

As the Nation's principal conservation agency the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environment and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

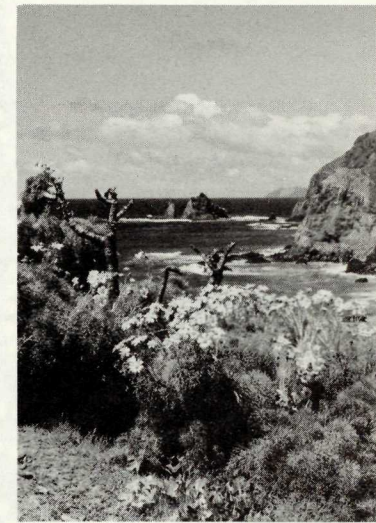
channel islands

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



Giant Coreopsis

Roy Murphy



Giant coreopsis, wave splashed cliffs, and Pacific swells—these symbolize the essential ingredients for which the park was created.

ISLANDS IN THE SEA

Islands have always excited peoples' imaginations. To early explorers sailing hostile seas, islands offered haven and refuge, and an opportunity for reacquaintance with the earth. To modern man, islands have continued to be places of haven and refuge—places to acquaint oneself with a world of basic serenity and to escape for a while an all-too-familiar environment of congestion, noise, and pressure.

Just off the coast of southern California, the eight California Channel Islands beckon the weary. Two of these islands, Anacapa and Santa Barbara, and the sea for one nautical mile around each, constitute Channel Islands National Monument. Because the park is a unit of the National Park System, you as citizens share in its ownership, and are invited to land here and explore, swim, dive, fish, camp, and picnic. Your ownership means, however, that you must also share in the responsibility for these islands' welfare. Always keep in

mind that park features are to be preserved for future generations; please help protect them.

After you've fished, dived or swum from your boat, climb aboard and just sit. Maybe you'll then notice the beauty of that single gull soaring overhead, the deep blue of the water around, the lapping of the water against the hull, or the silence of a sleek sea lion surfacing next to you and staring before passing on.

On the islands, after you've wandered through the tidepools, photographed the giant coreopsis, logged x-number of birds, and eaten your picnic lunch, climb to a high spot and rest. Then let sensations drift to you. The smell of the sage, the song of the meadow-lark, a slight breeze, the clear blue of the sky, the now-and-again almost complete silence might be among them. Give yourself a few quiet moments—it's these that you will remember.

VISITING THE ISLANDS

Commercial Boat Service: Public transportation to the islands is available from many southern California ports, though presently there is only one charter operation running on a regular basis. Contact Monument Headquarters in Ventura for up-to-date information regarding transportation.

Using Personally-Owned Boats: Visitors planning to take their own boats should study U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Charts 18720, 18729, and 18756. The Santa Barbara Channel is subject to sudden rising sea and wind conditions, especially in the afternoons. Anchorage off Santa Barbara Island is usually confined to the area of the Landing Cove; Anacapa anchorages include East Fish Camp and Frenchy's Cove. Anchoring at either island can be hazardous, so be sure to have adequate tackle aboard. There are loading docks at the landing coves on both East Anacapa Island and Santa Barbara Island, but neither is acceptable for docking boats. Persons wishing to go ashore will need a skiff or small boat.

THE ISLANDS: A SHARED HERITAGE

THE INTERTIDAL ZONE

The zone where the land meets the sea is one of the most exciting for inquiring visitors. Because its rocks and depressions are exposed to air and drowned by water twice daily, its life forms are those which can live in both worlds. At low tide, you can see a microcosm of animal and plant relationships in tidepools that includes prey and predator, camouflage and interaction, birth and death. The action can be as fast as a striped rock crab scuttling sideways from rock to rock or a sculpin darting from its hiding place in the sea grass. Or it can be as slow as a limpet clinging to a rock as though its entire life has been spent on that spot. It can be as deliberate as the action of a starfish gripping the two shells of a mussel and pulling the shells apart or it can be as casual as the sea anemone drifting with the water.

Tidepools are here to explore and enjoy, but please keep in mind that many tidepools on the mainland are biologically dead because people gave no thought at all to the organisms which lived in them. To make sure that future generations can have the same sense of discovery you are enjoying, do not disturb the tidepools excessively. If you turn a rock over, turn it back; if you pick up a starfish, put it back where you found it. And remember, **everything** is protected; take nothing, shell or rock, animal or plant.

THE SURROUNDING WATER

The ocean is often very shallow next to the islands, but falls off hundreds of meters even within the one nautical mile boundary of the park.

The waters contain life forms ranging from microscopic plankton to sea lions, sharks, and killer whales. Divers have the opportunity to see more of this world than others do, but even their view is limited.

The sea gives some parts of itself to park visitors willingly. Sea lions arching through the water and giant kelp moving languidly with the surge of the water are sights everyone can enjoy. The different kinds of abalone, the lobster, and the many game fish are the sea's reward for those who care to earn it. But some aspects of the sea's influence are more subtle. Fog, caused by differences in temperatures between the land and the sea, slips across the cliffs and shrouds the islands, sometimes when it is most unexpected. The foghorn, blowing its monotonous,



Elephant Seal

melancholy warning, challenges the unseen and comforts the wary. Then there are the sounds of the water, easily enough heard when waves and swells crash against the island's cliffs but scarcely perceptible when the ocean gently laps the rocks. The sea is an all-pervading force; it isolates the islands and excites the imagination. Without it, the park would not belong, as it does, to the realm of the spirit, the eye of the mind.

Sea lions (shown here) can be distinguished from less-common harbor seals by their color—from almost black to almost white, but always some shade of brown—and by their habit of barking, sometimes almost incessantly. Seals, on the other hand, are usually mottled gray. Both species live here year around.

Rugged sea cliffs and high rolling plateaus characterize Anacapa Island.



Roy Murphy

THE ISLANDS AND MAN

The Channel Islands were inhabited by the Chumash Indians, a tribe which hunted, fished and gathered food here as opportunity dictated. By the mid-1800s, all Indians living on the Channel Islands had been removed to coastal missions. The word Anacapa, incidentally, is derived from the Indian term "Anyapah," meaning deception or mirage.

Little mention is made of Santa Barbara in logs of early explorers, and early charts only indicate the presence of a "Santa Barbara Rock." Later, shepherders grazed their stock on both islands, and early in this century farmers attempted to raise forage crops on Santa Barbara. In 1938, President Franklin Roosevelt established Channel Islands National Monument, and the sheep were removed.

Only the hermit "Frenchy" LeDreau lived on Anacapa Island then. His shack was at the cove now named for him. Frenchy lived off the bounty of the sea and the generosity of visitors from 1928 to 1956. Periodically, there have been maritime navigational aids on the islands. Several years after the side-wheeler steamer *Winfield Scott*, with 250 persons aboard, grounded and sank on Anacapa Island in 1853, the U.S. Lighthouse Service constructed an unattended light beacon on East Anacapa Island. Prior to 1969, several Coast Guardsmen lived on the island and operated the light and horn.

Santa Barbara Island was the site of military installations. During World War II, the United States Navy utilized the island as an aircraft early warning outpost and during the 1950s a missile photo-

graphic station was constructed. Much surplus material remains on the island from these ventures.

THE SEASONS

The islands change with the time of day and the time of year. . . .

In spring, they receive a gift of beauty during the March blooming of the giant coreopsis. In May, bird migrations add new life to the scene. In early spring the seas are occasionally rough, but by May, fog and calm prevail.

Summer is the season when most people visit the islands. Days are usually sunny, though there is still a chance of fog. The ocean is at its warmest, about 20°C (68°F) and swimming is possible. Air temperatures seldom exceed 27°C (80°F)—a reflection of the sea's year-round climatic dominance. Warm, sunny days often extend through October.

Winter is a paradoxical time in southern California, and the islands are no exception. This is the season of the roughest seas, the highest winds, and the most of the 40-or-so centimeters (12 inches) of rain that the islands receive. Overnight these rains may transform the dry, dull-brown islands into a lush, bright green. The rains and the wind together cleanse the air to allow spectacular views around the islands. On the other hand, any day may be hazy, sunny, warm, and calm. Temperatures in mid-winter seldom get below 4°C (40°F). In January, gray whales migrate past Anacapa Island. On a good day the careful observer may count close to 100 whales moving south to their calving grounds in Baja California.

ANACAPA ISLAND

This is the closest island to the mainland, being approximately 18 kilometers (11 miles) south of Oxnard. In reality, it is a chain of three separate islets, almost 8 kilometers (5 miles) in length and about 285 hectares (700 acres) in area. West Anacapa Island rises out of the sea directly to two small peaks, the highest of which is approximately 283 meters (930 feet). East and Middle Anacapa Islands are smaller and consist of rolling plateaus almost entirely surrounded by high (27-90 meter; 90-300 foot) cliffs. There are few beaches on Anacapa Island; only one, at Frenchy's Cove, is not regularly submerged at high tide.

For much of the year, Anacapa looks brown and lifeless, but with the advent of the winter rains, the island's plants emerge from their summer dormancy and again turn green.



Arch Rock, Anacapa Island

The vegetation on Anacapa Island is short and mostly scrubby, though there are some native trees growing in the canyons on the slope of West Island, and some introduced eucalyptus trees on the other two islets. The most unusual plant on Anacapa also grows on the other Channel Islands. This grotesque-looking plant, called giant coreopsis or tree sunflower, may grow up to 3 meters (10 feet) high in some favorable locations. In early spring, each plant grows several large yellow flowers. On a clear day, Anacapa can look like a green and yellow table from a distance.

Sea mammals are often observed around Anacapa's shores. Though the sea otter has nearly been exterminated from these waters, the California sea lion and the harbor seal are found in park waters. During January, the annual migration of gray whales passes close to Anacapa.

The most easily noticed animals around Anacapa are the birds. Around the cliffs and in the ocean, western gulls, cormorants, scoter ducks, black oystercatchers, and brown pelicans can be seen. The pelicans, nearly exterminated along the California coast just a few years ago, use the

slopes of West Anacapa for their only large nesting site on the west coast of the United States. Recent increases in the pelican population are believed due to a reduction of DDT in the food chain. Various species of land birds are also found on Anacapa. West Anacapa has been designated a research natural area for the protection of the brown pelican rookery. No landings are permitted without written permission from the superintendent.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

Anacapa is composed of three small islets, each different in its offerings to visitors. **The islets cannot be reached from each other except by boat.**

Picnicking is allowed anywhere. Picnic fires at Frenchy's Cove are allowed only on the beach. Please pack out your trash!

A self-guiding nature trail, approximately 2.4 kilometers (1.5 miles) long, shows visitors some of the features and moods of East Island. Trail booklets are available near the ranger station.

Fishing and diving for game are popular sports; fish commonly caught in park waters include rockfish, perch, sanddabs, and sheephead. Divers enjoy going after lobster, scallops, and several kinds of abalone.

Fishing in the park is regulated by California fish and game laws, and a valid fishing license is required. One further stipulation: nothing may be taken, not even otherwise legal game species, in less than 1.5 meters (5 feet) of water within the boundaries of Channel Islands National Monument. This helps protect tidepool life.

Scuba diving for the pure pleasure of observing and photographing undersea life is a very popular activity, and Anacapa Island has achieved a reputation for the beauty and variety of its marine life. For divers there are interesting

caves and coves and shipwrecks.

Camping on Anacapa is confined to a campground on East Island, which has fireplaces and tables. Latrines are also located at the East Anacapa campground and at Frenchy's Cove. The campground is free on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit to the number of persons which may use the campground—therefore, **everyone must register in advance with Monument Headquarters** in Ventura. Do this before you make further arrangements. Campers must bring their own food, fuel, water, and shelter. A tent—one which can be anchored securely—is good protection from the occasional heavy winds that blow over the island.

In general, treat camping here as you would backpacking. Initially, from the Landing Cove to the top of the cliff, there is a climb of more than 150 steps, followed by a further 400-meter (¼-mile) walk to the campground—so **pack light!** A "pack-in, pack-out" trash policy is in effect. As a matter of law and good citizenship, when leaving please take with you whatever you brought onto the island.

The old buildings at a U.S. Coast Guard installation on East Island, now automated, are an interesting sight. Visitors there are prohibited from going near the lighthouse because the frequency and volume of

Cathedral Cave, multi-chambered sea cave, exploratory by skiff on calm days; beware of surge.

Arch Rock, first pictured on an 1856 U.S. Coast Survey etching by James Whistler.

The 600,000 candlepower Anacapa Light, foghorn and radio beacon, maintained by U.S. Coast Guard.



Dive location, 14-18 meter (45-60 foot) depth and heavy kelp just below the surface; usually a current running in this area.

The steamer *Winfield Scott* grounded and sank here on December 2, 1853. The remains can be viewed by divers. All wrecks are protected by law! Please take only pictures.

Eucalyptus trees mark the site of an old shepherd's camp of which only a cistern remains. To explore, land your skiff in the shoreline cut below the "No Camping" sign.

The vaulted interior of Frenchy's Cave can be explored by skiff.

Indian-water Cave contains Anacapa's only freshwater source. Drinking water is not available.

Brown pelicans usually nest on the cliffs in the canyons in this vicinity.

Goldfish Bowl, with dense kelp and a sandy bottom; good diving area.

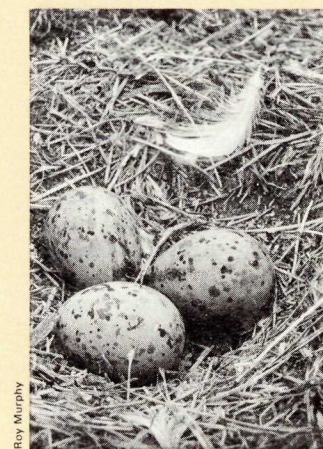
Good diving location, with very clear water when southerly swell is calm. Rocky bottom and 12-20 meter (40-60 foot) depth.

East Fish Camp, a good temporary anchorage during strong westerlies. Beware of wash rocks and submerged pinnacles near the shore.

Rays congregate in large numbers on the shallow, sandy bottom of Bat Ray Cove; good snorkeling area.

Frenchy's Cove is a good anchorage, with 7-10 meter (20-30 foot) depth and hard sandy bottom. The picnic area ashore can be reached by skiff.

Cat Rock, where Frenchy's housecats supposedly became stranded by high tides, supports many interesting tidepools.



Gull nest, Anacapa Island

- Anchorage;
- Camping;
- Scuba diving;
- Fishing;
- Lighthouse;
- Ranger station;
- Underwater photo site;
- Tidepools;
- Trails;
- Picnic Area.

the foghorn may damage hearing.

On calm summer days, you may swim in the Landing Cove on East Island and at Frenchy's Cove, where you can also explore extensive tidepools at low tide.

A park ranger is stationed throughout the year at East Anacapa Island to provide assistance and information. Groups which make advance requests may meet the ranger for tours, walks, and other programs. There are no telephones on Anacapa Island, but the ranger has radio communication to the mainland in case of emergency.

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

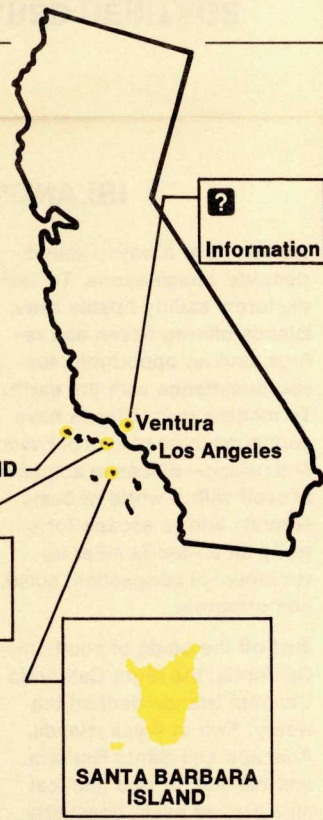
The National Park Service administers the monument, which is comprised of Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands. San Miguel Island, owned by the U.S. Navy Department, is managed jointly by the Navy and the Park Service. Limited public visitation will soon be allowed.

For further information contact the monument superintendent at his headquarters, 1699 Anchors Way Dr., Ventura, CA 93003, telephone (805) 644-815#.

SAN MIGUEL ISLAND

ANACAPA ISLAND

SANTA BARBARA ISLAND



FOR YOUR PROTECTION

A visit to the islands is always an adventure. The seas are unforgiving, getting onto the islands is an uncertainty, and the islands themselves are primitive and ecologically fragile. Here are a few hints to make your trip safe:

If you boat around the islands, be familiar with appropriate charts. Watch the weather. Always have enough flotation devices aboard; use them when landing on the islands. Beware of surge!

When diving, be certified, be in good condition, know the area, be aware of changing

conditions, and **never dive alone.**

Stay away from the cliffs! They are full of cracks and fractures, and shear off regularly. Nor should you go beyond the railings which you find around the landings.

Keep on the trails to avoid cactuses, and while on the trail watch out for potholes.

Stay away from the lighthouse on East Anacapa—the high frequency foghorn could permanently **damage** your ears!

Respect the sea animals. Fish can inflict nasty punctures and

bites as they are pulled into a boat. And do not disturb the seals and sea lions—they can seriously injure persons who venture too near.

As you explore the tidepools, be aware of incoming tides; you may be stranded or even trapped against a cliff by rising water.

Remember, it is a long way to the hospital if you are injured. Please be careful!

PROTECTING THE MONUMENT

All plants, animals, rocks, and other natural, archaeological, and historic features are protected and may not be destroyed, disturbed, or taken. These even include dead vegetation, which may not be gathered or burned, and parts of shipwrecks or other artifacts. The only exceptions are those game fish and shellfish specifically mentioned in the California fish and game laws. These may be taken only when they are in over 1.5 meters (5 feet) of water. Everything in tidepools is therefore protected.

Be careful with fire. During

the dry season, smoke only at the dock areas or in the campgrounds. On certain days, conditions may be such that no open fires are allowed; please check with the ranger about this when it is quite dry or windy.

Weapons and fireworks are not allowed in the monument; this means anywhere within one nautical mile of the islands.

Pets are permitted on Santa Barbara Island and on East Anacapa Island only as far as the campgrounds; they are also allowed at Frenchy's Cove on Anacapa. They must be physically restrained at all times.

Stay on the trails and do not walk around the cliff edges. Aside from being dangerous, this is a chief cause of cliff erosion.

Please take your trash back with you.

State law prohibits **aircraft** from flying at elevations less than 300 meters (1,000 feet) over Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands.

In the event of an **accident or incident** report to the National Park Service as soon as possible.

SANTA BARBARA ISLAND

Santa Barbara Island is a small, 259-hectare (approximately 640-acre) triangular island about 61 kilometers (38 miles) west of San Pedro Harbor in Los Angeles. Like Anacapa, it is almost entirely surrounded by cliffs, some rising to more than 150 meters (500 feet). From the cliffs, gentle canyon-cut slopes rise to two hilltops, the highest being Signal Peak at 194 meters (635 feet). Numerous caves, coves, offshore pillars, and blowholes make these smaller islands as dramatic and majestic in their own way as the larger islands.

The native vegetation of Santa Barbara Island has suffered greatly due to such former practices as farming, grazing, and periodic intentional burning. Even now the giant coreopsis (tree sunflower), which was famous on Santa Barbara for its size and the density of its growth, is limited to a couple of isolated stands. The present vegetation consists mainly of introduced grasses and iceplant, though, with protection, native plants are making a comeback.

Because of Santa Barbara's isolation, sea mammals are abundant around the island. Present in large numbers are California sea lions and harbor seals. During late summer and fall, a few elephant seals may be seen, though this is near the northern limit of their range. These latter animals are so named because of the huge size of bulls—up to 3,600 kilograms (8,000 pounds)—and the huge size of the bulls' large, proboscis-like noses which are inflated during the mating season. Occasionally a sea otter is sighted; it is hoped that these mammals may someday return to the island. One special opportunity here is that of studying marine mammals at close range. Remember that Federal law prohibits molesting or disturbing any marine mammal.



Small groups of elephant seals can sometimes be seen on these rocky beaches. Please do not disturb these rare animals.

Small battery-powered lighthouse atop Arch Point maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

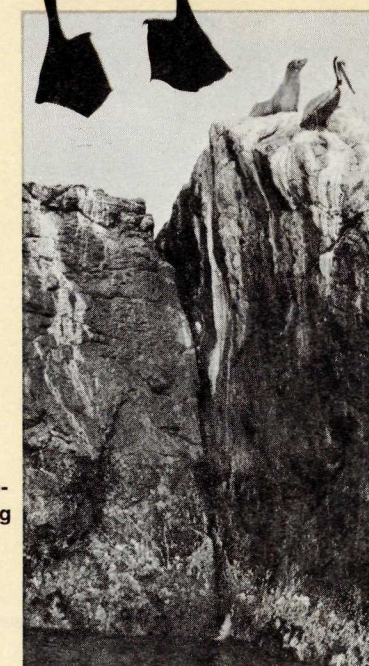
Landing Cove affords protection from the prevailing westerly winds.

A steep trail leads from the Landing Cove to the primitive camping area and ranger station.

California sea lions frequently haul out in large numbers along this rocky shore. Observe them from a distance to avoid disturbing them.



Brown Pelican



Brown pelicans and a sea lion rest atop an island cliff. Marine mammals and birds are common on the Channel Islands.

Birds are common too. Western gulls nest here in large numbers, just as they do on Anacapa, and a few brown pelicans spend their time on the island. Despite their presence, Santa Barbara has no active pelican nests. Many interesting land birds live here, including the burrowing owl, the horned lark, and the meadowlark. The few terrestrial animals include a species of night lizard, a native deer mouse, and the introduced European hare. The native vegetation has suffered greatly here because of these hares; for this reason the National Park Service is in the process of eradicating them.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

Many visitors come to the island specifically to enjoy the giant coreopsis in bloom, the birds and whales in migration, or simply to soak in the serenity of an island sunset.

A park ranger is stationed at Santa Barbara Island throughout most of the year. The ranger is responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations of the park, and for interpreting the island's features to visitors. The ranger has a small boat; in emergencies he has radio communication to Monument Headquarters in Ventura.

Primitive camping is allowed in the vicinity of the ranger's quarters. Latrines are also located in this area. Campers must bring their own food, fuel, shelter, and water. There will be some days when the ranger deems it necessary to prohibit open fires entirely because of the fire danger. Remember to **pack light!** There is a vertical climb of more than 30 meters (100 feet) to the camping area. Pack out all trash. Camping is limited to 14 days. It is safer to land and camp here when a ranger is present. **Campers must register in advance with Monument Headquarters** in Ventura.