

Monterey Bay Trekkers

A Cub Scout Hiking Adventure



Overview of the Trekkers Hiking Program

Purpose

The Monterey Bay Trekkers hiking program is an opportunity for Cub Scouts and their families to explore local hiking trails and parks in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. Through the Trekkers program, Cub Scouts and their families will also learn why health and fitness are important for a long-lasting and productive life.

How Do I Earn My Patches?

- (1) Before you go on any hike, your TOUR Leader must file a Tour Permit with the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council. Online Tour Permits can be accessed by logging on to your [MyScouting Profile](#). If you cannot access the Online Tour Permit, submit the paper Tour Permit Application at the end of this book.
- (2) Go Hiking! Choose any of the listed hikes and complete it with your Den or Pack.
- (3) Complete the patch order form (page 17) for all Scouts, Leaders, parents, siblings, and others who joined you on your hike.
- (4) Send the completed patch order form to the Council.

Why is Health and Fitness Important for Cub Scouts?

One of the three aims of Scouting is the development in physical, mental, and emotional fitness. As a Cub Scout, it is important to keep our body in good shape and ready to explore life's adventures!

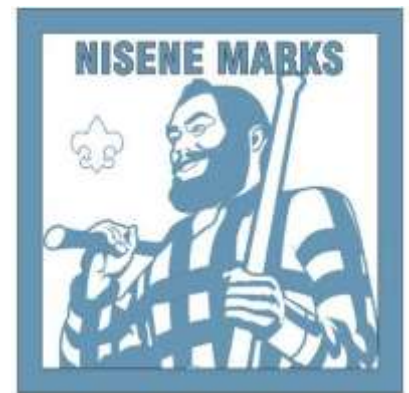
Being continually committed to keeping and minds and bodies fit is essential for a Cub Scout to thrive.

What are Cub Scouting's 12 Core Values and how do they relate to the Monterey Bay Trekkers?

Cub Scouting's 12 Core Values are Citizenship, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Faith, Health and Fitness, Perseverance, Positive, Attitude, Resourcefulness, Respect, and Responsibility. We hope that leaders and parents can use these values as a guide when they take boys on the hikes to consider the larger world around them and use these opportunities with the boys to instill these character values. Character can be defined as the collection of core values by an individual that leads to moral commitment and action. Character development should challenge Cub Scouts to experience core values in six general areas: God, world, country, community, family, and self. Character is "values in action."

Nisene Marks

The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park



This hike will take you through a beautiful redwood forest, an old logging mill, and near the epicenter of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Hike Statistics

Distance: 2-4 miles round trip

Time: Allow 2-3 hours

Grade: Mostly flat, a few small inclines

Suggested Age: Tigers through Webelos

Hike Description

Park at George's Picnic Area and begin the hike on the dirt road leading through the park, heading north. Immediately as you begin your hike you will cross over the Aptos Creek. Continue north on the dirt road past the Mary Easton Picnic Area and the Porter Family Picnic Area.

As you are hiking, be on the look out for the local inhabitant *Ariolimax columbianus*, the Banana Slug, and *Hygrocybe miniata*, a small red and yellow mushroom.

Slightly past the Porter Family Picnic Area you will find a trailhead for the Loma Prieta Grade Trail on your left, follow the Loma Prieta Grade Trail. Hiking along the Loma Prieta Grade Trail you will cross a tributary on a bridge built by the Youth Conservation Corps in the early 1990's.

As you continue along the Loma Prieta Grade trail be on the lookout for old railroad ties and other historical artifacts left over from the Loma Prieta Logging Company.

Stop and read the interpretive sign detailing the history of the Porter House. At the sign, continue on the trail directly to your right for approximately 20 yards until you see the small 'Porter House Site' sign. Look around the site for old bricks and other historical artifacts; however, do not remove anything from its location or from the park!

Continue on the trail that goes down the hill, directly in front of the sign; this is the Mill Pond Trail.

While on the Mill Pond Trail you will cross the Aptos Creek by bridge. When you reach the dirt road, make a right and continue along the road. Not far from here you will find the Loma Prieta Mill Site.

Enjoy the interpretive sign and the old foundation and archaeology of the mill site before you return back to your vehicle.

Alternate Routes

Longer or shorter loops can easily be made - consult the park map. The minimum requirement for this patch is to hike the loop between Porter House Site and Loma Prieta Mill Site.

Historical and Natural Features

(adapted from the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks)

A Dramatic History

The peaceful redwood groves of the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park conceal a history of cataclysmic forces that shaped and re-shaped the landscape. Names such as Big Slide, the Epicenter, the Mill Site, and Big Stump Gulch offer a hint of the floods, earthquakes, wildfires and logging that influenced the park's history.

The Ohlone Indians ventured into the Aptos Canyon to gather autumn acorns, but chose to live on the sunny, open terrace along the

coast. The steep, heavily forested canyons also offered little to the early Spanish and Mexican residents who sought the grassy coastal terrace for their livestock.

A Logging Haven

Loggers began to work in the lower Aptos Canyon in the 1850s, cutting some of the smaller redwoods for shakes and lumber, but the large stands of redwoods in the upper canyons remained beyond their technological and financial reach until the early 1880s. In 1883, backed by the huge financial and technical resources of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, the Loma Prieta Lumber Company unlocked the treasure trove of redwoods growing in the upper Aptos Canyon. Chinese railroad workers carved huge cuts and fills up the canyon, and by 1884 a standard gauge railroad was chugging along grades and across trestles high above Aptos Creek. A huge mill was built three miles above Aptos and a town beside it grew to a population of over 400 men and their families. For the next forty years, a succession of logging operations took out over 140,000,000 board feet of redwood.

Forest Recovery

By the mid-1920s, the loggers were finished, and most of the buildings and railroad lines were dismantled. The Loma Prieta Lumber Company offered the property for sale, but it was too rugged even for the most optimistic developers. Over the next thirty years the stumps resprouted and a second-growth forest helped heal the jagged scars left by the loggers.

Eventually, the rugged property caught the attention of a Salinas Valley farming family that included Nisene Marks and her adult children. Between 1951 and 1954 the Marks family purchased not only the holdings of the Loma Prieta Lumber Company but also a number of adjacent parcels until they owned approximately 9000 acres. Following the death of Nisene Marks in 1955, her children decided to establish a state park as a living memorial. The result was the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, founded in 1963.

Since 1963, more than 1000 acres have been added to the park through the efforts of the Save the Redwoods League, the Sempervirens Fund and direct gifts. Though the forest no longer echoes with the sound of loggers and their equipment, it continues to be sculpted by natural forces such as the huge floods of January 1982. The epicenter of the October 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake was in the Aptos Canyon, and crevices and landslides are still visible on the canyon walls.

Even today the steep canyons continue to protect the forest, surrendering their secrets to only the most persistent hikers and cyclists.

Vegetation

The Coastal Redwood, *sequoia semperviren*, has inspired awe since first described to the world outside of the native Ohlone Indians. Most of Nisene Marks is covered with second growth redwood forest. Adhering to their name (ever-living), the majority of these trees sprouted from the stumps of first growth redwoods that were cut down. The park is also home to a variety of other trees such as madrone, tan oak, live oak, and Douglas fir. Mossy carpets, ferns and sorrel also flourish in this environment.

The riparian zones consist of creek canyons, waterfalls, fern covered cliffs, and mossy rocks. A deep clear pool features juvenile steelhead trout preparing for their migration down Aptos creek to the ocean. You will also see alders willows and big leaf maples.

Wildlife

Due to the vast and rugged landscape, people seldom visit much of the 10,000 acres in the Forest of Nisene Marks. The most commonly seen animals are the stellar jay, banana slug, acorn woodpecker and brown towhee. The observant wanderer may see newts crossing the trail in the winter and garter snakes basking in the spring and summer. Mule deer, various hawks and owls, California quail and gray squirrels can also be observed while trekking through the park. Coyotes, bobcats and mountain lions are always present, but seldom seen. These animals are vital in the food web that allows for a healthy ecosystem. They are typically shy of human contact and do not pose a threat.

Administration

California State Parks; The Forest of Nisene Marks SP

Telephone (831) 763-7062

Operating Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Address: Aptos Creek Road, Soquel Drive Aptos, CA

Parking Fees: Yes

Website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=666

Suggested Season:

Fall, Spring, and Summer (plenty of large group sites for picnics!)

Wilder Ranch

Wilder Ranch State Historic Park



This hike takes you by the coast to sea many types of animals and also shows historic ranching operations.

Hike Statistics

Distance: 3.5 miles round trip

Time: Allow 1-2 hours

Grade: Mostly flat

Suggested Age: Tigers through Webelos

Hike Description

The path, Old Cove Landing Trail, an old ranch road, heads coastward. Signs warn you not to head left to Wilder Beach (where the snowy plovers dwell) and discourage you from heading right, where pesticides are used on the fields of Brussels sprouts.

The trail offers a bird's-eye view of the surf surging into a sea cave, then turns north and follows the cliff edge.

Old Landing Cove is smaller than you imagine, and you wonder how the coastal schooners of old managed to maneuver into such small confines. If it's low tide, you might see harbor seals resting atop the flat rocks located offshore.

Continue on the trail and along the bluffs. Be VERY CAREFUL, as there are many sheer bluffs with no fencing; small children should be monitored. As you continue along the trail you will see trail marker #8, this indicates you are close to the fern-filled sea cave.

There is a small foot path down to the fern-filled sea cave; the ferns are watered by an underground spring. The small beach at the cave is a great turnaround point or a great picnic spot.

Alternate Routes

For ambitious hikes (Webelos), consider hiking on to make this a 10.5 mile trip: Ambitious hikers will continue north another 3.5 miles along land's end, following footpaths and ranch roads past Strawberry Beach, and Three Mile Beach, retreating inland now and then to bypass deep gullies, and finally arriving at the park's north boundary at Four Mile Beach. A splendid coastal hike!

Historical and Natural Features

Rancho del Matadero

The Brussels sprouts fields are in an agricultural preserve, the former Wilder Ranch is in a cultural preserve, and Wilder Beach is now a natural preserve for the benefit of nesting snowy plovers. All these preserves are found within Wilder Ranch State Historic Park, which in turn preserves some 4,000 acres of beach, bluffs, and inland canyons.

Rancho del Matadero was started here by Mission Santa Cruz in 1791. The Wilder family operated what was by all accounts a very successful and innovative dairy for nearly 100 years. The California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the land in 1974.

The Wilder's ranch buildings, barn, gardens and Victorian house still stand, and are open to public tours. The parks department is slowly restoring the area to reflect its historic use as a dairy.

Wilder Ranch Restoration Plan

Wilder Ranch State Park includes coastal habitat and recreational area with some in agriculture, some cattle grazing and a culture preserve. Approximately 110 acres were identified to be restored to historic habitat conditions and native vegetation. The area had great potential as a model for the restoration of coastal wetlands. It included Wilder Beach, saltmarsh, grassland, and riparian habitats, as well as three agricultural fields. From 1992 to 1994, the Benthic Lab group researched historical land use, and past and present physical and biological conditions of the Wilder Ranch restoration area. They proposed and designed restoration alternatives. The information was presented as a plan which the California Department of Parks and Recreation used to develop and implement the restoration of the park.

The restoration has been extremely successful. Since 1994, the agricultural fields have been returned to wetland and riparian habitats with their native tree, shrub and plant species. Wetland birds, and hawks nest in habitat that formerly was farmland. Red-legged frogs and other wetland animals have moved into the area. The riparian corridor along Wilder Creek has been widened to about 100 feet. Dogwood, alder, cottonwood and willows planted in 1994 have grown at a good rate, with some trees already over twenty feet tall. The adjacent upland restoration also has been successful. With continued monitoring to eradicate pest plant species such as hemlock and thistle, Wilder Ranch will become one of the showcase coastal wetland restoration sites.

Driving Directions:

From Santa Cruz, head north on Coast Highway four miles to the signed turnoff for Wilder Ranch State Park on the ocean side of the highway. Follow the park road to its end at the large parking lot, where the signed trail begins.

Administration

California State Parks: Wilder Ranch State Historic Park

Telephone (831) 423-9703

Operating Hours: 8 am to Sunset

Parking Fees: Yes

Location: The park is north of Santa Cruz, immediately west of Highway One, just a mile or so past the Western Drive stoplight.

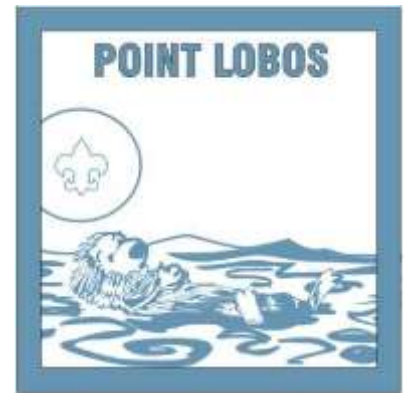
Website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=25126

Other Activities

Call (831) 426-0505 (the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center) for information regarding tours and interpretive activities.

Point Lobos

Point Lobos State Reserve



Described as “The Greatest Meeting of Land and Water in the World”, this hike highlights the cultural and natural history of Point Lobos.

Hike Statistics

Distance: 4.4 miles round trip

Time: Allow 3-4 hours

Grade: Expect about 200 feet in elevation change

Suggested Age: Tigers through Webelos

Hike Description

Start at the Sea Lion Point Parking Area. Head North on the Cypress Grove Trail. The Cypress Grove Trail loops around the Allen Memorial Grove and offers beautiful vistas of the Cypress Cove, Pinnacle Cove, and South Point. This loop is .8 miles.

As you finish the loop, go left at the trailhead for the North Shore Trail. Continue for a short distance until you reach the Whaler's Knoll Trail trailhead. Turn right at the trailhead and go up to the top of the Whaler's Knoll - don't worry it's only 180 feet of elevation gain. From there you will see beautiful vistas of the Carmel Bay.

Continue down the Whaler's Knoll trail and bear left back towards the North Shore Trail.

Follow the North Shore Trail until you reach Whaler's Cove. Whaler's Cove is a great place to rest and take a break. There is also a cultural history museum with docents who will tell you about the whaling that used to occur here. Be on the look out for the giant whale bones in front of the Whaler's Cabin.

When you are done at Whaler's Cove, turn around and head back along the North Shore Trail to the Sea Lion Point Parking Area. Be sure to stop and enjoy the vistas of Bluefish Cove and Guillemot Island and take time to enjoy Big Dome.

Historical and Natural Features

Marine Animals

Sea Lions

The barking California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) is the most conspicuous of the marine mammals found at Point Lobos. It is also the animal that gave Point Lobos its name. The Spanish named Point Lobos Punta de los Lobos Marinos which means the "point of the sea wolves". Point Lobos is the home of hundreds of sea lions from August to June.

Harbor Seals

The harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) is a true seal which has concealed internal ears and short flippers. The shorelines and rocks of Moss Cove, Whalers Cove, Blue Fish Cove, Headland Cove, and Bird Island are areas where this spotted harbor seal can be found hauled out and resting. Harbor seal fur varies in color from light gray to nearly black. Males and females reach weights of 250 pounds and lengths of 6 feet.

Southern Sea Otters

The most recently evolved marine mammal is the sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*). A member of the weasel family, it is related to river otters, badgers, weasels, and skunks. Sea otters can be observed in Monterey Bay and in the kelp beds of Point Lobos. Prior to their being hunted for the fur trade, they numbered between 10,000 and 16,000 off the California coast, and along with the northern sea otter, in the hundreds of thousands throughout a range from northern Japan to the Baja California coast. Hunting between 1741 and 1911 was so intense that sea otters were finally thought to be extinct in California. However, a remnant population of about 50 otters survived off the Big Sur coast in the early 1930's. With full protection by state and federal laws the population began to recover and expand north and south along the coast. The 1993 census counted about 2,100 southern sea otters in a range extending from Point Conception to Pillar Point.

Rock Types

Sand and pebble beach deposits, land slide debris

Recent: ten thousand years ago to today.

Beach sand is composed of white quartz weathered from the Santa Lucia Granodiorite. Volcanic pebble and cobble beach deposits originated from conglomerates of the Carmelo formation. Landslide debris formed from marine terrace sediments, Carmelo formation, and granodiorite.

Carmelo Formation

Paleocene: 60,000,000 years old.

The Carmelo formation is composed of thousands of layers of conglomerate, sand stone, and mudstone which the turbidity currents have deposited. The mudstone was deposited as marine mud. Most pebbles in the conglomerate are of volcanic origin. Conglomerate and sandstone are shades of brown, with concentrations of reddish brown iron oxide common in the sandstone. Mudstone is gray. Fossils in sandstone and mudstone include mollusks, worm burrows, and mysterious seaweed-like crustacean impressions. The strata are folded in some locations. The Carmelo formation was deposited in a submarine canyon cut into granodiorite. Blocks of collapsed canyon walls are found within the Carmelo formation.

Santa Lucia Granodiorite

Cretaceous: 100,000,000 years old.

This formation is often simply referred to as the granodiorite. It is composed of mineral grains of quartz, orthoclase feldspar, plagioclase feldspar, amphibole, and biotite mica. Phenocrysts, large one- to three-inch crystals of orthoclase, often aligned, are common. Overall, the granodiorite appears as a light-colored, speckled rock. Quartz dikes, vein-filled cracks, crisscross the rock. Joints and severe fracturing are common. Highly resistant to erosion, the granodiorite is responsible for the rugged coastline. This formation is the basement rock which underlies all of Point Lobos.

Driving Directions:

On the central coast of California in Monterey County. The entrance is located three miles south of Carmel on Highway 1.

Administration

California State Parks: Point Lobos State Reserve

Telephone (831) 624-4909

Operating Hours: 8 am to ½ hour after Sunset

Parking Fees: Yes

Website: <http://pt-lobos.parks.state.ca.us/>

Email: pointlobos@parks.ca.gov

Garland Ranch

Garland Ranch Regional Park



This hike will take you to a mesa with a large meadow and pond, and you'll see amazing wildlife, there's a waterfall along the way too!

Hike Statistics

Distance: 4 miles round trip

Time: Allow 3-4 hours

Grade: Some steep incline, up to a 20% grade

Suggested Age: Webeles

Hike Description

From the Visitors Center, follow the eastward Lupine Loop path that runs alongside the river towards the Waterfall Trail. At the trailhead for the Waterfall Trail, go uphill – do not go closer to the river, it quickly becomes private property. This trail will lead to a beautiful waterfall. In dry conditions the waterfall will not run.

Continue hiking east past the waterfall - you will climb up steep stairs and a high-grade trail. A steep climb through verdant ferns leads up to Mesa Trail. Follow, and bear left onto Garzas Canyon Trail. Continue along the Garzas Canyon Trail until you reach the pond and meadow.

This is a great place to stop and eat lunch. There is also a tap with potable water here, make sure you drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

Once you are done enjoying the pond and meadow, head west on the Mesa Trail, the original way you came.

Continue along the Mesa Trail until you reach the Fern Trail. The Fern Trail will take you down to the Lupine Loop. From the Lupine Loop, head back to the Visitor's Center.

General Information

Garland Ranch was the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's first acquisition, dedicated in December 1975. It has expanded from 541 acres to 3,464 acres through gift and purchase additions. The park is home to a variety of landscapes from 200 to 2030 feet, with over 50 miles of trails making it a favorite among hikers, joggers, and equestrians. The topography includes riparian willows, cottonwood and sycamores on the floodplain, redwood and maple canyons, oak woodlands, dense chaparral, and spectacular vistas of the Los Padres Forest and the Pacific Ocean.

Throughout the park there are reminders of Carmel Valley's past: Rumsen Indian sites, farming and logging remains, livestock trail, ponds and springs. Species lists of common plants and animals, books, displays, along with a list of docent-led hikes and current events, are all available at the Visitors Center.

Day use activities include hiking, horseback riding, photography, painting, and solitude. Bicyclists are permitted on the 144-acre Cooper Ranch addition. Volunteer docents conduct regularly scheduled hikes and classroom environmental education programs.

Driving Directions

Head south on Highway 1 from Monterey. Turn left at Carmel Valley Road. Continue on Carmel Valley Road for approximately 8.4 miles. Garland Ranch Regional Park will be on the left.

Administration

Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District - Garland Ranch Regional Park

Telephone (831)372-3196

Operating Hours: Sunrise to half hour after Sunset

Parking Fees: No

Website: <http://www.mprpd.org/parks/garland.htm>

Email: info@mprpd.org

Pinnacles

Pinnacles National Monument



This hike will take you to the Bear Gulch Cave, the home to a colony of Townsend big-eared bats.

Hike Statistics

Distance: 2.4 miles round trip

Time: Allow 1-2 hours

Grade: Mostly flat

Suggested Age: Tigers-Webelos

Hike Description

Start your hike from the Bear Gulch Day Use Area (this is only accessible from Highway 146 through Hollister). From the Day Use Area, head southwest on the Bear Gulch Trail for .5 miles.

Bear left at the trailhead for Moses Spring Trail. Continue on the Moses Spring Trail. On the Moses Spring Trail you will encounter the Bear Gulch Cave. The cave is open seasonally, please consult the [Bear Gulch Cave Status website](#) for more information.

Continue through or along the caves past the Monolith, an area frequented by rock climbers.

Turn right and continue along the Rim Trail for .4 miles. When you reach the High Peaks Trail, turn right and continue for .3 miles towards the Bear Gulch Trail. Turn left at the Bear Gulch Trail and return to the starting point.

Additional Trail

A great additional hike for Webelos is a hike from the Bear Gulch Day Use Area up the Condor Gulch Trail to the Overlook; a magnificent spot for looking at the Pinnacles High Peaks. This hike is an additional 2 miles and 1-2 hours.

Information About the Seasonal Opening of the Bear Gulch Cave

The Bear Gulch Cave provides a home to a colony of Townsend's big-eared bats as they hibernate in winter and raise their young in summer. Townsend's big-eared bats are listed as a "sensitive species" by the state of California, and the National Park Service is required to protect them. The colony in the Bear Gulch Cave is the largest maternity colony between San Francisco and Mexico.

The lower half of the Bear Gulch Cave is usually open from mid-July through mid-May each year, depending on the presence of the colony of bats. The entire cave is closed from mid-May to mid-July while the bats are raising their young.

A new gate has been constructed that will allow approximately half of the cave open to the public through the winter while still protecting the hibernating colony of Townsend's big-eared bats. A new trail leaves the middle of the cave and connects with the Moses Spring Trail, which leads to the reservoir.

As long as the hibernating colony of bats shows no signs of disturbance, we plan to keep over half of the Bear Gulch Cave open for almost ten months each year, from mid-July through mid-May. During especially warm springs, however, it's possible that the entire cave will be closed before mid-May if the maternity colony is present.

The entire cave will continue to be closed through late spring and early summer for pupping season, from mid-May through Mid-July. The entire Bear Gulch Cave will also be open twice a year for at least one week and up to four weeks each March and October, depending on the presence of the colony of bats.

Schedule of the Seasonal Opening of the Bear Gulch Cave

These dates may change if the colony of bats changes its breeding patterns or shows signs of disturbance.

March	The lower half of the cave may be open for the full month. The entire cave is open for at least a week, usually the last week of the month. The entire cave may also open earlier, depending on the presence of the colony of bats.
April 1 - mid-May	The lower half of the cave may be open.
Mid-May - mid-July	The entire cave will be closed to protect the colony of bats as they raise their young.
Mid-July - September 31	The lower half of the cave may be open.
October	The entire cave is open for at least a week, usually the last week of the month. The entire cave may also open earlier, depending on the presence of the colony of bats.
Nov. 1 - end of Feb.	The lower half of the cave may be open.

Driving Directions

From Hollister, head south on Highway 25. Make a slight right on Highway 146 towards the Pinnacles National Monument. Continue until you reach the Bear Gulch Day Use Area.

Administration

National Park Service – Pinnacles National Monument

Telephone (831) 389-4485

Operating Hours: 24 Hours a Day

Parking Fees: Yes

Website: <http://www.nps.gov/pinn/>

Fremont Peak

Fremont Peak State Park



This hike will take you to the top of Fremont Peak, where you can see the Pacific Ocean, down the Salinas Valley, and beyond!

Hike Statistics

Distance: 1 mile

Time: Allow 1 hour

Grade: Some incline, still recommended for all

Suggested Age: Tigers-Webelos

Hike Description

Although this is a relatively short hike, it is rich in sights for you and your Cubs! You'll see both a road and a trail beginning from the parking lot.

Walk up the road for a short distance then join the signed Peak Trail, a footpath that contours around the mountain. Enjoy the view of Monterey Bay, as the path climbs to a saddle and meets a short summit trail that ascends to rocky Fremont Peak.

After taking in the view, return via the road, which passes by a communications facility before returning you back to the trailhead.

To extend your hike, if you like, follow the half mile trail, signed with a hiker's symbol, that does not go to the peak but instead, dips into then climbs out of a ravine, before switchbacking up to the park's observatory. This hike begins at the parking lot.

Background Information

The view is about the only reason folks stop and hike Fremont Peak – and it's a great reason, too.

At 3,169 feet Fremont Peak, hikers can see the amazing landscape of San Benito Valley, Monterey Bay and the rugged Santa Lucia Mountains back of Big Sur. As with so many places in the Monterey/Santa Cruz region, the park also offers two more views: one looks back into history at Captain John Charles Frémont and the excitement of California's struggle for statehood.

Another view from the park is into the heavens. Fremont Peak Observatory houses a 30-inch reflecting telescope, one of the largest telescopes available for public use. Call the park for information about astronomy programs held during the spring, summer, and early fall viewing seasons.

In March of 1846, Captain Frémont and his men were camped near Monterey, then the capital of the Mexican province of Alta California. Mexican military leaders demanded that the Americans leave the territory. Frémont not only refused, but planted the American flag atop the tallest peak in the area and built a small fort nearby.

A war of nerves ensued before Frémont and his men finally broke camp. The incident reflects the kind of tension and jockeying for position between the rebellious Americans and the Mexican government in the years prior to the Bear Flag Revolt and California's entry into the Union.

Frémont ultimately returned to California as military governor for a short time. His colorful career included a short stint

as a U.S. Senator from California, a run for the presidency in 1856 as the first presidential nominee of the infant Republican party, and service as a general in the Civil War.

Before Frémont's name was attached to the mountain, it was known as Gabilan Peak from the Spanish word for hawk. The state parks department acquired the peak in 1936.

Fremont Peak's northern slope is cloaked with manzanita, toyon and scrub oak, while the exposed southern slope is covered with knee-high grassland that is bright green and dotted with wildflowers in spring, golden brown in summer. Soaring above the tops of Coulter pine and madrone on the upper ridges are eagles, hawks and turkey vultures. More than a hundred birds have been sighted in the park.

In light of Frémont's talent as a wide-ranging explorer, trailblazer, naturalist and mapmaker (he was captain of the U.S. Topographic Engineers) the trail to the peak is all too bare. Nevertheless, the aforementioned grand view is reason enough for a walk in this off-the-beaten-path park. (Another good reason is the chance for motorists to stretch their legs while en route via Highway 101 from Los Angeles to San Francisco.) For a nice day, combine this short hike with a walking tour of San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, which features adobes, the original town plaza, Mission San Juan Bautista and the old Plaza Hotel, a stage stop.

(adapted from *Fremont Peak Trail*, California State Parks)

Driving Directions

From San Juan Bautista, take San Juan Canyon Road/The Alameda north, towards Fremont Peak State Park. Turn left at the road toward Fremont State Park (about 7 miles along San Juan Canyon Road). Continue until you reach the parking lot.

Administration

California State Parks – Fremont Peak State Park

Telephone 831-623-4255

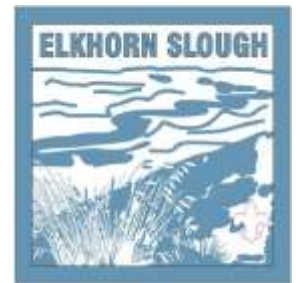
Operating Hours: Due to state budget cuts, days and hours vary – check their website

Parking Fees: Yes

Website: www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=564

Elkhorn Slough

Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve



This hike will take you through the Slough to view an immense amount of wildlife. Bring your binoculars!

Hike Statistics

Distance: 3.5 miles

Time: Allow 1.5 – 2.5 hours

Grade: Mostly flat

Suggested Age: Tigers-Webelos

Hike Description

Begin this hike at the Visitor Center (be sure to build time into your schedule to visit this extensive center – great for all ages!). This hike follows the South Marsh Loop trail. Follow the asphalt path until you reach the Dairy Barn.

At the Dairy Barn, bear right on the trail towards the Cattail Swale. Be sure to look for the interpretive Native American work along the trail!

Continue along the trail through the Rookery, which may or may not be active during your visit. As you continue this mostly flat hike, you'll have the opportunity to turn right towards the North Marsh Overlook or continue straight to Whistlestop Lagoon or Hummingbird Island (although these are not required for the patch, they are good hiking opportunities for Webelos Scouts).

Past the Rookery, you will turn left and continue along the trail through the South Marsh. Slow and quiet your Scouts as you approach the bridge, as many crabs and other creatures like to congregate in the area. Take your time across the bridge and look for the critters!

Slightly past the bridge is a trail to a boardwalk overlooking the South Marsh, walk along the boardwalk and look for evidence of the birds' meals.

Continue along the trail back towards the Dairy Barn, which will lead you back to the Visitor's Center.

Background Information

The Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is home to an amazing population of wildlife. The Slough is world-famous for the amount of birds it houses either permanently or temporarily throughout the year. Over 340 different species regularly spend time at the Slough. In early 2010, a misguided pink flamingo joined the cast of birds at the Slough!

How many can you spot? Here's an abbreviated checklist of the different species' common names – can you find them all?

Red-throated Loon	Snowy Plover	Allen's Hummingbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pacific Loon	Wilson's Plover	Belted Kingfisher	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Common Loon	Semipalmated Plover	Lewis's Woodpecker	Western Bluebird
Yellow-billed Loon	Killdeer	Acorn Woodpecker	Townsend's Solitaire
Pied-billed Grebe	Mountain Plover	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Swainson's Thrush
Horned Grebe	Black-necked Stilt	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush

Red-necked Grebe	American Avocet	Nuttall's Woodpecker	American Robin
Eared Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	Downy Woodpecker	Varied Thrush
Western Grebe	Lesser Yellowlegs	Hairy Woodpecker	Wrentit
Clark's Grebe	Solitary Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Northern Fulmar	Willet	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Sage Thrasher
Pink-footed Shearwater	Wandering Tattler	Western Wood-Pewee	California Thrasher
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Spotted Sandpiper	Willow Flycatcher	European Starling
Sooty Shearwater	Whimbrel	Hammond's Flycatcher	White Wagtail
Short-tailed Shearwater	Long-billed Curlew	Gray Flycatcher	Red-throated Pipit
Black-vented Shearwater	Bar-tailed Godwit	Dusky Flycatcher	American Pipit
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	Marbled Godwit	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Cedar Waxwing
American White Pelican	Ruddy Turnstone	Black Phoebe	Tennessee Warbler
Brown Pelican	Black Turnstone	Eastern Phoebe	Orange-crowned Warbler
Brandt's Cormorant	Surfbird	Say's Phoebe	Nashville Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Red Knot	Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Pelagic Cormorant	Sanderling	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnificent Frigatebird	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Tropical Kingbird	Magnolia Warbler
American Bittern	Western Sandpiper	Cassin's Kingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Red-necked Stint	Western Kingbird	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Great Egret	Little Stint	Eastern Kingbird	Black-throated Green Warbler
Snowy Egret	Least Sandpiper	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Townsend's Warbler
Reddish Egret	Baird's Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike	Hermit Warbler
Cattle Egret	Pectoral Sandpiper	Cassin's Vireo	Prairie Warbler
Green Heron	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Blue-headed Vireo	Palm Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Rock Sandpiper	Hutton's Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
White-faced Ibis	Dunlin	Warbling Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler
Roseate Spoonbill	Stilt Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	American Redstart
Turkey Vulture	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Steller's Jay	Worm-eating Warbler
Greater White-fronted Goose	Ruff	Western Scrub-Jay	Northern Waterthrush
Emperor Goose	Short-billed Dowitcher	Yellow-billed Magpie	MacGillivray's Warbler
Snow Goose	Long-billed Dowitcher	American Crow	Common Yellowthroat
Ross's Goose	Common Snipe	Common Raven	Wilson's Warbler
Canada Goose	Wilson's Phalarope	Horned Lark	Canada Warbler
Brant	Red-necked Phalarope	Tree Swallow	Summer Tanager
Tundra Swan	Red Phalarope	Violet-green Swallow	Western Tanager
Wood Duck	Pomarine Jaeger	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Green-tailed Towhee
Gadwall	Parasitic Jaeger	Bank Swallow	Spotted Towhee
Eurasian Wigeon	Long-tailed Jaeger	Cliff Swallow	California Towhee
American Wigeon	Laughing Gull	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Mallard	Franklin's Gull	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Clay-colored Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Little Gull	Oak Titmouse	Brewer's Sparrow
Cinnamon Teal	Bonaparte's Gull	Bushtit	Vesper Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Heermann's Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Lark Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Mew Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Lark Bunting
Green-winged Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Pygmy Nuthatch	Savannah Sparrow
Canvasback	California Gull	Brown Creeper	Grasshopper Sparrow
Redhead	Herring Gull	Rock Wren	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Thayer's Gull	Bewick's Wren	Fox Sparrow
Tufted Duck	Western Gull	House Wren	Song Sparrow
Greater Scaup	Glaucous-winged Gull	Winter Wren	Lincoln's Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Glaucous Gull	Marsh Wren	Swamp Sparrow
King Eider	Sabine's Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	White-throated Sparrow

Driving Directions

Take Highway 1 to Moss Landing; at the power plant, turn east onto Dolan Road; go 3.5 miles on Dolan Road, turn left onto Elkhorn Road; go 1.9 miles on Elkhorn Road, turn left into the Reserve gate.

Administration

Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

Telephone (831) 728-2822

Operating Hours: **Wednesday - Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Parking Fees: Yes

Website: www.elkhornslough.org

Pico Blanco – Skinner’s Ridge

Pico Blanco Scout Reservation



Maybe coolest hike yet, go to Skinner’s Ridge, which overlooks the Ventana Wilderness and sits in the shadow of Mt. Pico Blanco

Hike Statistics

Distance: 2.5 miles

Time: About 2 hours

Grade: Steep inclines in some parts

Suggested Age: Bears - Webelos

Hike Description

From the Hayward Lodge, the camp’s main dining hall, walk down the stairs into the main parking lot. Continue east across the Little Sur River (look for a foot bridge) and follow the camp road past the Archery and Shooting Range, and continue until you reach the Shotgun range on your left – about half a mile.

Walk up the road toward the Shotgun range and look for a trail and a marker on your right; this is the trail you want to follow.

Follow this trail, which starts with steep switchbacks, until you reach Skinner’s Ridge. There is a sign denoting the endpoint of the trail. There are no other trails that branch from the Skinner’s Ridge trail.

Skinner’s Ridge has been a favorite for generations of Scouts – overlooking the valley below and nestled underneath the ominous gaze of Mt. Pico Blanco.

This hike is AMAZING at night in the late Spring through early Fall as an astronomy outpost.

Background Information

Pico Blanco Scout Reservation is a summer camp of about 800 acres (320 ha) (originally 1,445 acres (585 ha)) in Central California, operated by the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Constructed during 1953-1954, it takes its name from the adjacent 3,709 ft (1,131 m) Pico Blanco ("white peak"). The land was donated to the Council by William R. Hearst in 1948. It is the oldest Boy Scout camp on the California Central Coast

Because the camp is surrounded by the Los Padres National Forest and the Ventana Wilderness, the camp vicinity is an ecologically diverse and sensitive environment containing a number of unique animal and plant specimens, including the endangered Southern Steelhead Trout, the rare Santa Lucia fir, the California Coastal Redwood, and others. It is located at 800 feet (240 m) elevation on the pristine North Fork of the Little Sur River, 11.3 miles (18.2 km) south of Carmel, California on Highway 1, and eastward on Palo Colorado Road 7.6 miles (12.2 km) miles to Botcher’s Gap. The remaining 3.6 miles (5.8 km) miles of road into camp includes 2 miles (3.2 km) miles of narrow dirt road with four hair-pin switchbacks. The camp area was visited regularly by the Esselen American Indians, whose principal food source were acorns gathered from the Black Oak, Canyon Live Oak and Tanbark Oak in the vicinity of the camp.

Reservation Accommodations

Because Pico Blanco Scout Reservation is a private facility operated by and for the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America, if you would like to complete this hike, please contact Scout Service Center at 408-638-8300 to arrange for reservations at Pico Blanco. Your Pack has the opportunity to spend the weekend camping at Pico Blanco as well.

This Trekkers hike will be available at annual events such as Cub Scout Resident Camp, Mom & Me Weekend, Dad & Lad Weekend, and at other events.

This trail may be inaccessible due to inclement weather from November through April, please contact the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council Scout Service Center for more information.

Driving Directions

From Highway 1, south of Carmel, turn left on to Palo Colorado Canyon Road. Follow Palo Colorado to the end where you will find Botcher's Gap Campground. At the far right of the Botcher's Gap parking lot is a green gate with a sign that says "Boy Scout Camp", go down the dirt camp road until you reach the main parking lot.

Administration

Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Boy Scouts of America

Telephone 831-422-5338

Operating Hours: Available by reservation

Parking Fees: Yes

Website: <http://camppicoblanco.org/>





Boy Scouts of America

Cub Scout Hiking Survey

Complete and return this form if there are additional hikes we should consider as future installments of the Monterey Bay Trekkers

Trail Name: _____

Location: _____

Governing Agency: _____

Agency Address _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Admission Fee, if Any: _____

Approximate Trail Miles: _____ (One Way) _____ (Round Trip)

Hiking Time: _____

Trail Grade: __ Easy (relatively flat) __ Moderate (some hills) __ Challenging (steep hills)

Recommended for: ___ Tiger Cubs and partners (first grade)

 ___ Cub Scouts and adults (second and third grade)

 ___ Webelos Scouts and adults (fourth and fifth grader)

Hike Description: _____

Historical and Natural Features: _____

Other Notes or Comments:

Please mail or fax your above Trail Recommendations to:

Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council BSA, 919 N. Main Street, Salinas, CA 93906

Fax: (831) 422-1816

Monterey Bay Trekkers Patch Order Form

Pack Number: _____ Tour Leader: _____

Was a Tour Permit Application completed? (circle one) Yes No

Address to ship patches: _____

Description	Cost per piece	Quantity <small>(relatives and leaders included)</small>	Total Cost
Center Square Patch	\$4		
Garland Ranch Rocker	\$2		
Point Lobos Rocker	\$2		
Pico Blanco Rocker	\$2		
Elkhorn Slough Rocker	\$2		
Fremont Peak Rocker	\$2		
Nisene Marks Rocker	\$2		
Wilder Ranch Rocker	\$2		
Pinnacles Rocker	\$2		
Subtotal			
Shipping/Handling			\$3.00
CA Tax (9.25%)			
Total Cost			

Payment (circle one) : Cash Check Charge to Unit Account

Send, with payment, to: Silicon Valley Monterey Council, 919 N Main St., Salinas, CA 93906
 Or fax to (831) 422-1816