



WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDELINES



- 1 Hands to Yourself** Keep wildlife safe and healthy.
- 2 Keep Pets Home or on a Leash** Wildlife and pets can harm each other.
- 3 Report Wildlife that seems Abandoned or Sick** Leave it to the experts.
- 4 Lend a Hand with Trash Removal** Keep their home clean.
- 5 Snacks to Yourself** Wildlife can find their own food.
- 6 Lead by Example** Help others become responsible wildlife watchers.

Things to Know Before You Go:

- Marine protected areas (MPAs) are great places to enjoy recreational activities such as wildlife watching, swimming, wading, boating, kayaking, diving, surfing, and more!
- A sport fishing license is required for any resident or nonresident 16 years of age or older for all fishing and collecting, except for fishing from some public piers or jetties in ocean waters. Fishing report cards may be required for some species.
- It is illegal to fly a drone in many coastal areas of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, including Big Sur.
- Harassing, disturbing, or feeding wildlife is harmful to the animals, and often illegal.
- Tidepools are sensitive habitats. Collecting, trampling, or even handling tidepool animals and plants can cause damage. Make sure to practice good tidepool etiquette.
- The ocean is powerful and can be dangerous even for strong swimmers. Know your limits and practice ocean safety by always checking local surf conditions before activities near or on the water, and never turn your back to the ocean.
- If traveling along the beautiful Big Sur coast, remember that there are very few restroom stops, so plan ahead! Please pack out your trash and keep the picturesque Big Sur coastline beautiful.



WHAT ARE MPAs?



Rewa Bush (California State Parks)

Monterey Bay is home to one of the most productive coastal ecosystems in the world. State and federal marine protected areas, or MPAs, are areas set aside along the coast to help protect special places underwater, just as our national parks and wilderness areas protect special places on land. The Central Coast of California is home to many state MPAs and the federally protected Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). Together with the Bureau of Land Management's California Coastal National Monument, which includes all offshore rock outcroppings, these MPAs protect wildlife and restore ecosystems, ensuring the ocean's bounty and beauty remain for future generations to enjoy.



Steve Lonhart/NOAA MBNMS

EXPLORE MONTEREY BAY AND BEYOND



A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE CENTRAL COAST



Douglas Croft



Jon Anderson



USA Today



Douglas Croft/Douglas Croft Images

10 Low-Cost Activities and Insider Tips to Help You Explore and Protect the Coast

Help Protect Monterey Bay's Wildlife

Call The Marine Mammal Center at **415-289-SEAL** (7325) if you see a marine mammal in distress. If you observe illegal activities affecting wildlife, call **1-888-334-CalTIP** (2258) or text **TIP411**.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



www.mpacollaborative.org/explore-monterey-bay-and-beyond

HELP PROTECT THE COAST WHILE YOU EXPLORE MONTEREY BAY AND BEYOND

10 Low-Cost Activities and Insider Tips

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs)

State Marine Reserve (SMR)
No take, damage, injury, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.

State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed (restrictions vary).

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs



Map not to be used for navigation.

Please Note: The information provided here does not replace the official laws and regulations found in the California Code of Regulations Section 632 Title 14.

- 1 Año Nuevo State Park**

Observe massive elephant seals from a safe distance. Call 800-444-4445 for guided elephant seal walks.
- 2 Natural Bridges State Beach**

See tidepools brimming with marine life. Call 831-423-4609 for information on tidepool explorations, including docent led tours.
- 3 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center**

Located at the base of the Santa Cruz Wharf. Take advantage of free admission and enjoy lots of activities for the whole family!
- 4 Santa Cruz Wharf**

Take the family fishing at the longest wharf in California. Remember to pack out your fishing line and tackle to keep wildlife safe.
- 5 Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve**

Walk the nature trails to observe rare birds and endangered sea otters from a respectful distance. Call 831-728-2822 for information on guided tours of Elkhorn Slough.
- 6 Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail**

Walk your dog on-leash or ride a bike along historic Cannery Row. The Trail stretches 18 miles from Castroville to Pacific Grove and is a great way to see the coast.
- 7 Lovers Point Park**

Have a picnic on the beach or dip your toes in the chilly Pacific Ocean. Don't forget to pack out your trash when you leave the beach!
- 8 Asilomar State Beach**

Explore the colorful tidepools. Remember to practice ocean safety by always checking local surf conditions before activities near or on the water, and never turn your back to the ocean.
- 9 Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

Hike the many trails and see diverse bird and plant life along the rugged coastline. Call 831-624-4909 for information on docent-led tours.
- 10 Point Sur State Historic Park**

Step into the past on a walking tour of a historic lighthouse. Tours are available Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays in June, July, and August. Call 831-625-4419 for information on guided tours.