

Point Reyes

NATIONAL SEASHORE • CALIFORNIA

You are invited to enjoy an area of tremendous potential for recreation in a natural environment. Only an hour's drive from the Golden Gate, Point Reyes National Seashore is large enough to be one of the bay region's major recreation areas. It also protects treasures of scenery and nature for the enjoyment of those who will walk the trails and beaches.

WHAT TO DO AND SEE

Much of the land within Point Reyes National Seashore is still privately owned. *Rights of property owners must be respected.* On those lands best suited to water and beach recreation, progress is being made on developments to accommodate ever-increasing numbers of visitors. Time and also the acquisition of the necessary acreage are required to complete these developments. But, you can enjoy the limited facilities now open.

All beaches accessible by the trail system or by public roads are open to visitors. Public roads within the seashore are Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (access road to Point Reyes Beach and Drakes Beach), Pierce Point Road (north to Tomales Bay State Park and McClures Beach), and Bear Valley Road (leading to seashore headquarters and the trail system).

Inland activities. Bear Valley Trailhead is a gateway to more than 50 miles of trails. The main Bear Valley Trail is the most popular route, winding through grassy meadows and forests to the sea over a distance of 4.4 miles. Other trails branch off from it, ascending steeply into the high country of the Inverness Ridge. Three hike-in camps—Ski Camp, Coast Camp, and Glen Camp, with 12 sites each—are located in strategic places on the trail system. To use them you must register at headquarters and obtain a fire permit. *No fires are permitted outside of designated fireplaces.* Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Bicycles are suitable on the Bear Valley and Coast Trails. Horses are permitted on all trails, except the main Bear Valley Trail on weekends and holidays.

Please stay on the designated trails—wandering off trails may result in your losing your way or being exposed to poison oak, which is very common here.

Shore activities. Picnicking and surf fishing can be enjoyed on all beaches. (A California fishing license is required.) Carry a canteen—stream water is not potable.

Drakes Beach and Tomales Bay State Park have lifeguards on duty in summer only.

Caution! Point Reyes Beach is pounded by a surf which is too dangerous for water activities.

Sightseeing. To obtain detailed information, visit headquarters, 1 mile west of Olema on the

Bear Valley Road. There you can take a self-guided nature trail, watch a seismograph in action, and see evidence of the famous San Andreas Fault. From headquarters, you can drive along the west shore of Tomales Bay through the town of Inverness and over the Inverness Ridge. Here, the road branches north to Tomales Bay State Park and McClures Beach, and west to Drakes Beach and entrances to Point Reyes Beach. The Park Service maintains a ranger station and visitor center at Drakes Beach. You can also drive to the road's end on Point Reyes. The Point Reyes Lighthouse is no longer open to the public. Tidepools may be seen at McClures Beach.

Interpretive services. The story of Point Reyes is told at information stations, and by publications and interpretive programs. Tours, beach walks, and nature hikes and talks are offered in summer by the uniformed staff to add to your understanding of the history and natural history of this national seashore. Schedules can be picked up at any contact station.

WEATHER AND SEASONS

The ocean strongly influences the weather of Point Reyes. Its ocean beaches are frequently foggy and windy enough to make warm clothing welcome. Throughout the summer these beaches experience more days of fog than sunshine, but spring and autumn can be mild and pleasant. The country east of Inverness Ridge, accessible by hiking trails, is free of summer fog, but it has heavy rains in winter and spring.

The spring flower season lasts from February to late July, reflecting the mild temperatures and the considerable moisture from fogs and winter storms.

NATURAL HISTORY

The peninsula's many habitats range from heavy forest to exposed coast. They provide living space for more than 300 species of birds, 72 species of mammals (and many other land and marine animals), and for a great variety of plants. Geologically, Point Reyes is an island separated from the mainland by the San Andreas Fault. During the 1906 earthquake, the peninsula moved northward along this fault. In places, between 15 to 20 feet of offset were recorded. As a result, the rocks of the peninsula which lie to the west of the fault are completely different in type and age from the rocks of the mainland to the east.

HISTORY

Shipwrecks, explorers, and even bootleggers enliven the history of Point Reyes. Sir Francis Drake is believed to have landed on this coast in 1579, and in 1596 the explorer, Cermeno, went aground here. Traders, whalers, fur hunters, and ranchers followed the early explorers.



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1968-347-046/7

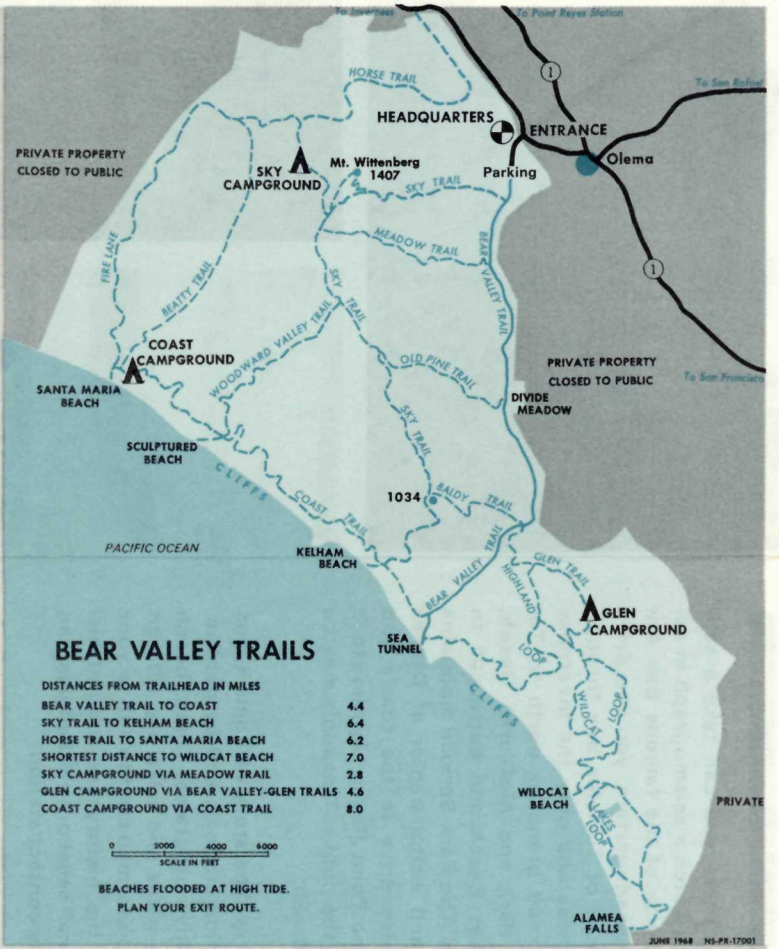
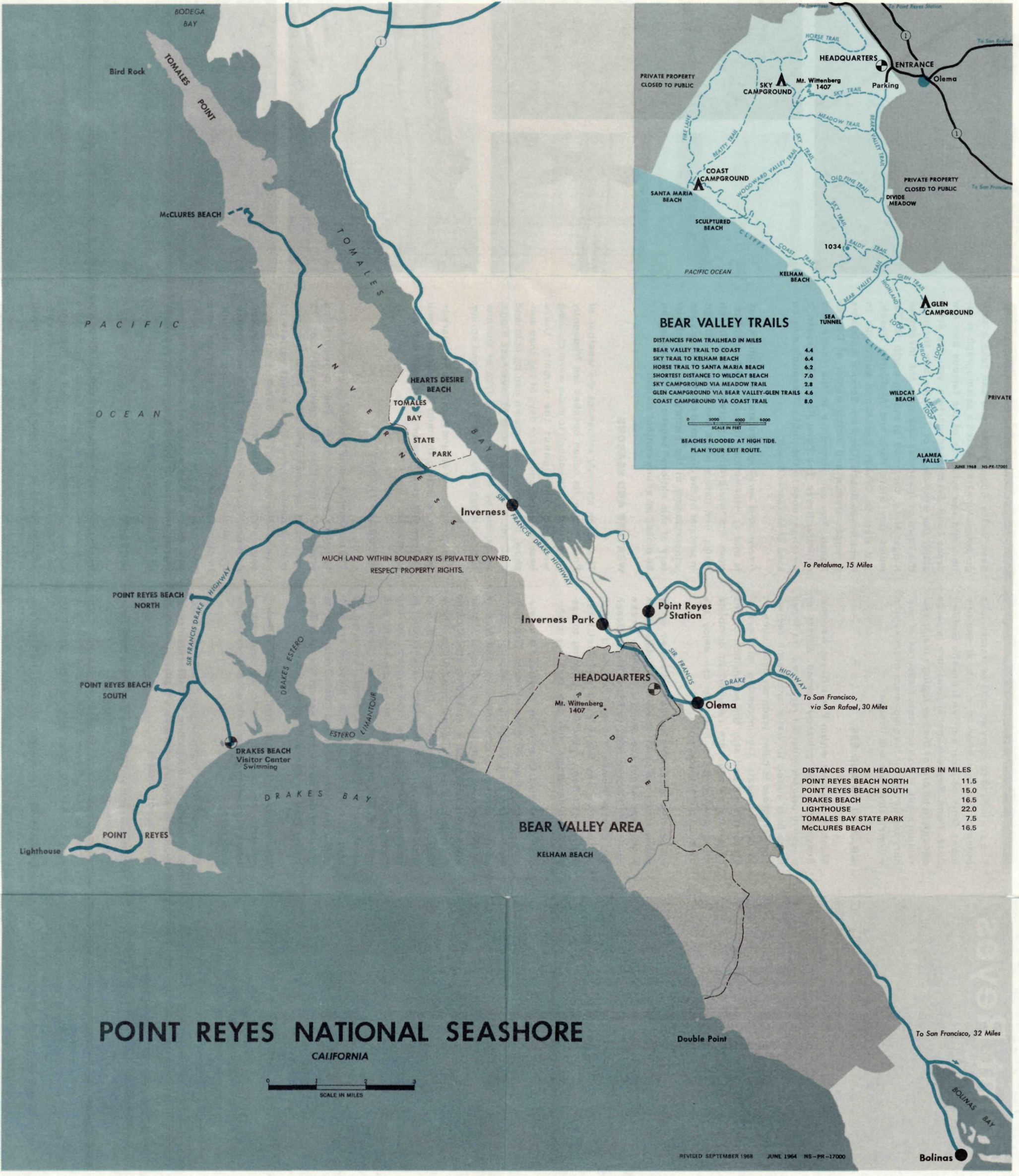
ADMINISTRATION

Point Reyes National Seashore is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Point Reyes, Calif. 94956, is in immediate charge.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service





DISTANCES FROM HEADQUARTERS IN MILES

POINT REYES BEACH NORTH	11.5
POINT REYES BEACH SOUTH	15.0
DRAKES BEACH	16.5
LIGHTHOUSE	22.0
TOMALES BAY STATE PARK	7.5
McCLURES BEACH	16.5

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