

Santa Monica Mountains

Official Map and Guide

National Recreation Area
California

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cover photo of the Las Virgenes Valley at dusk © by Don Wiechec

Beginning in the heart of the city terraced and landscaped, they seem almost part of the urban scene. The Santa Monica Mountains rise above Los Angeles, widen to meet the curve of Santa Monica Bay, and reach their highest peaks facing the open ocean. The land is beautiful and multi-faceted, its coastline alternating between rocky shore and narrow sandy beaches. Two lagoons provide shallow, nutrient-rich nurseries for birds and ocean-going animals. Deeply incised canyons harbor sycamores, willows, and ferns along their narrow creekbeds. Surrounding canyon walls are covered with impenetrable chaparral and fragrant sage. Inland, grassy hillsides are accentuated with individual valley oaks, while oak woodlands thrive on moist, sheltered slopes. Canyon walls and rock outcroppings reveal evidence of a long sequence of geologic activity: the rise and fall of ancient oceans; volcanic episodes; folding, faulting,

and uplifting of mountain building; and the erosion occurring today. The Santa Monica Mountains form the western backdrop for one of the largest cities in the United States. Rugged open spaces and undulating shoreline contrast strikingly with the intensely developed San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles Basin. Juxtaposed with urban development, the scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the mountains are enhanced in value. Each year, more and more people come to the Santa Monica Mountains. New homes are built and communities expand. Parks are created and trails built. Beaches perpetually draw visitors. The Santa Monica Mountains are a mosaic of homes, ranches, and communities; private and commercial recreational facilities; and federal, state, county, and community parklands; as well as reservoirs, landfills, and other publicly owned lands and facilities. In 1978, Congress established Santa

Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to "preserve and enhance its scenic, natural, and historical setting and its public health value as an airshed for the Southern California metropolitan area while providing for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public." Such goals may typify National Park System areas, but the methods for achieving those goals do not.

No single agency or organization can decide how the area will provide places for people to live, work, and play while protecting the resources of the mountains and seashore. Public agencies must cooperate in using diverse laws and policies to seek the best solutions to common problems. Cooperation between government agencies and both landowners and land users will require creativity and commitment to resolve con-

flicts and plans for the region's future. Cooperative effort does not end with land use planning. In the Santa Monica Mountains, homeowners work together for fire prevention and emergency preparedness. Volunteers lead hikes and present educational programs to introduce people to the mountains. Other volunteers build and maintain trails or provide information on park facilities, and educational institutions participate in resource conservation projects. Such a widely shared responsibility has assured the people of Southern California full partnership in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Here, where the mountains meet the ocean, people have a chance to learn from the past, enjoy the present, and help shape the future.

The Land



Rugged peaks contrast with coastal farmlands to the north.

One of the few east-west trending mountain ranges in America, the Santa Monica Mountains are the southernmost chain crossing California. They are young mountains uplifted by the pressure of colliding plates of the Earth's surface. As the massive crustal plates slowly push against each other the land is compressed and folded. Older layers of rock have been forced upward to reveal how they were faulted and overturned. Year by year the mountains slowly continue to rise. At the same time, winter rains erode steep hillsides, sending soil down the creeks toward the valleys and beaches.

Many people consider winter the best time of year in Southern California. Days are often dazzlingly sunny and clear, with nighttime temperatures dipping below freezing only in the interior of the mountains. Storms that sweep down from the north, bringing cold rain, wind, and high surf, move through quickly and leave the air clear.

Winter and spring blend together because each winter rainstorm triggers growth throughout the mountains. Grasslands turn emerald green under the bare sculpture of valley oak boughs. Shrubs along the coast respond to the rain with a spectrum of greens ranging from silver to olive. Spring is foggy and cool along the coast. Inland it is marked by crisp nights and warm, sunny days. Everywhere there are tiny blossoms and tantalizing fragrances.

Summer at the beach means light breezes, warm days, and mild nights. Inland the nights are cooler, while days are not and desert-dry. The sky is cloudless, but hazy. Plants of the coastal sage community become dormant in summer, punctuating their season's end with graceful seed pods that rival spring wildflowers in design if not in colors.

Autumn's cascading red and golden leaves appear only on moist sheltered slopes and in narrow bands that mark the creekbeds of the canyons. On open, grassy areas, valley oaks shed their leaves unceremoniously. Hillsides and canyon slopes reflect fall in their own ways. Chamise, scrub oak, ceanothus, sugarbush, and manzanita keep their green leaves as they have throughout the dry summer. Acorns ripen, toyon berries turn bright red, and early mornings are marked with a chill.

By December the first rains usually fall. Winter returns to the Santa Monica Mountains. Its palette of colors includes bright blue skies, billowing white clouds, dark brown valley oaks, and the variety of new-growth greens: grass, coastal sage, and the perpetually green chaparral.

Fire plays an important role in recycling nutrients through the chaparral ecosystem. Fanned by high winds called Santa Anas, fire reduces everything to charred stumps and ash. Yet, within weeks, new growth begins to appear.

During the first three to five years after a fire, the ground is covered with a brilliant display of wildflowers in spring and summer. Stems, fruits, and seeds from these fire followers provide food for rabbits, gophers, squirrels, and seed-eating birds. Each year, as larger shrubs grow, there is less room for the annuals. In less than 10 years shrubs will regain their former size. Mature chaparral, with its densely intertwined branches, provides habitat for animals that can fly over its tops or run under its low boughs.

Grasslands and sage-covered slopes attract a wide variety of animals. Oak grasslands and oak woodlands provide food and shelter for small mammals and the trees provide nesting areas for birds. In lush vegetation along waterways, aquatic insects, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals make their homes.

From beach to ridgetop to grassland the Santa Monica Mountains show their abundant variety. Stand on a ridgetop and look down the steep canyons to the ocean. Listen to a redtail hawk screech as it circles over a grove of coast live oak. Sit under a tree and watch the perpetual motion of rabbits and ground squirrels. Through seasons and cycles of change the mountains are filled with life.

The Ocean



Mountains and ocean meet at Mugu Rock.

From the western arm of Mugu Lagoon southeast to the Santa Monica Pier, the Pacific Ocean forms 46 miles of the southern and western boundaries of the Santa Monica Mountains. Here the terrestrial and marine worlds meet as air and water mingle to give life to both. Masses of cool marine air dominate the weather along the coast. In spring and summer, fog screens the shore from the hot drying sun. In winter, westerly air-flows act as an insulator against the cold. While temperatures inland can range from below freezing to above 100°F during the year, coastal temperatures remain in a narrower, more comfortable range.

Weather patterns on the land can also affect the ocean. In late summer hot Santa Ana winds blow from the California desert toward the ocean. Surface water is pushed away from the shore and deeper, colder water is drawn upward. This water is rich in nutrients that attract many fish and other marine organisms.

Storms form over the ocean and bring rain to the Santa Monica Mountains in winter. The same rain that brings new growth to plants can also tear away at loose rock and saturate soils and cause landslides or slumps. Creekbeds in the narrow canyons fill with fast-moving water carrying large boulders that scour everything in their path. The creeks empty into the ocean and drop their loads of sediments along the shore. Here the surf takes over, pounding against large boulders and tumbling rock fragments smaller and ever smaller into bits of sand.

At Mugu and Malibu Lagoons the land and ocean form a different environment. Mugu Lagoon is a 1,400-acre coastal wetland protected from the ocean's energy by a barrier beach. Here plants grow in salty, wet soils providing habitat and food for many resident and migratory birds. With 10 acres of salt marsh Malibu Lagoon is also a resting point for migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. The saltmarshes of Malibu and Mugu Lagoons provide shallow, protected environments for fish and other marine animals to begin their lives.

Along the shoreline the tides control the rhythm of life. Animals living in the intertidal zone are marine organisms dependent on the ocean. In the splash zone, animals that live on the rocks get wet only during high tides. Limpets and barnacles must be able to survive

for hours with neither nourishment nor protection from the sun. In the middle zone, plants and animals are exposed to air only for short periods of time or are covered by water left in hollows in the rocks. At this level, anemones, sea urchins, and mussels are adapted to the surf that crashes over them, bringing extra oxygen along with water-borne nutrients. At the lowest level of the intertidal zone rocks are exposed to air only at the lowest tides of the month. Here in the shallow, sun-filled water, small fish, octopi, crabs, black abalones, and other marine creatures can find food and shelter from larger predators.

Survival for animals in the rocky intertidal zone is directly linked to their location. To remove an animal from its environment, or even to move it from one side of a tidepool to the other, could be traumatic or even fatal for it. **All forms of life in tidepools are protected by California law and should not be disturbed.**

Beyond the intertidal zone the ocean floor reflects a landscape similar to that onshore. Where sunlight penetrates through the water, plants grow and provide food and cover for small animals. Surf grass in shallow water dissipates the energy of the surf, prevents erosion, and provides nesting sites for such animals as young fishes and spiny lobsters. Rock reefs in deeper water provide substrate for giant kelp, which plays a role similar to that of trees in a forest. Kelp provides habitat for many organisms—from the snails that burrow in its holdfast, a root-like structure, to the limpets that eat their way up its stem, to the fish and marine mammals that swim among its leaf-like blades.

From the depths of the kelp forest to the top of the intertidal zone, the marine environment is connected to the terrestrial environment. Changes in one environment cause changes in the other. The amount of freshwater flowing into coastal lagoons directly affects their viability as nurseries for marine animals. The amount of sediment suspended in the ocean affects the amount of sunlight for underwater plants. The health of the kelp beds determines their ability to dissipate the energy of winter storms before their waves hit the beach. Between these worlds—land and ocean—there exists not a boundary but a balance.

The People



Malibu refers to all the land between the ocean and mountains' crest.

People have lived in Southern California for thousands of years. According to 16th-century descriptions the land was dotted with small villages the Spaniards called rancherías. People in different villages spoke different languages, but their lifestyles were similar. Although they lived in permanent villages, these people did not farm. They fished in the ocean, hunted in the canyons, and gathered acorns from the oak woodlands. The people living in the Santa Monica Mountains area were in the center of a vast network of commerce that extended up and down the coast, west to the Channel Islands, and inland to Arizona. Today we know the people as Chumash, in the western part of the Santa Monica Mountains, and Gabriellino, in the eastern end of the mountains.

In the grand scheme of first Spanish and then Mexican colonialism, the Santa Monica Mountains were little more than a landmark used to indicate boundaries between ranchos. Only in the past 100 years have people begun to settle in the Santa Monica Mountains. On the east end, canyons and ridges overlooking the cities of the basin and valley were quickly divided into house lots. Most people who moved into the central and western portions of the mountains sought the best of two worlds—a good job in the city and a farm in the country. Early in this century the commute between work and home represented a contrast between modern city and pioneer isolation. Stunt Ranch and Arroyo Sequit Park preserve some of this rural heritage of the mountains.

Large tracts of land were purchased by wealthy individuals as business investments. One of the large, modern ranches was purchased by Frederick Rindge in 1891. Stretching from Pacific Palisades to Point Mugu, from the ocean to the crest of the mountains, the land had been part of the Rancho Topanga Malibu Sequit, commonly called The Malibu. The Rindge Family's determination to restrict development throughout Malibu produced an important legacy of undeveloped open space for the Santa Monica Mountains.

Limited access and isolation spawned another settlement pattern in the mountains. Groups of people settled in isolated canyons to form small communities. Most communities were formed by people having common interests and socio-economic status. Early examples include the Uplifters of Rustic Canyon, Malibu

Lake Mountain Club, and Lake Sherwood. In contrast to these homogeneous communities, the people of Topanga take great pride in their eclectic mix of residents.

While some people looked to the mountains as the place to build their homes, many others saw the mountains and coast as extensions of the outdoor recreation lifestyle for which Southern California is famous. The City of Santa Monica has been a famous seaside resort since the beginning of the 20th century. Resorts, meeting grounds, and camps have been built throughout the mountains. Mulholland Drive and Highway were built to provide a scenic parkway from the heart of Los Angeles to the ocean via the ridges and valleys of the mountains. Using imagination and movie magic, film makers have used portions of the Santa Monica Mountains to represent many places in this and imaginary worlds.

Life in the mountains is not without its challenges, however. Each summer and fall the mountains are vulnerable to fire. Winter rains can trigger slides or floods. Throughout the year, wildlife sightings are common. Accepting and coping with everything from fire and flood to ticks, skunks, and coyotes is the price of solitude, beauty, and quiet for people who reside in the mountains.

The relationship between natural phenomena and people is not one-sided. People are a dynamic part of the cycles and changes in the mountains. Where and how roads and houses are built influence drainage patterns of rainwater. Removal of cover and habitat results in decreased native wildlife. Irrigation introduces water into an ecosystem adapted to summer drought. Non-native plants may not be appropriate in the fire-dependent chaparral plant community. The quality of water flowing off the land into the ocean affects the quality of marine life.

The Santa Monica Mountains and their coastline are part of the Southern California lifestyle. Their canyons offer a sense of remoteness and wilderness just a short drive from surrounding cities. How long and how well the mountains continue to provide these benefits depends on the wisdom of decisions made today.



Malibu Creek State Park
© Don Wiechec



Tidepool explorers



Discovering nature through art . . .
© Don Wiechec



. . . at all eyes



Mule deer
© Don Wiechec



Whale Day on the beach



Toyon berries



Coast live oaks
© Don Wiechec

Visiting the Parklands

Information
The National Park Service operates a National Recreation Area Information Center providing information about services, facilities, and programs throughout the mountains. The information center sells maps and books about the Santa Monica Mountains and publications on other western national park areas. Lodging information and campsite reservations for other national park areas are also available. The information center is located in the National Park Service headquarters, 22900 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Telephone (818) 888-3770, voice or TDD for hearing impaired. For recorded information, telephone (818) 710-9488. For emergency National Park Service ranger assistance telephone (818) 880-4508.

The California State Park Santa Monica Mountains Area Office is located at 2860A Camino Dos Rios, Newbury Park, CA 91320. Telephone (805) 499-2112 or (818) 706-1310. For recorded information on park hours and camping reservation procedures, telephone (805) 488-5223.

IN CASE OF FIRE, SERIOUS INJURY, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERGENCY, DIAL 911.

Fire
Fire is a constant danger, especially in summer and fall. Smoking is prohibited in some areas and on trails. Please do not build fires on the ground. Use grills or camp stoves with caution and only in areas designated for their use. Some park areas may be closed under Extreme Fire Danger conditions.

Safe Driving
Mountain roads are narrow and winding. Reduce your speed and adjust your driving judgment. Other vehicles, especially bicycles and motorcycles, can appear suddenly. Drive courteously.

Trails
Motor vehicles, including motorcycles, are prohibited on trails. Equestrians may use designated trails and fire roads on public lands, but they are prohibited on state beaches. Mountain bicycles may be used only

on trails designated for their use. Be properly prepared for mountain trails. Wear a hat and use sunscreen. Carry and drink water throughout the day. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts protect against scratchy vegetation. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes or boots. Be alert for ticks, yellow jackets, and blackflies.

Private Property
Parklands adjoin private property. Please respect the rights of our neighbors by staying on designated parklands.

Natural and Cultural Resources
All plants and animals on public lands are protected by law. Leave them here for others to enjoy. Do not disturb plants or animals in tidepools. Do not attempt to touch or feed wild animals; they can inflict painful injuries. Cultural artifacts are also protected, and penalties for their removal are severe.

Poisonous Plants and Animals
Poison oak grows in shaded areas. Learn to recognize

and avoid this vine with its clusters of three green or red shiny leaflets. Rattlesnakes, native here and protected by law, normally strike only if disturbed or surprised. Stay on established trails, and look before putting your hands or feet behind rocks or debris.

Pets
Pets must at all times be on a leash no more than 6 feet in length. In state parks dogs are not allowed on trails or beaches or in backcountry areas. State parks require proof of current rabies vaccination for dogs.

Camping
Campsites at Point Mugu and Malibu Creek State Parks and Leo Carrillo State Beach can be reserved via the state parks campsite reservation system during spring and summer months. They are available first-come, first-served the rest of the year. None of the National Park Service parklands offers camping. Reservations for individual or group camping at Circle X Ranch should be made by contacting the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Fishing
Obtain the appropriate California fishing license for all inland or ocean fishing.

AT THE BEACH

Swimming Safety
Riptides or undertows flow AWAY from shore. If caught in one, do not panic. Swim parallel to shore to get out of the rip, then swim to shore. ALWAYS SWIM OR DIVE WITH A BUDDY, NEVER ALONE.

Walking and Wading
Wear tennis shoes when walking on rocky shores for traction on wet rocks and to protect against sea urchin spines and sharp-edged barnacles. Jellyfish can sting; watch for them.

Glass Containers are Prohibited
Do not bring glass containers to the beach. Broken glass or pop-tops hidden in the sand can cause serious cuts.

Fishing
Do not fish within 50 feet of swimmers or surfers.

Public Transportation
RTD bus route #175 provides access to beaches from Santa Monica west to Trancas Canyon. Bus transportation through Malibu Canyon is only available during summer months, depending on the availability of special funding.

Surf Conditions
For information on surf conditions call the Los Angeles County Lifeguards at (213) 451-8761 in Santa Monica or (213) 457-9701 in Zuma and Malibu.

IN EMERGENCIES, DIAL 911

In the Santa Monica Mountains

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is a unit of the National Park System, which consists of more than 340

park representing important examples of our country's natural and cultural inheritance.



Whether you are looking for a quiet spot for an intimate picnic or want to join a festival or concert, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area has a spot for you. Most parklands also offer decent- or ranger-guided programs and hikes to help you get acquainted with the mountains. Federal, state, county, and city agencies offer diverse parklands from which to choose. For your convenience, parkland descriptions are divided into inland and beach parks. Pacific Coast Highway (State Highway 1) separates the beach and inland parks.

Park areas are listed alphabetically under the agency that manages or provides information about them. Please contact the appropriate agency for information regarding handicapped accessibility. Unless noted otherwise, all inland parks have parking on the site, picnic tables, drinking water, and flush toilets. For your safety, do not drink water from springs, creeks, or ponds.

Symbols:

- 1 Hiking trails
- 2 Equestrian trails
- 3 Mountain bicycle trails
- 4 Ranger station
- 5 Exhibits
- 6 Reservations or limited access
- 7 Telephone
- 8 Bus stop nearby
- 9 Fishing

National Park Service (818) 888-3770

Castro Crest 1 2 3
Trails at Castro Crest trace the inner canyon along a wooded creek or follow the ridge line for views of the Pacific Ocean and nearby islands. No toilets, no water. Map grid F

Cheeseboro Canyon 1 2 3
Rolling grasslands dotted with mature valley oaks mark this 4-mile-long canyon home of birds of prey. Chemical toilet, no water. Map grid F

Franklin Canyon Ranch 1 4 5 7
Surrounded by the community of Beverly Hills, Franklin Canyon offers visitors the solitude of canyon flora and fauna. Environmental education/information center, amphi-

theater, bus parking. Map grid K

Paramount Ranch 1 2 7
Paramount Ranch is a 300-acre stage for events as exciting as moviemaking, as big as a music festival, or as intimate as a family picnic. Restored Western movie set, interpretive trail, picnic meadow, 5K running trail, creek, bus parking. Map grid F

Peter Strauss Ranch/Lake Enchanto 1 4 5
A sprawling lawn and a stone patio make this park ideal for music festivals, sculpture exhibits, and picnicking. Bus parking, amphitheater, information center. Map grid F

Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa 1 2 3 4 5 7
Boney Mountain dominates the skyline above land used first by Chumash people, then by ranchers. This park interprets both cultures. Trail access to Point Mugu State Park. Demonstration Horse Ranch, cultural center, interpretive trail, ranger station. Map grid C

Rocky Oaks 1 2
Easy walking trails around a pond and an oak-shaded picnic area are highlights of this family spot. Picnic area, chemical toilets, amphitheater. Map grid E

California Department of Parks and Recreation (818) 706-1310

Leo Carrillo State Beach 1 2 3 6 7
Follow trails along a creek or enjoy ocean vistas. The campground is nestled among sycamore trees in lower Arroyo Sequit. Parking fee, bus parking, campground, store, showers, amphitheater. Map grid C

Malibu Creek State Park 1 2 3 4 5 7 9
Malibu Creek winds its way through the rugged canyons of this 8,000-acre park. Choose from more than 15 miles of trail ranging from flat and easy to strenuous routes leading to ridgetop overlooks. Entrance fee, bus parking, Century Lake, nature center, camping. Map grid F

Point Mugu State Park 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

An 8-mile trail through Sycamore Canyon follows a traditional route from the inland valley to the Pacific Ocean. Other trails lead into interior canyons and rugged uplands. Entrance fee; bus parking; separate areas for vehicle, group, and walk-in camping; dump station; wayside exhibits. Map grid B

Topanga State Park 1 2 3 4 5 7
The eastern portion of the Backbone Trail crosses the ridgetops. Other trails offer views of the San Fernando Valley or Santa Monica Bay. Entrance fee, interpretive trail, walk-in camping. Map grid I

Will Rogers State Historic Park 1 2 4 5 7 8
Walking tours of Will Rogers' home and grounds, week-end polo matches, and family picnics are highlights for the park visitor. Eastern terminus of the Backbone Trail. Entrance fee, bus parking, guided tours, information center, polo field. Map grid J

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (213) 456-5046

Arroyo Sequit Park 1
Once a pioneer ranch, this site helps visitors understand the isolation of families that lived in the western end of the mountains. Chemical toilets. Map grid D

Fryman Canyon Overlook 1 5
Stop here for a panoramic view of the San Fernando Valley or a short walk into the canyon. Wayside exhibit, fitness stations, no toilets. Map grid L

Fryman Canyon Park 1 8
Start at Wilacre Park, or Coldwater Canyon Park, or even Mulholland Drive and hike the Betty B. Dearing Trail into a wooded canyon with a small spring. No water, toilets, or picnic tables; limited street parking. Map grid L

Solstice Canyon 1 2 3 6
Cool water from the perennial creek trickles through the canyon on its way to the Pacific Ocean. Chemical toilets, no drinking water. Map grid F

Temescal Gateway Park 1 7 8
Access to hiking trails of Topanga State Park through Presbyterian Conference Center grounds. Chemical toilet, telephone, and trail sign-in at Conference Center entrance. Map grid I

Stunt Ranch 1 2 6
The trail through a riparian woodland is cool and shaded. The trail through the land homesteaded by an English family provides access to the Backbone Trail. Stunt Ranch Nature Center is used for supervised educational programs. Bus parking, chemical toilets, nature center. Map grid H

Wilacre Park 1 2 7 8
Follow the driveway of the old estate up to the ridge-line overlooking the east end of the San Fernando Valley. Trail connects Coldwater Canyon Park trails. No toilet, no water; limited street parking. Map grid L

Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department (213) 457-7247

Charmlee Regional Park 1 2 5
Spring wildflowers abound in the grassy meadows of Charmlee from February through June. Trails to coastal vistas. Bus parking, interpreted trail, nature center, picnic area. Map grid D

Tapia Park 1 6 7
A large, shaded picnic area with tables and grills makes this park an ideal location for weekend cookouts. Bus parking, group picnic area, grills. Map grid G

City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department (213) 485-5555

Coldwater Canyon Park 1 5 7
Headquarters for TreePeople, a nonprofit organization that provides environmental education programs and information on landscaping with smog- and drought-tolerant plants. Plants are sold from its nursery on weekends. Bus parking, interpretive trail, exhibits, information center. Map grid L

Laurel Canyon Park
This canyon-side park contains a children's play area, dog run, and a grassy picnic area. No toilets or water. Map grid L

Pacific Palisades Park 7 8
Tennis enthusiasts will enjoy the court facilities at this 5-acre city park. Bus parking, information center/recreation building, tennis shops. Map grid J

Rustic Canyon Park 7
Recreational facilities include a cultural and art center, sport fields, and swimming pool. Bus parking, grills, information center. Map grid J

Temescal Canyon Park 7 8
This grassy picnic area is a popular lunch spot in Pacific Palisades. Street parking. Map grid I

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (213) 858-3834

Upper Franklin Canyon Reservoir 1 6
Deactivated reservoir is now a haven for wildlife and the setting for outdoor education programs presented by the William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom. Access limited to sponsored programs only. Interpretive trail, chemical toilets, no drinking water. Map grid K

City of Santa Monica Parks and Recreation (213) 458-8311

Palisades Park 7 8
Watch the sun set over Santa Monica Bay from this grassy park for an unforgettable experience. Senior citizen recreation center, Camera Obscura, visitor information kiosk, park benches, limited street parking. Map grid J

J. Paul Getty Foundation (213) 458-2003
Getty Museum 5 6 7 8
Paintings and sculptures from the collection of J. Paul Getty are presented in the setting of a classic Mediterranean-style villa. Extremely limited parking. Reservations required, no entrance fee, bus parking,

guided tours, information center. Map grid I

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (213) 457-6408

Circle X Ranch 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Once a private camp, this site offers a full range of facilities for individuals and groups. Spectacular back-country and trails to the highest peaks in the mountains. Reservations for camping, conference center. Map grid C

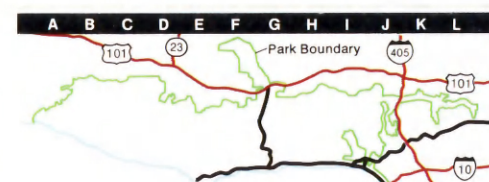
Mountains Restoration Trust (213) 456-5625

Cold Creek Preserve 1 6
Sycamore and big leaf maple trees line the creekbed of this canyon. Follow the trail through red shanks chaparral. Interpretive trail folder, no restrooms, no drinking water, permit required. Map grid H

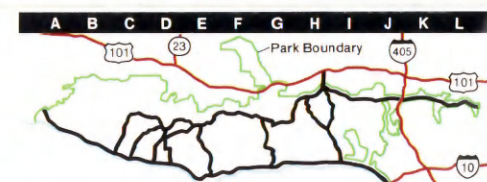


Map Keys and Locator

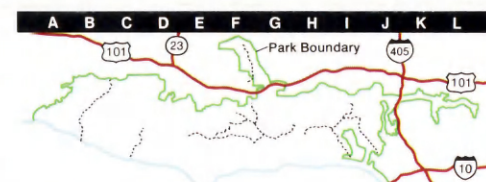
Miniaturized diagrams at right serve as keys to the large park map. The first three will help you get to and around the park areas by vehicle or on foot. The fourth will help you locate camping opportunities. The locator map, far right in color, shows the park in its coastal context, including its close proximity to Channel Islands National Seashore.



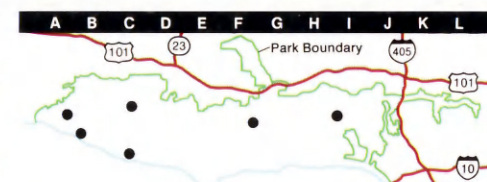
Bus Routes
The Southern California Rapid Transit District (RTD) provides limited bus service to parklands. Wilacre Park, Temescal Canyon Park, and Will Rogers State Historic



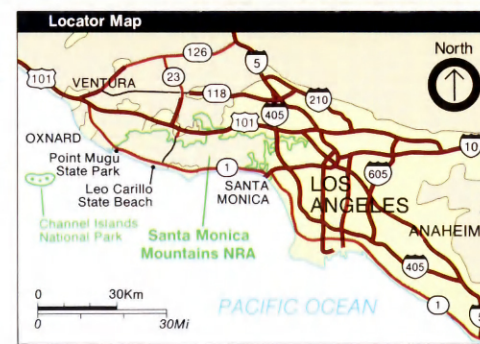
Scenic Driving
Mulholland Scenic Parkway Corridor follows the spine of the mountains east to west for 59 miles, offering city panoramas and ridgetop vistas. Other scenic roads wind through steep canyons to the ocean. Overlooks and wayside exhibits add to the adventure. CAUTION: Motor vehicles share the steep, narrow roads with motorcycles and bicycles.



Hiking Trails
When complete, the Backbone Trail will extend approximately 55 miles, linking the major parklands throughout the mountains. Within each park, additional trails provide opportunities for exploration. Hiking guides and maps are available at the National Recreation Area Information Center and at major park information centers.



Camping
Most campgrounds are located in state parklands on or near the beach. From spring to fall, vehicle campsites in state parks are reserved through the state-wide campsite reservation system. Permits for walk-in campsites are always issued first-come, first-served. For your safety, do not camp outside designated camping areas.



On the Beaches

Southern California's beaches are world famous as the home of surfers and sunbathers. But even when the surf is not up, or the sun is hidden by fog, there is much to see and to enjoy along the 47 miles of coast between Point Mugu and the City of Santa Monica. Choices range from the carnival atmosphere of the Santa Monica Pier to birdwatching at Malibu Lagoon.

Beach sites are listed alphabetically under the agency that manages or provides information about them. Contact the agency for information regarding handicapped accessible facilities. Unless noted otherwise, each site has off-street, FEE parking; flush toilets; and lifeguards at swimming areas during normal summer hours.

Symbols:

- 1 Hiking trails
- 2 Ranger station
- 3 Exhibits
- 4 Reservations or limited access
- 5 Telephone
- 6 Bus stop nearby
- 7 Fishing
- 8 Surfing
- 9 Tidepools
- 10 Stairs to beach
- 11 Bicycle routes

California Department of Parks and Recreation (818) 706-1310 or (805) 499-2112

County Line Beach 10
Located at the Los Angeles/Ventura County line, this

beach is one of the most popular surfing spots along the Santa Monica Mountains coastline. Street parking, chemical toilets, no lifeguard service. Map grid C

El Matador State Beach 6 7 9 11 12
Anemones, barnacles, and mussels decorate the rocks of this pocket beach at low tide. Chemical toilets, picnic tables, no lifeguard service, 1/4-mile moderate walk to beach. Map grid D

El Pescador State Beach 7 9 12
Visitors can choose between picnicking on the bluff or walking along this rock-studded shoreline. Chemical toilets, no lifeguard service, picnic tables, downhill walk to beach. Map grid D

La Piedra State Beach 7 9 11
Lemonadeberry and purple sage line the path from the bluff to the rocky shore. Chemical toilets, picnic tables, no lifeguard service. Map grid D

Leo Carrillo State Beach 5 6 8 10 11
Both rocky and sandy beaches make this large state beach popular for young and old. Campground, flush and chemical toilets, outdoor showers, visitor center. Map grid C

Malibu Lagoon State Beach 5 6 7 8 10
One of two remaining estuaries in the National Recre-

ation Area, the lagoon is a nursery for fish and a feeding area for shorebirds. Exhibits at the Adamson House trace the history of Malibu. Surfrider Beach and Malibu Bluffs are also parts of this park complex. Chemical toilets, limited lifeguard service, picnic tables, Adamson House tours by reservation. Map grid G

Malibu Pier 7 8 9
Half-day and all-day fishing trips off the Santa Monica Mountains coastline leave from the pier throughout the year. Food concessions, live bait and tackle shop. Map grid G

Point Mugu State Park 4 6 7 9 10 11
Five miles of shoreline include a day use beach with tables and grills and a beach-front campground. Flush and chemical toilets, limited lifeguard service, cooking grills. Map grid B

Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors (213) 305-9545

Dan Blocker State Beach 6 8 9
One of the few public beaches in the central part of the National Recreation Area, this beach is popular for sunbathing and swimming. Street parking only, chemical toilets, food concession. Managed by Los Angeles County for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Map grid F

Las Flores Beach 6 8 9 11
Although access is limited, this rocky shoreline is a popular diving spot. Street parking only, no toilets, no lifeguard service. Map grid H

Las Tunas State Beach 8 9
Swimming and body surfing are ideal activities to enjoy at this sandy beach. Limited lifeguard service, street parking only. Managed by Los Angeles County for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Map grid H

Nicholas Canyon County Beach 10 12
A sign on Pacific Coast Highway is the only clue that there is a secluded beach at the base of the coastal bluffs. Food concession, limited lifeguard service. Map grid C

Topanga State Beach 7 8 9 10 12
Beach lies at the mouth of Topanga Canyon. A view from the bluffs includes Santa Monica Bay and Catalina Island. Food concession, outdoor showers. Managed by Los Angeles County for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Map grid I

Will Rogers State Beach 8 9
A wide, sandy beach used heavily on weekends. Food concession, playground, sand volleyball. Managed by Los Angeles County for the California

Department of Parks and Recreation. Map grid I

Zuma Beach County Park 7 8 10
One of the area's most famous beaches can have challenging surf under certain conditions. On a sunny, warm day thousands of sun worshippers flock to this expansive sandy beach. Food concession, fee lot and street parking, sand volleyball, playground. Map grid E

California Department of Fish and Game (213) 590-5126

Point Dume State Reserve 1 6 11 12
Look for Pacific gray whales as they swim past Point Dume on the way to and from Baja California during the winter months. 1/4-mile trail to top of bluff. Vista points, no fee for parking in winter, no toilets, no lifeguard service. Map grid E

Los Angeles County Parks (213) 452-4911

Malibu Bluffs 6 8
Local little league teams play weekend games at these ocean-side fields. Los Angeles County administers this area for California Department of Parks and Recreation. Bus parking, drinking water, baseball diamonds, no beach access. Map grid G

Ventura County Parks and Recreation (805) 654-3951

County Beaches 6 9 11 12
These are the northernmost beaches in the National Recreation Area. This shoreline is adjacent to Pacific Missile Test Center (U.S. Navy). Free parking, no toilets, no lifeguard service. Map grid A

City of Santa Monica (213) 458-8311 or (213) 458-8689

Santa Monica State Beach 2 7 8 9 10
This busy state beach has miles of clean white sand and a picturesque bicycle path. On a hot summer day, more than one million people come here to cool off. Food concessions, playground, sand volleyball. Managed by the City of Santa Monica for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Map grid J

Santa Monica Pier 7 8 9 12
The smells of fried fish, cotton candy, and live bait fill the air along this bustling city pier. Food concessions, merry-go-round, amusement arcade, gift shops, live bait and tackle shop. Managed by the City of Santa Monica for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Map grid J

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