

Point Lobos

Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

History: The State of California purchased 348 acres at Point Lobos from the Allan family in 1933. Another 15 acres of cypress-covered headlands were given to the state by the Allan family and dedicated as a memorial to Alexander and Satie Allan. Further land additions have expanded the reserve to almost 400 acres now open to the public. In 1960, 750 underwater acres were added to create the first marine reserve in the United States. The marine reserve was designated an ecological reserve in 1973, and in 1992 became part of the [Monterey Bay National Marine sanctuary](#), the nation's largest marine sanctuary.

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www.pointlobos.org

Location:

2.5 miles south of Carmel Mission Inn

125 miles south of San Francisco

325 Miles north of Los Angeles

Hours: Year Round 8am- Sunset

Entrance Fee:

- Passenger Cars
\$10.00
\$9.00(65+)
\$5.00(disabled Placard)
- Large Vehicles
10-25 passengers-\$50.00
25+ passengers-\$100.00
- Annual Day Use Pass
\$150-195.00

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- **Marine Fees:**

- Scuba Diving \$10 per person, teams of two or three required
- Snorkeling \$10 per person, teams of two or three required
- Boats or Vessels \$25 launch fee, collected at entrance station
 - Boats over 17ft not permitted. Kayaks and stand up paddle boards are allowed.
 - Boats may only launch at Whalers Cove.
 - Boat Trailers must park at Rat Hill Boat parking lot
 - Advance reservations and forms are required
 - NO wakes.

- **Restrictions:**

- Fishing is Prohibited
- No Smoking
- No Pets allowed
- NO fires, barbeques or stoves allowed.
- No collecting: Do not remove flowers, mushrooms, wood, rocks, shells, kelp, or tide pool creatures.
- Do not bring drones, Frisbee, footballs or kites
- Geocaching, tree climbing and throwing rocks is prohibited
- Oversize Vehicles
- 20+ ft. during peak seasons/times
- Reserve is Full
- 150 vehicles is the limit

Climate:

Temperatures 57-65 degrees year round

Fall:

Sunny Mornings

Warm Afternoons

Cool Ocean Breeze Evenings

Spring:

Sunny weather all day

Summer:

Foggy Mornings

Clear, warm afternoons

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Winter:

Occasional rain showers

Hiking

- [bird island trail](#) – Wheelchair Accessible: Covers China Cove, Gibson Beach and Pelican Point
- [carmelo meadow trail](#) – Wheelchair Accessible: The park entrance to Granite Point Trail
- [cypress grove trail](#)
- [granite point trail](#) – Wheelchair Accessible: Covers Whalers Cabin Museum, Whalers Cove, Coral Chute Point
- [lace lichen trail](#)
- [moss cove](#)
- [mound meadow trail](#)
- [north shore trail](#)
- [pine ridge trail](#)
- [sand hill trail](#)
- [sea lion point trail](#) – Wheelchair Accessible: Covers Headland Cove and Sand Hill
- [south plateau trail](#)
- [south shore trail](#)
- [whalers cabin](#)
- [whalers knoll trail](#)

Bikes: you can bike to Point Lobos and there is no fee for riding in. At the entrance, there is a location to lock up your bikes. Paths are made for walking.

Picnic Areas: located in Whalers Cove, Piney Woods and Bird Island parking lots. NO fires, barbeques or stoves allowed.

The Cypress Grove area has an information kiosk with park-related publications and other small items of interest. Accessible parking and restroom are nearby.

As a reminder, do not feed any of the wildlife protected in Point Lobos.

Wildlife: includes deer, rabbits, weasels, badgers and bobcats. There are certainly more wildlife that calls Point Lobos home, but these animals are nocturnal: gray foxes, raccoons, striped skunks and opossums. Nocturnal animals to avoid while hiking are coyotes and mountain lions, which rarely make daytime appearances.

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Birds: Brown Pelicans, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue Herons, Pelagic Cormorants, Western Gulls, and Osprey. Bring your binoculars to get a good view of these birds.

Sealife: Gray Whales can be easily seen from the coast side almost anytime between December and April. Orcas can be seen breaching in the Pacific year round. Other sea life includes harbor seals, elephant seals, sea lions and sea otters. As a reminder, Point Lobos is a protected marine area, so it is always advised to keep your distance from these spectacular yet wild animals.

Plantlife: Monterey Cypress, Coastal Live Oak, Monterey Pines, Giant Rye Grass, Northern Coastal Scrub, Coastal Bluff and lichen. Also, Giant Kelp, Bull Kelp, Brown Alga, Blue-green Algae, Green Film Alga, Nail-brush Alga, Rock Weed, Turkish Towel, Rock Weed, and Ruffled Purple Rockweed.

There are 12 sea vessels that are reported to be lost in the underwater park. Although not yet located, the pre Gold Rush era shipwreck *Star of the West* is purported to lie within the underwater park. Diving in the Marine Reserve is restricted in number and by reservation.

Said to be “the greatest meeting of forest and ocean” this park provides access to unparalleled natural beauty. Point Lobos is considered the jewel of the California park system. The park entrance is about two miles from the Carmel Mission Inn and considered a “must see” by those who love this area. The park is accessible by car for a small entrance fee. Once inside the park you will find walking paths that will lead you through some of the most breathtaking scenery that makes Monterey famous.

When you plan your visit to Point Lobos, start your exploration with the Cypress Grove trail. Before sunset walk to the very tip of Sea Lion Point trail. If you have a few extra moments, walk the North Shore trail and end your journey on Whalers' Knoll trail. During your hike, be sure to look to land and sea for wild creatures; like dolphins, humpback whales, otters, deer, foxes and raccoons.

Located in Whalers Cove, plan to spend some time at the Whalers Cabin cultural history museum. There are displays of whaling tools, whale-oil barrels, harpoons and a model of a shore whaling boat. Outside the Whalers Cabin lies a variety of whale bones from a Humpback Whale. It

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also features photographs, diaries and other artifacts belonging to the centuries of inhabitants of the area.