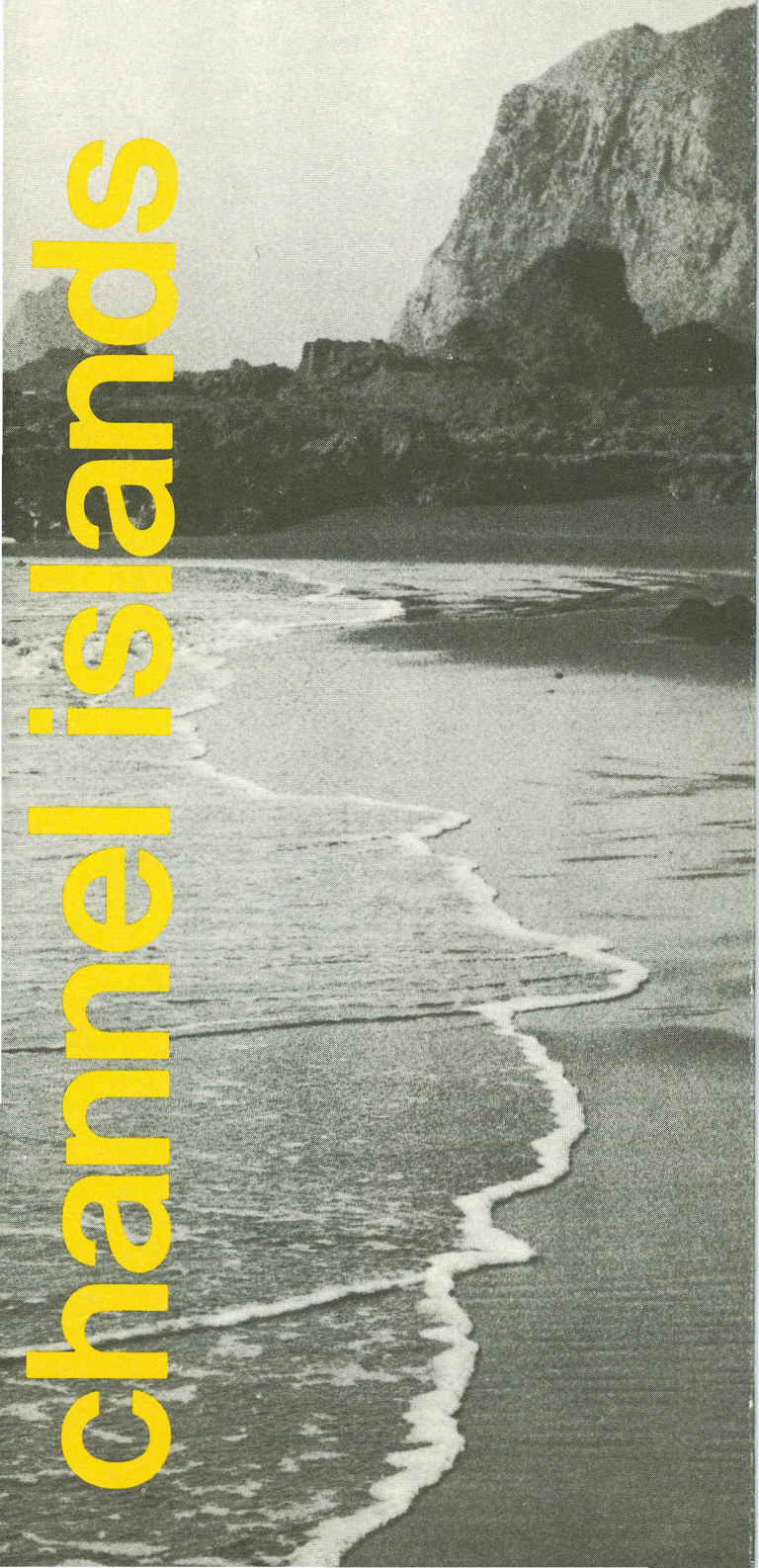
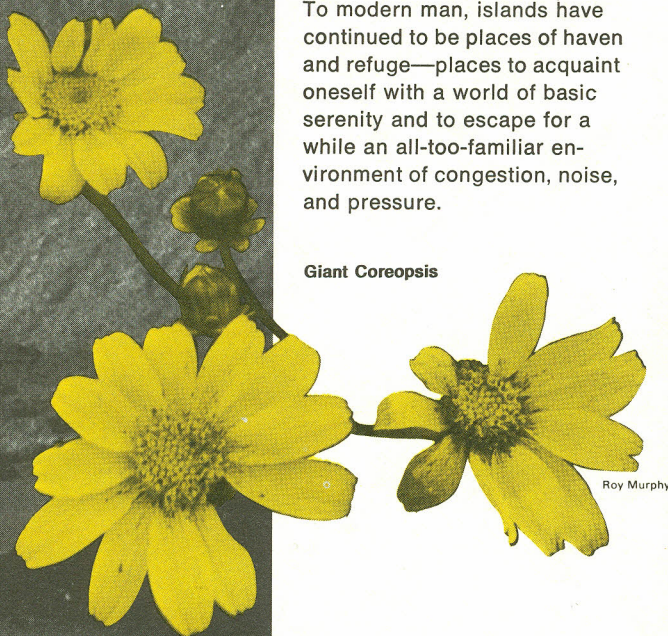


channel islands

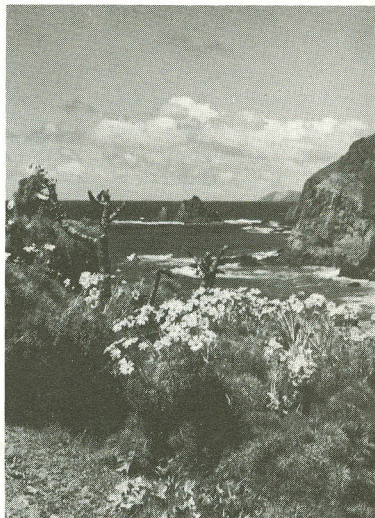


Islands have always excited peoples' imaginations. To early explorers sailing hostile seas, islands offered haven and refuge, and an opportunity for reacquaintance with the earth. To modern man, islands have continued to be places of haven and refuge—places to acquaint oneself with a world of basic serenity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

Giant Coreopsis



Roy Murphy



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

Just off the coast of southern California, the eight Channel Islands have long been sources of attraction to those on the mainland. On March 5, 1980, five of these islands, Anacapa, Santa Barbara, San Miguel, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa, were set aside as Channel Islands National Park. The two largest islands, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa, although within the park boundary, remain private property. In the future certain portions of Santa Cruz, and all of Santa Rosa, will be purchased by the Federal Government. But right now you share ownership of Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel Islands and are invited to land here and explore, swim, dive, fish, picnic, and, on the Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands, camp.

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 Park 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.

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. **Remember:** on Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel 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,

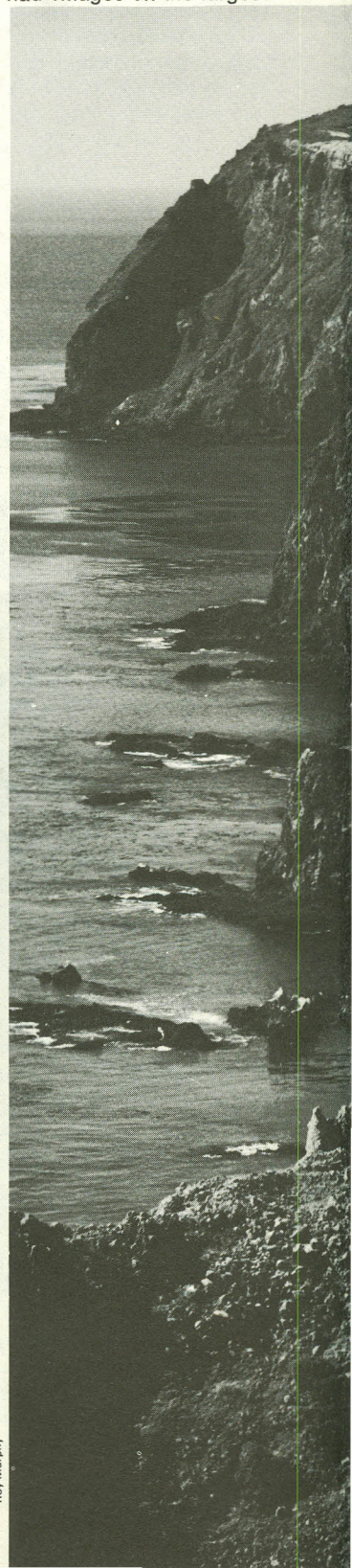


Elephant Seal

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.

Rugged sea cliffs and high rolling plateaus characterize Anacapa Island.

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.



islands and traveled to mainland communities in sturdy wood plank canoes. The islanders hunted, fished, and gathered food, and traded with the

mainland for goods. The bountiful coastal waters supported one of the highest population densities in the new world at the time of first European con-

tact. On his northern odyssey of discovery, Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo, in October 1542, became the first European to drop anchor off the Channel Islands. Cabrillo is said to be buried on San Miguel Island but his grave has never been found.

By the mid-1800s, all the island Indians had been removed to coastal missions. Fur hunters, whalers, and adventurers combed the island waters and rocky shores while seeking furs and blubber oil, and hunted the area's sea mammals to the brink of extinction. In the 1850s shepherders and cattle ranchers grazed their stock on several islands. Early in the century, farmers unsuccessfully attempted to raise forage crops on Santa Barbara Island. In 1938 President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed Santa Barbara and Anacapa Islands a national monument. The sheep were removed and ranching and farming activities ceased. At that time, a hermit, "Frenchy" LeDreau, lived on Anacapa Island in a shack at the cove named for him. A colorful character, "Frenchy" lived off 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 acetylene beacon on East Anacapa Island. From 1930 to 1969, several Coast Guardsmen lived on the island and operated the light and horn. Like Anacapa, Santa Barbara and San Miguel Islands were sites of military installations. During World War II the United States Navy used Santa Barbara Island as an aircraft early warning outpost, and during the 1960s a missile photographic station was constructed. The Navy took control of San Miguel Island in the 1930s, removed the last ranchers, and used the island as an aerial

bombing range and missile target area. In May 1963 this activity ended as the Navy and the National Park Service signed an agreement to preserve and manage the island's national and cultural resources.

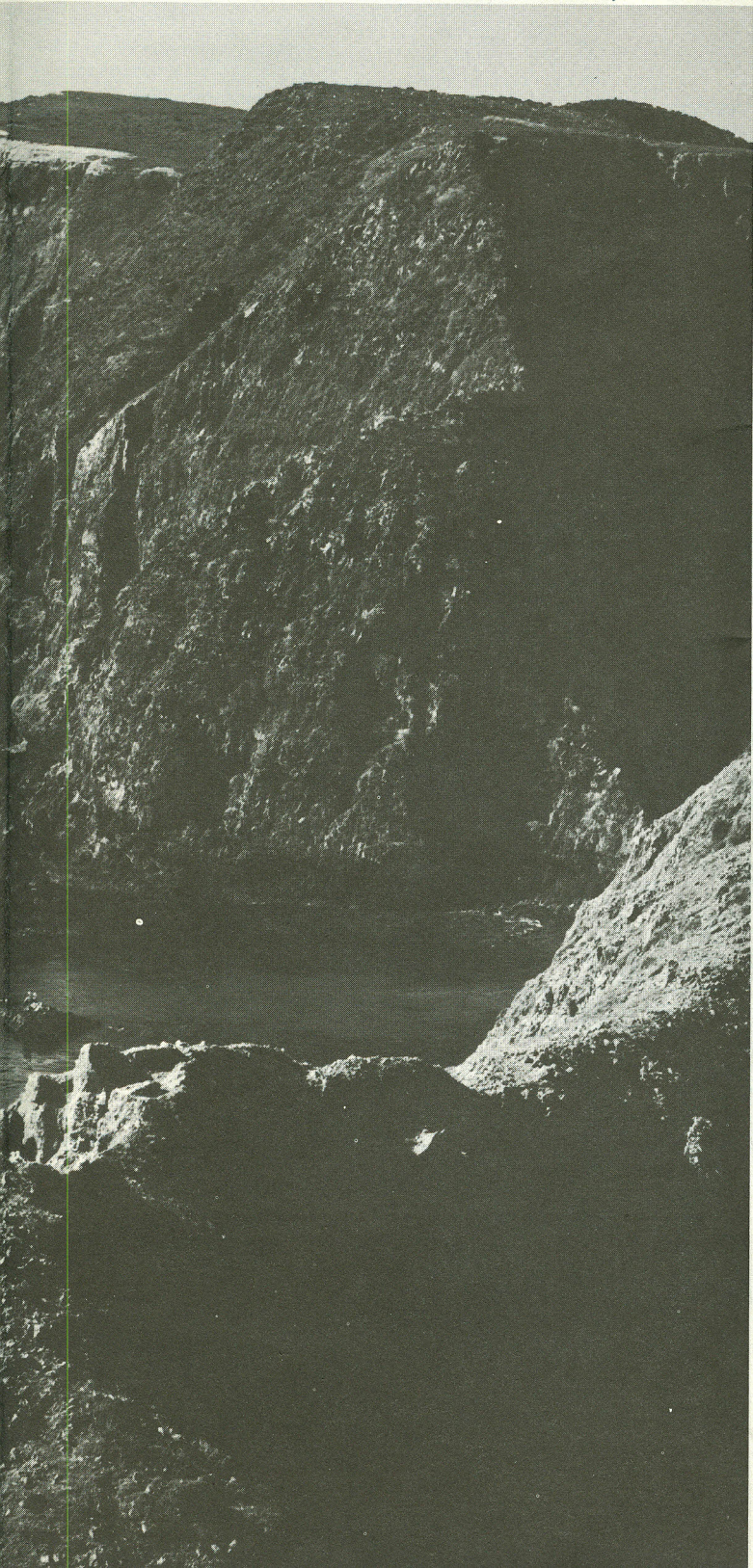
THE SEASONS

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). From January through March, 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.



Roy Murphy

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 protected canyons. 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. From January through March migrating gray whales pass 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. 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 fish 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 Park 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 nice climb of 154 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.

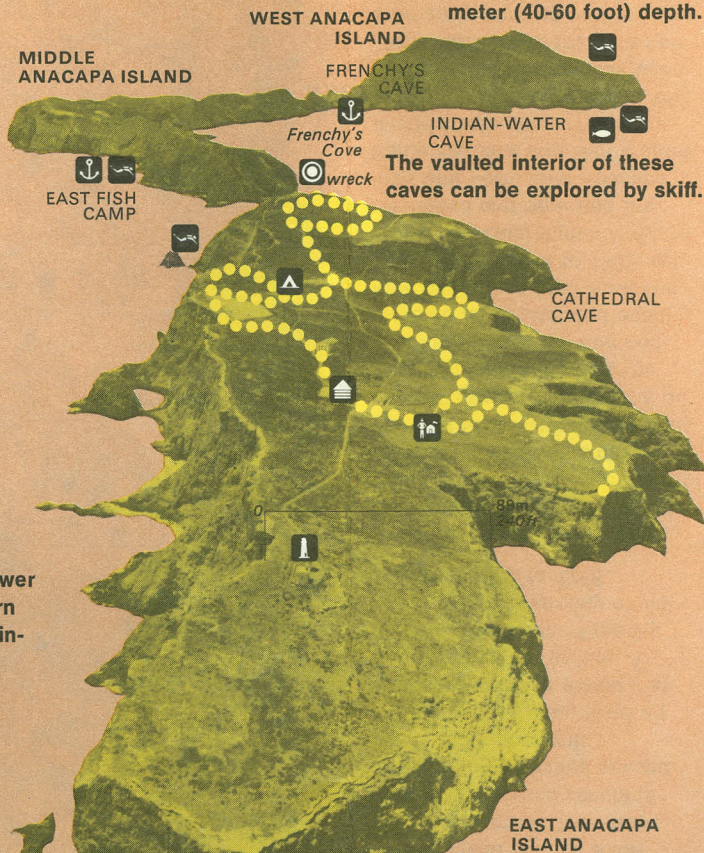
The 600,000 candlepower Anacapa Light, foghorn and radio beacon, maintained by U.S. Coast Guard.

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.



The vaulted interior of these caves can be explored by skiff.

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.



ARCH ROCK

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

SAN MIGUEL ISLAND

San Miguel, the westernmost of the Channel Islands, is an island of extremes. Unprotected by the mainland, the wind and weather sweep across the North Pacific battering her shores and creating an environment both harsh and yet uniquely beautiful.

The island has the most dangerous approach of all the Channel Islands, as the many shipwrecks that have occurred on the outlying rocks and reefs show. The island's isolation allows three of the five major sea bird colonies in southern California to live relatively undisturbed. Auklets, cormorants, gulls, guillemots, and snowy plovers, as well as others, all breed on San Miguel and nearby Prince Island. Six species of seals and sea lions are found here. At Point Bennett, five species including elephant seals and Northern Fur seals "haul out" on the beaches to breed.

The San Miguel Island fox is the largest land mammal. Barn owls, Peregrine falcons, and red-tailed hawks are among the birds of prey sometimes seen.

Several rare plant species, including live-forever, wild buckwheat, and rose mallow, are found on the island. Springtime can be most colorful. And preserved beneath blowing sand are barren forests of wind-carved caliche. These fossils are the encrusted casts of ancient vegetation buried by blowing sands.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The waters for one nautical mile around each of the park's islands are a California State Ecological Reserve. State fish and game laws apply. Some areas in these reserves are available for sport fishing only. In other areas, fishing and commercial and sport diving for invertebrates may be allowed consistent with marine resources management. The Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary, established September 21, 1980, and encompassing

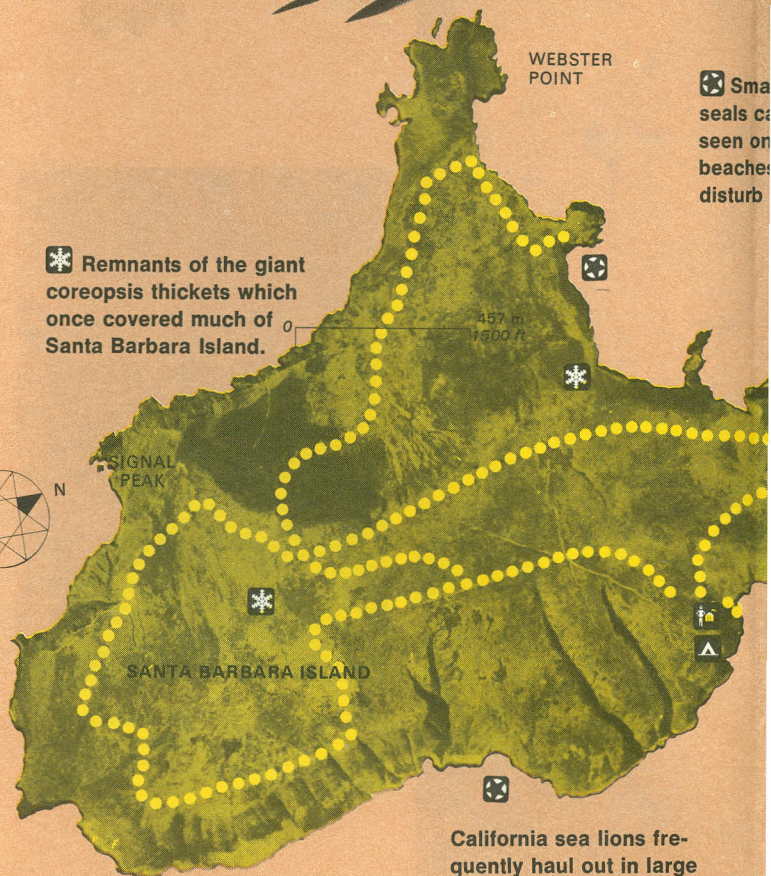
six nautical miles around each island in the park, also affords special recognition and protection for the marine resources of the Santa Barbara channel. Check with a park ranger or a state fish and game warden for up-to-date regulations and information.

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 this small island as dramatic and majestic in its 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 several 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 winter elephant seals breed here. These are named for the huge size of the bulls—up to 3,600 kilograms (6,000 pounds)—whose large, proboscis-like noses are inflated during the mating season. One special opportunity here is that of studying marine mammals at close range. Remember that Federal law prohibits molesting or disturbing any marine mammal.



Remnants of the giant coreopsis thickets which once covered much of Santa Barbara Island.

WEBSTER POINT

Seals can be seen on beaches. Do not disturb.

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

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

A visit to the islands is always an adventure. The seas are unforgiving and getting onto the islands is always an uncertainty. 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 current

and wind conditions, and **never dive alone.**

When hiking stay away from cliffs and **keep on established trails.** While on East Anacapa Island, **stay away from the lighthouse**—the high intensity foghorn could permanently damage your ears! Respect the sea animals and **do not disturb the seals and sea lions.**

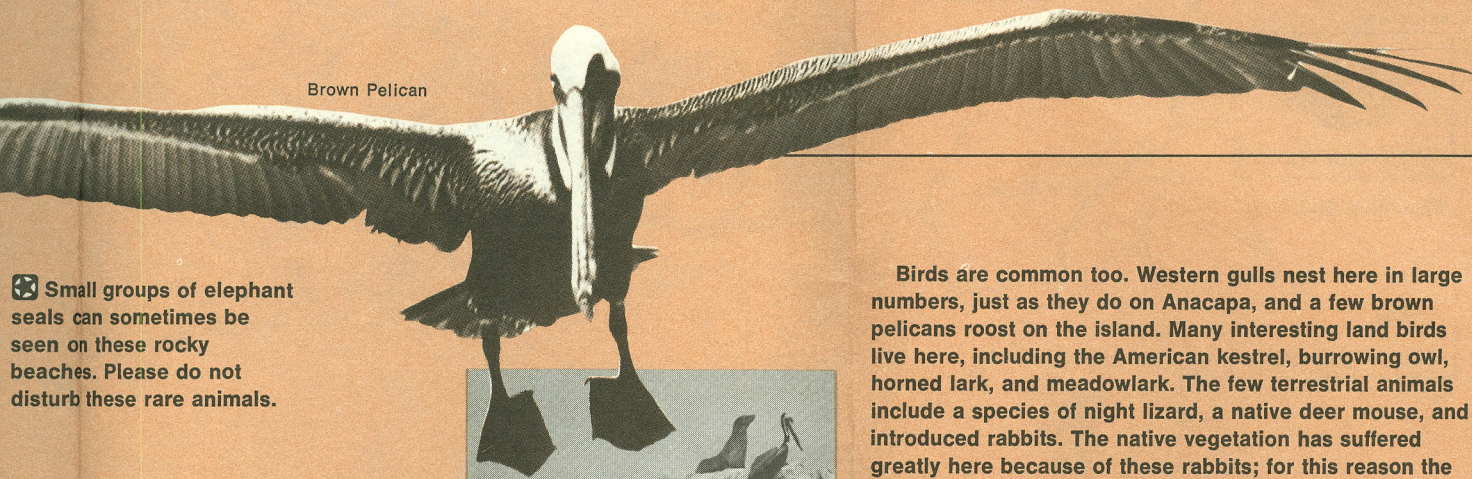
As you explore the tidepools, be aware of incoming tides; you may be stranded or even trapped against a cliff by rising water. Please be careful.


PROTECTING THE PARK

All plants, animals, rocks and other natural, archeologic, and historic features are protected and may not be destroyed, disturbed, or taken. Even dead vegetation may not be gathered or burned. The only exceptions are those game fish and shellfish specifically mentioned in State of 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.** 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 park or within the one nautical mile of the State ecological reserve. **Stay on the trails** and do not walk around the cliff edges. Please take your trash back with you. Marine sanctuary and State laws prohibit aircraft from flying at elevations less than 300 meters (1,000 feet) over the islands within the park. Report **accidents or incidents**, to the National Park Service immediately.

Brown Pelican

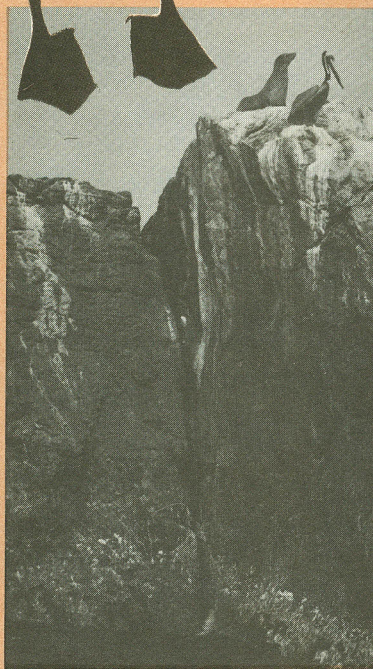


 Small groups of elephant seals can sometimes be seen on these rocky beaches. Please do not disturb these rare animals.

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

Landing Cove affords protection from the prevailing westerly winds.

Canyon View Self-guiding Nature Trail begins at the campground's south end. The 0.4-kilometer (¼-mile) walk takes 20 minutes. A steep trail leads from the Landing Cove to the primitive camping area and ranger station.



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 roost on the island. Many interesting land birds live here, including the American kestrel, burrowing owl, horned lark, and meadowlark. The few terrestrial animals include a species of night lizard, a native deer mouse, and introduced rabbits. The native vegetation has suffered greatly here because of these rabbits; 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. **Campers must register in advance with Monument Headquarters** in Ventura.

**CHANNEL ISLANDS
NATIONAL PARK**

In 1980, Channel Islands National Monument was redesignated a national park. The National Park Service administers three of the five islands: Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel. Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands are private property; most of Santa Cruz is owned by a company that is turning its property over to the nonprofit Nature Conservancy. The Park Service will work with the Nature Conservancy to manage the island. The Federal Government will purchase the eastern end of Santa Cruz and all of Santa Rosa Island, but this may take several years.

For information write: Superintendent,
Channel Islands National Park, 1699
Anchors Way Drive, Ventura, CA
93003, or call 805-644-8157.

