Your Coastal Riches

California Coastal National Monument, under the responsibility of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management, is recognized as a unique biological treasure.

A crucial part of a fragile ecosystem, the Monument is comprised of six mainland units and more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles (the portion above mean high tide) located off the 1,100 miles of the California coastline.

These rocks and small islands supply shelter and nutrients for thousands of organisms and provide important breeding grounds and nesting areas for thousands of seabirds, including cormorants, gulls, murres, petrels and auklets. The brown pelican relies on the Monument’s rocks and islands for critical resting and roosting habitat.

Several California marine mammal species depend on the Monument’s rocks, islands and exposed reefs, as well as the ocean resources around them, for forage and breeding grounds.

Harbor seals and California sea lions are common occupants of the Monument. In addition, the Monument includes a significant amount of the rocky coastal ecosystems and portions of the intertidal zone.

Enjoy this spectacular interplay of land and sea!

How can I learn more?

Bureau of Land Management
California Coastal National Monument
940 2nd Avenue Marina, Ca 93933
Hours: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm M-F (831)582-2200
https://www.blm.gov/visit/california-coastal-national-monument

BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
1201 Bird Center Dr., Palm Springs, CA 92262 (760)833-7100

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
(310)548-7562 www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org

California Coastal Commission
1-800-COAST 4-U (262-7848) www.coastal.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region 5
3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123
(858)467-4201 www.wildlife.ca.gov

City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Abalone Cove Shoreline Park & Ecological Reserve
(310)377-5370 or (310)377-1222 www.rpvca.gov

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration/NOAA
(202)482-6090 www.noaa.gov

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
(310)541-7613 www.pvplc.org

Point Vicente Interpretive Center
31501 Palos Verdes Drive West, in Rancho Palos Verdes
(310)377-5370 Open Daily 10 am-5 pm www.losserenos.org

How can I protect the sea life here?

* Cut six pack rings before throwing them away. Better yet, recycle them! The birds will thank you!

* Avoid disturbing birds near roosting and nesting areas when boating or kayaking.

* This Monument is managed in partnership with the Marine Protected Area network. It is your responsibility to know the designated boundaries and associated recreational use. Taking or possessing tide pool animals is against the law. No collecting.

The mission of California Coastal National Monument is to protect and foster an appreciation and stewardship for the unique coastal resources associated with California Coastal National Monument.
Six Peninsula Highlights

1. Bluff Cove Overlook (City of Palos Verdes Estates)
   Parking and overlook at 1300 Paseo del Mar just off Palos Verdes Drive West.
   Located at the north end of Palos Verdes Peninsula, this is part of Palos Verdes Estates Shoreline Preserve. The overlook offers a stunning view of California Coastal National Monument rocks, Bluff Cove, and the coast area of the Santa Monica Bay. Flat Rock, Bit Rock and others at the north end of Bluff Cove are the surface expression of underwater ridges and reefs. The cove is a wintering area for shorebirds such as willets, marbled godwits, and plovers.

2. Point Vicente Interpretive Center (City of Rancho Palos Verdes)
   Located on Palos Verdes Drive West, north side of U.S. Coast Guard’s Point Vicente Station.
   This is a great place to take the family. The Interpretive Center is free and open daily to view displays on geology, marine life, the kelp forest, and human history of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. A book store and gift shop are adjacent. Point Vicente is high above the rocky shore and popular for viewing Pacific gray whale migration from December to mid-May. Picnic areas, a bluff top walkway, and parking are available. For guided tours of the Interpretive Center, local trails and tide pools call (310)377-5370. The historic Point Vicente Lighthouse is adjacent. Lighthouse tours are available. Call (310)541-0334 for a schedule and for more information.

3. Pelican Cove Park (City of Rancho Palos Verdes)
   East of Point Vicente off Palos Verdes Dr. South.
   From this viewing area is a blufftop trail and access to the rocky beach. Protected as a feature of the Monument, the prominent rock Toveemor is the embodiment of a Tongva Indian deity, associated with the local tribe's creation story. Today this marine habitat is protected as Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area. Parking and restrooms are available.

4. Abalone Cove Shoreline Park and Ecological Reserve (City of Rancho Palos Verdes)
   An 80 acre bluff park offers spectacular views and trail access to colorful tide pools. This exposed reef is one of many focal points for habitat preservation in the Monument. Nearby is a scenic trail, picnic tables, and restrooms. There is a parking fee. For more information call (310)377-1222.

5. Royal Palms County Beach (Los Angeles County) Western Ave & Paseo del Mar, San Pedro.
   This is an inviting place to see marine life, an interpretive center, and ruins of the 1915 Royal Palms Hotel. Rocky reefs beneath the kelp canopy provide habitat for marine life such as moray eels, sea cucumbers, giant keyhole limpets and California sheephead. The cove is also a popular surfing spot. Parking and restrooms are available. There is a use fee.

6. Point Fermin Park (City of Los Angeles) Paseo del Mar & Gaffey St., San Pedro.
   This is a popular place to safely view harbor seals warming in the sun on the rocks. Here they can be observed from above. Landscaped with Moreton Bay fig trees, the bluff park overlooks the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge. Facilities include playgrounds, picnic tables, restrooms and outdoor amphitheater. Information on whales, dolphins and porpoises can be found at the American Cetacean Society building. Parking and restrooms are available. For park events and information call (310)548-7705.