

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve



Region: Monterey County

Length: 4 miles round trip

Difficulty Rating: Easy - Moderate

Elevation Gain: 430 feet

Girls bring: Backpack, 1 liter of water, snack, hat, jacket, sunscreen, face mask. Adults add: Map/Info sheet, Required paperwork, first aid kit, phone, TP & ziploc (pack it out). If hiking after ~3pm add: headlamp, space blanket

When to go: Year round, but there is no shade along the ocean side portion of the trail. Coastal areas can be cold and foggy; check the weather conditions before you go!

Getting There and Parking: Park entrance is on Hwy 1, just 3 miles south of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Day Use entrance fee: \$10 per vehicle. Arrive early as the parking lots can fill up quickly. Locals Tip: Park along Hwy 1 before you get to the main entrance. You will most likely see other cars parked too! Check the street signs before you go and be careful of the

traffic. While parking is free along Hwy 1, it can potentially add up to 1 mile each way to your hike.

Bathrooms: Point Lobos has bathrooms located throughout the park, typically adjacent to the various parking lots.

Safety Considerations: There is abundant poison oak throughout the park. Wear sturdy walking shoes as the terrain is always changing (sandy, gravelly, forest floor, pavement).

Extreme caution if you should choose to visit Monastery Beach, just north of Point Lobos (beautiful but dangerous - NOT a swimming beach!).

Helpful Links:

[Point Lobos SNR \(ca.gov\)](https://www.pointlobos.org/)

<https://www.alltrails.com/parks/us/california/point-lobos-state-natural-reserve>

Route Description:

Beginning at the entrance information board, take South Plateau Trail through a wooded area heading south to Gibson Beach. You can take the steep staircase down to check out the beach or continue on to Bird Island Trail. Follow Bird



Island Trail along the coast. Keep an eye out for seals sunning themselves on the beach and otters or sea lions in the waters around you. Continue along the trail and then follow signs for the South Shore Trail. Follow this trail until you see signs for the North Shore Trail. Take this trail. Follow the North Shore until you see the junction for Whaler's Knoll Trail. Whaler's Knoll is at the top with an elevation of 217 ft. Continue on Whaler's Knoll Trail until you reach the junction of Lace Lichen Trail. Stay on Lace Lichen Trail until you reach your starting point back at the park's entrance board.

From AllTrails:

Point Lobos State Reserve, three miles south of Carmel on Highway 1, is a great place for sightseeing, scuba diving, trail running, and viewing geological sites, plants, and animals like harbor seals, sea lions, seabirds, gray whales, and sea otters. There are no pets, bikes, fires, rock climbing, or camping allowed. The reserve has sometimes been called "the crown jewel" of the state park system due to the headlands, view of Monterey Bay and the Pacific, coves, meadows, hiking trails follow the shoreline and

lead to hidden coves. The area also has historical significance as a hub of the turn-of-the-century whaling and abalone industry. A small cabin built by Chinese fishermen at Whalers Cove is now a cultural history museum you can visit.

How to Get Your Charm:

Take a photo of you with the rock formations or the Wahler's Knoll bench in the background. Email the photo and the names of the registered Girl Scouts in the photo to programs@girlscoutseccc.org with the subject line "Happy Trails Program - Point Lobos." You'll get an embroidered charm to hang on your patch loop.



Point Lobos SNR

