MAGNIFICENT SPRINGTIME WILDFLOWER DISPLAYS; GREAT CRAGGY HEADLANDS AND ROCKY BAY; THE MUFFLED ROAR OF BREAKERS CRASHING ON THE BEACH OR POUNDING THE SEA CLIFFS; AND THE CRIES OF THOUSANDS OF WHEELED WESTERN GUILLS MINGLED WITH THE BARKING OF CALIFORNIA SEA LIONS—THOSE ARE A FEW OF THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS THAT MAKE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT A MECCA FOR THE LOVER OF WILDLIFE AND PHYSICAL GRANDUR.


The parent rock of the island cliffs is highly fractured and does not provide dependable footing. There are no landing facilities, so you should bring a skiff or other small craft if you wish to go ashore.

Camping on Anacapa is primitive and limited. East Island is a U.S. Coast Guard lighthouse reservation operated by the National Park Service under a special-use agreement. No accommodations, concessioner facilities, fuel, or other services are available. You will need to bring water, camping gear, food, cooking equipment, and fuel for your camp or picnic tables.

Bring warm clothing, too, for the nights are cool. You may want a tent as shelter from the winds that usually blow. Keep in mind that everything must be carried up a steep stairway and then one-quarter mile to the camping area.

Because a safe anchorage is not available at East Island, you are encouraged to use public transportation when visiting. If you plan to take your own boat, study U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Charts 5110 and 5114. The Boaters Almanac before attempting to navigate the Anacapa Passage or the seas.

SANITA BARBARA ISLAND

This island lies 35 nautical miles (1 nautical mile equals 1.2 statute miles) off the southern California coast and is surrounded by vast kelp beds abounding in marine life. The island is edged by high sea cliffs. Rolling, grass-covered hills with isolated patches of giant coreopsis characterize this land mass of 630 acres (about 1 square mile).

From the mid-1800's through 1938 Santa Barbara was intermittently occupied by sheepherders. In 1938 the island was purchased by the American Natural History Museum and is now a National Monument. It is a sanctuary for plant, animal, and stone; no visitors are allowed on this island.

FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

This monument, a heritage of science, has a need to preserve examples of undisturbed ecosystems. This is the satisfaction of the monument—or the value of the monument. There are a few of the influences we can eliminate or minimize. We can hardly expect the plants and animals of the islands to adapt to sudden and destructive changes in their environment. It is becoming increasingly apparent that man himself is nowhere near to resolving the conflicts inherent in the recent and rapid revision of his lifestyle and the impact on his environment of the technological revolution. Preserves such as this marine park are needed even more now, to enable man to reestablish contact with the natural world of which he is inevitably a part. These sanctuaries not only serve to increase the quality of his life, but many be essential to his survival.

SCUBA DIVING

Opportunities for snorkeling and scuba diving are limited by water depth near shore (25 feet), generally heavy surge conditions, and relatively cool water temperatures (65° to 68° F.).

Remember: except for varieties of fish or game that can legally be taken under California law, you must not molest or remove anything in these waters, including artifacts and pieces of old shipwrecks.

For public transportation to the island and tour information write: The Island Packers, P.O. Box 993, Ventura, CA 93003.

There is no telephone communication between the islands and the mainland, but park rangers can communicate by radio with headquarters in emergencies.

The rides and cliffs provide nesting habitat for birds and mammals.

A Coast Guard lighthouse is a part of the monument.

1. The destruction, injury, disturbance, or removal of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, birds, tidopool marine animals, or rock specimens is prohibited.
2. The discharge of firearms is prohibited.
3. Pets must be under physical restrictive control at all times.
4. U.S. Coast Guard and N.P.S. boating regulations are enforced.
5. Fishing is in accordance with California regulations, unless further restricted by Federal law.
6. Accidents must be reported to the park superintendent.
7. Camping is limited to 30 days.
8. No litter must be removed from the island.
9. Park Service boat based at Channel Island Harbor in Oxnard, Calif., patrols the waters of Anacapa and Santa Barbara regularly.

Checklist:

1. Be certified.
2. Keep equipment in good repair.
3. If you have not dived recently, skin-dive first to loosen your muscles and get used to the water.
4. Practice swimming in calm water.
5. Display a diving flag.
6. Use a float or safety boat.
7. Have a safety diver.
8. Dive only with a buddy.
10. Be alert to the surge when in caves and around rocks.

SANITA BARBARA ISLAND

Giant coreopsis, a sunflower with a mass of 630 acres (about 1 square mile).