



Anacapa Island's Arch Rock Photo by Russ Finley

The Channel Islands, an island chain lying just off California's southern coast, appear quite close on clear days. Five of the eight islands and their surrounding one nautical mile of ocean, with its kelp forests, comprise Channel Islands National Park. In 1980, Congress designated Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara Islands and 125,000 acres of submerged lands as a national park because they possess unique natural and cultural resources. The park provides habitat for marine life ranging from microscopic plankton to Earth's largest creature, the blue whale.

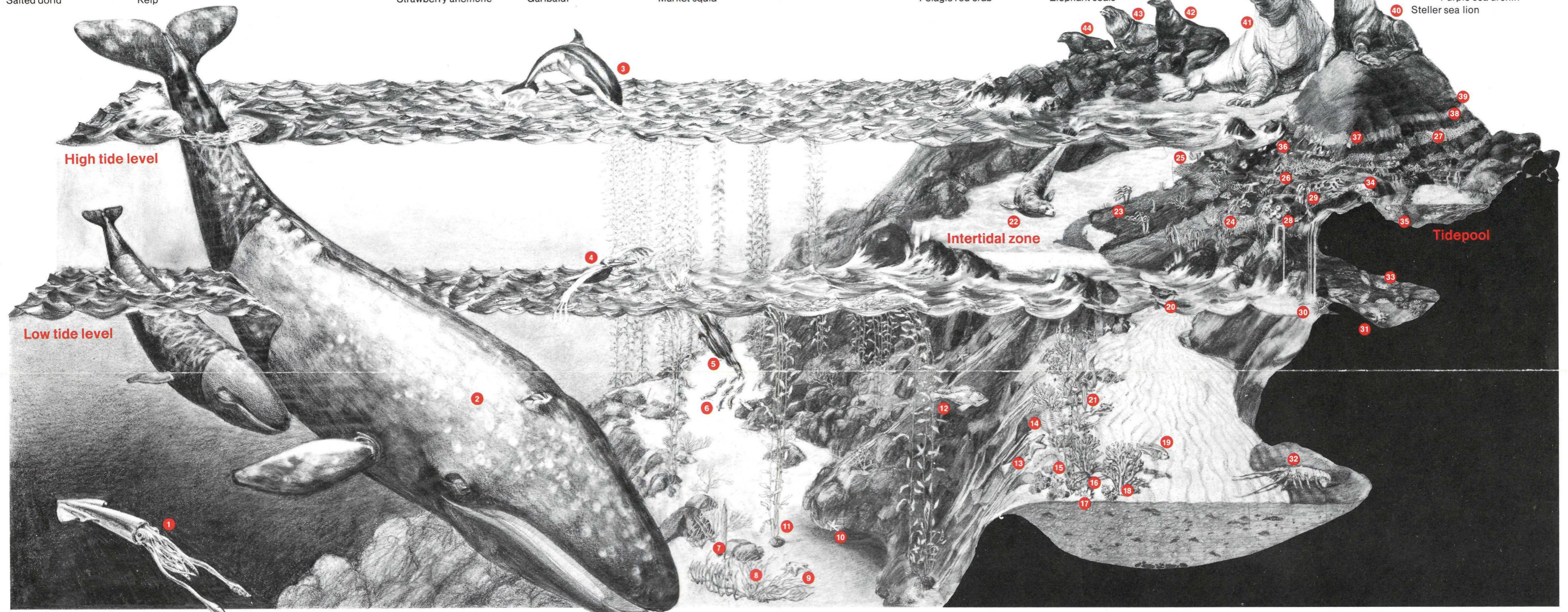
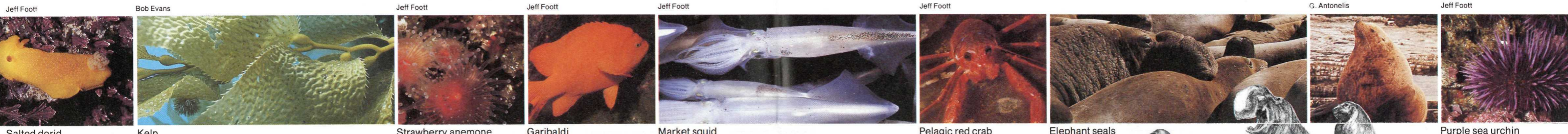
Seafaring Indians plied the Santa Barbara Channel in swift, seaworthy canoes called tomols. The Chumash, or "island people," had villages on the northern islands and traded with the mainland Indians. The southern island of Santa Barbara was home to the Gabriellino people. In 1542, explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo entered the Santa Barbara Channel.

Cabrillo, commanding an expedition in service to Spain, was the first European to land on the islands. While on his northbound odyssey of exploration Cabrillo wintered on an island he called San Lucas (San Miguel or possibly Santa Rosa Island). He died as a result of a fall on that island and may have been buried on one of the Channel Islands, but his grave has never been found. Subsequent explorers included Sebastian Vizcaino, Gaspar de Portola, and English Captain George Vancouver, who in 1793 fixed the present names of the islands on nautical charts. Beginning in the late 1700s, and into the 1800s, Russian, British, and American fur traders searched the islands' coves and shorelines for sea otter. Because its fur was highly valued, the otter was hunted almost to extinction. Hunters then concentrated on taking seals and sea lions for their fur and oil. Several of these species faced extinction as well. In the early 1800s the Chumash and Gabriellino people were removed to the mainland missions. Hunters, settlers, and ranchers soon came to the

islands. By the mid-1800s, except for the fishermen who operated from cove camps, ranching was the economic mainstay. The Santa Cruz Island ranch produced sheep, cattle, honey, olives, and some of the finest early California wines. In the late 1800s the ranch on Santa Rosa Island was one of the major wool producers of Southern California. Anacapa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara Islands also were heavily grazed or cultivated. In the early 1900s the U.S. Lighthouse Service—later the U.S. Coast Guard—began its stay on Anacapa Island. The U.S. Navy assumed control of San Miguel Island just before World War II. The islands served an important role in southern California's coastal defenses. The military's presence on San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and the other Channel Islands is evident even today.

A series of Federal and landowner actions have helped preserve these nationally significant island treasures. Federal efforts began in 1938,

when President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Santa Barbara and Anacapa Islands as Channel Islands National Monument. In 1976 a U.S. Navy and National Park Service agreement allowed supervised visitation of San Miguel Island. In 1978 a conservation partnership between the Nature Conservancy, a national nonprofit conservation organization, and the Santa Cruz Island Company provided for continued protection, research, and educational use of most of privately-owned Santa Cruz. Finally, in 1980, Congress designated the four northern islands, Santa Barbara Island, and the waters for one nautical mile around each as our 40th national park. Later that year the ocean six miles out around each island was designated as a National Marine Sanctuary. Today, Channel Islands National Park is part of the International Man and the Biosphere program to conserve genetic diversity and an environmental baseline for research and monitoring throughout the world.



## Island Life and Ecology

- |                               |                                |                      |                    |                     |                           |                        |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Giant squid                 | 7 Sea pen                      | 14 Gurney's sea pen  | 21 Ribbed kelp     | 28 Goose barnacles  | 35 Aggregated anemones    | 42 California sea lion |
| 2 Gray whale and calf         | 8 Gorgonian (soft) coral       | 15 Silvery hydroid   | 22 Harbor seal     | 29 Sea palm         | 36 Mussels                | 43 Northern fur seal   |
| 3 Pacific white-sided dolphin | 9 Ochre star                   | 16 Smooth red sponge | 23 Sea palms       | 30 Urchins          | 37 Periwinkles            | 44 Guadalupe fur seal  |
| 4 California brown pelican    | 10 Ochre star                  | 17 Nutting's sponge  | 24 Surf grass      | 31 Tidepool sculpin | 38 Blue-green algae       |                        |
| 5 Cormorant                   | 11 Kelp ( <i>Macrocystis</i> ) | 18 Soft coral        | 25 Sea lettuce     | 32 Spiny lobster    | 39 Lichen                 |                        |
| 6 Blue rockfish               | 12 Copper or kelp rockfish     | 19 Garibaldi         | 26 Rockweed        | 33 Abalone          | 40 Steller sea lion       |                        |
|                               | 13 Leather star                | 20 Xantus murrelet   | 27 Acorn barnacles | 34 Hermit crab      | 41 Northern elephant seal |                        |

Which is more important—the land or the ocean? For many plants and animals of the Channel Islands, life is not possible without both land and sea. Pelicans fish for anchovies from the ocean but nest on the dry bluffs of West Anacapa. Low-growing sand verbena needs the sandy soil of San Miguel Island to grow, but to thrive it also needs salt from the ocean air. Giant kelp fastens its rootlike hold-fasts on the shallow rocks of islands' nearshore reefs, yet this seaweed also needs the nutrients from the deep ocean.

Isolation from the mainland and the mingling of warm and cold water currents in the Santa Barbara Channel help form the Channel Islands' special character. The plants and animals are similar to those on the mainland, but thousands of years of isolation in unique

island environments have resulted in size, shape, or color variations among some plants and animals. All of the larger islands are home for the island fox, a close relative of the mainland's gray fox. But because it evolved in isolation, the island fox is no larger than a house cat. These foxes prey upon deer mice that are slightly larger than their mainland relatives. Both creatures are well adapted to the harsh island environment.

Remoteness from the mainland has buffered the islands from the rapid changes wrought by modern humans. While most mainland tidepools are practically devoid of life because of heavy human use, abalone, sea urchins, sea anemones and limpets thrive in the islands' intertidal areas. White-plumed sea anemones still cover underwater rocks at San Miguel, and

vivid purple hydrocorals filter water for food near Santa Cruz Island. Though used by fishermen and sport divers, and subject to mainland water pollutants, the kelp forests of the Channel Islands harbor great numbers of plants and animals.

During the last ice Age the northern Channel Islands were part of one vast island geologists call Santarosae. Sea level was much lower, and large areas of today's sea bed were dry. The northern islands were then linked together, though probably not connected to the mainland. When the continental ice sheets melted, rising water separated the islands.

During the Pleistocene era, a dwarf species of mammoth roamed Santarosae, and pine and cypress for-

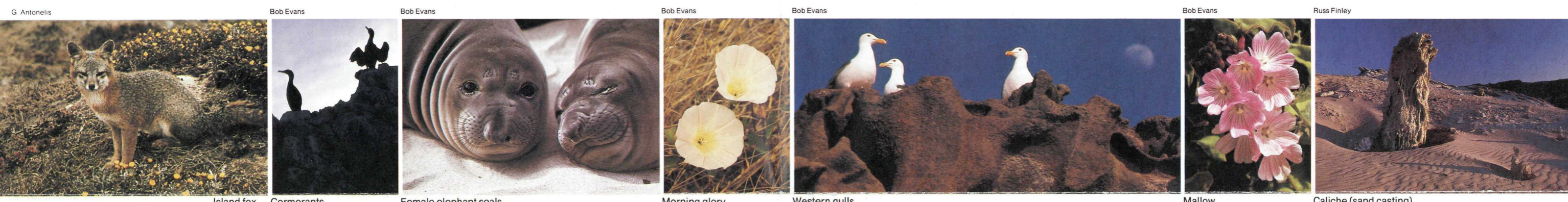
ests stood on several islands. Today, the fossilized remains of dwarf mammoths on San Miguel and Santa Rosa, and the forests of brittle sand castings, known as caliche (pronounced *kah-lee-chee*), that are found on San Miguel remind us that the islands were very different long ago. Some plants and animals developed special adaptations over time to cope with the isolated environment—others remain unchanged. The giant coreopsis is found on all five park islands and on the coastal mainland. Its more common name, tree sunflower, suggests its size and trunk-like stem. Its bright yellow blossoms are sometimes visible from the mainland during the winter and spring.

The introduction of non-native plants and animals to an island ecosystem can devastate native species.

One such exotic is a tenacious South African species of iceplant that found its way to Santa Barbara Island before 1900. Highly salt tolerant, it thrives in arid soil by capturing moisture from sea breezes. It subsequently leaches salt into the soil, producing concentrations of salt that few native plants can tolerate. Today, the iceplant spreads its thick mats over much of the island. Introduced livestock, food animals, and pets have similar impacts on island environments. Escalating feral sheep, hog, cat, and rabbit populations led to damage to—and sometimes elimination of—native plants and animals. The National Park Service seeks to restore these native populations where possible.

All plants, animals, rocks, and other natural, archeological, and historic features on the islands are pro-

ected and may not be disturbed, destroyed, or taken. Even dead vegetation may not be gathered or burned. Please keep in mind that others will follow you, so "take only memories, leave only footprints" when visiting the islands. **Be careful with fire.** Because of the high risk of fire that could destroy plant communities, no open fires are permitted on the islands. Discharge of firearms and fireworks is not allowed in the park or within the one-nautical-mile seaward boundary of ocean within the state ecological reserves. Please take home any trash that you brought in. **Report accidents or unusual incidents immediately** to the National Park Service or U.S. Coast Guard.



### Planning Your Visit

#### Commercial Boat and Air Service

A concessioner offers boat trips year-round to Anacapa, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and San Miguel Islands. For information write: Island Packers, Inc., 1867 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001; or call 805-642-1393. Make reservations well in advance. A concessioner, Channel Islands Aviation, offers air transport to Santa Rosa Island for day or overnight visits. For information write: Channel Islands Aviation, 305 Durley Ave., Camarillo, CA 93010, or call 805-987-1301.

#### Using Your Boat

If you plan to take your own boat to the islands, refer to National Ocean Survey Charts 18720, 18729, and 18756. The Santa Barbara Channel is subject to sudden changes in sea and wind conditions. Good cruising guides may be purchased at the park visitor center. Kayakers may obtain an informational brochure from the park visitor center. Off Santa Barbara Island, anchoring is usually confined to the east side because of prevailing winds and waves. Anchorages on Anacapa Island include East Fish Camp and, in good weather, Frenchy's Cove. Anchoring at either island can be hazardous. Have adequate ground tackle aboard. To go ashore on the islands requires a skiff, raft, or small boat. You may land without a permit on East Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands. West

Anacapa Island, except the beach at Frenchy's Cove, is closed to the public. Access to Middle Anacapa requires ranger escort. To visit Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands get a free permit from park headquarters or get information about landing areas available to the public without a permit. You may anchor on the north side of San Miguel at Cuyler Harbor, or on the south side at Tyler Bight. Cuyler Harbor is usually a safe anchorage—under normal weather conditions—and is the only landing area on San Miguel. Sea conditions around San Miguel and Santa Rosa islands are often rough; only experienced boaters with sturdy vessels should attempt the trip. Depending on sea conditions around Santa Rosa Island, you can anchor in Bechers Bay or Johnsons Lee. For details on landing, hiking, or camping on park islands, contact park headquarters before your trip because special restrictions apply. Landing on privately owned Santa Cruz is by permit only. (*See information on access to Santa Cruz on the map side of this brochure.*) Permits and regulations protect the islands' delicate resources, ensure your safety, and safeguard private landowner's rights.

#### Aircraft Notice

To protect nesting seabirds and to avoid disturbing wildlife, National Marine Sanctuary regulations and State law prohibit aircraft from flying at altitudes less than 1,000 feet within the one-nautical-mile seaward boundary of the islands. No landing of private aircraft is permitted.

#### Protecting the Marine Resources

The waters one nautical mile around Anacapa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara Islands are California State Ecological Reserves. Special state fish and game regulations apply. Fishing requires a California fishing license. Take only plants and animals specifically permitted under California fish and game laws. In some areas in the ecological reserves, such as the north side of East Anacapa Island, marine life is totally protected; nothing may be taken or possessed. In other reserve areas commercial and sport fishing and diving for invertebrates are allowed. Ecological reserve regulations and a map of closed areas are available at park headquarters. Marine mammals and endangered species such as the brown pelican are protected by law and may not be harassed or disturbed. Island rangers enforce fish and game laws. They can provide information on fish, game, and marine resource protection regulations. There are accessible tidepools on Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel

Islands. Do not collect anything; collecting is illegal. If you pick up an animal, replace it where you found it. That spot is that animal's home territory. Walk carefully—rocks can be slippery. Discharge of substances and removal of cultural resources are prohibited within the 6-nautical-mile sanctuary boundary. No pets ashore, and no open fires allowed.

#### For Your Safety

A visit to the islands is always an adventure. The seas are unforgiving, and even getting onto the islands is an uncertainty. When boating around the islands be familiar with the appropriate charts. Watch the weather. Always have enough flotation devices aboard for you and each passenger and always use them when landing on the islands. Beware of surge! If you need emergency assistance contact the U.S. Coast Guard on Channel 16 of your marine band radio. National Park Service patrol vessels and island rangers also monitor this channel. 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 stay on the established trails. While on East Anacapa Island, stay away from the lighthouse—its high intensity foghorn could permanently damage your hearing.

# Channel Islands



**Visitor Center** Start your visit at the visitor center in Ventura. See map at right and address below. Here you will find a film, photo displays, exhibits, Chumash Indian artifacts, a simulated caliche ghost forest, an indoor marine exhibit, and a native plant garden display. You may purchase publications, maps, and educational materials at the bookstore. Arrangements for boat service to the islands may be made nearby.

**Wildlife** may be easily disturbed. Do not approach marine mammals, such

as whales, seals, and sea lions. Screaming and diving birds indicate you are near breeding activity; stay away from nests.

**When boating** and before departure, check prevailing and forecasted weather and sea conditions. Know your vessel's limitations and monitor marine band radio. Anchoring at the islands may be difficult because of small harbors and sloping sea floor terrain. Use ample anchor chain and scope. Observe the surf and surge conditions before attempting to land at the designated landings.

Ladders, railings, and stairs may be wet; wear suitable nonskid footwear. Watch your footing in tidepools.

**Safety.** Stay on designated trails. Cliffs may be undercut; obey all signs. Weather conditions change rapidly; dress in layers. Supplies are not available on islands.

**Information** For information write: Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001-4354, or call 805-658-5730.



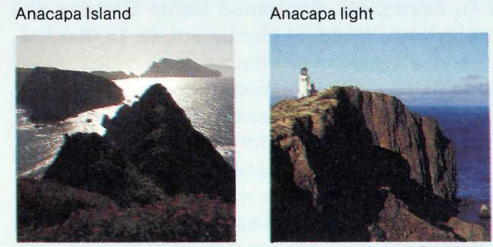
Private property exists within the authorized park area. Please respect the owners' rights.

- Authorized park area. Park boundary extends 1.8 km (1 nautical mile) from shore.
- California State Ecological Reserve closure areas.
- Sunken wreck.
- Exposed wreck.
- Ranger station.
- Restrooms.
- Interpretive trail.
- Campsite.
- Anchorage. Suitability of anchorages varies depending on the seasons and weather. Consult boating almanacs and nautical charts.

See National Marine Sanctuary Synopsis of Regulations brochure for specific closure information.

Help us recycle. Please share this brochure with a friend.

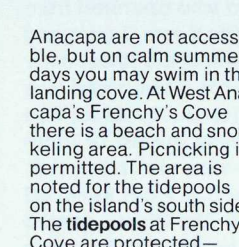
## Anacapa Island



Anacapa Island



Anacapa light



Coreopsis

Anacapa lies 11 miles southwest of Ventura, and 14 miles south of Ventura. Almost five miles long, its total land area is about one square mile (700 acres). Anacapa is composed of 3 small islets inaccessible from each other except by boat. For much of the year the island vegetation looks brown. With winter rains, the plants emerge from summer's dormancy and turn green. Sea mammals are often seen around Anacapa's shores. January through March is gray

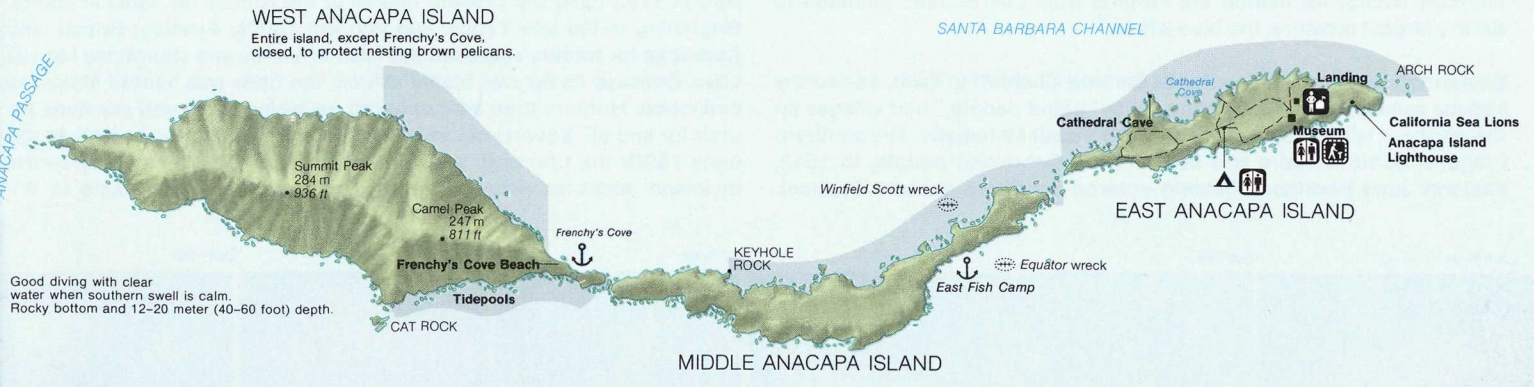
whale watch season, and migrating whales can be seen swimming along their 10,000-mile migration route. Western gulls, cormorants, black oystercatchers, and endangered California brown pelicans may be seen year round. West Anacapa's slopes are the primary West Coast nesting site for the brown pelican. To protect the pelican rookery, West Anacapa is a Research Natural Area closed to the public. Except at Franchy's Cove, no landings are permitted on West

Anacapa without written permission from the park superintendent. Transportation to Anacapa is provided by the park concessioner (see Planning our Visit). Picnicking is allowed, but please carry all trash off the island. There are latrines but no freshwater. Near the small visitor center, a 1.5 miles self-guiding nature trail explores East Anacapa. Please stay on trails and obey closure signs—for your safety and to protect fragile island resources. Beaches on East

Anacapa are not accessible, but on calm summer days you may swim in the landing cove. At West Anacapa's Franchy's Cove there is a beach and snorkeling area. Picnicking is allowed, but please carry all trash off the island. The tidepools at the island's south side. The tidepools at Franchy's Cove are protected. Nothing may be taken including empty sea shells. Many SCUBA and skin diving areas around Anacapa reveal the island's beauty and varied marine life. Divers may photograph the underwater life and explore caves, coves, and shipwrecks. The steamer *Winfield Scott* grounded and sank off Middle Anacapa in 1853. Remains of the Coast Guard still be seen. Please take only photographs—submerged cultural and historical resources are protected by law. Souvenirs may not be taken! The

wreck of the *Winfield Scott* prompted the establishment of a navigation aid on West Anacapa Island. A 50-foot tower was built supporting an acetylene beacon. This was replaced in 1932 with the present lighthouse and facilities. Do not visit the lighthouse. Severe hearing damage may result. The original lighthouse lamp is on display in the Anacapa visitor center. The church-like structure houses the island's water supply because no permanent source of freshwater is available. Other structures housed the lighthouse personnel and, today, are converted into ranger residences and the visitor center. Evidence of the Coast Guard presence is found all over the island, from the trail system that was once the island road to roof tiles—evidence of erosion con-

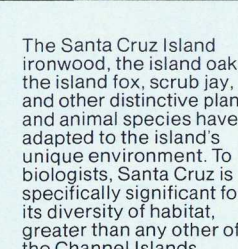
tainment efforts. Fishing requires a California fishing license (see Protecting the Marine Resources on the front side). Camping on Anacapa is restricted to the campground on East Anacapa. Reservations are required (no fee), and you must obtain a permit in advance from park headquarters. Camping information is available at the mainland visitor center. The ranger on East Anacapa provides information and emergency assistance. There is no telephone, but in an emergency the ranger can radio the mainland. Guided walks and evening programs are available.



## Santa Cruz Island



Santa Cruz Island



Scorpion anchorage

Largest and most diverse of the islands within the park, Santa Cruz Island is about 24 miles long. Its land area is about 96 square miles (62,000 acres). The central valley's north slope is a rugged ridge; the south slope is an older, more weathered ridge. At 2,400 feet, the highest of the Channel Islands mountains is found here. Santa Cruz Island's 77 mile varied coastline has steep cliffs, gigantic sea caves, and coves and sandy beaches.

The shoreline cliffs, beaches, offshore rocks, and tidepools provide important breeding habitat for colonies of nesting sea birds and divers plants and animals. The varied topography and ample freshwater support a remarkable array of flora and fauna—more than 600 plant species, 140 land bird species, and a small, distinctive group of other land animals. Of the 85 plant species endemic to the Channel Islands, nine occur only on Santa Cruz.

Chumash Indians inhabited Santa Cruz Island for more than 6,000 years. When Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived in 1542, as many as 2,000 Chumash Indians probably lived there. Ranching began on the island in 1839, with a Mexican land grant to Andres Castillero. Since then the entire island has been privately owned. In 1988 The Nature Conservancy acquired the western 90 percent of the island, managed as the

Santa Cruz Island Preserve.

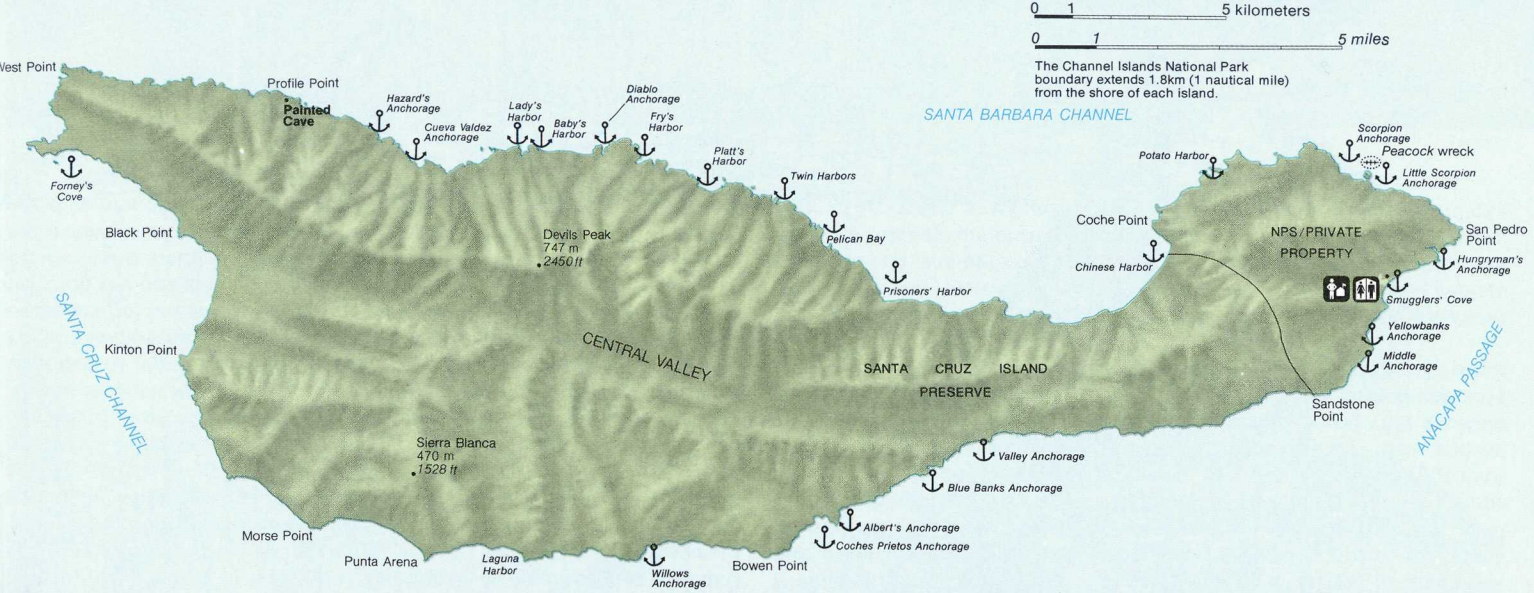
The National Park Service co-owns in common the eastern properties with private landowners.

You may not land on Santa Cruz without a permit, unless you are on a boat trip authorized by the landowner.

For a permit to land on the island west of the property line between Chinese Harbor and Sandstone Point, contact the Santa Cruz Island Preserve, P.O. Box 23259, Santa Barbara, CA 93121, or phone 805-962-9111. A fee is charged for this landing permit and restrictions listed on the application must be adhered to. The Nature Conservancy conducts day trips to the island for both organized groups and the

general public. For information contact The Nature Conservancy's Santa Cruz Island Project office, 213 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or call 805-962-9111. Free slide, lecture, and film programs are available on the mainland for interested groups. To arrange a program or a film loan, contact the project office.

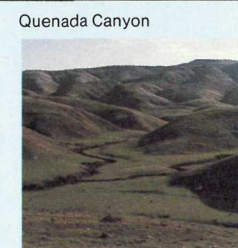
vide guided day and overnight boat trips for the public to Scorpion Valley. For information or reservations, call 805-642-1393.



## Santa Rosa Island



Santa Rosa Island



Quenada Canyon

The second largest island is Santa Rosa. Nearly 15 miles long and 4 miles wide, its 84 square miles (53,000 acres) exhibit remarkable contrasts. Cliffs on the northeastern shore rival those of Santa Cruz Island. High mountains with deeply cut canyons give way to gentle rolling hills and flat marine terraces. Vast grasslands blanket about 85 percent of the island, yet colonial volcanic formations, extensive fossil beds, and highly colored hill slopes

are visible. Rocky terraces on the west end provide superb habitat for wide-ranging organisms. Harbor seals haul out and breed on the island's sandy beaches. On the eastern tip of the island, a unique coastal marsh is among the most extensive freshwater habitats found on any of the Channel Islands. The entire island is surrounded by expanses of kelp beds. Consequently, its surrounding waters serve as an invaluable nursery for

the sea life that feeds larger marine mammals and the sea birds that breed along the coastal shores and offshore rocks of all the Channel Islands. Beneath Santa Rosa's non-native grasslands are the remains of a rich cultural heritage. More than 500 largely undisturbed archeological sites have been mapped. These include several associated with early human presence in North America. Chumash Indian villages and camps of early ex-

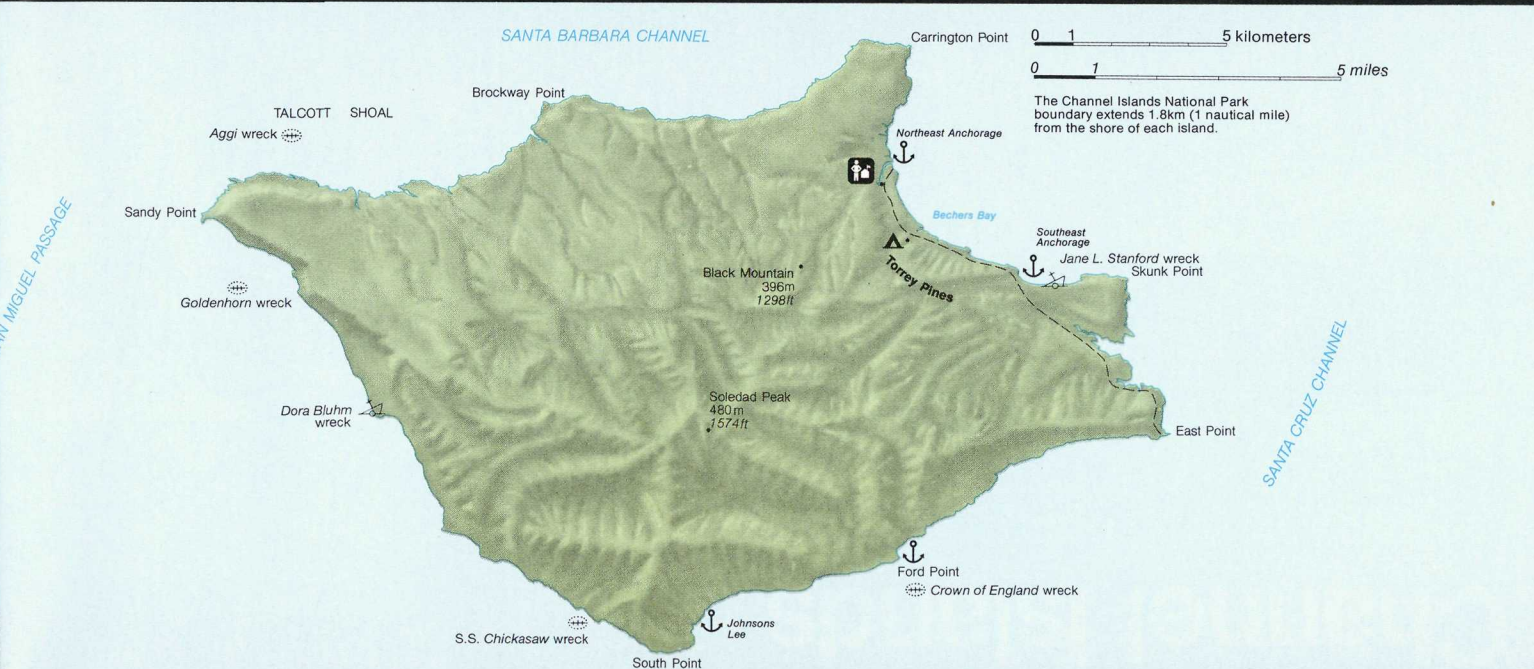
plorers and fur hunters are evident.

In the 1840s and 1850s, Santa Rosa was a cattle rancheria. After the cattle industry of old Spanish California collapsed in the 1860s, sheep were brought to Santa Rosa and soon became its economic mainstay. Sheep grazing continued into the early 1900s, but when the island was sold to Vail & Vickers Company in 1902, the sheep were removed and cattle reintroduced. Though the impacts of introduced grains, insects, sheep, pigs, deer, elk, and cattle were severe, examples of Santa Rosa's native plant communities survive. These tend to be restricted to rocky canyons and upper slopes. Native and endemic plants include the tree poppy, island manzanita, and an endemic

sage. Native Island Oaks grow on protected slopes, and two groves of Torreya pine are visible near Bechers Bay. More than 195 bird species are found on Santa Rosa. With its extensive grasslands, the island supports large populations of European starlings, horned-larks, meadow larks, house finches, and song sparrows. Shore birds and waterfowl favor the brackish habitat found on Santa Rosa's eastern tip. The marsh and the island's running streams and springs provide habitat for tree frogs and Pacific slender salamanders. Other terrestrial animals include the gopher snake, deer mouse, and two species of lizard. The island fox may be frequently seen. The endemic spotted skunk—found only on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands—is only

rarely observed. Among the islands extinct terrestrial mammals, the pygmy mammoth. In 1944 a nearly complete pygmy mammoth skeleton was excavated from an eroding sand dune.

The National Park Service acquired Santa Rosa Island in 1986. Commercial boat and air concessions provide transportation year-round for day and overnight trips. There is a primitive campground at Bechers Bay. For private boaters backcountry landing permits are required for travel beyond the beach or for overnight beach camping. For information contact the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center at 805-658-5730. For a free camping or landing permit call 805-658-5711.



## San Miguel Island



Cabrillo's monument

Channel Islands' best examples of caliche are found here. One of the most spectacular wildlife displays in the park is viewing the thousands of seals and sea lions that breed on its isolated shores. The Channel Islands' largest land mammal, the island fox, can be seen on San Miguel. The island's fragile treasures include more than 500 relatively undisturbed archeological sites, some dating back as far as 11,000 years. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, discoverer of California, is believed to have wintered on San Miguel in 1543. Although his grave has never been found, a monument overlooking Cuyler Harbor was erected in 1937 to commemorate his northern voyage of exploration.

In the 1850s Capt. George Nidever brought sheep, cattle, and horses to San Miguel. An adobe he built may be the earliest structure on any of the Channel Islands. Its remains are visible today. In 1930 Herbert and Elizabeth Lester became the island's caretakers. The family left the island in 1942 after the suicide of Herbert Lester, who had become known as the "King of San Miguel." From the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s the island was used as a bombing range. Staying on the trail is particularly important because live ordnance is still occasionally uncovered by shifting sands.

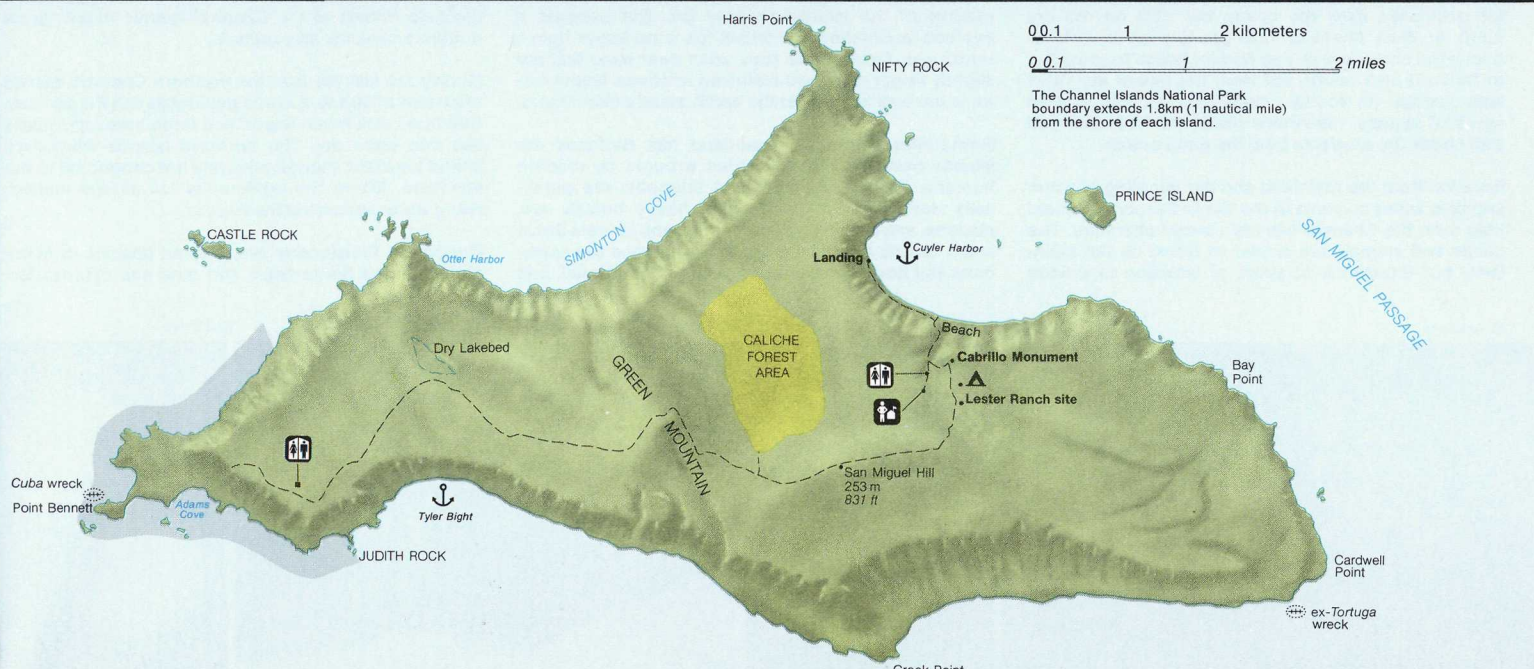
Hiking and camping permits must be obtained in advance. Contact park headquarters, 805-658-5730, for permits and information. Landing by boat is permitted only at Cuyler Harbor. Daytime use of the beach does not require a permit. You may walk up to the Cabrillo Monument and the Lester ranch site on your own. Landing elsewhere is prohibited. The primitive campsites on San Miguel must be reserved in advance at park headquarters; no fees. Stays are limited seven days and maximum of 30 campers. Camping dates are subject to the availability of the San Miguel Island ranger. Camping on San Miguel will test your ability to adapt to the island's sometimes harsh surroundings. Strong winds, rain, and fog are constants. Bring a strong tent, sleeping bag, and warm waterproof clothes. You will also need water,

stove, first aid kit, and toilet paper. A pit toilet is provided, and wind shelters are installed at each campsite. All garbage must be carried out when you leave.

For half-day visits to the island, the caliche forest is a popular destination. Once you hike from the beach to the island's top, it is about 3.5 miles from the ranger station to the caliche forest. Caliche is a mineral sandcasting. As with all park resources, it may not be collected. Take all the photographs you want. The island has been greatly altered by extensive sheep grazing, but you can still see an array of distinctive native plant species. Coreopsis and other flowering plants produce beautiful displays in the spring.

If you can spend more time on the island, try to make the 15-mile round-trip hike across the island to Point Bennett. With binoculars you may see thousands of seals and sea lions (pinnipeds) from an overlook about 1 mile from the beach. Depending on the time of year, you may see the California sea lion, northern elephant seal, and northern fur seal. Harbor seals frequent other island beaches. The Guadalupe fur seal and the Stellar sea lion are former island residents that are rarely seen today.

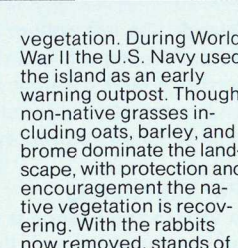
Seasoned hikers who make this long, cross-island trip to Point Bennett will never forget seeing some of the world's outstanding wildlife displays.



## Santa Barbara Island



Santa Barbara Island



Canyon View Nature Trail

Santa Barbara Island lies far south of the other park islands. Small, about one square mile (640 acres), and triangular, its steep cliffs rise to a marine terrace topped by two peaks. The highest point, Signal Peak, is 635 feet in elevation.

California sea lions and, in winter, elephant seals breed on the island. Bird watching is superb. Western gulls, xantus murrelets, and brown pelicans nest on the island plateaus and cliffs. Land

birds, including barn owls, American kestrels, horned larks, and meadow larks, also nest here. Although not commonly seen, the island deer mouse and the island night lizard, a threatened species, live on the island.

Santa Barbara Island offers 5.5 miles of trails to explore. A good place to start is the Canyon View self-guiding nature trail near the ranger station. Camping on Santa Barbara Island will test your ability to adapt to the island's sometimes harsh surroundings. Strong winds, rain, and fog are constants. Bring a strong tent, sleeping bag, and warm waterproof clothes. You will also need water,

stove, first aid kit, and toilet paper. A pit toilet is provided, and wind shelters are installed at each campsite. All garbage must be carried out when you leave.

Camping is allowed only in the campground. Reservations are required (no fee) and you must obtain a permit in advance from park headquarters. Tables and pit toilets are available. Campers must use the island's cook stoves, shelter, and water. Bring a tent that can be securely anchored against heavy winds and rain.

There are no shade trees on the island; bring a hat and sunscreen. A pack-in, pack-out trash policy is in effect. Please take back with you whatever you brought onto the island.

