

Explore Point Reyes



There are many ways to experience the outdoors at Point Reyes. Whether in the water or on land, from a bike or a horse, in a kayak or canoe, or on your own two feet, it's important to be prepared. With the variable weather found here, it's advisable to dress in layers. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen. Ask for information at the Visitor Center, consult a hiking guide, or do some internet research, before embarking on your adventure. Call the weather information line at (415) 464-5100 for current weather conditions.

Hiking

Point Reyes is graced with over 150 miles of hiking trails. Some trails ascend steeply into the forested zones along the Inverness Ridge, but there are also less ambitious options among the coastal scrub and prairie communities, and in the valleys. Review the trail sampler on this page for suggestions. An in-depth trail guide and hiking map are available at any Seashore visitor center or online.



Visiting With Your Dog

Dogs, on leash, are welcome on four park beaches: Limantour Beach, North Beach, South Beach, and Kehoe Beach. The short trail leading to Kehoe Beach is the only park trail where dogs are permitted. Nearby, in Golden Gate NRA, along the Bolinas Ridge Trail, dogs on leash are also allowed. For more information, please check at any visitor center or online.



A Hiking Trail Sampler

For a more detailed list of hiking trails and a map, please ask at the Visitor Center.

EARTHQUAKE TRAIL
Bear Valley picnic area

0.6 mi./1 km
(15 min./easy)

DISCOVER the geology of the San Andreas Fault Zone, through interpretive signs, on this paved loop. Along the trail, a fence that jumped 16 feet in the 1906 earthquake helps us to imagine the earth's power.

KULE LOKLO TRAIL
Bear Valley parking lot

0.8 mi./1.3 km
(20 min./easy)

DELVE into Coast Miwok Indian culture and history while visiting this replica Miwok village. Return on the same trail, or continue around the pasture to return via the Morgan Horse Ranch.

CHIMNEY ROCK TRAIL
Chimney Rock parking lot

1.8 mi./2.5 km
(45 min./easy)

ENJOY spectacular views of Drakes Bay, the Pacific, and, in spring, wildflowers. January through May, look for migratory gray whales from the point. Rocky cliffs drop steeply to the ocean. No beach access.

DIVIDE MEADOW VIA BEAR VALLEY TRAIL
Bear Valley parking

3.2 mi./5.1 km
(1.5 hours/easy)

WALK through dense, mixed Douglas fir forest along Bear Valley Creek to an open meadow. Several benches along the way offer great resting spots in the shade.

MT. WITTENBERG AND SKY TRAIL
from Limantour Road

4.3 mi./6.9 km
(2 hours/strenuous)

CLIMB the Sky Trail to the highest point on the Peninsula, with ocean views, meadows, and forest to Horse Trail. Turn right onto Z Ranch Trail to Mt. Wittenberg summit, and continue to Sky Trail junction, turn left and return to the trailhead.

ARCH ROCK VIA BEAR VALLEY TRAIL
Bear Valley parking

8.2 mi./13.1 km
(4 hours/moderate)

MEANDER along a creek through Douglas fir forest to an ocean view. This pleasant, sheltered walk ends at Arch Rock, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. No beach access.

TOMALES POINT TRAIL
Pierce Point Ranch

9.5 mi./15 km
(4.5 hours/moderate)

RANGE over cliffs perched between the ocean and the bay in the Tule Elk reserve. Three miles of managed trail give way to an unmaintained path to the point that is overgrown, in places, with shrubs.

Camping

Car camping is not available within the Seashore's boundaries. However, Camp Taylor (415) 488-9897 and Olema RV Resort and Campground (415) 663-8001 are just down the road. Within the seashore, visitors can choose from 4 primitive backpacking camps. Two are on bluffs above the ocean and two are in forest clearings. To make reservations for these campgrounds you may call up to three months ahead. Reservations are recommended for May through October. To make reservations, call (415) 669-8054, Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Minimum walking distances for Point Reyes' campgrounds:

SKY CAMP 1.4 miles (from Limantour Road)
COAST CAMP 1.8 miles from Laguna Trail Parking
GLEN CAMP 4.8 miles from Bear Valley Parking
WILDCAT CAMP 5.5 miles from Palomarin Parking



Paddling

Kayaking and canoeing are popular pursuits at Point Reyes. Tomales Bay, a narrow, 12-mile-long shallow estuarine bay provides wonderful opportunities for novice and experienced paddlers. Leopard sharks, bat rays, harbor seals, osprey, and moon-jellies are your companions along the way. Overnight camping on the bay's west shore can be reserved through the Point Reyes backcountry reservation system (see information above). From July 1 until the end of February, paddling is also permitted in Drakes and Limantour Esteros.



Cycling



Bicycles are permitted on all paved park roads, and on a limited number of trails at Point Reyes. On the official park map these trails are indicated with dashed red lines. Where permitted, you must stay on the trail. Watch for horses and hikers; maximum speed limit is 15mph.

Horseback Riding

Equestrians may use all trails at Point Reyes. Please check at a visitor center on current trail conditions, especially in winter and spring when storms and high winds can cause flooding and treefall. On weekends and federal holidays, there are a few restrictions leaving from the Bear Valley area. To access Sky trail, horses must travel up Horse Trail or the Mount Wittenberg Trail. The Bear Valley Trail beyond the Wittenberg Trail, and Meadow and Old Pine Trails are closed on weekends and federal holidays.



Tidepooling — A Rare Treat



A common question asked here is, "where can I go tidepooling?" Only a few times a year, at negative low tides, does the intertidal zone open its doors to allow a glimpse of the harsh life of the plants and animals that live there. Plan ahead by finding out which days offer the safest opportunities for tidepool exploration. The lower the tide recedes the more rocks become exposed and the deeper you can see into these dynamic life zones.

Above all, respect the ocean and never go out there alone. Keep your eye on the water for rogue waves, watch your footing on slippery vegetation, and be mindful of the creatures living there. Look at the chart below to plan your next tidepooling adventure and to see just how rare a perfect tidepooling day is.

Year	Date	Time	Height
2007	November 23	03:50 PM	-1.40
	November 24	04:37 PM	-1.80
2008	January 19	02:43 PM	-1.20
	January 20	03:32 PM	-1.50
	April 8	7:18 AM	-1.10
	April 9	8:12 AM	-1.10
	April 10	9:12 AM	-1.00
	May 7	7:06 AM	-2.00
	May 8	7:56 AM	-1.80
	May 9	8:56 AM	-1.50
	May 10	9:56 AM	-1.00
	June 5	6:54 AM	-2.10
2009	June 6	7:45 AM	-1.90
	June 7	8:36 AM	-1.40
	July 4	6:44 AM	-1.68
	November 11	03:55 PM	-1.60
	January 9	03:44 PM	-1.53
	February 8	04:13 PM	-1.16
	April 27	7:23 AM	-1.40
	April 28	8:15 AM	-1.34
	April 29	9:12 AM	-1.12
	May 26	7:12 AM	-1.89
	May 27	8:02 AM	-1.70
	May 28	8:55 AM	-1.35
	June 24	6:58 AM	-1.84
	June 25	7:45 AM	-1.54
	June 26	8:32 AM	-1.06
	July 23	6:37 AM	-1.31
	December 1	04:16 PM	-1.25
	December 29	03:17 PM	-1.03
	December 30	04:01 PM	-1.42