



**THESE RULES ARE STRICTLY
ENFORCED IN THE RESERVE**



NO DOGS. Dogs are not permitted in the Reserve, even in your vehicle. Exception: service animals individually trained to perform tasks for persons who have qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

SAFETY FIRST - REMAIN ON TRAILS! Respect the power of the ocean! Keep a safe distance from the water and stay well away from cliff edges. Avoid contact with poison oak and ticks by walking on marked trails only. For your own safety do not climb rocks or trees.

VEHICLES / PARKING. The speed limit throughout the Reserve is 15 mph. Drive with care to avoid wildlife or pedestrians on the road. Park in designated parking spots only. If one parking lot is full, drive to the next parking area. Do not park along the roadside. Lock your car and keep valuables with you. Bicycles are permitted on paved roads only, and may not be ridden or walked on trails.

DO NOT DISTURB WILDLIFE. Report any concerns about wildlife to a Point Lobos Employee/Docent. Do not handle or remove any natural object, e.g. flowers, mushrooms, wood, rocks, shells, tide pool life and kelp. Do not feed any animals. Fishing is absolutely prohibited.

NO SMOKING / NO FIRES. Point Lobos vegetation is highly combustible. Smoking, fires, barbecues, and the use of stoves are not permitted anywhere in the Reserve.

PICNICKING. Picnics are allowed at Whalers Cove, Piney Woods and Bird Island ONLY. Fires of any kind are prohibited.

GAMES AND RECREATION. Drones, games with equipment e.g. baseballs, footballs, Frisbees and kites are not permitted. Geocaching is not allowed. Such activities are not consistent with the purpose of the Reserve and may harm wildlife, other natural features, or inhibit other visitors' enjoyment.

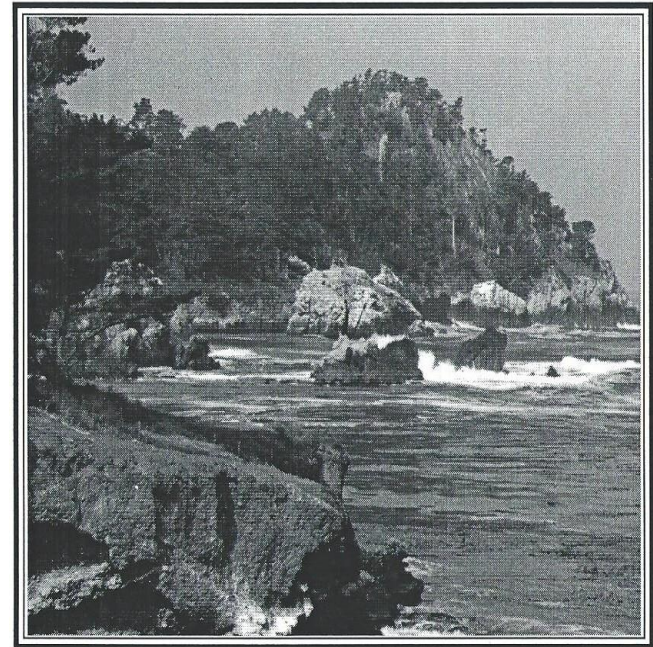
CLOSING TIME. Visitors must leave the Reserve by the closing time posted at the entrance station.

10/18

Welcome

to Point Lobos

State Natural Reserve



photograph by Charles M. Bancroft

*California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival,
visitors with disabilities
who need assistance, or who need
this publication in an alternate format, should phone
(831) 624-4909. 711, TTY Relay Service.*

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is a unique outdoor refuge for land and marine flora and fauna. Over 300 plant and more than 250 different animal species have been identified in the Reserve. The National Park Service designated Point Lobos a Registered National Landmark in 1968.

Perhaps the noisiest residents of the Reserve are the California sea lions, which live on the off-shore rocks at Sea Lion Point. The hoarse vocalizations of the sea lions reminded early Spanish settlers of wolves barking. They commonly referred to what was then officially named Punta de Carmelo as "Punta de Lobos," from the Spanish term for sea lions: "*lobos marinos*" or "sea wolves." When the State formally acquired the Reserve in 1933, it named it Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, after these raucous residents.



In November, California gray whales leave the cold waters of Alaska and migrate along the west coast to their breeding and calving lagoons in western Baja California. In the spring, these huge creatures, from 40 to 50 feet long and weighing as much as 40 tons, return to their feeding grounds in the Bering Sea. This annual journey totals more than 10,000 miles, the longest migration of any mammal on Earth. We can see many of these marvelous creatures from Point Lobos as they swim south in the latter part of December and January, and then back north in March through May.



Visitors can sometimes catch a glimpse of another inhabitant of the Reserve, the southern sea otter, diving in search of something to eat or simply floating quietly on its back in the kelp beds. Driven to the brink of extinction by the end of the nineteenth century, southern sea otters are today covered by strict legislation designed to protect marine life. This threatened population is now making a slow but steady comeback.



Another outstanding feature of the Reserve is the Monterey cypress. In earlier geologic times, this tree was widely distributed. Now, the only native groves are found on the Monterey Peninsula, at Pebble Beach and at Point Lobos. Clinging to cliffs above the surf, buffeted by wind and spray, these trees reflect the never-ending conflict between sea and land. The live cypresses have a rich green foliage; the dead trees stand in stark silhouette, their bleached and twisted branches red with algae.



Almost miraculously, Point Lobos escaped development as it passed from one owner to another. There was once a whaling station and a granite quarry here, a shipping point for a coal mine, and the site of an abalone cannery. Much of Point Lobos was once proposed as a town site. Finally, the land was acquired by an owner who appreciated its unique qualities. When, with the help of the Save-the-Redwoods League, it passed into the trusteeship of the State of California in 1933, Point Lobos still had much of its primitive, wild character. It is still unspoiled. Roads through the Reserve are kept to a minimum. The most beautiful areas of the Reserve can be seen only on foot.

In 1960, 775 acres of submerged land were added to create the first underwater Reserve in the United States. Point Lobos was designated an ecological Reserve in May 1973. Now, intertidal and subtidal plant and animal species are fully protected here, and the normal balance of conditions favorable to their survival can remain virtually undisturbed.



WARNING!

RESPECT THE POWER OF THE OCEAN! Stay away from rocky cliff edges and beware of large waves that can sweep you into the ocean.

AVOID POISON OAK. Its three shiny leaves make it easy to spot beside the trail. **DO NOT TOUCH** this plant! The oily secretion on its leaves can cause a severe rash and itching which can last for weeks.



LOCK YOUR CAR. Always take your valuables with you.