



**CHANNEL  
ISLANDS  
NATIONAL  
MONUMENT**

**CALIFORNIA**

Magnificent springtime wildflower displays; great, craggy headlands and rocky bays; the muffled roar of breakers crashing on the beach or pounding the sea cliffs; and the cries of thousands of wheeling western gulls mingled with the barking of California sea lions—these are a few of the sights and sounds that make Channel Islands National Monument a mecca for the lover of wildlife and physical grandeur.

The eight Channel Islands extend about 150 miles from the latitude of San Diego to that of Santa Barbara and from 10 to 70 miles offshore. The two smallest of the group, Anacapa and Santa Barbara, were set aside as a national monument in 1938. Among the plant and animal species protected on these islands are a number notable for their rarity, and many outstanding examples of adaptation to a unique environment.

Much of the earth's geological and biological past is revealed in the rocks and the life of the Channel Islands. Millions of years ago, in an era of widespread upheaval, mountains rose out of the depths of the sea; huge areas along the continent cracked and convulsed; and volcanoes spewed forth lava and ash. Great land masses intermittently rose above the ocean, to sink slowly, millions of years later, beneath the waves.

These offshore islands once were a part of the mainland of North America. A general

subsidence occurred along the edge of the continent. A great land mass eventually submerged, leaving only eight small mountaintops protruding above the Pacific Ocean.

The surrounding ocean, with a water temperature varying from about 55° in winter to about 65° in summer, has a moderating effect on the islands' climate. The air temperature does not differ greatly from that of the water, and frosts are rare. Though there is considerable wind, the island slopes afford a measure of protection. Rainfall is scant and comes in winter along with dense fog.

#### EARLY MAN IN THE ISLANDS

The ancient Indian burial and village sites on some of the Channel Islands possess a wealth of archeological information covering the past 10,000 years. The islands were inhabited by the Chumash Indians, whose dome-shaped homes, each sheltering several families, were made of grass or tule and were often 50 feet or more in diameter. The Chumash were skilled in making shell ornaments, particularly shell inlaid by means of asphalt. Large seagoing canoes formed of planks lashed together with thongs and caulked with native asphalt were perhaps their most notable creation. Nowhere else in the Americas were such craft known.

There is evidence of Chumash habitation on all the Channel Islands, and midden sites give testimony to the fact that Anacapa and Santa Barbara were visited. Lack of fresh water probably limited the periods of habitation on both these islands.

#### ANIMALS OF LAND AND SEA

On the sandy beaches and in rocky coves of Anacapa and Santa Barbara, marine mammals find refuge and grounds for rest and breeding. Birds nest on ledges and in niches of the high cliffs. For some species of wildlife these islands are the only remaining sanctuary in this part of the world.

The resounding bellow of a bull elephant seal provides one of the thrills of a visit to Santa Barbara. The island supports one of the few breeding colonies of this rare member of the family of hair seals. The comically grotesque elephant seal got its name from the male's great size—up to 4 tons—and trunklike snout.

The harbor seal is the commonest member of this family (hair seals) of marine mammals in the park. It is distinguished by its round, flat, pug-dog face, dapple-gray fur, and lack of external ears. Like the elephant seal, it must drag its rear flippers extended when moving on land.

The eared seal family is represented here by several species, only one of which, the California sea lion, is common. This is the "trained seal" you see in the circus. It is a prime attraction here, too—where you see it as a wild animal in its natural environment. These big, brown, sleek furbearers with the streamlined bodies can be seen regularly, sunning themselves on the rocks and beaches.

Like other members of the eared seal family, sea lions can fold their rear flippers under and use them for walking on land. They spend most of their time, however, in the water. Even when swimming they can be identified by their

pointed noses, tan to dark-brown fur, and small external ears. Large breeding colonies of sea lions are in year-round residence on the islands, especially Santa Barbara.

Rarer even than the elephant seal is the Guadalupe fur seal. Long thought to have been extinct, this eared seal has been sighted in recent years near the Channel Islands.

Other eared seals sometimes seen in these waters are the Steller sea lion and the Alaska fur seal. The former is a big animal—males reaching 2,000 pounds—whose hide is used by Eskimos to cover boats. This is the southern extremity of its range. The smaller Alaska fur seal, principally a native of the Bering Sea, breeds as far south as San Miguel Island.

Terrestrial birds can be observed on the islands, but sea birds provide the greatest interest, especially the California brown pelicans and western gulls, which nest in large colonies on the cliffs. The black oyster catcher is often seen on the rocky shore.

*Bull elephant seal.*



## ANACAPA ISLAND

At the eastern end of the Santa Barbara Channel, 12 miles from the mainland, is a slender chain of three islands, so closely linked as to form virtually one island 5 miles long.

Anacapa's rocky cliffs give it an inaccessible, forbidding aspect. Because of the cliffs, it is literally impossible to get from one islet to another except by boat. The only beach not submerged at high tide is at Frenchy's Cove, a day-use area equipped with pit toilets and picnic tables.

*Hike only on beaches and established trails* when on Anacapa. Exploring the tide pools is a fascinating pursuit, but remain alert so as not to be trapped by the incoming tide. California tide-pool life is fast vanishing from the mainland shores, and all plants and animals in areas of the National Park System are protected by law. Do not disturb anything in these pools, so that you and others can enjoy them in years to come.

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. The campground is on East Island, a lighthouse reservation operated as part of the monument under agreement between the National Park Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Camping on Anacapa is restricted to this campground. There are tables, fireplaces, and pit toilets; campers must bring their own food, fuel, and water, and may wish to bring a tent—one which can be thoroughly secured—for protection from the fog and occasional high winds that sweep over the islands. Pack light: from the boat there is a long, steep climb to the top of the cliff and a further quarter-mile walk to the campground. Camping is on a first-come, first-served basis to individ-

uals and small groups. Because there is a 50-person limit, all groups of over 10 people must register with monument headquarters.

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, *Coast Pilot 7*, or *The Boaters Almanac* before attempting to navigate the Anacapa Passage or the seas around Santa Barbara Island. Santa Barbara Channel is subject without warning to rising seas and winds, particularly in the afternoon. Anchoring at either island can be hazardous, so be sure to have adequate tackle aboard.

## SANTA BARBARA ISLAND

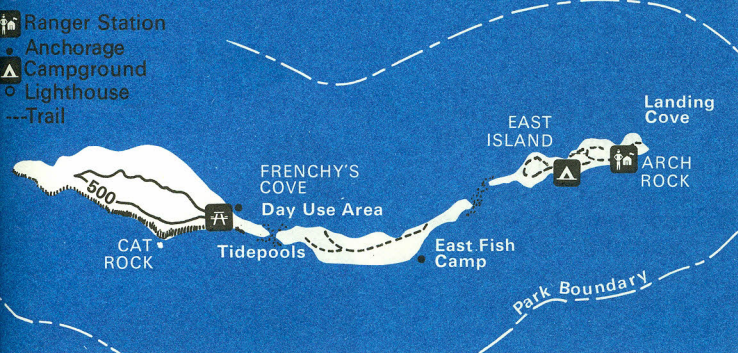
This island lies 35 nautical miles (1 nautical mile equals 1.2 statute miles) off the southern California coast and is surrounded by vast kelp beds abounding in marine life. The island is edged by high sea cliffs. Rolling, grass-covered hills with isolated patches of giant coreopsis characterize this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

From the mid-1800's through 1938 Santa Barbara was intermittently occupied by sheepherders, who found life on this isolated island very difficult.

Anchorage is rough, and landing in the rocky cove is hazardous at best, so exercise caution and good judgment when approaching or landing on the islands.

Primitive camping, without facilities of any kind, is available; camping is limited to the area of the Quonset huts. Pack light

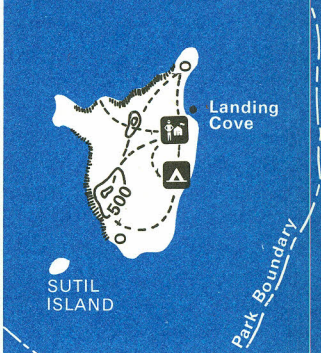
## ANACAPA ISLAND



## CHANNEL ISLANDS



## SANTA BARBARA ISLAND



### FOR YOUR SAFETY

The islands are primitive. Extra care should therefore be taken to avoid hazardous situations. Remember, it is a long way to the doctor. So, please . . .

Stay away from the cliffs! They are full of cracks and fractures, and shear off regularly. Nor should you

trust the railings around the landings. Keep on the trails to avoid the cacti; on the trails, watch out for potholes. Do not go near the East Anacapa Lighthouse—the foghorn could permanently damage your ears.

When exploring the tidepools, do not become trapped by incoming tides.

and take your trash back with you. (See Anacapa Island camping section for hints.)

For public transportation to the islands, write the monument headquarters for an up-to-date listing of boats engaged in such services.

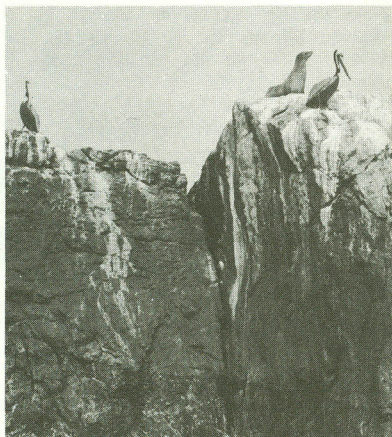
There is no telephone communication between the islands and the mainland, but park rangers can communicate by radio with headquarters in emergencies all year at Anacapa and during the summer at Santa Barbara.

### FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

This monument, a heritage of scenic splendor and scientific marvels, and the only island sanctuary of the Pacific Coast in the National Park System, will endure only if all who use it treat it as a unique, priceless, and irreplaceable treasure. To be sure that you have done your part, leave no sign of your

having been here. Do not disturb or remove any plant, animal, or stone; add nothing to the beaches, the water, or even your camp or picnic site.

Even with the best of care, some wear and tear



*The coves and cliffs provide resting and breeding habitat for both birds and mammals.*

on soil and vegetation is inevitable. Overuse, almost as much as deliberate abuse, can destroy natural values. Accordingly, since manmade developments not only disrupt the environment but encourage heavy use, it is the policy of the National Park Service to minimize development of facilities on the islands.

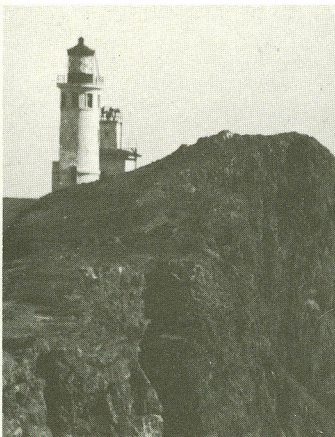
### REGULATIONS

The national monument has been set aside to preserve examples of unique natural features, animals, plants, and the marine ecosystem. We solicit your cooperation.

- 1 The destruction, injury, disturbance, or removal

of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, birds, tidepool or marine animals, or rock specimens is prohibited.

- 2 The discharge of firearms is prohibited.
- 3 Pets must be under physical restrictive



*A Coast Guard lighthouse on Anacapa is the only permanent structure in the monument.*

- 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 (for instance, nothing—not even otherwise legal game species—may be taken from the bottom in less than five feet of water. This restriction helps protect tidepool life).
  - 6 Accidents must be reported to the park superintendent.
  - 7 Camping is limited to 30 days.
  - 8 Your litter must be removed from the island.
- A Park Service boat based at Ventura Marina in Ventura, Calif., patrols the waters of both islands regularly. In addition, a ranger is stationed year-round at Anacapa and during the summer at Santa Barbara.

### SCUBA DIVING

Opportunities for snorkeling and free diving are limited by water depth near shore (25 to 60 feet), generally heavy surge conditions, and relatively cool water temperatures (55° to 65° F.).



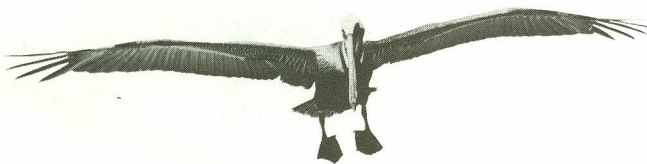
*Giant coreopsis, a sunflower with a woody stem, reaches as much as 8 feet in height.*

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.

Common sense in scuba diving:

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

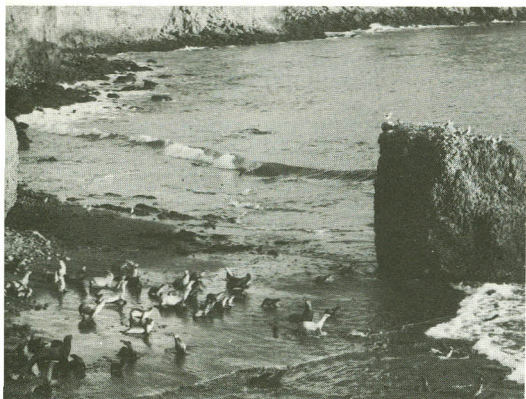
*California brown pelican.*



## ADMINISTRATION

Channel Islands National Monument, established on April 26, 1938, and comprising 18,167 land and water acres, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is 1699 Anchors Way Dr., Ventura, CA 93003, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.



*California sea lions (also shown on cover) congregate on the beaches and rocky shores of the islands.*