

Beaches in Santa Cruz County

For information on beach or ocean conditions contact:

State Beaches (831) 427-4868 or 685-6450
Santa Cruz City Beaches (831) 420-6015

Beaches with Lifeguard Service in summer:
(Hours vary from beach to beach.)

Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz
Cowell Beach, Santa Cruz
Main Beach, Santa Cruz
Seabright State Beach, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Harbor Beach, Santa Cruz
Twin Lakes State Beach, Santa Cruz
Capitola City Beach, Capitola
Seacliff State Beach, Aptos
Rio Del Mar State Beach, Aptos
Manresa State Beach, Watsonville
Sand Dollar State Beach, Watsonville
Sunset State Beach, Watsonville
Palm Beach, Watsonville

Beaches without Lifeguard Service:
(Swimmers are encouraged to use beaches with lifeguards.)

Davenport Beach, Davenport
Waddell State Beach, Davenport
Moran Lake Park, Santa Cruz
Pleasure Point Beach, Santa Cruz
New Brighton State Beach, Capitola

For More Information

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
(831) 420-1630 Santa Cruz Office
(831) 647-4201 Monterey Office
www.montereybay.noaa.gov



Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors Council
(831) 425-1234 or (800) 833-3494
1211 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060
www.santacruzca.org

50 Ways to Get Your Feet Wet

IN THE
MONTEREY BAY
NATIONAL
MARINE
SANCTUARY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Santa Cruz County
Inter-Agency
Sanctuary
Task Force





The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is Teeming with Life

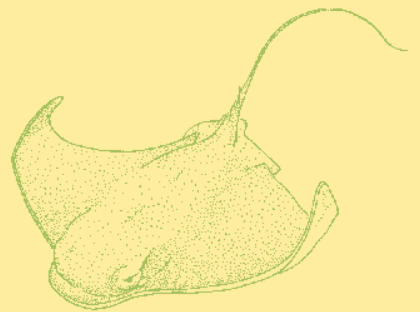
The central California coast has been designated as a national marine sanctuary because its unique biological, geological, and oceanographic features make it one of the richest marine environments in the world. On any given day you can enjoy unsurpassed wildlife viewing. Whales, sea otters, pelicans, sea lions and seals abound on the Santa Cruz County coast. 🐠 The Sanctuary

runs along one fourth of the California coastline – from Cambria to just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. It is the third largest marine protected area in the world, and as large as the state of Connecticut. The Sanctuary protects a diversity of habitats, including wave-swept beaches, lush kelp forests, and the unique Monterey Submarine Canyon, which meanders over 60 miles of seafloor and descends two miles into the oceanic abyss. 🐠 The National Marine Sanctuary Program, operated by the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), promotes environmental stewardship and protection of our ocean resources. Harmful activities such as oil drilling and ocean dumping are prohibited in the Sanctuary. Other activities, including fishing, boating, and diving, are allowed. 🐠 We are able to enjoy a clean and beautiful marine sanctuary thanks to the many individuals – both residents and visitors – who care for it and use it wisely. Together we can continue to protect this national treasure.

Please:

- ★ Stay 50 feet away from all marine mammals (including seals, sea lions, & sea otters). Observe without disturbing them.
- ★ Do not remove animals from beaches or tide pools. Leave them in their natural habitat.
- ★ Instead of driving around town, walk or ride a bike. Reduce water pollution—& use less gas.
- ★ Pick up your trash and do your part to keep our Sanctuary clean.
- ★ Explore and share the wonder!



Marine Sanctuary Recreation

Whale Watching, Boating, & Fishing

Capitola Boat and Bait

Small boat rental (16 foot skiffs with 8 HP motor), fishing gear. (831) 462-2208, on the Capitola Wharf.

Chardonnay Sailing Charters

70 ft. luxury yacht offers Ecology trips, Sunset sails, & more. (831) 423-1213, www.chardonnay.com



Chartle Charters

Specializing in sport fishing, private charters for small groups. (831) 336-2244, www.chartlecharters.com

Pacific Yachting

Sailing School & Charters
Sailing instruction for all levels, charters, corporate team building. (831) 423-SAIL (7245), 790 Mariner Pk. Wy., Santa Cruz. www.pacificsail.com

Park Place Excursions

40 ft. sport fishing pleasure vessel offers private charter trips on the Monterey Bay. (800) 486-1085, www.parkplaceexcursions.com

Santa Cruz Boat Rentals

Small boat rental (16 foot skiffs with 8 HP motor), fishing gear. (831) 423-1739, on the Santa Cruz Wharf.

Santa Cruz Sportfishing

Ocean fishing trips for salmon, rockcod, albacore. Whale watching & Sanctuary tours. (831) 426-4690, www.santacruzsportfishing.com

Shamrock Charters & Fisherman's Supply

Monterey Bay Sanctuary tours, sport fishing, whale watching, charters, fishing gear. (831) 476-2648, in the Santa Cruz Harbor. www.scurfslanding.com

Stagnaro's

Fishing trips, whale watching, scenic bay cruises, private charters. (831) 427-2334, on the Santa Cruz Wharf. www.stagnaros.com

Sea Kayaking

Kayak Connection

Kayak tours of the Sanctuary leave from the Santa Cruz Harbor. Kayak rentals, instruction, & sales. (831) 479-1121, 413 Lake Ave. at the Santa Cruz Harbor. www.kayakconnection.com

Venture Quest Kayaking

Sea kayak tours & rentals from the Santa Cruz Wharf. (831) 427-2267, on the Santa Cruz Wharf. www.kayaksantacruz.com

SCUBA Diving

Aqua Safaris Scuba Center

SCUBA classes, equipment rental & sales, dive vacations. (831) 479-4FUN (4386), 6896-A Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz. www.aquasafaris.com

Adventure Sports

SCUBA classes, join our dive club through e-groups, kayak diving. (831) 458-DOIT (3648), 303 Potrero St., Santa Cruz. www.asudoit.com

Surfing Lessons & Surfboard Rental

Arrow Surf Shop

Surfboard rentals & sales. (831) 423-8286, 2324 Mission St., Santa Cruz. arrowsurfshop@aol.com



Club Ed Surf School & Camps, Inc.

Surfing lessons private & group, surfboard & wetsuit rentals, 7-day surf camps. Open year round on Cowell Beach, Santa Cruz. (800) 287-SURF (7873), www.club-ed.com

Cowell's Beach 'n Bikini Surf Shop

Complete surf rentals, lessons. (831) 427-2355, 30 Front St., Santa Cruz.

Freeline Design Surfboards

Surfboard rentals & sales. (831) 476-2950, 821 41st Ave., Capitola. www.freelinesurf.com

O'Neill Surf Shop

Surfboard & wetsuit rentals & sales. (831) 475-4151, 1115 41st Ave., Capitola. www.oneill.com

Richard Schmidt Surf School, Inc.

Santa Cruz's best and original surf school. (831) 423-0928, www.richardschmidt.com

Santa Cruz Surf Shop

Surfboard rentals & sales, surfing lessons. (831) 464-3233, 753 41st Ave., Capitola. www.santacruzsurf.com

Shoreline Surf Shop

Surfboard rentals. (831) 458-1380, 125 Beach St., Santa Cruz. www.shorelinesurf.com



Bicycle Rental

Bicycle Shop Santa Cruz

Bike rentals & sales. (831) 454-0909, 1325 Mission St., Santa Cruz.

Electric Sierra Cycles

Electric cycles, cruisers, & mountain bikes for rent or sale. (831) 425-1593, 302 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz. www.electrircbikes.com

Family Cycling Center

Cruiser & mountain bike rentals & sales. (800) 590-3883, 914 41st Ave., Capitola. www.familycycling.com

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

Historic seaside amusement park. Open daily Memorial Day to Labor Day, and weekends in spring and fall. (831) 426-7433, www.beachboardwalk.com

Calendar of Activities for Santa Cruz County

Summer Activities & Events May to October

Sunny, dry weather is perfect for sea kayaking, SCUBA diving, boating and surfing.

★ **Humpback whales and blue whales** visit the Marine Sanctuary, May through October.

★ **Guided tide pool field trips** at Natural Bridges State Park, weekends from March through September, call for times. (831) 423-4609.

★ **Enjoy a guided natural history walk** at one of our coastal State Parks. Nature walks are available every weekend and subjects range from fossils to birding to dune ecology. For details call Seacliff State Beach (831) 685-6444, Sunset State Beach (763-7063), Wilder Ranch State Park (426-0505), and Rancho del Oso State Park (427-2288).

★ **Guided tours of the Wilder Ranch State Park historic ranch buildings**, every Sat & Sun 1 pm, and **living history demonstrations** every Sat & Sun 11-3.

★ **Evening campfire programs** are available to campers at Manresa State Beach (761-1795), New Brighton State Beach (464-6329), and Sunset State Beach (763-7063). Summer weekend evenings only. Subjects vary.

★ **Free Santa Cruz Harbor water taxi** operates weekends & holidays 10-6, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Call (831) 475-6161 for information.

★ The Santa Cruz Wharf sponsors many weekend **public festivities** throughout the year. For information call (831) 420-5273 or visit www.santacruzwharf.com/events.html

★ The Seymour Center's Fall Lecture Series brings distinguished marine scientists to the community for three evenings in September & October. Call (831) 459-3800 for topics and information.

1st Saturday in June • Cement Ship Festival, at Seacliff State Beach. Celebrate the history of this unique 1930's-era coastal relic with hands-on activities for kids, crafts and music. (831) 685-6444

4th Sunday in August • Aloha Races & Polynesian Festival, at the Santa Cruz Wharf. Novice outrigger canoe races in the morning, followed by a Polynesian cultural festival at 11 am. Get a taste of the tropics with food, dance, music and more. (831) 420-5273

3rd Saturday in September • Coastal Cleanup Day. Join this nationwide effort to clean trash from beaches and streams. To sign up in Santa Cruz County, (831) 426-5925 x23. www.ecoact.org Elsewhere, 1-800-COAST4U



Winter Activities and Events November to April

★ **Gray whales** can be seen from the cliffs as they migrate through the Sanctuary, January through May.

★ **Northern elephant seals** return to Año Nuevo State Reserve for their breeding and pupping season. Learn all about these amazing animals on a guided tour to the rookery, \$4 per person + parking fee, advance reservations highly recommended. December 15 through March 31. (650) 879-2025 for information, (800) 444-4445 for reservations, www.anonuevo.org

★ Enjoy the grove of overwintering **monarch butterflies** on a guided walk at Natural Bridges State Park, Sat and Sun 11 am and 2 pm, October through February. (831) 423-4609



★ **Join a guided natural history walk** at one of our coastal State Parks. Nature walks are available most weekends. For details call Seacliff State Beach (831) 685-6444, Sunset State Beach (763-7063), Wilder Ranch State Park (426-0505), and Rancho del Oso State Park (427-2288).

★ The Seymour Center at Long Marine Lab hosts expanded family programs during spring break each year. Call (831) 459-3800 for schedule.

1st Saturday in December • Lighted Boat Parade, at the Santa Cruz Harbor. 5:30 pm, rain or shine. Kick off the holiday season with the festive sight of brightly lit boats parading through the harbor. (831) 475-6161

1st Saturday in December • Jingle Shells Art and Book Festival, at the Seymour Center. Ocean-inspired gifts and presentations, with live music, children's activities, and festive whale-lighting ceremony at dusk. (831) 459-3800

2nd Saturday in February • Migration Festival, Natural Bridges State Park. This hands-on educational event for kids celebrates the many animals that travel through the Marine Sanctuary, including whales, birds, and monarch butterflies. (831) 423-4609

March • Sanctuary Currents Research Symposium. Learn about current local marine research at this free symposium for scientists and the public. (831) 647-4201

Learn More About the Sanctuary

Seymour Marine Discovery Center at Long Marine Laboratory

End of Delaware Ave., west side Santa Cruz • (831) 459-3800 • <http://seymourcenter.ucsc.edu> • Admission \$5; \$3 for kids/seniors • Open Tues–Sat 10–5, Sun noon–5 • Learn about marine science through hands-on exhibits, aquarium, touch tank, interactive family programs, and tours at this working marine laboratory.

Natural Bridges State Beach Visitor Center

End of West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz • (831) 423-4609 • www.santacruzstateparks.com • Parking fee • Park open daily 8 am–sunset, Visitor Center open Fri–Sun 10–4 in summer, more in winter & spring • Sandy beach, natural rock arch, tide pools, monarch butterfly wintering grove. Visitor Center features educational exhibits and gift shop. Call for a schedule of programs and tours.

Seacliff State Beach Visitor Center

201 State Park Dr., Aptos • (831) 685-6444 • www.santacruzstateparks.com • Parking fee • Park open daily sunrise–sunset, Visitor Center open Wed 12–4, Thurs–Sun 10–4 • Long sandy beach, historic cement ship, Visitor Center with educational exhibits, touch tank and bookstore, RV camping by reservation. Call for a schedule of programs and tours.

Wilder Ranch State Park

2 miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1 • (831) 426-0505 • www.santacruzstateparks.com • Parking fee • Park open daily 8 am–sunset, historical buildings & Interpretive Center open Thurs–Sun 10–4 • Living history ranch activities every weekend. Extensive coastal and upland trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Call for a schedule of programs and tours.

Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center

16 miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1 • (831) 427-2288 • www.santacruzstateparks.com • Sat & Sun noon–4 • Interpretive exhibits on local wildlife and cultural history, trails allow exploration of a Sanctuary watershed. Call for details.

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

1305 East Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz • (831) 420-6115 • www.santacruz museums.org • Donations appreciated • Open Tues–Sun 10–5 • Family fun: Tide pool touch tank, live beehive, million year-old fossils, and a life-sized gray whale!

Santa Cruz Surfing Museum

Mark Abbot Lighthouse, West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz • (831) 420-6289 • www.santacruz museums.org • Donations appreciated • Open Thurs–Mon 12–4 • Exhibits trace over 100 years of surfing in Santa Cruz. See historical photos, vintage boards, and what a shark attack can do to a surfboard.

Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf

Intersection of West Cliff Dr. and Beach St. • Hourly charge for parking • Open daily 5 am–2 am • For information on events call (831) 420-5273 • Enjoy interpretive displays along this half-mile pier, including an aquarium on weekends, watch the sea lions, and stop by the Sanctuary office at 55-D, Upper Level.

BayNet Volunteers

Look for friendly volunteers with the bright blue BayNet jackets at Lighthouse Point on West Cliff Drive. They will share their binoculars and answer your questions about local wildlife and the ecology of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Santa Cruz Harbor Interpretive Walk

Learn about wildlife, fishing, and local nautical history on this two-mile self-guided path around the harbor.

Save Our Shores

2222 East Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz Harbor beach • (831) 462-5660 • Free • Open Mon–Fri 9–5 • Your local voice and resource for marine conservation issues. Discover how you can protect Sanctuary waters • www.saveourshores.org for action alerts and events.