

Oceano & Nipomo Discovery Route

Explore the Roots of the Central Coast



Points of Interest

Oceano

- Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area Entrance
- Guiton Trail at Oceano Lagoon
- Oceano County Park and Picnic Area
- Oceano Historic Depot Railroad Museum
- Great American Melodrama
- Oceano Airport
- Pacific Dunes Riding Stables
- Pismo State Beach
- Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove
- Oceano Campground - Native Plant Garden and Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center
- Pismo State Beach - Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve
- Pismo State Beach Golf Course and Whale Trail
- Off Highway Vehicle Rentals
- Cultural Mural

Nipomo

- Historic Dana Adobe & Cultural Center
- Oso Flaco Lake Day Use Area
- Nipomo Native Garden
- Golf Courses - Blacklake, Monarch Dunes, Cypress Ridge and Audubon Society
- Luffa Farm
- Green House Growers/Flower Region
- Nipomo Community Park
- Wineries and Breweries - Laetitia & Santa Maria Brewing Co.
- Jocko's Steak House
- Historic Homes - Dana-Powers House and Kaleidoscope Inn
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
- Moonarch Dude, CowParadeSLO.com

LEGEND

* San Luis Obispo County Unincorporated Area

Wildlife Viewing and Stewardship Travel for Good Tips

Great wildlife viewing encounters involve good timing, observation skills, and a little luck! California's Highway 1 Discovery Route offers some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities anywhere. Use these tips to improve your chances for a memorable wildlife experience!



Be outside during dawn, dusk, and incoming tides. Birds, fish, and mammals are active during these times. Look for churning water surfaces, diving birds, shiny dolphin backs, seals and otters in bays and on open water. Listen for songbirds singing in bushes and trees, especially during spring and early summer.

Be calm and stay awhile. Adopt an unhurried, 'vacation' state of mind. A state of relaxed alertness is the best way to see wildlife.

Blend in. Animals react to movement. Sit quietly next to a bush or tree and practice the 'art of invisibility.'

Keep it steady. When kayaking, keep a slow, steady paddling rhythm. You're more likely to have curious seals, otters, or dolphins approach you.

Zoom In. Use binoculars, spotting scopes, and zoom camera lenses to see wildlife action 'up close at a distance' that is less likely to disturb natural animal behaviors.

Look and listen for signs of wildlife. Look for animal tracks and droppings (called scat). Large birds like ospreys, hawks, vultures, and cormorants leave noticeable white droppings (whitewash) on bushes, trees, sea cliffs and rocks. When you see this, look up to find where birds roost or nest.

Low tide exposes fascinating and fragile life on the rocks. Venture carefully on rocks for a close-up peek into the exciting tidal world of animals feeding, interacting or waiting for the incoming tide.

Look for whales when seas are calm. Look for whale spouts or blows,

tail flukes, and dorsal fins. Big splashes may indicate a whale has just breached. Look for The Whale Trail viewing sites along the Highway 1 Discovery Route <http://thewhaletrail.org/>.

Protect wildlife habitat - Stay on trails. Going off trail may harm animal habitat or bird nesting areas. Keep dogs and children safe by staying on designated trails.

Watch where you step. In tide pools, walk on bare rock to avoid crushing fragile tide pool animals, and keep away from seaweed – it's slippery! Please leave tide pool critters in their natural home. Tide booklets may be available in stores and real estate offices.

Stay at a distance, including drones. If birds and animals get nervous, they show it by looking at you, raising their heads and stopping what they were doing. Any change of an animal's natural behavior is a disturbance. Be sure to check the location to see if drones are allowed.

Please do not feed wildlife. There is plenty of food available in the wild. Human food can create digestive problems and improper nutrition.

Help sick or abandoned wildlife. If you find an injured bird or land animal, stay at a distance and call Pacific Wildlife Care; 805-543-9453. If you suspect a marine animal is injured or in danger, call the Marine Mammal Center; 415-289-7325.

Travel for Good and lend a hand with trash removal. Human garbage is one of the greatest threats to wildlife. Get a Stewardship Traveler Clean-Up Kit to pick up litter on the trail, the shore, and even in the water. Free Stewardship Clean-Up Kits and Appreciation Tote Bags are available in Avila Beach and Cambria.

Rancho Nipomo Historical Dana Adobe



Nipomo Native Garden



Oceano Historic Train Depot



Go to Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com/stewardship-travel/ for details on stewardship travel activities. To find accommodations in Oceano and Nipomo please visit: VisitOceanoNipomo.com