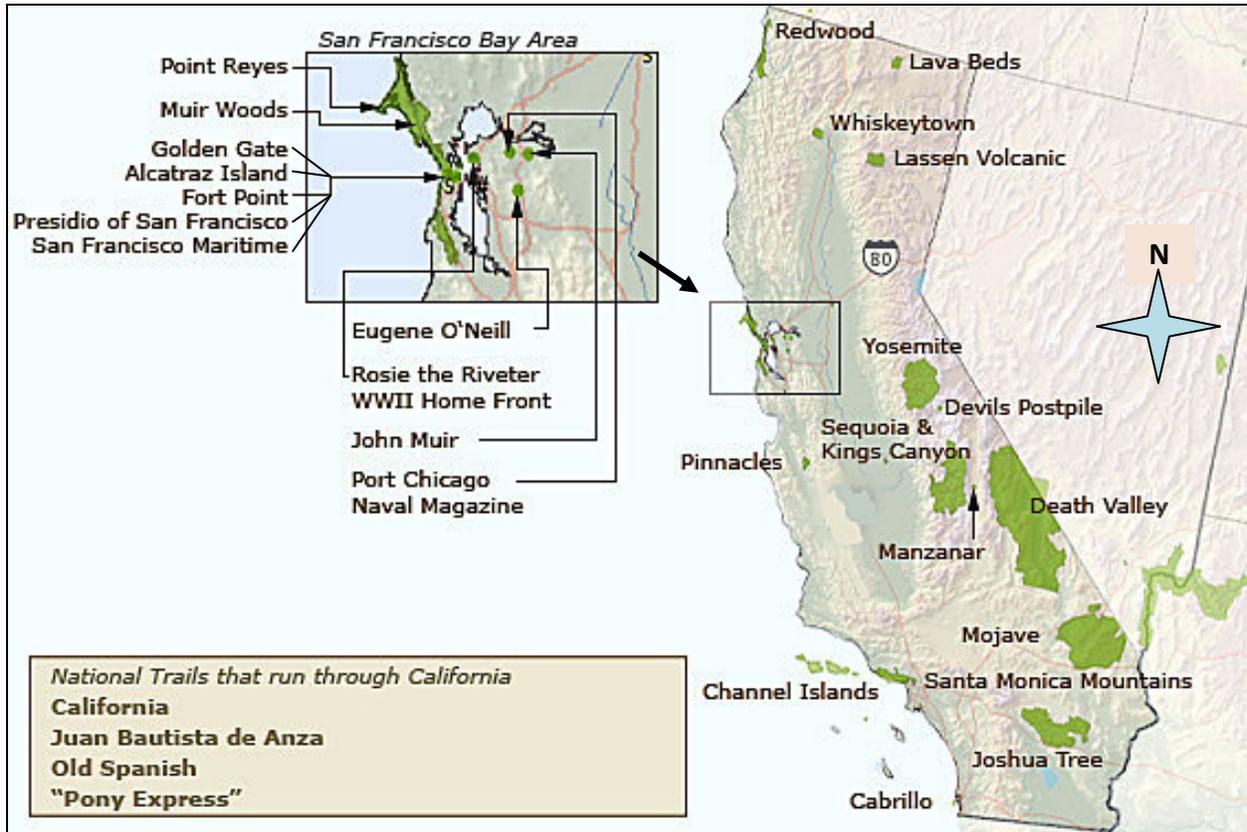


## California National Park Service Information Sheets

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Map of National Park Service areas in the state of California.



In California there are 31 different National Park Service areas. Look at the map above to see where they can be found. You can see they cover the whole state! Each place has something different and exciting to learn about. Read a short description of each National Park Service area in California on the following pages.

Alcatraz Island - San Francisco, CA



Alcatraz Island tells the story of the famous federal prison, that was located on the island and US fort on the West Coast. The prison is no longer in use and now many people come to visit. Park rangers tell visitors stories about what it was like to be here. There is also a natural side to the island with gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and a view of the San Francisco Bay.

Cabrillo National Monument - San Diego, CA



Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo departed Navidad, Mexico, on June 27, 1542. Three months later he arrived at "a very good enclosed port," which is known today as San Diego Bay in his ship the San Salvador. He became the first European to set foot on what is now the West Coast of the United States.

California National Historic Trail – in CA and these other states CO, ID, KS, MO, NE, NV,OR,UT,WY



The trail to California carried over 250,000 gold-seekers and farmers to California during the 1840's and 1850's. People traveled over more than 1,000 miles to reach California. You can learn about the challenges and rewards of early American travelers and settlers along this trail.

Channel Islands National Park - Ventura, CA



Close to the California mainland, Channel Islands National Park has five islands. The names of the islands are: Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara. You can learn about the ocean environment and stories of the people who used the islands. People come here to do many things such as boating, snorkeling and scuba diving.

Death Valley National Park - Death Valley, CA,NV



It is one of the hottest, driest, and lowest elevation place in the United States. This park is 3,000,000 acres of desert and mountain wilderness. In the summer it can get up to 120°! Also found here is the lowest spot in North America at 282 feet below sea level it is called Badwater Basin. If summer is too hot for you come in winter and explore this part of eastern California.

Devils Postpile National Monument - Mammoth Lakes, CA



This park was established by the president in 1911. Devils Postpile National Monument protects and preserves the Devils Postpile a geologic formation of a rock called basalt. You can also find the 101-foot high Rainbow Falls on the San Joaquin River. This park is closed in the winter.

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site - Danville, CA



Eugene O'Neill was a famous author who was born on October 16, 1888 in New York. In 1932 he moved to California and it is his home that is preserved by the National Park Service. He is America's only Nobel Prize winning playwright. Mr. O'Neill wrote many plays and books. Many of his plays are still performed today.

Fort Point National Historic Site - San Francisco, CA



Fort Point protected San Francisco harbor from Confederate and foreign attack during and after the U.S. Civil War. During World War II it was used as temporary housing for soldiers. Learn all about the important role that this fort played in protecting the California coast when you visit.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area - San Francisco, CA



Golden Gate National Parks tells the stories of many people who lived in the area over 200 years. Here you can learn about the Native American culture, the Spanish Empire frontier and the Mexican Republic, to maritime history, and the California Gold Rush. But the stories don't stop there, learn about modern day San Francisco and about the plants and animals that live near this huge city and how they survive.

John Muir National Historic Site - Martinez, CA



John Muir loved the great outdoors and believed in preserving wild places. This park was his home that started out as a huge 2,600 acre ranch. Today it is just 9 acres of fruit orchards and 326 acres of oak woodland. John Muir was an important person in helping to create the National Park Service.

Joshua Tree National Park – Twentynine Palms, CA



What do you think of when you hear the word desert? Many people think of miles of nothing. In Joshua Tree you can discover all kinds of strange and different plants and animals that make their home here. At night you can see millions of stars since there is not a lot of light pollution of cities. Come and explore and find out for yourself that there is a lot going on in the desert.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail - Nogales, AZ to San Francisco, CA



"Everyone mount up!" This became a familiar call from Spanish Captain Juan Bautista de Anza. In 1776, as Americans fought for their independence in the East, Anza led almost 300 people over 1200 miles to settle Alta California. It was the first over land route to connect New Spain with San Francisco. Walk in their footsteps from Nogales, Arizona to San Francisco, California.

Kings Canyon National Park - Tulare and Fresno Counties, CA



Kings Canyon National Park is home to the General Grant Tree, a giant sequoia. You can also find the south fork of the Kings River, or as it was named by the Spanish explorers, “*Rios de los Santos Reyes*”. The river cuts through the Kings Canyon a glacially carved valley. In Grant Grove, at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center are exhibits that tell you all about the park in both English and Spanish. Keep your eyes open for animals; you may see a black bear with cubs or a deer!

Lassen Volcanic National Park - Mineral, CA



On May 22, 1915, an explosive eruption at Lassen Peak, the southernmost active volcano in the Cascade Range, destroyed nearby areas and rained volcanic ash as far away as 200 miles to the east. Today you would see no evidence of such an eruption. Forests and other plants have returned along with many animals. You can still see that the area is active by the bubbling hot springs and steam vents—what a great place to see living geology!

Lava Beds National Monument - Tulelake, CA



Lava Beds National Monument had volcanic eruptions too. The Medicine Lake shield volcano formed a rugged landscape. Some of these are lava tubes a type of cave. There are more than 700 caves here, Native American rock art sites, historic battlefields and campsites, and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

Manzanar National Historic Site - Independence, CA



In 1942, the United States government ordered more than 110,000 men, women, and children of Japanese decent to leave their homes and place them in remote, military-style camps. Manzanar War Relocation Center was one of ten camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

Mojave National Preserve - Barstow, CA



Sand dunes, volcanic cinder cones, Joshua Tree forests, and wild flowers are all found in this park that is over 1,000,000 acres. A visit to its canyons, mountains and mesas you can discover long-abandoned mines, homesteads, and rock-walled military outposts. It is located between the cities of Los Angeles, California and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Muir Woods National Monument - Mill Valley, CA



"This is the best tree-lovers monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world," declared John Muir when describing the majestic coast redwoods of Muir Woods. Here you can walk among the Coast Redwood trees some of the tallest trees in the world!

Old Spanish National Historic Trail - AZ, CA, CO, NV, NM, UT



Mexican trader Antonio Armijo lead the first commercial caravan from Abiquiú, New Mexico, to Los Angeles late in 1829. Over the next 20 years, Mexican and American traders continued to use the route that Armijo created. This trail is a combination of footpaths, early trade and exploration routes, and horse and mule routes that together became known as the Old Spanish Trail.

Pinnacles National Monument - Paicines, CA



Rising out of the chaparral-covered Gabilan Mountains, east of central California's Salinas Valley, are the remains of an ancient volcano. Here you can find rock spires, sheer-walled canyons and passages. This park is also home to the bird, the California Condor that can have a wing span of up to 9 feet!

Point Reyes National Seashore - Point Reyes, CA



You can visit this park located on the coast and hear thunderous ocean waves crash against rocky cliffs. Take a walk on the sandy beaches or through open grasslands and forested hillsides. Here you may discover over 1000 species of plants and animals.

We hope to see you there!

Pony Express National Historic Trail - Various States, CA, CO, KS, MO, NE, NV, UT, WY



The Pony Express was used by young men on fast horses to carry the nation's mail from Missouri to California in ten days! The relay system became the nation's best way for the east-west to be connected before the telegraph.

Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial - Concord, CA



On the evening of July 17, 1944, residents in the San Francisco east bay area were jolted awake by a massive explosion. The explosion was so huge that it cracked windows and lit up the night sky. All of this happened during World War II at Port Chicago Naval Magazine.

Presidio of San Francisco - San Francisco, CA



For 218 years, the Presidio served as an army post for three nations. Come enjoy the history and beauty of the Presidio. Explore centuries history as you walk through an historic airfield. Discover the natural side of this park in its forests, beaches, and beautiful sights.

Redwood National and State Parks - Del Norte and Humboldt Counties , CA



Stand at the base of a coast redwood one of the tallest trees in the world. Watch a Roosevelt elk grazing in the prairies. Observe the tail of a female Chinook salmon heave skyward as she makes a nest for her eggs. Oceans to redwood forests are here for your discovery.

Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park - Richmond , CA



Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park, located in the wartime boomtown of Richmond, California. This park preserves and tells the stories of what many women did during World War II to support the troops.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park - San Francisco, CA



Close your eyes and imagine what it would be like to stand on the deck of a huge sailing ship. Imagine feeling the fresh wind blowing in from the Pacific Ocean. All of this is possible at this park that is located in the Fisherman's Wharf neighborhood in San Francisco. You can experience the sights, sounds, smells and stories of Pacific Coast maritime history.

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area - Thousand Oaks, CA



Even near the city of Los Angeles, close to Hollywood you can find beaches, grasslands, canyons, and oak woodlands. At this park, the coastal mountain range has star quality! Explore this special landscape and meet the Santa Monica Mountains in person!

Sequoia National Park – Tulare County, CA



The park is home to the General Sherman Tree, a giant sequoia and the largest living thing in the world. Mt. Whitney is also found here and is the highest peak in the United States outside Alaska. This park was California's first national park and created in 1890. It is just 1 hour drive from the city of Visalia to the entrance of this park. Open year-round people camp, picnic, hike, play in the snow, and feel like mice as they walk among the largest living things in the world—the giant sequoia trees!

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area - Whiskeytown, CA



Located 8 miles west of town of Redding, CA. This park is located where the Klamath Mountain range and the northern edge of the Sacramento Valley meet. This makes it home to a special collection of animal and plant life. Some of the park's features are Whiskeytown Lake, Shasta Bally mountain (6,209 ft.) and numerous waterfalls. There is a lot to explore and do in this park!

Yosemite National Park – Merced and Fresno Counties, CA



This park was California's second national park. Yosemite Valley was carved by a glacier. Here you can see beautiful waterfalls that cascade down to the valley. You can see giant sequoia trees, learn how Native Americans lived in the valley or how pioneers lived.