Anacapa Island



Arch Rock with tall ship, Anacapa Island



Western gull with chick, Anacapa Island



Sheephead in kelp forest, Anacapa Island



Lighthouse, Anacapa Island



Fresnel lens, Anacapa Island



Inspiration Point, Anacapa Island

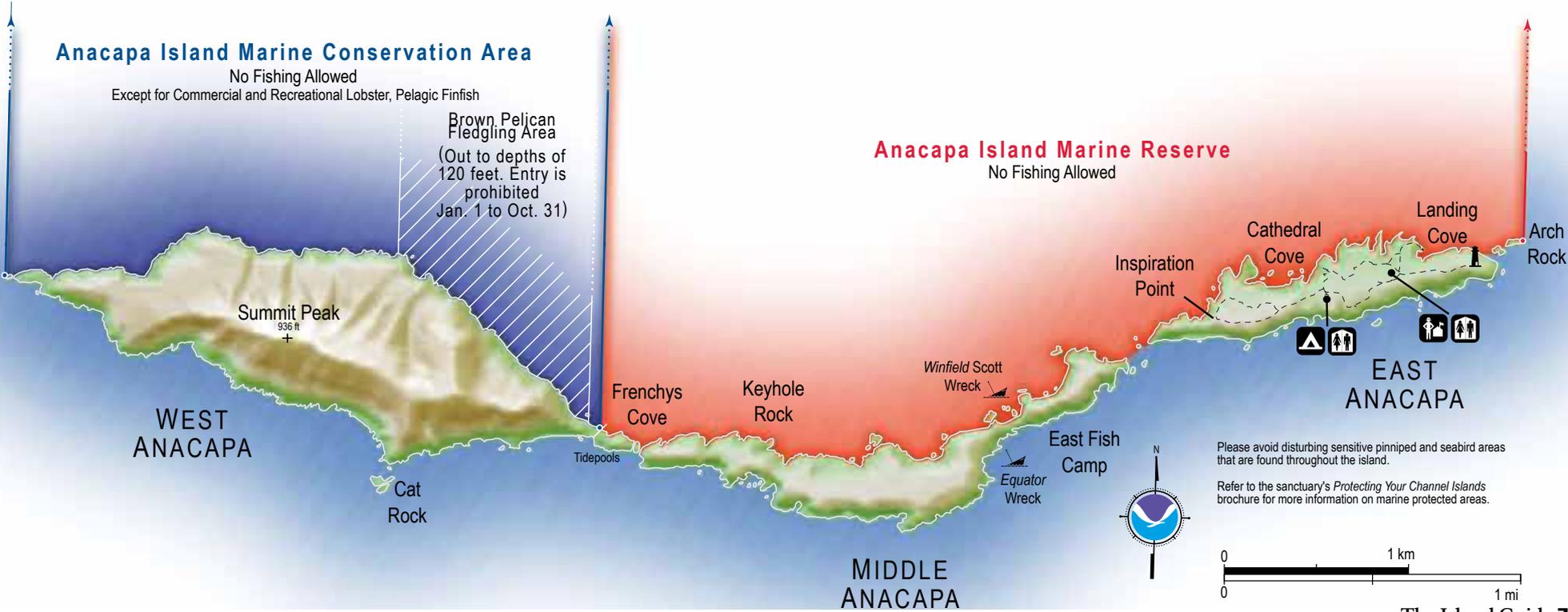


Giant coreopsis, Anacapa Island



Tidepooling near Frenchys Cove, Anacapa Island

Anacapa Island Hiking Destinations			
Destination (from visitor center)	Distance (miles, round-trip)	Difficulty	Description
Inspiration Point	1.5	Easy	Extraordinary views. Not to be missed.
Pinniped Point	.4	Easy	Overlooks a haul out site for California sea lions.
Cathedral Cove	.6	Easy	Overlooks a cove with beautiful rock formations.
Lighthouse	.5	Easy	View the historic lighthouse built in 1932.



Santa Cruz Island

According to legend, Santa Cruz Island was named for a priest's staff accidentally left on the island during the Portola expedition of 1769. A Chumash Indian found the cross-tipped staff and returned it to the priest. The Spaniards were so impressed that they called this island of friendly people "La Isla de Santa Cruz," the Island of the Sacred Cross. Today the protection and preservation of Santa Cruz Island is divided between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages the western 76 percent of the island, while the eastern 24 percent is owned and managed by the National Park Service.

In its vastness and variety of flora, fauna, and geology, Santa Cruz Island resembles a miniature California. At over 96 square miles in size and the largest island in California, Santa Cruz contains two rugged mountain ranges; the highest peaks on the islands (rising above 2,000 feet); a large central valley/fault system; deep canyons with year-round springs and streams; and 77 miles of craggy coastline cliffs, giant sea caves, pristine tidepools, and expansive beaches. One of the largest and deepest sea caves in the world, Painted Cave, is found on the northwest coastline of Santa Cruz. Named because of its colorful rock

types, lichens, and algae, Painted Cave is nearly a quarter mile long and 100 feet wide, with an entrance ceiling of 160 feet and a waterfall over the entrance in the spring.

These varied landforms support more than 600 plant species in 10 different plant communities, from marshes and grasslands to chaparral and pine forests. There are 140 landbird and 11 land mammal species; three amphibian and five reptile species; large colonies of nesting seabirds, breeding seals, and sea lions; and other diverse marine animals and plants. Owing to millions of years of isolation, many distinctive plant and animals species have adapted to the island's unique environment, including the island scrub-jay and eight plant species found only on Santa Cruz and nowhere else in the world.

The island is also rich in cultural history with over 10,000 years of American Indian habitation and over 150 years of European exploration and ranching. Santa Cruz Island, known by the Chumash people as *Limuw* (translates to "in the sea"), was home to a ten villages that housed over 1,200 people. Many of these islanders mined extensive chert deposits for making tools and produced "shell-bead money," used as a major trade item by tribes throughout California. The

largest village on the island as well as on the northern Channel Islands, *Swaxil*, occupied the area of Scorpion Ranch at the time of Spanish contact (1542). Large plank canoes, called *tomols*, provided transportation between the islands and mainland. Remnants of Chumash civilization can still be seen in thousands of shell middens on the island.

Remnants of the ranching era also can be seen throughout the landscape of the island. Adobe ranch houses, barns, blacksmith and saddle shops, wineries, and a chapel all attest to the many uses of Santa Cruz in the 1800s and 1900s.

The National Park Service, along with The Nature Conservancy, has made great efforts to preserve and protect these island resources, including stabilization of cultural sites, rehabilitation of historic buildings, removal of nonnative plants and animals, the recovery island foxes, reestablishment of bald eagles, and restoration of island wetlands. All of these efforts have made Santa Cruz Island one of the best places to experience the nationally significant natural and cultural heritage of coastal southern California.

Island Facts

- Located in Santa Barbara County.
- Twenty miles from Ventura.
- Santa Cruz is California's largest island, almost three times the size of Manhattan. Approximately 24 miles long and up to six miles wide; 96 square miles; 62,000 acres; 77-mile shoreline.
- Average rainfall—20 inches. Temperature range—20° F to 100° F.
- Diablo Peak (Devil's Peak) is the tallest peak on the Channel Islands at 2,450 ft.
- Painted Cave is one of the largest known sea caves in the world.
- Santa Cruz has the greatest number of plant and animal species of all the Channel Islands, including over 60 endemic, or unique, species.
- The island scrub-jay is only found on Santa Cruz Island.
- In spring 2006 Santa Cruz Island was home to the first bald eagle chick to hatch unaided by humans on the Channel Islands in over 50 years.

Places to Go and Things to Do on Santa Cruz Island

Santa Cruz Island is the perfect place for a one-day trip and short or long overnight camping trips. This is the easiest island to get to, has the best weather, and offers the most recreational activities. As with all the Channel Islands, visiting Santa Cruz Island is an exercise in preparation and self-reliance. Since there are no services on the islands, there are no remedies for poor planning once you have arrived.



Boat Transportation

Island Packers offers trips year round. Travel time is one hour. Trips are either to Scorpion Anchorage or Prisoners Harbor. Landing is via a pier at both locations.



Goods and Services

There are no goods, services, or lodging available on the island. Visitors must bring all their own food and supplies. Public phones are not available.



Water

There is water available at Scorpion Anchorage. However, there is no water at Prisoners Harbor so visitors must bring all their water with them.



Picnicking

At Scorpion Anchorage, picnic tables are available at the beach and near the ranch area. At Prisoners Harbor, tables are located near the beach.



Visitor Center

A visitor center is located in the historic Scorpion ranch house. There are no other visitor centers on the island. The

visitor center includes an orientation area that helps visitors plan a safe trip on the island and a variety of interactive exhibits that describe the island's tremendous biodiversity, rich cultural history, and current resource issues.



Interpretive Programs

At both Scorpion Anchorage and Prisoners Harbor, rangers and naturalists offer guided hikes on most days of the year. Hikes generally begin 30 minutes after the Island Packers boats arrive on the island. In addition, self-guided trail booklets are available. During the summer, rangers offer evening programs at Scorpion Ranch campground.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/events.htm



Hiking

Several trails and roads traverse eastern Santa Cruz Island, providing visitors with spectacular hiking opportunities. These trails and roads range from the maintained, relatively flat, signed trails of Scorpion Valley to the unmaintained, rugged, mountainous paths of the Montañon area. While visitors may explore the national park property on Santa Cruz Island, no hiking is allowed beyond the national park boundary onto The Nature Conservancy property. The boundary is the property line (marked by a fence line) between Prisoners Harbor and Valley Anchorage. Please refer to the map and hiking table for hike destinations and visit our website for a detailed hiking map and guide.

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nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hiking.htm



Camping

Primitive camping is available at the Scorpion Ranch Campground (31 sites; \$15 per night per site; reservations required). Water, picnic table, food storage box, and pit toilet are provided. Shade is available. Distance from landing is a flat one-half mile. This is the most family friendly campground on the islands.

Backcountry camping is available year round at the Del Norte campsite near Prisoners Harbor. This is currently the only backcountry campground on the island.

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Watersports

The mixed sand and cobblestone Scorpion Beach is a world-class destination for swimming, diving, snorkeling, and kayaking because of easy beach access, clear ocean waters, nearby camping, year-round Island Packers boat transportation, extensive kelp forests, and a spectacular shoreline with sea caves to explore. However, there are no lifeguards on the island. For snorkeling and diving, the easiest kelp beds to access are the ones near the pier and those to the eastern end of the bay.

Beach access is also available at Prisoners Harbor and by hiking over to Smugglers Cove, but the snorkeling is not as good at these locations. Kayaking east towards Scorpion Rock or west towards Cavern Point provides great wildlife viewing and sea caves. Kayaking from Prisoners Harbor is also very scenic.

Several locations on Santa Cruz Island offer good surfing. Generally, the north shore is best during the northwest swells of winter/spring and the south shore is best during the south

swells of summer/fall. However, all surf spots are remote and are best accessed by private boat due to the island's rugged terrain and the hiking distance from the designated landing areas.

[Page 17-18: Watersports](#)



Fishing

No fishing is allowed at Scorpion Anchorage since it is within a marine reserve. Fishing is allowed on Santa Cruz Island outside of the marine reserves. Possession of a valid California state fishing license with an ocean enhancement stamp is required and all California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations apply.

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Wildlife/Wildflower Viewing

A variety of seabirds can be seen throughout the year (especially around Scorpion Rock), but most birders go to the island to see the endemic island scrub-jay—only found on Santa Cruz Island and no other place in the world. Best viewing is at Prisoners Harbor, but they are also spotted around the Scorpion area as well. Island foxes are often seen around the ranch and campground at Scorpion Anchorage. Remember that it is illegal to directly or indirectly feed animals in the park.

During a normal year of rainfall, wildflowers are best viewed in late winter and spring. In addition, some plants like gumplant, buckwheat, poppies, and verbena continue to bloom during the summer.

Tidepooling at Scorpion Anchorage and Prisoners Harbor is limited. Better tidepools can be found at Smugglers Cove.

[Page 17: Wildlife and Wildflower Viewing](#)



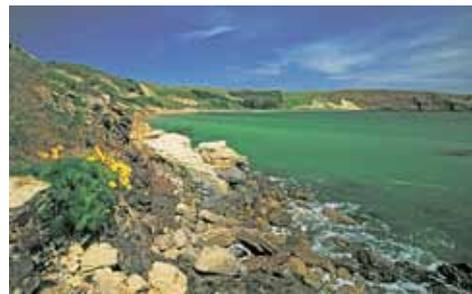
Aerial view, Santa Cruz Island



Campground, Santa Cruz Island



Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island



Smugglers Cove, Santa Cruz Island



Island scrub-jay, Santa Cruz Island



Island fox, Santa Cruz Island



Historic Scorpion Ranch, Santa Cruz Island



Kayaking, Santa Cruz Island

Santa Cruz Island Hiking Destinations

Destination (from Scorpion Beach)	Distance (miles, round-trip)	Difficulty	Brief Description
Historic Ranch	.5	Easy	View the historic Scorpion Ranch complex.
Cavern Point	2	Moderate	Magnificent coastal vistas and whale viewing.
Potato Harbor	4	Moderate	Spectacular coastal views. No beach access.
Scorpion Canyon	4 (loop)	Moderate to strenuous	A scenic loop hike that includes steep canyon walls and a chance to see the unique island scrub-jay.
Smugglers Cove	7	Strenuous	An all-day hike with beach access at Smugglers Cove.
Montañon Ridge	8	Strenuous	For experienced, off-trail hikers. Great views.
Prisoners Harbor	28	Strenuous	Arrange a boat pickup for a one-way trip or camp at Del Norte backcountry camp.
From Smugglers Cove:			
Smugglers Canyon	2	Moderate to strenuous	Opportunities to view native island vegetation. Be prepared for uneven terrain and loose rock.
Yellowbanks	3	Moderate	Off-trail hike to an overlook. No beach access.
San Pedro Point	4	Moderate	For experienced, off-trail hikers.
From Prisoners Harbor:			
Prisoners Harbor	.25 – .5	Easy	View the historic Prisoners Harbor area and search for the island scrub-jay.
Del Norte Camp	7	Strenuous	Follow the rugged Del Norte trail east to the backcountry camp.
Navy Road-Del Norte Loop	8.5	Strenuous	Route includes the Navy Road and the Del Norte Trail. Good views.
Chinese Harbor	15.5	Strenuous	A long hike that ends at the only beach accessible by land on the isthmus.
China Pines	18	Strenuous	Explore the Santa Cruz Island pine grove.
Montañon Ridge	21	Strenuous	For experienced, off-trail hikers. Must be able to read topographic maps.
Scorpion Anchorage	28	Strenuous	Arrange a boat pickup for a one-way trip or camp at Del Norte backcountry camp.
Pelican Bay	4	Moderate to strenuous	This trail may only be traveled by those who have obtained a permit in advance from The Nature Conservancy or are accompanied by Island Packers (a boat concessioner) staff.



Santa Rosa Island

Santa Rosa Island was included as part of Channel Islands National Park upon the park's inception on March 5, 1980. However, it wasn't until December 1986 that the island came under the ownership of the National Park Service.

Located 40 nautical miles from the Channel Islands National Park visitor center in Ventura, Santa Rosa is the second largest island in California at approximately 53,000 acres in size. The island's relatively low profile is broken by a high, central mountain range, rising 1,589 feet at its highest point. Its coastal areas are variable, ranging from broad, sandy beaches gently sloping toward a dynamic ocean to sheer cliffs plunging toward the turmoil of a sea intent on changing the contour of the land.

As on its larger neighbor, Santa Cruz Island, these varied landforms support a diverse array of plant and animal species. About 500 plant species can be found within nine plant communities, including six plant species found only on Santa Rosa and nowhere else in the world. One of these species, the Santa Rosa Island subspecies of Torrey pine, is considered one of the rarest pines in the world—the last enduring members of a once widespread Pleistocene forest. A remnant, mainland

subspecies of Torrey pine also can be found near La Jolla, California, at Torrey Pines State Reserve. Santa Rosa Island also hosts over 100 bird and three mammal species (including the island's largest native mammal, the endemic island fox); two amphibian and three reptile species; and colonies of seabirds, seals, and sea lions.

Remains of an ancient endemic species, the pygmy mammoth, have been uncovered on Santa Rosa, along with Santa Cruz and San Miguel Islands. These miniature mammoths, only four to six feet tall, once roamed island grasslands and forests during the Pleistocene. The fossil skeleton discovered on Santa Rosa Island in 1994 is the most complete specimen ever found.

Along with extensive paleontological resources, Santa Rosa Island has rich archeological resources. Home to the Island Chumash until approximately 1820, *Wima* (as the Chumash refer to the island) contains thousands of significant and federally protected archeological sites. Archeological investigations on the island have enabled scientists to construct a more complete picture of Chumash life on the islands. Radiocarbon dating on some of these sites indicates that humans have been using the island for more

than 13,000 years.

Others have come to the island during more recent centuries to exploit its rich resources, sometimes making it their home. In addition to the native Chumash, European explorers, Aleut sea otter hunters, Chinese abalone fishermen, Spanish missionaries, Mexican and American ranchers, and the US military all have left their mark on the Santa Rosa landscape. Visitors can see relics of these occupations in remnants of fishing camps, water troughs and fence lines, the pier where cattle were loaded and unloaded, buildings and equipment of the historic Vail and Vickers ranch at Bechers Bay, and remains of the military installations.

Surrounding the island are cold, nutrient-rich waters that sustain a diverse web of marine life, including pelagic fish, a variety of marine mammals, and extensive kelp forests.

As on the other islands, the National Park Service has made great efforts to preserve and protect these island resources, including enforcement of marine protected areas, stabilization of cultural sites, rehabilitation of historic buildings, removal of nonnative plants and animals, recovery of island foxes, and reestablishment of bald eagles.

Island Facts

- Located in Santa Barbara County.
- Forty miles from Ventura; 26.5 miles from the nearest mainland; three miles east of San Miguel Island and six miles west of Santa Cruz Island.
- Santa Rosa is the second largest island in California. Approximately 15 miles wide by 10 miles long; 84 square miles; 53,000 acres.
- Average rainfall—15 inches.
- Soledad Peak is island's tallest peak at 1,574 ft.
- Six endemic plant species occur only on Santa Rosa Island.
- Santa Rosa Island is home to only three native terrestrial mammals—the island fox, island spotted skunk, and island deer mouse. They are all endemic to the Channel Islands.
- Reptiles and amphibians include the alligator lizard, Baja California tree frog, and three endemic species—the island gopher snake, island fence lizard, and Channel Islands slender salamander.

Places to Go and Things to Do on Santa Rosa Island

Santa Rosa Island may be visited on a one-day trip, multi-day boat trip, or an overnight camping trip. However, getting to this island is more challenging and the weather can be windy anytime of year—30-knot winds are not uncommon. Therefore, visitors must be prepared for adverse weather. As with all the Channel Islands, visiting Santa Rosa Island is an exercise in preparation and self-reliance. Since there are no services on the islands, there are no remedies for poor planning once you have arrived.



Boat Transportation

Island Packers offers trips spring through fall. Travel time is about three hours. Strong winds and rough seas are possible. Landing is at Bechers Bay via a pier. Multi-island, overnight boat trips frequently visit Santa Rosa Island as well.



Plane Transportation

Channel Islands Aviation offers trips year round. Travel time is about 25 minutes. Landing is at a graded dirt airstrip in Bechers Bay.



Goods and Services

There are no goods, services, or accommodations (lodging) available on the island. Visitors must bring all their own food and supplies. Public phones are not available.



Water

There is water available in Bechers Bay at two locations—Water Canyon campground and the public bathrooms in the historic ranch area.



Picnicking

In Bechers Bay, picnic tables are available at Water Canyon Beach (by the road cut at the end of the airstrip) and on the grass area of the historic ranch house.



Visitor Center

There is no visitor center on the island. For information, check with island staff or the visitor center in Ventura.



Interpretive Programs

At Bechers Bay, rangers and naturalists offer guided hikes on most days soon after the boats or planes arrive on the island. A variety of guided hikes are also offered during weekends that Island Packers drops off campers.

 nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/events.htm



Hiking

Several trails and roads traverse the island, providing visitors with spectacular hiking opportunities, including the relatively flat route to Water Canyon Beach to the rugged, mountainous path to Black Mountain. Please refer to the map and hiking table for hike destinations and visit our website for a more detailed hiking map and guide.

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nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hiking.htm



Camping

Primitive camping is available at Water Canyon campground (15 sites; \$15 per night per site; reservations required). Picnic table, food storage box, windbreak, pit toilet, and water are provided. The campground is a flat 1 1/2-mile hike from the pier and a 1/4-mile from the airstrip and Water

Canyon Beach. Due to the boat schedule, minimum stay is generally three days.

Backcountry camping on Santa Rosa Island is currently limited to certain beaches between August 15th and December 31st. Hiking is along the beach and rugged, unsigned dirt roads or unmaintained animal paths. The closest beach for camping is 10 miles from the boat/plane drop-off location in Bechers Bay. Backcountry camping beaches can also be accessed via kayak or boat. Water is available year round in some of the island's canyons.

All campers should be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Thirty-knot winds are not uncommon. Sturdy, low-profile tents, stakes, and line for securing tents are recommended.

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nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/camping.htm



Watersports

Due to the strong, persistent wind, swimming, snorkeling, diving, and kayaking are limited and recommended for the experienced visitor only. Despite the wind, Santa Rosa Island offers exceptional beach walking on white sand beaches. Access to one of the best beaches, Water Canyon Beach, is just over a mile from the pier in Bechers Bay and just down canyon from the campground. Beach access is also available near the pier.

Surfing can be done at several locations on Santa Rosa Island. Generally, the north shore is best during the northwest swells of winter/spring and the south shore is best during the south swells of summer/fall. However, all surf spots are remote and are best accessed by private boat or by backcountry beachcamping due to the hiking distance from Bechers Bay.

 [Pages 17-18: Watersports](#)



Fishing

No fishing is allowed within the three marine reserves located around the island or on the pier due to its proximity to a marine reserve. Fishing is allowed outside of these areas. To fish in the park, possession of a valid California state fishing license with an ocean enhancement stamp is required and all California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations apply.

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Wildlife/Wildflower Viewing

There is limited accessible wildlife viewing on Santa Rosa Island. A variety of common seabirds and shorebirds (cormorants, brown pelicans, gulls) can be seen throughout the year in Bechers Bay, but there is better viewing on the boat ride over. Tell boat staff you are interested in seeing seabirds and they will help keep a lookout. Given the wind, landbirds are best spotted in the canyons such as Cherry and Water Canyons. Pinniped viewing is limited to remote locations on the island. Backcountry camping is required to access these spots. Island foxes and other terrestrial species are often seen.

During a normal year of rainfall, wildflowers are best viewed in late winter and spring. In addition, some plants like gumplant, buckwheat, poppies, and verbena continue to bloom during the summer.

Good tidepooling spots are located within Bechers Bay, including just east of the pier, the east end of Southeast Anchorage, and near East Point. Other tidepooling areas are located throughout the island but require backcountry camping to reach these areas.

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Water Canyon Beach, Santa Rosa Island



Campground, Santa Rosa Island



Torrey pines, Santa Rosa Island



Skunk Point, Santa Rosa Island



Chinese Harbor, Santa Rosa Island



1994 pygmy mammoth excavation, Santa Rosa Island



Humpback whale, Santa Rosa Island



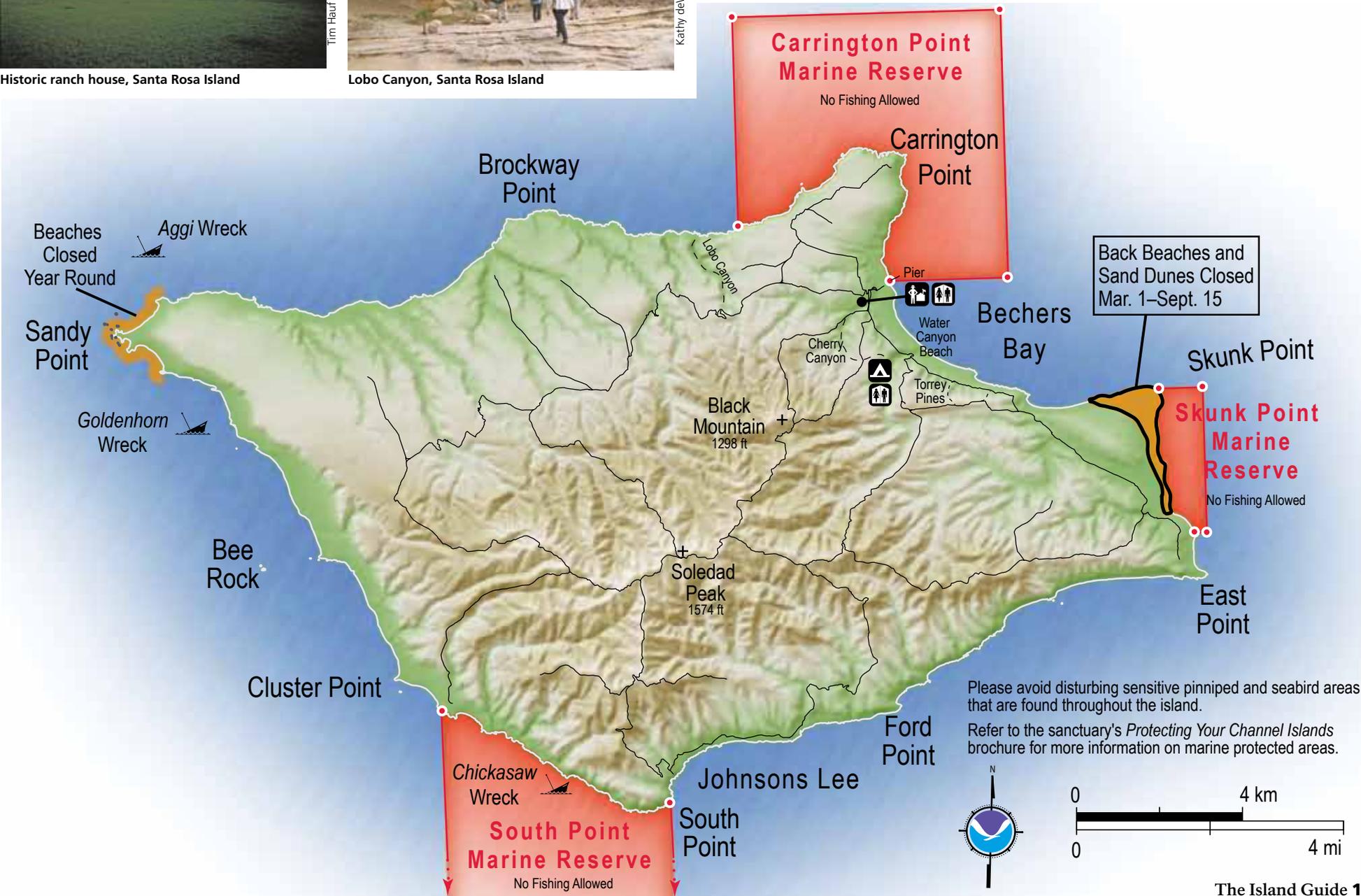
Historic ranch house, Santa Rosa Island



Lobo Canyon, Santa Rosa Island

Santa Rosa Island Hiking Destinations

Destination (from pier)	Distance (miles, round-trip)	Difficulty	Description
Water Canyon Beach	3	Easy	If the wind is not too strong, this is a wonderful two-mile-long white sand beach to explore.
Cherry Canyon	3.5 (loop trail)	Moderate	A hike with riparian vegetation and views of Bechers Bay.
Black Mountain	8	Strenuous	Great views (weather permitting) of Santa Rosa, San Miguel, Santa Cruz, and the mainland.
Torrey Pines	5	Moderate	View the Torrey pines and get great views from the top of the grove.
East Point	12	Strenuous	A beautiful coastal hike with opportunities to explore the Torrey pines and numerous beaches.
Lobo Canyon	13	Strenuous	Spectacular canyon with wind and water-sculpted sandstone cliffs, a stream, and native plants.



Please avoid disturbing sensitive pinniped and seabird areas that are found throughout the island. Refer to the sanctuary's *Protecting Your Channel Islands* brochure for more information on marine protected areas.

San Miguel Island

Wind and weather constantly sweep across the North Pacific to batter the shores of the westernmost of all the islands, San Miguel. This extreme weather creates a harsh but profoundly beautiful environment. The 9,500-acre island is primarily a plateau about 500 feet in elevation, but two 800-foot rounded hills emerge from its wild, windswept landscape. Although lush native vegetation covers this landscape today, a century's worth of sheep ranching and overgrazing caused scientists in 1875 to describe the island as "a barren lump of sand." With the grazing animals removed, vegetative recovery is in progress. Giant coreopsis, dudleya, locoweed, lupine, buckwheat, coastal sagebrush, and poppies are all recolonizing the island to their former extent, returning San Miguel to its more natural state.

Also making a comeback, after years of hunting, are the thousands of pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) that breed, pup, and haul out on the island's 27 miles of isolated coastline. Hikers who make the all-day, ranger-guided, 16-mile round-trip hike across the island to Point Bennett will never forget seeing one of the world's most spectacular wildlife displays—over 30,000 pinnipeds and up to five different species hauled out on the point's

beaches at certain times of year.

Other wildlife include the island fox and deer mouse. Both of these little creatures are endemics—they are found only on the Channel Islands. The island fox, the size of a house cat, is the largest land animal on the island. In the waters surrounding San Miguel, the marine animals get much larger. Dolphins and porpoises are often spotted along with gray whales, killer whales, and the largest animals of all, blue whales.

In the spring and summer the skies are filled with birds. Boaters entering Cuyler Harbor receive a greeting from western gulls, California brown pelicans, cormorants, and Cassin's auklets that nest on Prince Island. Black oystercatchers, with their bright red bills and pink feet, feed along the beach. Terrestrial residents include the western meadowlark, rock wren, and song sparrow, an endemic subspecies. Peregrine falcons have recently been restored to the island and are nesting successfully once again after years of decimation by the pesticide DDT.

In addition to the variety of natural resources, San Miguel hosts an array of cultural resources as well. The Chumash and their ancestors lived on San Miguel almost continuously for nearly 12,000 years.

Today there are over 600 fragile, relatively undisturbed archeological sites. The oldest one dates back to 11,600 years before the present—some of the oldest evidence of human presence in North America. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and his men laid eyes on San Miguel Island in 1542. Upon claiming the island for the Spanish crown, Cabrillo named it "La Posesion." Some stories say that Cabrillo wintered and died on San Miguel Island. No one knows where Cabrillo is buried, but there is a memorial commemorating the explorer on a bluff overlooking Cuyler Harbor.

Other outstanding island resources that visitors may experience on San Miguel include the caliche forest (sand-castings of ancient vegetation), fossil bones of the Pleistocene pygmy mammoths that stood four to six feet at the shoulders, 150 years of ranching history, and numerous shipwrecks. Whether you are interested in life of the past or life of the present, San Miguel Island has it in abundance. Visit, explore, and enjoy.

Island Facts

- Located in Santa Barbara County.
- Seventy miles from Ventura; 26 miles to the nearest mainland (Point Conception); three miles west of Santa Rosa Island.
- San Miguel is approximately four miles wide by eight miles long; 14 square miles; 9,325 acres.
- Average rainfall—15 inches.
- Tallest peak—San Miguel Hill, 831 ft.
- Over a dozen Channel Islands endemic plants occur on San Miguel Island.
- The endemic island fox and deer mouse and introduced rat are the only land mammals found on San Miguel Island.
- Up to five different pinniped species and over 30,000 individuals can be found at Point Bennett, one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in the world.
- One of the oldest known American Indian archeological sites (11,600 years ago) is on San Miguel Island.
- San Miguel Island and its associated islets support one-third of the breeding seabirds in the Channel Islands.

Places to Go and Things to Do on San Miguel Island

One-day trips, multi-day boat trips, and overnight camping are all options when visiting San Miguel Island. However, this island is more challenging to get to and the weather can be windy at anytime of year—30 knots of wind is not uncommon. Therefore, visitors must be prepared for adverse weather. As with all the Channel Islands, visiting San Miguel Island is an exercise in preparation and self-reliance. Since there are no services on the islands, there are no remedies for poor planning once you have arrived.



Boat Transportation

Island Packers offers trips spring through fall. Travel time is about four hours. Strong winds and rough seas are possible. Landing is at Cuyler Harbor via skiff onto a beach. Visitors must be prepared to waterproof gear and possibly get wet. Multi-island, overnight boat trips frequently visit San Miguel Island as well.



Goods and Services

There are no goods, services, or lodging available on the island. Visitors must bring all their own food and supplies. Public phones are not available.



Water

There is no water available on the island. Visitors must bring all their water with them.



Picnicking

There are no tables available for picnicking on the island. If weather permits, many visitors enjoy picnicking at Cuyler Harbor beach.



Visitor Center

There is no visitor center on San Miguel Island. Please check with a ranger or volunteer for island information or visit our visitor center in Ventura.



Interpretive Programs

At Cuyler Harbor, rangers and naturalists offer guided hikes on most days soon after the Island Packers boats arrive on the island. A variety of guided hikes are offered during weekends that Island Packers drops off campers. In addition, private boaters may arrange for a guided hike by contacting the San Miguel Island ranger on marine radio channel 16 or by contacting park headquarters at 805-658-5730.

 nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/events.htm



Hiking

Several trails traverse San Miguel Island providing visitors with spectacular hiking opportunities. While many parts of the island are closed to protect wildlife, fragile plants, and geological features, several areas are open for you to explore. Visitors may explore the two-mile long-Cuyler Harbor beach and one-mile-long trail to the ranger station on their own. To see other parts of the island, such as Point Bennett or the caliche forest, you must go with a ranger or volunteer. As described above, they are usually available to lead hikes. All hikers must stay on the trails to protect fragile vegetation and for visitor safety. No off-trail hiking is allowed. Please refer to the map and hiking table for hike destinations and visit our website for a more detailed hiking map and guide.

 [Page 16: Hiking](https://nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hiking.htm)
nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hiking.htm



Camping

Primitive camping is only available at the established campground near the historic Lester ranch site (nine sites; \$15 per night per site; reservations required). Picnic table, food storage box, windbreak, and pit toilet are provided. Water is not available and there is no shade. Distance from the boat landing at Cuyler Harbor beach to the campground is a steep, uphill over one-mile hike. Pack gear in backpacks for hauling uphill and waterproof for a possible wet landing. Campers should be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Thirty-knot winds are not uncommon. Sturdy, low-profile tents, stakes, and line for securing tents to ground, table, or wind shelters are recommended. Fog can occur during any season producing cool, damp conditions. Due to the boat schedule, minimum stay is generally three days.

 [Page 19: Camping](https://nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/camping.htm)
nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/camping.htm



Watersports

Due to the strong, persistent wind, swimming, snorkeling, diving, and kayaking are limited and recommended for the experienced visitor only. In addition, landing and beach access is only allowed at Cuyler Harbor. Despite the wind, Cuyler Harbor is one of the most scenic beaches in the park.

 [Pages 17-18: Watersports](#)



Fishing

No fishing is allowed within the marine reserves located around the island. Fishing is allowed outside of these areas. To fish in Channel Islands National Park, possession of a valid California state fishing license with an ocean enhancement stamp is

required and all California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations apply.

 [Page 17: Fishing](#)



Wildlife/Wildflower Viewing

The reward for enduring the long boat ride, the wind, and the fog is exceptional wildlife viewing. Although the guided, 16-mile roundtrip hike to Point Bennett requires some stamina, visitors get a chance to see one of the largest congregations of wildlife in the world—over 30,000 animals and up to five different species.

Cuyler Harbor offers exceptional seabird viewing thanks to Prince Island that hosts 13 nesting seabirds, making it one of the most important and biologically diverse nesting habitats on the West Coast of North America. There is also very good seabird viewing on the boat ride over. Tell boat staff you are interested in seeing seabirds and they will help keep a lookout. Given the wind, landbirds are best spotted in Nidever Canyon. The island foxes are secretive, but is occasionally seen around the campground area.

San Miguel Island's native vegetation has made a remarkable recovery after years of grazing by nonnative animals. In some spots, the island coreopsis are head high. During a normal year of rainfall, wildflowers are best viewed in late winter and spring. In addition, some plants like gumplant, buckwheat, poppies, and verbena continue to bloom during the summer.

Fortunately, the only accessible tidepool location on the island happens to be a very good one. No ranger escort is needed to hike to the tidepools at the eastern end of Cuyler Harbor.

 [Page 17: Wildlife and Wildflower Viewing](#)



Landing in Cuyler Harbor, San Miguel Island



Campground, San Miguel Island



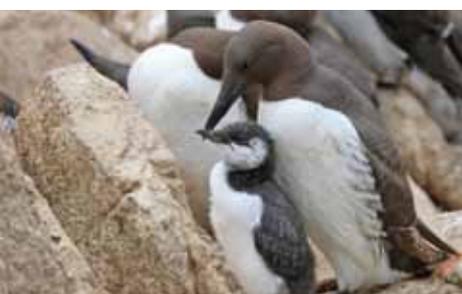
Cuyler Harbor, San Miguel Island



Caliche forest, San Miguel Island



Point Bennett, San Miguel Island



Common murre with chick, San Miguel Island



Elephant seals, Point Bennett, San Miguel Island



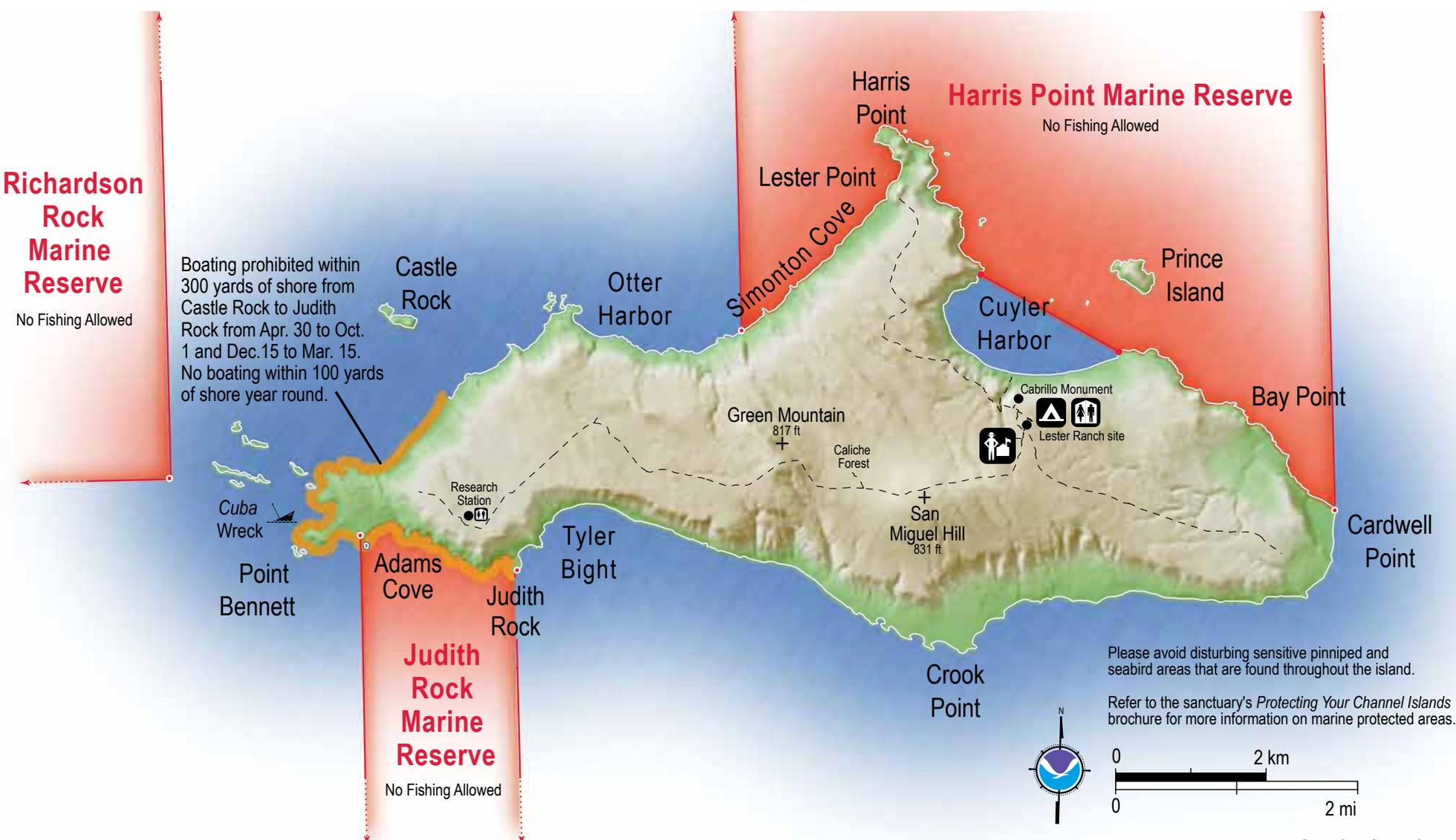
Cabrillo Monument, San Miguel Island



Sunflower sea star in kelp forest, San Miguel Island

San Miguel Island Hiking Destinations

Destination (from Cuyler Harbor)	Distance (miles, round-trip)	Difficulty	Description
Cuyler Harbor Beach	2	Easy	A wonderful two-mile-long white sand beach with tidepools on the eastern end. Use caution around rockfalls.
Lester Ranch Site	2	Moderate	Hike up a spectacular canyon with lush native vegetation to an overlook and two historic sites.
Caliche Forest	5	Strenuous	View sand-castings of ancient vegetation. Must be accompanied by a park ranger.
Point Bennett	16	Strenuous	Continue past the caliche forest to view over 30,000 seals and sea lions. Must be accompanied by a park ranger.
Lester Point	5	Strenuous	Hike to an incredible, windswept overlook. Must be accompanied by a park ranger.
Cardwell Point	6	Strenuous	View seals and sea lions on the east end of the island. Must be accompanied by a park ranger.



Santa Barbara Island

The smallest of the Channel Islands is deceptive. From a distance, this one-square-mile island may look a bit barren. Upon closer examination, the island offers more than one would expect—an island of resting elephant seals, blooming yellow flowers, tumbling Scripps's murrelet chicks, and rich cultural history. Santa Barbara Island is the center of a chain of jewels, a crossroads for people and animals.

Santa Barbara Island is 38 miles from the closest point on the mainland. The smallest of the California Channel Islands, it is only one square mile in size, or 639 acres. Formed by underwater volcanic activity, the island is roughly triangular in outline and emerges from the ocean as a giant, twin-peaked mesa with steep cliffs. In 1602 explorer Sebastian Vizcaino named the island in honor of the saint whose day is December 4th, the day he arrived.

Visitors can witness the incredible recovery of the island's plant life and wildlife after years of habitat and species loss due to ranching and farming activities, including the introduction of nonnative plants, rabbits, and cats. Although nonnative grasses still dominate the landscape, native vegetation is recovering slowly with the help of the National Park

Service's restoration efforts. After winter rains, the native plants of the island come alive with color. The strange tree sunflower, or coreopsis, blossoms with bright yellow bouquets. Other plants, like the endemic Santa Barbara Island live-forever, shrubby buckwheat, chickory, and cream cups, add touches of color to the island's palette.

This recovery of native vegetation, along with the removal of nonnative predators, has aided in the reestablishment of nesting land birds. Today there are 14 landbirds that nest annually on the island. Three of these, the horned lark, orange-crowned warbler, and house finch, are endemic subspecies found only on Santa Barbara Island.

Unfortunately, the island's recovery did not come soon enough for the endemic Santa Barbara Island song sparrow. The destruction of this sparrow's sagebrush and coreopsis nesting habitat and the presence of feral cats led to the extinction of this species in the 1960s. This sparrow, which was found only on Santa Barbara Island and is now lost forever, was one of the smallest forms of song sparrow, differentiated by its very gray back.

Seabird colonies have also benefited from the recovery of Santa Barbara Island. The island is one of the most important seabird

nesting sites within the Channel Islands, with 11 nesting species. Thousands of western gulls nest every year on the island, some right along the trailside. Fluffy chicks hatch in June and mature to fly away from the nest in July. The steep cliffs also provide nesting sites for the endangered California brown pelicans, three species of cormorants, three species of storm-petrels, and one of the world's largest colonies of Scripps's murrelets.

The rocky shores of Santa Barbara Island also provide resting and breeding areas for California sea lions, harbor seals, and northern elephant seals. These marine mammals feed in the rich kelp forests surrounding the island. The raucous barking of sea lions can be heard from most areas of the island. Overlooks, such as Sea Lion Rookery, Webster Point, and Elephant Seal Cove, provide excellent spots to look down on seals and sea lions. Visitors can also jump in the water to see what lies beneath the ocean surface. Snorkeling in the Landing Cove, visitors can see bright sea stars, spiny sea urchins, and brilliant orange Garibaldi fish. California sea lions and occasional harbor seals frequent the Landing Cove waters and the surrounding rocky ledges.

Island Facts

- Located in Santa Barbara County.
- Fifty-four miles from Ventura; 38 miles from the nearest mainland (San Pedro); 24 miles from Santa Catalina Island.
- Approximately 1.5 miles wide by one mile long; one square mile; 639 acres.
- Average rainfall—12 inches.
- Tallest peak—Signal Peak, 634 ft.
- Home to 14 endemic plant species and subspecies that occur only on the Channel Islands. Forms of buckwheat, dudleya, cream cups, and chicory are found only on Santa Barbara Island.
- The endemic, threatened island night lizard occurs only on Santa Barbara, San Nicolas, and San Clemente Islands.
- The island's cliffs offer perfect nesting habitat for one of the world's largest breeding colonies of Scripps's murrelets, rare seabirds.
- Absence of freshwater led the Tongva and Chumash to use the island on a seasonal basis and as a stopover between Santa Catalina and San Nicolas Islands.

Places to Go and Things to Do on Santa Barbara Island

One-day trips and overnight camping are options when visiting Santa Barbara Island. However, this island is more challenging to get to due to the limited transportation schedule. As with all the Channel Islands, visiting Santa Barbara Island is an exercise in preparation and self-reliance. Since there are no services on the islands, there are no remedies for poor planning once you have arrived.

Boat Transportation
Island Packers offers trips April through October. Travel time is about three hours. Landing is at the Landing Cove where visitors step from the boat onto a ladder to a small dock. From the dock, visitors must climb 200 feet along a ¼-mile trail to the top of the island.



Landing Cove, Santa Barbara Island

Goods and Services
There are no goods, services, or accommodations (lodging) available on the island. Visitors must bring all their own food and supplies. Public phones are not available.

Water
There is no water available on the island. Visitors must bring all their water with them.

Picnicking
Picnic tables are available at the visitor center.

Visitor Center
A small visitor center is located on the island. Features include displays on the natural and cultural resources of the island.

Interpretive Programs
Rangers and naturalists offer guided hikes on most days throughout the year. Hikes generally begin 30 minutes after the concession boats arrive on the island. A variety of guided hikes are also offered during weekends that Island Packers drops off campers.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/events.htm

Hiking
Once visitors have scaled the rugged cliffs using the steep trail from the Landing Cove, they will find just over five miles of trails that meander over gentle slopes and low mountain tops to dramatic overlooks and magnificent coastal views. All hikers must stay on the trails for visitor safety and to protect fragile vegetation and nesting seabirds. No off-trail hiking is allowed. Portions of trails are subject to closure when pelicans are nesting from January through August. Please refer to the map and hiking table for hike

destinations and visit our website for a more detailed hiking map and guide.

[Page 16: Hiking](https://nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hiking.htm)

Camping
Primitive camping is available (10 sites; \$15 per night per site; reservations required). Picnic table, food storage box, and pit toilet are provided. No water is available. Distance from landing to campground is a quarter-mile and includes a 200-foot climb. Due to the boat schedule, minimum stay is generally three days.

[Page 19: Camping](https://nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/camping.htm)

Watersports
Santa Barbara Island is an ideal place for swimming, diving, snorkeling, and kayaking, but there are no lifeguards on the island. Since Santa Barbara Island is a cliff island, access to the water is only at the Landing Cove via a dock. There are no other accessible beaches unless you have a watercraft. Excellent watersports can be experienced at the Landing Cove. The underwater visibility is usually very good and the water is teeming with life. Kayaking north towards Arch Point or south towards the Sea Lion Rookery provides great wildlife viewing, sea caves, and arches. Experienced kayakers can circumnavigate the island's five-mile coastline.

[Pages 17-18: Watersports](#)

Fishing
No fishing is allowed within the marine reserves located around the island. Fishing is allowed outside of these areas. To fish in Channel Islands National Park, possession of a valid California state fishing license with an ocean enhancement stamp is required and all California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations apply.

[Page 17: Fishing](#)

Wildlife/Wildflower Viewing
There is excellent wildlife viewing on Santa Barbara Island. A variety of seabirds can be seen throughout the year, including brown pelicans, cormorants, pigeon guillemots, and western gulls (gull nesting and chicks can be observed from the end of April through July). Seals and sea lions may also be viewed from Landing Cove and from the Sea Lion Rookery and Elephant Seal Cove overlooks.

Santa Barbara Island is a great place to see the recovery of native vegetation with incredible wildflower displays. During a normal year of rainfall, wildflowers are best viewed in late winter and spring. The brilliant yellow coreopsis flowers usually peak between late January and March. In addition, some plants like gumplant, buckwheat, poppies, and verbena continue to bloom during the summer.

Tidepools are not accessible from Santa Barbara Island. However, at a very low tide some intertidal plants and animals are visible from the dock or on the small shelf in front of the dock.

[Page 17: Wildlife and Wildflower Viewing](#)



Aerial view, Santa Barbara Island



Campground, Santa Barbara Island



Arch Point with coreopsis, Santa Barbara Island



Landing Cove, Santa Barbara Island



Signal Peak, Santa Barbara Island



Scripps's murrelet chick, Santa Barbara Island



Island night lizard, Santa Barbara Island



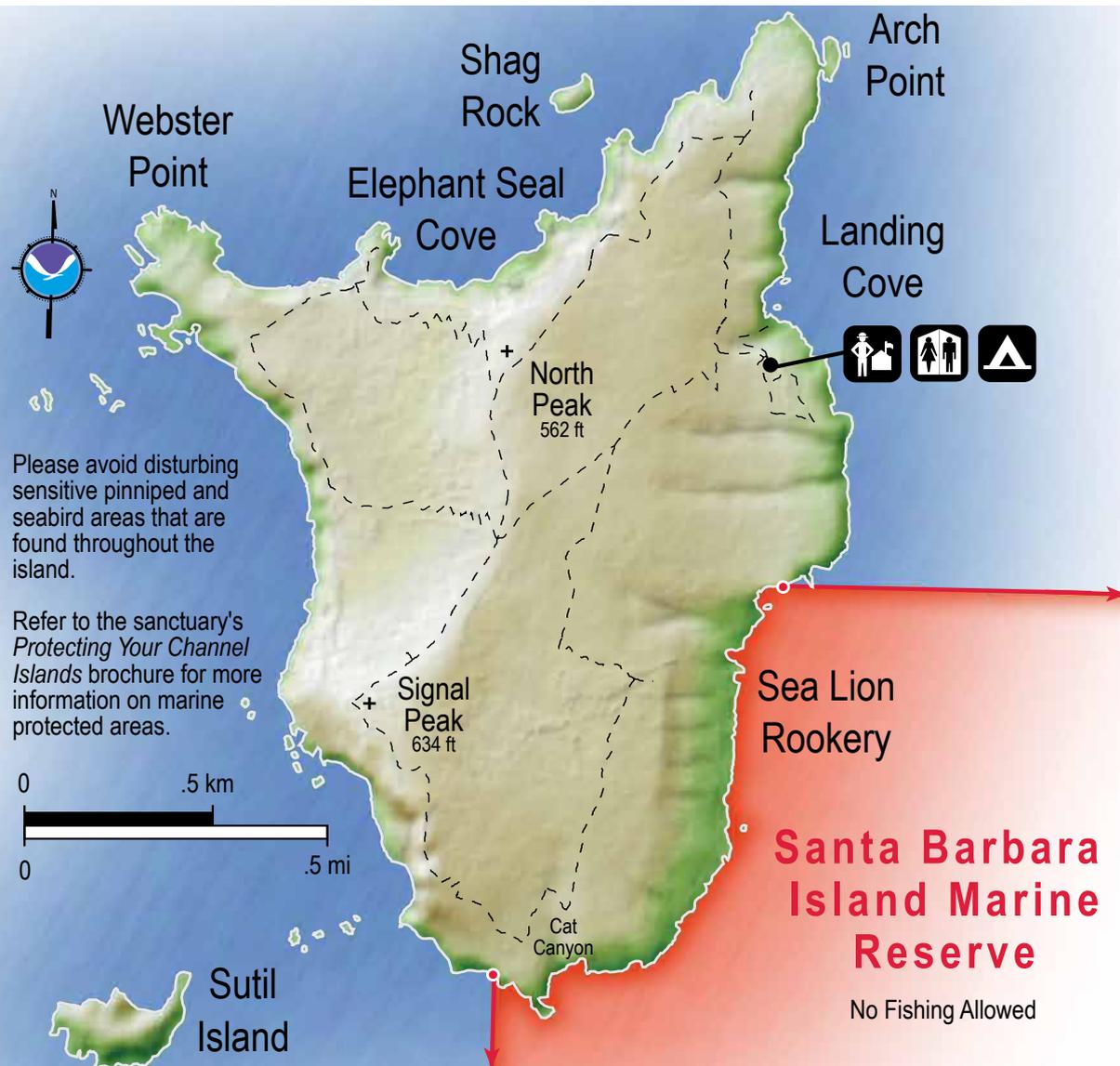
Webster Point, Santa Barbara Island



California brown pelicans, Santa Barbara Island



Santa Barbara Island live-forever



Sutil Island off the coast of Santa Barbara Island

Santa Barbara Island Hiking Destinations

Destination (from visitor center)	Distance (miles, round-trip)	Difficulty	Description
Arch Point	1	Moderate	Great views and wildflowers in season.
Elephant Seal Cove	2.5	Strenuous	View elephant seals from steep cliffs.
Sea Lion Rookery	2	Moderate	View sea lions as they haul out on the coast.
Webster Point	3	Moderate	Scenic loop hike to west side of island.
Signal Peak	3	Moderate	Visit the tallest peak on the island.

Things to Do

Guided Tours



Derek Lohuis

Guided hike with ranger at Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island



Guided Hikes and Evening Programs on the Islands

Rangers and volunteer naturalists offer guided hikes year round on the islands.

Guided hike locations, distances, and departure times will be announced after your arrival on the island during the visitor orientation. Evening programs are also offered during the summer at Scorpion Ranch campground.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/events.htm

"From Shore to Sea" Lecture Series

The purpose of this series is to further the understanding of current research on the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. Past lecture topics have included recovery of the sea otter populations in southern California waters, French and Italian heritage of Santa Cruz Island, survival strategies of open water fishes, new approaches to understanding kelp forest ecosystem health, and park efforts to restore the Prisoners Harbor wetland.

The lectures occur six times a year (March, April, May, September, October, and November) at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center. The programs are free and open to the public.

Past lectures may be viewed or downloaded

by visiting nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/from-shore-to-sea-lecture-videos.htm

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/from-shore-to-sea.htm

Channel Islands Live



NPS

Live program broadcast from Anacapa Island

Remote, isolated, rugged, and sometimes inaccessible, the park can be challenging to experience. Now, through advanced technology and a partnership between the National Park Service and Ventura Office of Education, Channel Islands Live brings the park to you.

Join rangers as they dive through towering kelp forests and hike dramatic island trails. Explore the Anacapa Light Station. See nesting bald eagles and the region's largest western gull rookery. Learn about this unique island chain, the threats confronting it, and how our

national park is protecting and restoring this diverse ecosystem.

Channel Islands Live includes interactive broadcasts when visitors on the mainland can talk to the rangers on the island, curriculum-based presentations for schools, and webcams for monitoring island and underwater features. By bridging the channel through technology, we are helping plant the seeds of understanding that can grow into the desire to preserve and protect this extraordinary place.

Park visitors and students can join us for these programs from Anacapa Island, at the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center in Ventura Harbor, in classrooms, on the Internet, and via video conferencing.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/channel-islands-live-nps.htm

Tidepool Talks

Throughout the year on weekends and holidays, rangers offer free tidepool talks at 11 am and 3 pm at the marine life exhibit in the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center in Ventura.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/events.htm

Parks as Classrooms



NPS

Pinniped education program

Do you know students who would like to take a close look at a sea star, examine a pygmy mammoth bone, learn more about the true story that inspired the book *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, or set foot on one of the park's islands? Then the park's education program is for you.

Each year rangers at Channel Islands National Park share park resources with over 15,000 students in classrooms and at the park's visitor center. Hour-long, in-class programs cover a variety of natural and cultural history topics for a variety of grades. Programs at the

visitor center meet the needs of classes from preschool through university level. There is no charge for these programs, and they are aligned with national content standards. For more information visit the park website or contact the park's education coordinator by phone at 805-658-5735.

Island Packers, the official park boat concessioner, offers a variety of student programs, from half-day whale watching to full-day island trips. For more information visit islandpackers.com or call 805-642-1393. Park partner, NatureBridge, also offers single- and multi-day trips to the park islands. For more information visit naturebridge.org or call 818-914-7660 x408.

nps.gov/chis/forteachers/classrooms/index.htm

Junior Ranger



This program helps children discover and protect the wonders of the islands. Ask for a free Junior Ranger booklet at the visitor center, boat concessioner offices, or on the islands from park staff. You may also download a copy from the park website.

Kids of all ages may also become WebRangers by visiting nps.gov/webangers. At the WebRanger website, you'll play fun games and solve mysteries and puzzles, while learning what park rangers do to help protect our natural resources and cultural heritage. You'll also learn how park rangers observe and discover new things about our national parks—things to share with visitors like you.

nps.gov/chis/forkids/beajuniorranger.htm

Hiking



Kathy deWet-Oleson

Hiking, Santa Cruz Island



Many trails and roads traverse the islands, providing visitors with spectacular hiking opportunities.

These trails and roads range from the maintained, relatively flat, signed trails of Anacapa to the unmaintained, rugged, mountainous, unsigned paths of Santa Rosa. Please see individual island sections for hiking destinations. In addition, trail maps, guides, and topographic maps are available on our website, in park visitor centers, and at island bulletin boards.

Hikers need to assume individual responsibility for planning their trips and hiking safely. To increase your odds of a safe hike, decrease your disturbance to wildlife, and protect resources, visitors should be in good physical condition and must follow

the regulations and guidelines in the "Park Regulations" section on page 5 and those listed below:

- Stay on trails and roads while hiking—avoid animal trails, which are narrow, uneven, unstable, and dangerous. Cliff edges should be avoided at all times since they tend to be crumbly and unstable. Stay well back. Children should be supervised at all times by an adult.
- Carry plenty of water—one quart for short walks, more for longer hikes.
- Hikers should never hike alone—use the buddy system. This allows someone to go for help if you encounter trouble.

- Be aware of poison oak, "jumping" cholla cactus, ticks, and scorpions. Poison oak can be identified by its clusters of three shiny leaflets. Some ticks carry disease; check your clothing and exposed skin carefully.
- In order to help prevent wildfires, do not smoke on trails or in brush areas. Smoking is allowed only on beaches and in other designated areas.
- In departing from the islands, visitors are responsible for meeting the Island Packers boats on time. Be aware of departure time by asking rangers or Island Packers employees.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/hiking.htm

Things to Do

Wildlife and Wildflower Viewing



Wildflowers above Cuyler Harbor, San Miguel Island

Brad Sillasen



Wildflower Viewing

The park is home to over 775 plant species (including subspecies, varieties, and forms). Each island is floristically unique due to a complex interplay of factors, including distance from the mainland and other islands, size of the island, local climate, maximum elevation, and topographic diversity.

During a normal year of rainfall, the islands are green and wildflowers reach peak bloom around late winter and spring. Generally, the blooming begins and ends earlier the farther east and south the islands are located. The brilliant yellow coreopsis flowers usually peak between late January through March. The best viewing of these flowers occurs on Santa Barbara, Anacapa, and San Miguel Islands. Please see individual island sections for more information and download the park's plant checklist at our website.

[nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/wildflower-viewing.htm](https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/wildflower-viewing.htm)

Birding



Island scrub-jay, Santa Cruz Island



The Channel Islands support a rich variety of birds, distinct in many ways from the birds of the adjacent mainland. The islands offer protected habitat in an increasingly disturbed southern California environment.

The islands are particularly important for seabirds, offering critical nesting habitat. The particular association of northern and southern species found here is not duplicated anywhere else in the world. The islands support large numbers of western gulls, Cassin's auklets, Brandt's cormorants, and the only nesting population of California brown pelicans along the West Coast of the United States. Also, the islands support the world's largest population of Scripps's murrelets.

While some seabird species may be viewed from the islands, park boat concessioners will search for seabirds on boat trips out to the islands. Be sure to tell a boat crew member that you are interested in seabirds and they will often assist in finding and identifying birds. In addition, local chapters of the Audubon Society occasionally sponsor boats trips around the islands to view seabirds. Due to limited beach access on some islands, shorebird viewing is best done on Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel Islands.

The landbirds are also a distinctive group—they represent a unique selection of the birds that live on the California mainland. Ten of the 40 landbird species that commonly nest on the park islands are represented by endemic species or subspecies—forms that occur only on the islands and nowhere else. Of this group, the island scrub-jay (found on Santa Cruz Island) is the only bird that is endemic at the species level.

The larger islands of Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa offer more types of habitats and, therefore, more variety of landbirds. Many birders visit Prisoners Harbor (easiest viewing opportunity) or Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz Island to view the island scrub-jay.

Please see individual island sections for more information and download the park's bird checklist at our website.

[nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/birdwatching.htm](https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/birdwatching.htm)

Tidepooling



Tidepooling, Anacapa Island

Derek Lotz



Due to their relative isolation and protection, the tidepools in Channel Islands National Park are some of the best within southern California. Anemones, sea stars, urchins, limpets, periwinkles, chitons, barnacles, mussels, and many other beautiful species can be seen at numerous pristine tidepool sites. The most accessible sites include Frenchys Cove on Anacapa Island; Smugglers Cove on Santa Cruz Island; Bechers Bay at the pier, Southeast Anchorage, and East Point on Santa Rosa Island; and the eastern end of Cuyler Harbor on San Miguel Island. Please see individual island sections for more information.

[nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/tidepooling.htm](https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/tidepooling.htm)

Seal and Sea Lion Viewing



Elephant seal pups, San Miguel Island

Dan Richards



Channel Islands National Park provides habitat for breeding populations of four species of pinnipeds or seals and sea lions (California sea lions, northern fur seals, harbor seals, and northern elephant seals). These species may be viewed during a channel crossing or from various locations on the islands, including:

- Anacapa Island: California sea lions, harbor seals
- Santa Cruz Island: California sea lions, harbor seals
- Santa Rosa Island: California sea lions, harbor seals, northern elephant seals
- San Miguel Island: California sea lions, harbor seals, northern elephant seals, northern fur seals, Guadalupe fur seals (rare)

Pages 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and [nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/seal-and-sea-lion-viewing.htm](https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/seal-and-sea-lion-viewing.htm)

Whale Watching



Blue whale, Santa Barbara Channel

Brad Sillasen



The waters surrounding Channel Islands National Park are home to many diverse and beautiful species of cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises). About one-third of the cetacean species found worldwide can be seen right here in the Santa Barbara Channel. The 27 species sighted in the channel include gray, blue, humpback, minke, sperm, and pilot whales; orcas; Dall's porpoises; and Risso's, Pacific white-sided, common, and bottlenose dolphins. Island Packers, the park concessioner, offers whale watching during the year. Other whale watch operators are located in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Islands Harbors as well as in the Los Angeles area.

[nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/whale-watching.htm](https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/whale-watching.htm)

Watersports



Surfing, Santa Rosa Island

Tim Haut



Fishing

To fish in Channel Islands National Park, possession of a valid California state fishing license is required and all California Department of Fish and Game regulations apply. In addition, thirteen marine protected areas surround the islands. Special resource protection regulations apply. Please refer to page 5 for additional regulations and guidelines. Visitors should also be sure to obtain the the Channel Islands National

Marine Sanctuary Protecting Your Channel Islands brochure and map and visit the website listed below.

www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/fishing.htm



Surfing

Depending on the swell direction, surfing can be done at several locations on Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel Islands. Generally, the north shore is best during the northwest swells of winter/

spring and the south shore is best during the south swells of summer/fall. All surf spots are remote and are best accessed by private boat due to the islands' rugged terrain and the hiking distance from the designated landing areas where the park concession vessels drop off visitors. Contact local area surf shops for more information.

www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/surfing.htm

Things to Do

Watersports (continued)



Jeffrey Bozanic

Jeffrey Bozanic

Diving with black sea bass, Anacapa Island



Swimming, Snorkeling, and Diving

The kelp forests, sea caves, and coves of the park await the adventurous swimmer, snorkeler, and diver. Some of the best snorkeling and diving in the world can be done right here within the park. These activities are best done on Santa Barbara, Anacapa, and eastern Santa Cruz Islands. Due to extremely windy conditions on Santa Rosa and San Miguel, these activities should not be attempted on these islands by the novice or anyone who is not properly trained, conditioned, and equipped. Please refer to diving books available in the visitor center for more detailed information on island snorkeling and diving sites.

Since the marine environment can be unforgiving, use extra caution when engaging in these activities. Ocean conditions are highly variable and sometimes dangerous. Many beaches on the islands have steep, dangerous shore breaks. The wind and swell generally come from the northwest and become stronger as the day continues. From October through January visitors must also be prepared for strong east, or Santa Ana, winds. The ocean currents outside of coves and protected beach areas can be strong and extremely dangerous. These conditions should be carefully considered when planning your trip and entering the water. In addition to the regulations and guidelines listed on page 5, the following suggestions should also be considered:

- There are no lifeguards on duty, so all water sports are at your own risk. Visitors should be aware of boat landing operations at all times—avoid water sports near skiffs that are landing.
- Snorkelers, kayakers, divers, and swimmers should always use the buddy system. This allows for someone to go for help if you encounter trouble.
- For your own safety, the law requires divers to display a dive flag while diving. It is recommended that spear guns be unloaded at least 50 feet from the beach.
- Before departing, swimmers, kayakers, snorkelers, and divers should leave an itinerary and/or float plan with someone who is on shore and can be easily contacted.
- Sea caves can be very dangerous—large

waves or swells can fill a cave unexpectedly. Be extremely careful and wear a helmet at all times when exploring sea caves.

- Due to cold water conditions (55° to 70°F), wetsuits and hoods are recommended.

 nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/diving.htm



Boating and Kayaking

Boating (excluding personal watercraft—see regulations on page 5) and kayaking are unique and rewarding ways to experience the pristine marine environment of Channel Islands National Park. You will find solitude and splendor. Here you will also face new challenges and may encounter unexpected dangers. What follows is just the starting point for planning a safe, enjoyable, and environmentally sound boating and kayaking trip in the park. For more detailed information, refer to the publications and websites listed below.

Planning Your Trip

Kayaking: Sea kayaking is a high-risk activity that has caused the deaths of park visitors and numerous near-fatal kayak incidents. The challenging and quickly changing weather and, at times, extreme sea conditions and dangerous sea caves greatly add to the risks of sea kayaking in the park.

Visitors may kayak on their own or with a park authorized guide/outfitter. Kayaking on your own in any area of the park should not be attempted by novice or first-time kayakers or anyone who is not properly experienced, trained, conditioned, and equipped.

For your safety, the National Park Service (NPS) recommends that sea kayaking be done with one of the park's authorized guides/outfitters. The guided trips are moderate to strenuous, but some do not require previous kayaking experience. For a current list of authorized kayak guide and outfitting services, please visit nps.gov/chis/parkmgmt/visitor-services-list.htm.

Visitors with their own kayaks who would like to explore the park may contact the park concessioners, who transport kayaks for an extra fee. The concessioners offer year-round transportation to the islands for day visits and camping trips.

Sea kayaking opportunities are available throughout the park. To help you decide which island to visit, specific island information

Boating and Kayaking Landing Information

Island	Permit Required	Fee	Landing Areas	Landing Facility
East Anacapa	No	No	Landing Cove	Small dock
Middle Anacapa	Yes	No	Schedule with ranger	Rocky shoreline
West Anacapa	No	No	Only at Frenchys Cove	Beach
Eastern Santa Cruz (NPS property)	No	No	Anywhere	Beach; pier at Scorpion and Prisoners
Western Santa Cruz (TNC property)	Yes	Yes	TNC designated areas	Beach
Santa Rosa	No	No	Anywhere	Beach; pier at Bechers Bay
San Miguel	No	No	Only at Cuyler Harbor	Beach
Santa Barbara	No	No	Landing Cove	Small dock

is available in this newspaper, at the park website, and from the visitor center through publications and exhibits.

The area of the park most popular for sea kayaking is centered around Scorpion Beach on East Santa Cruz Island. This location is a world-class destination for kayaking because of easy beach access, clear ocean waters, nearby camping, available kayak outfitters, and a spectacular shoreline with beautiful sea caves and cliffs to explore.

Sea kayaking at San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands is recommended to only the most highly experienced (expert), skilled, conditioned kayakers with all necessary safety equipment, due to the consistently extreme weather and sea conditions that regularly dominate these areas.

Due to the many hazards of crossing the channel to or from the mainland to the park islands and the shipping lanes, the NPS does not recommend this be attempted by sea kayakers.

Boating: Boaters may land on all five islands within the park throughout the year. Please refer to permit section and table above for more information.

Detailed boating information about the channel and islands may be obtained from the US Coast Guard's "Local Notice to Mariners" publication by contacting the Coast Guard at 510-437-2981. Cruising guides to the Channel Islands and nautical charts are available from local marine stores and online bookstores. Visitors may boat on their own or with a park authorized commercial service operator.

Due to challenging weather conditions, boating should not be attempted by the novice or anyone who is not properly trained, conditioned, and equipped. Currents, shifting swells, fog, and strong winds can change quickly in the channel. The trip to the islands also takes the boaters across some of the busiest shipping lanes in California. Ship speeds of 25 to 35 knots present a special hazard to boaters while crossing the channel.

There are no public moorings or all-weather anchorages around the islands. It is recommended that one person stay on board the boat at all times. Boaters are responsible for any damage to the resources caused by their vessel.

Weather

Conditions in the Santa Barbara Channel and around the islands are variable, and the ocean is unforgiving. Only experienced boaters with vessels capable of withstanding

severe weather are advised to make the cross-channel passage. Boaters should obtain the latest weather broadcast provided by the NOAA Weather Service by calling 805-988-6610, visiting its website at wrc.noaa.gov/, and by monitoring the NOAA weather radio station. For more detailed weather information visit: nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/boating.htm or nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm

Safety

Due to challenging weather conditions, boating and kayaking should not be attempted by the novice or anyone who is not properly trained, conditioned, and equipped. Safety requires good planning, local knowledge, and common sense. Boating and kayaking are potentially hazardous, even for experienced operators. For more detailed safety information visit nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/boating.htm or nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm

Regulations and Landing Permits

There are no landing permits required for the islands administered by the NPS; however, there are closed and restricted areas on each island. Please refer to the regulations listed on page 5 and visit nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/boating.htm or nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm and nps.gov/chis/parkmgmt/lawsandpolicies.htm

A landing permit is required to land on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) property on Santa Cruz Island. It is recommended that boaters contact the park ranger on each island before landing for an orientation, information on daily events, island safety, landing instructions, weather conditions, or camping check-in. Park rangers occasionally monitor VHF Channel 16. Channel 16 is a hailing frequency only, and rangers will instruct you to switch to another channel upon contact. If you cannot hail the park ranger on the island on which you plan to land, try contacting a ranger on a neighboring island, as island canyons and mountains sometimes obscure radio transmission. Please note that rocks or islets on or near any of the islands are closed year round to any landing.

For more landing information refer to the table above and visit nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/boating.htm or nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm

 nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/boating.htm
 nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm

Things to Do

Camping



Anacapa Island campground



San Miguel Island campground



Scorpion Ranch campground, Santa Cruz Island



Water Canyon campground, Santa Rosa Island



Camping is available year round on all five islands in Channel Islands National Park in National Park Service-managed campgrounds. There is currently one established campground on each island: above the Landing Cove on Santa Barbara, on the east islet of Anacapa, at Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz, at Water Canyon on Santa Rosa, and above Cuyler Harbor on San Miguel. No camping is allowed on The Nature Conservancy's western 76 percent of Santa Cruz Island. Limited backcountry camping is available on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. Please refer to the "Backcountry Camping" section below for more information.

Camping Transportation

Because concession boats fill to capacity much faster than campground limits are met, campers must first secure transportation for an overnight trip to Channel Islands National Park. For transportation information please

refer to page 4, "How to Get There."

Camping Reservations

Camping reservations are required for all of the campgrounds. There are no entrance fees to visit the park. However, campground fees are \$15.00 per night per site. Reservations can be made no more than five months in advance. Information required for the reservations includes camping dates, transportation information, and number of campers. Reservations can be made by calling 877-444-6777 or visiting www.recreation.gov. A confirmation notice will be mailed to campers.

Campground Facilities

Camping conditions are primitive, and users must camp within designated areas. All campgrounds are equipped with picnic tables and pit toilets. Water is not available at campgrounds and must be brought with you except at Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Island campgrounds. No fires are permitted. Enclosed campstoves are permitted. Outer

Campground Information				
Island	Required Reservation	Distance from Landing to Campground	Number of Campsites	Campers Per Site
Anacapa	Yes	157 stairs, .5 miles	7	4-6
Eastern Santa Cruz (Scorpion Ranch)	Yes	.5 miles, flat	31	6-15
Western Santa Cruz (The Nature Conservancy)	NO CAMPING ALLOWED			
Santa Rosa	Yes	1.5 miles from pier, flat; .25 miles from airstrip, flat	15	5
San Miguel	Yes	1 mile, steep uphill	9	4
Santa Barbara	Yes	.25 miles, steep uphill	10	4

island campgrounds (San Miguel and Santa Rosa) have windbreaks for each campsite. Campsites are generally located close to one another. No trash containers are provided; campers must pack out their own trash.

Due to scavenging animals (including birds), campers are required to store all food and trash in animal-proof containers. National Park Service food storage boxes are provided at campsites, but coolers, plastic Rubbermaid-type boxes, or other types of containers with sealing lids may be used as well.

Weather

Campers should be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Thirty-knot winds are not uncommon on Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands. Sturdy, low-profile tents, stakes, and line for securing tents to ground, table, or wind shelters are recommended. Fog can occur on the islands during any season producing cool, damp conditions. All of the campgrounds, except eastern Santa Cruz, are located away from trees and shade. Visitors are advised to bring supplies for an extra day in case boats are unable to pick up campers due to sea conditions.

Suggested Camping Gear

Campers must be prepared for the primitive campground facilities and weather conditions. Supplies and gear are not available

on the islands. Gear must be transported up ladders at most landing areas and carried some distance to the campgrounds. Packing your gear in backpacks, duffel bags, and containers with handles makes transportation easier. The boat concessioner requires that items weigh no more than 45 pounds each. On some islands, visitors may get wet during loading and off-loading, so waterproof your gear. An extra pair of shoes packed in waterproof material is recommended. Campers should plan to layer clothing, as weather conditions tend to change from cool and damp in the mornings to bright, warm, and windy during the afternoons. Clothing that protects against wind is advisable year round. Hiking boots are recommended for most island trails.

Additional needed gear includes hat/visor/cap, sunglasses, windbreaker/light jacket, shirts and pants that can be layered, normal clothing needs, food; sturdy tent, campstove/cooking gear, water (1 gallon per person, per day), sunscreen, flashlight, sleeping bag; matches, and first aid kit.

Suggested gear includes bathing suit; gloves, poncho/rain jacket, sneakers/light footwear, towel, seasick pills, garbage bags, camera, binoculars, toiletries, and sleeping pad.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/camping.htm

Backcountry Camping



Del Norte backcountry camp, Santa Cruz Island



Backcountry camping is available year round at the Del Norte campsite near Prisoners Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. Also, during certain times of year, backcountry beach camping is allowed on Santa Rosa Island. The National Park Service opened these islands to limited backcountry camping in recognition of their rare wilderness values. As you explore these wild areas by kayak or on foot, please take the

responsibility to help us protect and preserve these delicate natural resources for future generations. The following information is just an introduction to backcountry camping in the park. Please refer to the "Backcountry Camping" site bulletin for more information. This site bulletin is available on the park website, www.nps.gov/chis, or from the park visitor center and is required reading prior to making your backcountry reservations.

WARNING: While backcountry camping is an incredible experience, it is not for the inexperienced backpacker or kayaker. Due to difficult weather, rugged terrain, and off-trail hiking, backcountry camping is an arduous endeavor and should be undertaken only by experienced, well-conditioned backpackers and kayakers.

Santa Cruz Island

Del Norte is currently the only backcountry campground on Santa Cruz Island. It is

nestled in a shaded oak grove, about 700 feet above sea level, and provides scenic views of the island's pristine coastline. The hike to the site is 3.5 miles from Prisoners Harbor and 12 miles from Scorpion Anchorage. The campground has four primitive campsites (four persons per site), and users must camp within these designated sites. A picnic table, animal-proof container, and pit toilet are provided (campers must bring their own toilet paper). Water is not available.

Santa Rosa Island

Backcountry camping on Santa Rosa Island is currently limited to certain beaches between August 15th and December 31st. Hiking is along the beach and rugged, unsigned dirt roads or unmaintained animal paths. The closest beach for camping is 10 miles from the boat/plane drop-off location. Water is available year round in some of the island's canyons.

Weather and Reservations

Campers should be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Strong winds are not uncommon. Fog can occur on the islands during any season producing cool, damp conditions. Shade is limited, and overexposure to the wind and sun can be a serious problem. Visitors are advised to bring supplies for an extra day in case boats are unable to pick up campers due to sea conditions.

Backcountry campers must first secure boat transportation through the park's boat or plane concessioners or by their own private vessel. Camping reservations are required in advance. For Del Norte, call 877-444-6777 or visit recreation.gov. For Santa Rosa beach camping, call 805-658-5711.

nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/backcountry-camping.htm

Superintendent's Park Report

Every year the park staff and I like to provide a brief summary of our work on behalf of the American public, including plans for the coming year. Unfortunately, there is just not enough room to include everything nor go into great detail on the subjects we do provide. If you are interested in more information, please contact the park or visit our website: nps.gov/chis.



Anacapa Island

Interpretation and Education



Ocean webcam, Anacapa Island



Volunteers, Anacapa Island



Channel Islands Live, Anacapa Island

Accomplishments:

- A National Park Service (NPS) report shows that more than 277,500 visitors spent over \$24 million in Channel Islands National Park and the nearby communities. That spending supported more than 300 jobs in the area.
- Connected to nearly 313,702 people in over 47 community programs and special events.
- Provided 441 Parks as Classrooms programs to over 15,000 students.
- Installed the new underwater Ocean Webcam on Anacapa Island that provides views of the one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world, the kelp forest: nps.gov/chis/webcams
- Channel Islands Live interactive broadcasts reached students from schools across the country.
- Installed new audio-video equipment for the Channel Islands Live Dive program to increase the reliability of the live video and allow for remote interactive broadcasts anywhere in the world.
- 1,154 volunteers donated 73,812 hours to Channel Islands National Park, which is the equivalent to more than 35 full-time employees. 96 percent of volunteer time was spent providing interpretive opportunities for our visitors and monitoring and protecting our resources.
- Hosted the From Shore to Sea Lecture Series for the ninth year.

- Improved interpretive services on Santa Rosa Island with the new *Santa Rosa Island Interpretive Guide* publication that describes the natural and cultural history of the island. Implemented ranch tours by volunteers.
- Published a new edition of the Santa Cruz Island Interpretive Guide with new sections on Prisoners Harbor and farm implements.
- Translated park brochure, newspaper, and island hiking guides into nine different languages.
- Designed and installed new welcome and informational signs at the visitor center.
- Established new social media pages for the public: nps.gov/chis/social-media.htm
- Expanded resources available to teachers on the park website: nps.gov/chis/forteachers/for-teachers.htm
- Updated the multimedia webpages with new videos and improved video player: nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/index.htm
- Park stories were carried in over 1,540 television, print, and radio media including *NBC Nightly News*, *National Geographic*, *Associated Press*, *United Press International*, and *Sunset Magazine*.
- Implemented outreach program to educate boaters about marine protected areas in the park and marine sanctuary.

Future Plans

- Install new ocean exhibits in mainland visitor center tower.
- Design and install new identification and directional signs for the entire park.
- Expand Channel Islands Live interactive programs to reach more schools across the country.
- Develop seabird lessons for grades K-12 and marine protected areas high school lessons.
- Develop *Island of the Blue Dolphins* web portal for teachers, students, and the public.
- Develop ocean web portal for the NPS website.



Parks as Classrooms program

Cultural Resources



Smugglers Ranch, Santa Cruz Island



Corrals, Prisoners Harbor, Santa Cruz Island

Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitation and seismic retrofit of the historic Smugglers Cove ranch house on Santa Cruz Island was completed.
- The park's preservation crew constructed a corral complex at Prisoners Harbor—incorporating the old scale house, loading chute, and squeeze chute—to help interpret the ranching era at this location on Santa Cruz Island.
- This same crew restored steel windows in four historic structures on Anacapa Island.
- Students from University of California,

- Santa Barbara and Penn State University completed a two-year archeological survey of the inland portion of Santa Rosa Island. Over 5,215 acres were surveyed and 59 new sites were recorded.
- An NPS and volunteer underwater archeology team continued efforts to map the shipwreck of the *Spirit of America*, a converted minesweeper that sank off the coast of Santa Cruz Island.
- Cataloged over 56,000 items for the park archive.

Future Plans

- Survey the coast of Santa Cruz Island looking for evidence of historic Chinese abalone fishing activities.
- Rehabilitate the 1870s Vail & Vickers ranch house on Santa Rosa Island to allow public use of the building.
- Repair the Santa Rosa Island schoolhouse.



Steel window repair, Anacapa Island



Spirit of America, Santa Cruz Island



Schoolhouse, Santa Rosa Island

Natural Resources



Native plant restoration, Anacapa Island



Peregrine falcon, Santa Rosa Island

NPS

Tim Haut

Accomplishments:

- The effort to restore the largest wetland on the Channel Islands located at Prisoners Harbor on Santa Cruz Island continued with the removal of six acres of nonnative red gum eucalyptus. The project, which extends over nearly 60 acres, restores important habitat for wildlife, migratory birds, and native plants.
- Worked cooperatively with the University of California and California State University to establish a research station on Santa Rosa Island.
- The effort to restore and monitor island foxes on three park islands (San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz) continues. Island foxes were saved from near extinction following an over 90 percent decline due to golden eagle predation in the 1990s. San Miguel Island foxes appear to have reached the approximate population size that is normal carrying capacity for that island. Populations continue to increase on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands.
- Planned for and carried out the 8th California Islands Symposium in October 2012.

- Implemented plan to remove nonnative Argentine ants from Santa Cruz Island. This project is in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.
- Continued the control of nonnative iceplant on Anacapa Island and planted thousands of native plants to restore the island.
- Several milestones were reached in the reestablishment of bald eagles, including the first 2nd generation natural hatch and fledging of a chick (born to A-49 who was the first natural hatch in 2006) and the 40th chick tagged in a park bald eagle nest.
- The peregrine falcon restoration program reached a milestone with falcons nesting on all park islands.
- Completed the Santa Cruz Island Scorpion Rock seabird restoration project.
- Installed two weather stations at Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands.
- Working with researchers at USGS to restore woodland and chaparral habitats on Santa Rosa Island. Studying the effects of restoration on soils, erosion rates, regeneration of native plants, and the hydrological cycle.

Future Plans

- Complete removal of nonnative iceplant and restore native plants on Anacapa Island by 2016.
- Continue habitat restoration on the islands for recovery of seabirds.
- Work with The Nature Conservancy to restore the riparian woodland upstream from the Prisoners Harbor wetland through removal of nonnative eucalyptus and planting of native vegetation.
- Continue long-term ecological monitoring programs, ensure baseline ecological knowledge, and analyze ecological trends.
- Expand understanding of the effects of the marine protected areas at the Channel Islands.



Bald eagles, Santa Cruz Island

Kevin White

Protection



New patrol vessel, Santa Barbara Channel

Accomplishments:

- Increased marine patrols with new 38-foot patrol vessel, allowing law enforcement and search and rescue operations to any part of the park. This boat was purchased with Department of Justice settlement funds from pollution violations.
- Continued interagency cooperation for marine resource protection, visitor safety, and homeland security with US Customs and Border Protection; Homeland Security Investigations; US Coast Guard; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los

- Angeles Counties.
- Enhanced Del Norte and Anacapa Island campgrounds by replacing food storage lockers and leveling sleeping pads.
- Conducted cross-training opportunities with other agencies for search and rescue and law enforcement.
- Prepared Vail & Vickers ranch buildings on Santa Rosa Island for public viewing.
- Expanded diver operation to support park-wide dive program and search and rescue capabilities.

Future Plans:

- Enhance marine resource protection, visitor safety, and homeland security through increased marine boat patrols with a new 29-foot patrol vessel.
- Improve Del Norte campground with new picnic tables.
- Expand law enforcement, safety, search and rescue, and boat operations through advanced training opportunities.

Maintenance



Crane repair, Santa Barbara Island

Accomplishments:

- Replaced observation tower elevator cables at the visitor center in Ventura.
- Constructed new outhouse facilities at Anacapa Island campground.
- Replaced handrails at Anacapa Island dock and upper landing
- Improved crane system on Santa Barbara Island
- Started design of new crane that is planned for replacement in 2015 on Anacapa Island.
- Installed new solar power system at Del

- Norte ranch on Santa Cruz Island that will provide all the electricity needs for operations.
- Developed two alternatives and began Environmental Impact Statement for new pier at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island.
- Replaced bulldozer for Santa Rosa Island.
- Replaced septic system at Bechers Bay on Santa Rosa Island.

Future Plans:

- Replace observation tower elevator at the visitor center in Ventura.
- Complete design for new pier at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island.
- Replace deteriorated wind power generator on Santa Rosa Island.
- Replace deteriorated Anacapa Island dock building.
- Replace outhouse facility at Anacapa Island visitor center.
- Replace solar batteries at Anacapa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa Islands and solar panels on Anacapa Island.
- Replace air handler at the visitor center.
- Install telecommunications microwave system with Ventura County on Anacapa Island. This system will provide high-speed Internet and phone service to the NPS and emergency services communication for Ventura County fo blind spots along the Pacific Coast Highway.
- Replace two diesel generators on Santa Rosa Island.
- Conduct structural fire assessments of all NPS buildings.



New outhouse, Anacapa Island



Scorpion Anchorage pier, Santa Cruz Island



Drawing of proposed dock building, Anacapa Island

NPS

Tim Haut

NPS

Channel Islands National Park Timeline

20,000 Before Present (BP) Sea level approximately 350 feet lower than today. Northern Channel Islands are one island named Santarosae by modern researchers.



13,000 BP Sea level begins to rise. Pleistocene fauna—pygmy mammoth, “giant” deer mouse, flightless goose, rattlesnake, shrew, vampire bat—begins to disappear.

12,900 BP Arlington Springs on Santa Rosa Island (SRI) inhabited. The oldest known human remains found in North America date to this occupation.

12,000 to 11,500 BP Increased evidence of human occupation on SRI and San Miguel Island (SMI), including Daisy Cave on SMI.

10,500 BP Shell beads, fishing gorges, and sea grass cordage present in archaeological sites.

10,000 BP Earliest evidence of human occupation on Santa Cruz Island (SCI).

7,500 BP Earliest known Chumash village site on SRI.

7,000 BP Population density on the islands begins to rise, significant increase in fish and marine mammal exploitation.

5,000 BP Earliest evidence of occupation on Anacapa Island (AI).

4,000 BP Earliest evidence of occupation on Santa Barbara Island (SBI).

2,500 BP Transition to circular shell fishhooks begins, marking an evolution in technology and increasing reliance on fishing. Mortars and pestles manufactured on SMI for trade.



1,500 BP *Tomol* (frameless, planked canoe) and bow and arrow introduced.

1,000 BP Micro-blade and shell bead industries begin on SCI. Shell beads were used as money and were traded throughout southern California.

800 BP Dramatic changes in Chumash economic and political systems begin—increased complexity in social classes, technology, and trade.

650 BP Shell bead production intensifies.



1542 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sails up the coast of California and dies on a Channel Island. First written description of the Channel Islands and their inhabitants.

1602 Vizcaino sails past the Channel Islands. First good charts of the Channel Islands.

1769 Portola sails up the coast of California. San Francisco Bay is “discovered.” European settlement of the California coast begins.
1770 First introduction of glass beads to Chumash.

1777 Steel needles in use by Chumash. Decline of shell bead manufacture begins.

1782 Mission San Buenaventura established. Total Chumash population estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 people.

1793 George Vancouver visits area and gives islands their present-day names.

1800 Aleut hunters active on the islands during this period. Russian and American ships leave the Aleuts on the islands for long periods of time to hunt otters. The hunters are reported to have massacred some island American Indians.

1804 Spanish plan to build a mission on SCI. Idea later abandoned.

1806 Measle epidemic. Chumash population is significantly reduced.

1812 Major earthquake hits the area.

1816 1,328 Chumash reside at Mission San Buenaventura.

1820s Last of the Island Chumash population moves from islands to mainland.

1824 Chumash revolt. Many leave the missions only to be brought back later.



1830 Thirty convicts are dropped off on SCI with provisions. The landing area becomes known as “Prisoners Harbor.”

1834 Richard Henry Dana arrives in California aboard the *Pilgrim* and later writes a book about his experiences, *Two Years Before the Mast*.

1836 George Nidever and hunting party have a skirmish with Aleuts on SRI.

1839 SCI is granted to Andres Castillero (Mexican Land Grant).

1843 SRI is granted to Jose Antonio and Carlos Carrillo. The island is stocked with cattle, sheep, and horses the next year.

1850 California becomes part of the United States (Compromise of 1850). George Nidever leases SMI from new government and introduces sheep, cattle, pigs, and horses to the island. Gull eggs are harvested on the islands and shipped to San Francisco during this period.

1850s US Coast Survey begins mapping the Channel Islands to improve navigation and commerce.



1853 The SS *Winfield Scott* wrecks off AI.

1853 Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island is brought to Santa Barbara by George Nidever.



1854 AI set aside for a lighthouse. James Whistler produces two copper etchings of AI for the US Coast and Geodetic Survey.

1855 US Reservation, Zanja de Cota, established for the surviving Chumash near Mission Santa Inés. Active sealing in progress on AI.

1858 T.W. More buys interest in SRI. In 1865 the More family completes buying the island.

1860 Abalone industry established by the Chinese.

1862 6,000 sheep reported on SMI.

1869 SCI Company formed and purchased island to develop as a ranch. Sheep are recorded grazing on AI.

1870 US Census of Agriculture lists 50,000 sheep on SCI.

1874 Up to 100,000 sheep reported on SRI. SMI reported as grazed down to the sand.

1875 Paul Schumacher excavates archeological sites on SCI and SMI.

1878 Leon de Cessac leads first archeological expedition to AI, SMI, and SCI.

1880s Justinian Caire acquires sole ownership of SCI.



1892 *Goldenhorn* wrecked off coast of SRI.

1894 *Crown of England* wrecked off coast of SRI.

1900 Ordinances are passed making it illegal to gather abalone from less than twenty feet of water, ending Chinese commercial gathering.



1901 SRI is purchased by Vail & Vickers Co. The ranch is converted from a sheep ranch to a cattle ranch.

1905 *JM Colman* wrecked off Pt. Bennett, SMI.

1907 H. Bay Webster leases AI and lives on Middle AI with his wife and two sons for 10 years.

1909 Japanese and American fishermen harvesting abalone.

1910 Eaton Resort is established on SCI. Northern elephant seals hunted to near extinction—reduced to less than 100 on Guadalupe Island off Baja California.

1911 Sea otters are protected by law. *Comet* wrecked off north coast of SMI.

1912 Light beacon placed on AI.

1915 *Aggi* wrecked off Talcott Shoals, one mile west of SRI. Hyder family moves to SBI to farm.

1920 Prohibition begin. Islands become popular smuggling areas.

1923 *Cuba* wrecked off Point Bennett, SMI.



1928 Frenchy Le Dreau takes up residence on AI; remains there for 28 years.

1928 Light tower built on SBI.

1929 *Jane L. Stanford* is dynamited off east coast of SRI. The Lester family resides on SMI. Herbert Lester acts as manager of the ranch.

1930 Elephant seals return to SMI.



1932 AI lighthouse is completed.

1934 SMI transferred to the US Navy.

1935 *Mutiny on the Bounty* filmed in part on SMI. The film wins best picture of the year.

1937 Edwin Stanton purchases 9/10ths of SCI.

1938 Channel Islands National Monument is established, encompassing AI and SBI, and administered from Sequoia National Park.

1941 AI is designated a Coastal Lookout Station. The lighthouse is blacked out and men are kept on a twenty-four-hour watch from the tower.

1942 A coastal lookout station and aircraft early warning post are established on SBI. New Zealand red rabbits are introduced on SBI.

1947 President Truman signs a proclamation extending the boundaries of Channel Islands National Monument to include one nautical mile off the shores of AI and SBI. Phil Orr sets up camp on SRI and conducts archeological fieldwork for the next 21 years.



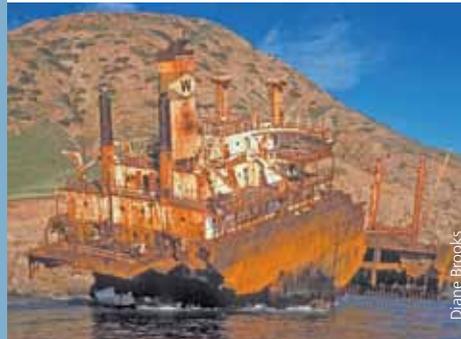
1950 The US Air Force establishes a small base at Johnsons Lee on SRI.

1954 Rabbit extermination program initiated on SBI by the National Park Service (NPS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Population is estimated at 2,600 rabbits.

1957 Channel Islands National Monument is administered from Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego.

1959 First seasonal park rangers arrive on West AI and set up a base camp. An accidental fire on SBI burns 66 percent of the island.

1960 *Santa Cruz* wrecked in Prisoners Harbor, SCI.



Diane Brooks

1962 *Chickasaw* wrecked off the coast of SRI.

1963 Cooperative agreement established between the US Navy and the Department of the Interior that allows the NPS to manage SMI.

1967 Headquarters for Channel Islands National Monument is established in Oxnard.

1968 AI lighthouse is automated.



1970 Due to pesticide contamination, only one California brown pelican chick survives at Anacapa Island, the primary US nesting site for the birds.

1972 White abalone harvest in southern California peaks at almost 144,000 pounds.

1974 Channel Islands National Monument headquarters is moved to Ventura Harbor.

1975 AI visitor center opens.

1978 Dr. Carey Stanton agrees to sell his land on SCI to The Nature Conservancy.



Tim Hauf

1980 Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary are established.

1982 Visitor center and administration building constructed for Channel Islands National Park in Ventura Harbor.

1985 Sea urchins comprise fifty percent of marine species harvested in the Santa Barbara Channel.

1985 Live underwater video program begins on AI.

1986 SRI is purchased by NPS.

1987 USFWS begins reintroduction of sea otters to San Nicolas Island.

1991 One-fourth of East SCI is purchased by NPS.

1991 SBI visitor center opens.

1992 Two more quarters of East SCI are purchased by the NPS.

1993 Feral pigs are eliminated from SRI.

1995 Island foxes begin declining on SMI, for unknown reasons.

1996 NPS acquires the last quarter of East SCI bringing the total acreage owned by the public to 6,264.

1997 USFWS lists eight species of plants on SRI and nine plants on SCI as endangered or threatened.

1998 Vail & Vickers, National Parks Conservation Association, and the NPS sign a settlement agreement requiring removal of all but 12 cattle on SRI by Dec. 31, 1998.

1999 The last of the sheep are live-captured and removed from SCI.

1999 Radiotelemetry study reveals that SMI fox decline is due to predation by golden eagles. First golden eagle nest is found on Coche Point on SCI. NPS begins trapping and relocation of golden eagles from the northern Channel Islands. The remaining wild island foxes on SMI, 15 animals, are brought into captivity.

2000 The last remaining wild foxes on SRI, 15 animals, are brought into captivity.

2001 The Nature Conservancy donates 8,500 acres of its holding on SCI to the NPS, bringing the total acreage owned by the public on SCI to 14,733.



Robert Schwemmer

2001 Members of the Chumash community paddle across to the Santa Barbara Channel to *Limuw* (Santa Cruz Island) in a traditional *tomol* (plank canoe)—the first to travel the historic route since the 1870s.

2002 White abalone become the first marine invertebrate to be proposed for listing as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

2002 Bald eagles released into the park as step to reestablish the historical island population.

2002–2003 Park partners with JASON Expedition and other organizations to reach over 1.6 million students through live satellite broadcasts from the islands and underwater.

2003 Rats eradicated from AI.



Robert Schwemmer

2003 The state of California establishes marine protected areas around the Channel Islands to protect and restore marine ecosystems.

2003 First island foxes are released back to the wild on SRI.

2004 Four island fox subspecies, the three in the park as well as Catalina island foxes, are listed as endangered by US Fish & Wildlife Service.

2004 First foxes are released back to the wild on SMI, where they have been missing for five years.

2005 Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary 25th Anniversary.



Treel Sharpe

2006 In 2006, two bald eagle pairs nest and the first chicks in over 50 years hatch on the islands.

2006 Bald eagle webcam established on SCI: nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/bald-eagle-webcam.htm

2007 Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary expands the marine protected areas into federal waters. Protected areas now encompass 21 percent of the sanctuary.



2007 First peregrine falcon chicks hatch on SBI in over 50 years.

2007 Feral pigs eradicated from SCI.



Tim Hauf

2008 Captive breeding program succeeds in bringing the island fox back from the brink of extinction on SCI, SMI, and SRI. The last of the captive foxes are released into the wild.



Tim Hauf

2008 Park concessioner Island Packers celebrates 40 years of visitor transportation to the islands.

2009 Annual visitation to the islands and mainland visitor center has increased to about 300,000.

2009 Parks as Classrooms programs educate over 30,000 children.



2009 Scorpion Ranch Visitor Center opens on SCI in the 1883 masonry ranch house.



2010 Staircase replaced on Anacapa Island ensuring access to the island.



2011 New park film, *Treasure in the Sea*, premieres. View the film in our visitor center or online at: nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/a-treasure-in-the-sea.htm

2011 New exhibits installed in the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center in Ventura.

2011 Bald eagle hatches for the first time in over 60 years on Anacapa Island.

2011 The park and sanctuary joint volunteer program, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps, wins the Take Pride in America national award for outstanding federal volunteer program.



Annie Schmidt

2011 California common murre chicks hatch for the first time since 1912 on the Channel Islands.

2011 Nonnative deer and elk eradicated on SRI.

2012 Largest coastal wetland on the Channel Islands restored at Prisoners Harbor.

2012 Economic report shows that in 2010 park visitors spent more than \$24 million in nearby communities, supporting more than 300 jobs in the area.

2013 Volunteer program grows to 1,154 volunteers, donating nearly 74,000 hours—the equivalent of 35 full-time positions.

Support Your Park

Volunteer



Volunteering, Santa Cruz Island



Volunteers come from all over the world to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Volunteers of all ages give their time and expertise to help achieve the National Park Service mission.

Channel Islands National Park has many volunteer opportunities, including staffing the information desk at the visitor center, interpretive naturalist, scientific data entry, historic research, trail maintenance, vegetation restoration, and much more. Whatever volunteer job you choose, please know that every park employee knows we could never provide the service we do without our incredible volunteers. We could not do it without them.

nps.gov/chis/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm

Park Foundation



Formed in 2005, Channel Islands Park Foundation is the only non-profit, philanthropic partner of Channel Islands National Park. Recognizing the challenges of managing the complex island ecosystems and richly diverse cultural resources, the foundation is committed to advocating on behalf of and in support of the ongoing work of Channel Islands National Park.

In cooperation with the national park, the foundation funds restoration and education efforts to ensure continued protection of the islands' natural and cultural resources.

ciparkfoundation.org/
facebook.com/channelislandsparkfoundation
info@ciparkfoundation.org
805-658-5737

Friends of the Island Fox



Friends of the Island Fox is a program of Channel Islands Park Foundation. Friends of the Island Fox provides presentations to schools and community groups in order to create public awareness about the endangered island fox and to raise funds to support island fox related education, research, and conservation efforts.

islandfox.org/
admin@islandfox.org
805-228-4123

Park Partners

The park has many partners that assist in preserving and protecting the Channel Islands. Together, we are a safeguard for cultural and biological diversity, preserving the islands' history and prehistory and protecting vital habitat for scores of marine and terrestrial plant and animal species. In addition, we provide for the enjoyment of these resources in such a manner that will leave them unimpaired for future generations. Please visit our website for a complete list of park partners.

nps.gov/chis/parkmgmt/partners.htm

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary



In 1980, a 1,252-square-nautical-mile portion of the Santa Barbara Channel was given special protected status with the designation of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

The sanctuary is an area of national significance because of its exceptional natural beauty and resources. It encompasses the waters that surround Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara Islands, extending from mean high tide to six nautical miles offshore around each of the five islands. The sanctuary's primary goal is the protection of the natural and cultural resources contained within its boundaries.

channelislands.nos.noaa.gov/

Western National Parks Association



Western National Parks Association promotes preservation of the National Park System and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation, and research.

wnpa.org

The Nature Conservancy



The Nature Conservancy preserves the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages the western 76 percent of Santa Cruz Island.

nature.org

California Department of Fish and Wildlife



California Department of Fish and Wildlife has jurisdiction and management over the living marine resources in the water column and seabed surrounding the park islands, starting at the mean high tide. In particular, commercial and sport fishing are regulated by the agency.

dfg.ca.gov/



Humpback whale with Arch Rock, Anacapa Island

Holly Lohuis



National Park Service
Department of the Interior

Channel Islands National Park
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