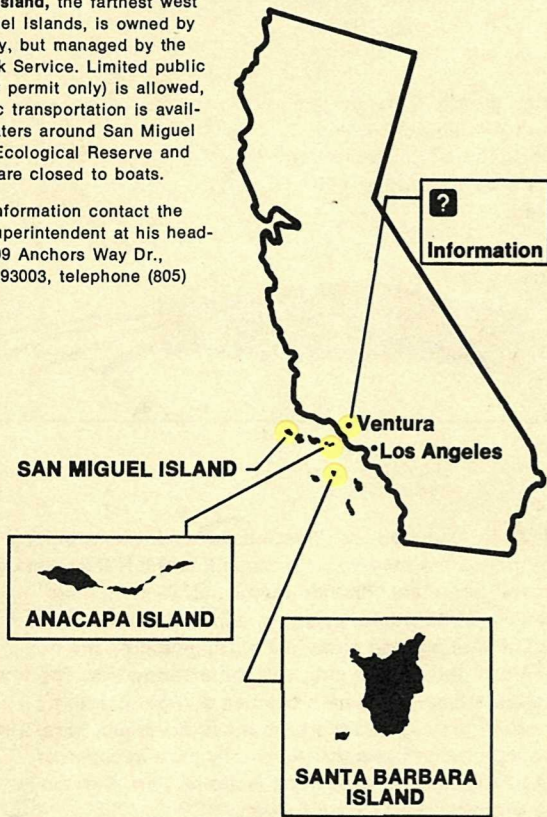


CHANNEL ISLANDS
NATIONAL MONUMENT

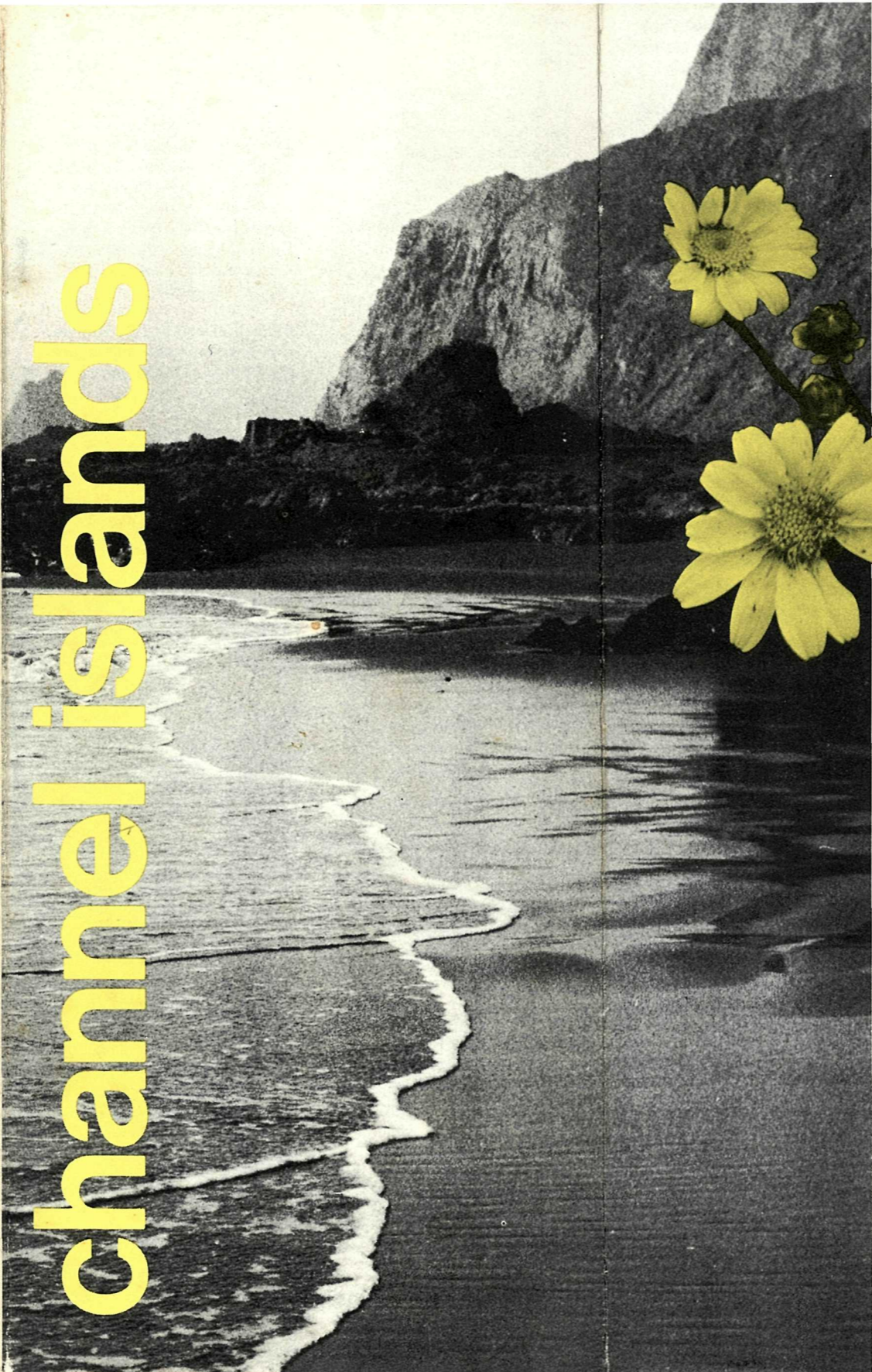
The National Park Service administers the monument, which is comprised of Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands.

San Miguel Island, the farthest west of the Channel Islands, is owned by the U.S. Navy, but managed by the National Park Service. Limited public visitation (by permit only) is allowed, but no public transportation is available. The waters around San Miguel are a State Ecological Reserve and some areas are closed to boats.

For further information contact the monument superintendent at his headquarters, 1699 Anchors Way Dr., Ventura, CA 93003, telephone (805) 644-8157.



channel islands



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. Three of these islands, Anacapa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara, 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 tide-pools, 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 transportation information.

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 Landing Cove area; Anacapa anchorages include East Fish Camp and Frenchy's Cove. Anchoring at either island can be hazardous; be sure to have adequate tackle aboard. There are loading docks at the landing coves on both East Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands, but neither is acceptable for docking boats. Persons wishing to go ashore will need a skiff or small boat.

Access to San Miguel Island (by permit only) is by private boat and is limited to Cuyler Harbor, usually safe anchorage under normal weather conditions. Another safe anchorage on the south side of the island is Tyler Bight. Sea conditions around the island are usually rough; only experienced boaters with sturdy vessels should contemplate the trip. No public transportation is available.

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 that on Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands, the most accessible tidepools are protected by law, and nothing can be taken.

THE SURROUNDING WATER

The ocean is often very shallow next to the islands, but falls off hundreds of meters even within a relatively short distance.

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

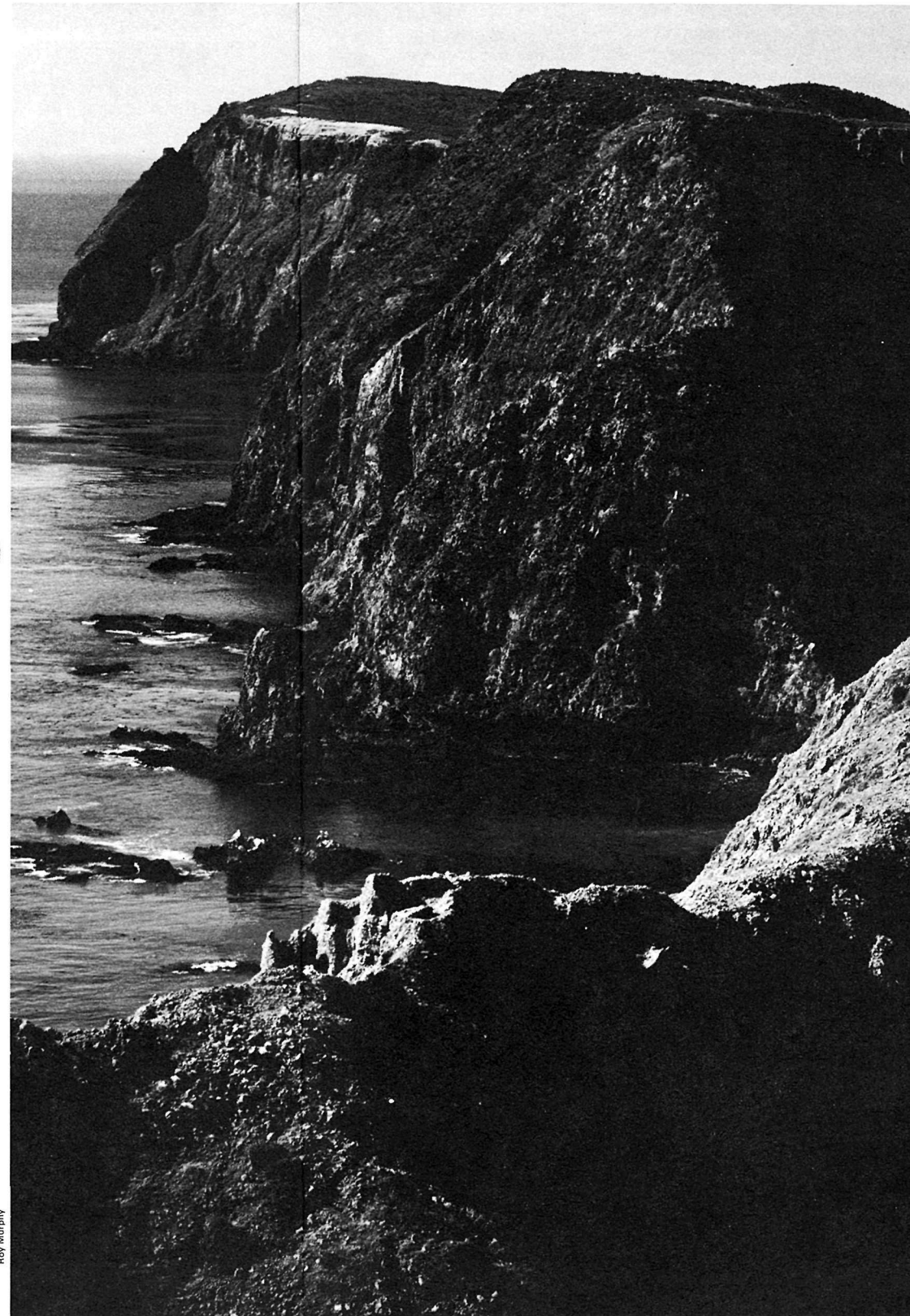
melancholy warning, challenges the unseen and comforts the wary. Then there are the sounds of the water, easily enough heard when waves and swells crash against the island's cliffs but scarcely perceptible when the ocean gently laps the rocks. The sea is an all-pervading force; it isolates the islands 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.

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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, sheepherders 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 reserve waters (see Special Notice, below left) include rockfish, perch, sanddabs, and sheepshead. Divers enjoy going after abalone, lobster, and scallops. These activities are regulated by California fish and game laws, and a valid fishing license is required. One further stipulation: all the plants and invertebrate life in most of the accessible tidepools on Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands are protected and may not be taken or disturbed. In this way, visitors can continue to enjoy the rich diversity of unmolested tidepools.

Scuba and skin diving for the pleasure of observing and photographing undersea life are very popular, and the islands have a reputation for the beauty and variety of their marine life. There are also

interesting caves, coves, and shipwrecks to explore.

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 intensity and volume of

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.

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

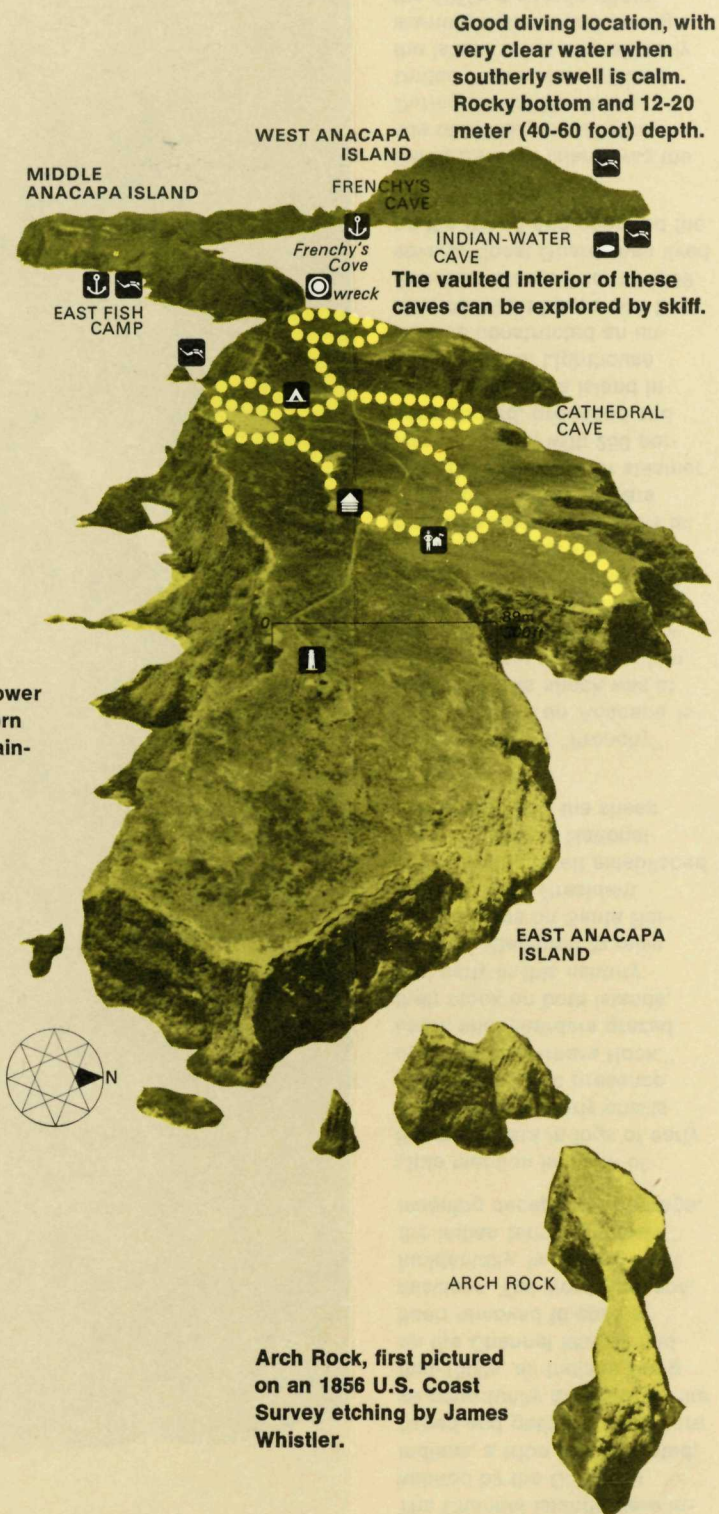
Dive location, 14-18 meter (45-60 foot) depth and heavy kelp just below the surface; usually a current running in this area.

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

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.



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

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

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

- Anchorage
- Camping
- Scuba diving
- Fishing
- Lighthouse
- Ranger station
- Underwater photo site
- Exhibit Area
- Trails

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

SPECIAL NOTICE

The waters for one nautical mile around each of the islands in the monument—Anacapa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara Islands—constitute a California State Ecological Reserve, and state fish and game laws are in force. Some areas within these reserves are available for sport fishing only, while in other areas, commercial and sport diving for invertebrates, as well as fishing, may be allowed consistent with perpetuation of the marine resource. Check with a park ranger or a state fish and game warden for up-to-date regulations and information on use zones.

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 intensity 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. The only exceptions are those game fish and shellfish specifically mentioned in the California fish and game laws. These may be taken only under the rules of the state ecological reserves around the islands.

Be careful with fire. During the dry season, smoke only at the dock areas or in the camp-

grounds. 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, nor are they allowed within the one nautical mile of the state ecological reserve.

Pets are not allowed on Anacapa, San Miguel, or Santa Barbara Islands.

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, San Miguel, 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



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.

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