



Exploring San Miguel Island



Welcome to San Miguel Island, one of five islands in Channel Islands National Park. This is your island. It is also your responsibility. Please take a moment to read this bulletin and learn what you can do to take care of San Miguel. This information and the map on the back will show you what you can see and do here on San Miguel.

About the Island

San Miguel is the home of pristine tidepools, rare plants, and the strange caliche forest. Four species of seals and sea lions come here to breed and give birth. For 10,000 years the island was home to the seagoing Chumash people. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo

set foot here in 1542 as the first European to explore the California coast. For 100 years the island was a sheep ranch, and in the last 60 years it has been used by the military. In 1980 it became part of Channel Islands National Park.

Open Areas

Many parts of San Miguel are closed to protect wildlife, fragile plants, and geological features. Several areas, however, are open for you to explore on your own. Others are open to you when accompanied by a park ranger.

On your own you may explore the Cuyler Harbor

beach, Cabrillo monument, and the Lester ranch site.

The Nidever Canyon trail will take you to the ranch site, monument and ranger station. The trail begins at the top of the dune above Gull Rock. It climbs along the east wall of the canyon.

Contacting a Ranger

To see other parts of the island, such as Point Bennett or the caliche forest, you must go with a ranger.

The San Miguel ranger can be contacted on Marine Radio Channel 16. You can also arrange a hike with the ranger through park headquarters at (805) 658-5730.

Island Rules

Everything you see is protected. Do not collect anything.

No pets are allowed on shore.

No smoking or fires.

Take your trash off the island with you.

Hikers must be escorted except where indicated on this map.

Stay on the trails.

Safety

Use caution when crossing the rockfall along the beach.

The Nidever Canyon trail is steep and slippery. Watch your step.

Hantavirus has been found in deer mouse populations on San Miguel. This is a potentially fatal disease and some basic precautions should

be taken: avoid contact with rodents; do not feed wild animals; keep food and drink in rodent-proof containers. For more information, please see the bulletin board in the campground.

Carry plenty of water and drink it.

Hikers should never hike alone—use the buddy system.

