



# Point Reyes National Seashore Accessibility Guide

June 2017





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## **Message from the Superintendent**

Point Reyes National Seashore is a natural sanctuary and human haven located within one hour's drive from over eight million people. Authorized by President John F. Kennedy in 1962 as part of the National Park Service, Point Reyes is visited by over two and a half million visitors each year. Point Reyes' goal is to provide the highest level of accessibility to our visitors as possible. Each year has shown marked improvements in both physical and programmatic accessibility at the Seashore.

The staff at Point Reyes is committed to improving accessibility throughout the park. By using principles of universal design, Point Reyes is committed to providing physical access to the greatest number of individuals. From designing and building new facilities to the rehabilitation of older buildings, accessibility has become a key component of all projects.

Point Reyes has available audio descriptions, podcasts and multiple publications in large print or Braille for visitors with visual impairments. Award-winning exhibits in the three visitor centers are designed with universal accessibility in mind.

During the last several years, the park has added accessible features such as exhibits in large print, and new tactile maps. Many picnic areas parkwide have been



## Accessibility Guide – Point Reyes National Seashore

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rehabilitated to include accessible paths of travel, picnic tables, and grills.

As Point Reyes continues to address current accessibility issues, it is important to remember that accessibility is an integral part of our mission. Providing accessible programs and facilities to the broadest population of our visitors is everyone's task and responsibility.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cicely A. Muldoon".

Cicely A. Muldoon  
Superintendent



Route into the Bear Valley Visitor Center.





## **Meeting Everybody's Needs – An Overview**

The National Park Service strives to be inclusive of everybody—all ages and all abilities—so please let us know how we can serve you best.

**Vision:** The park offers a large print and Braille version of the park brochure and map at all three of our visitor centers. Maps are also available on the park website including a Braille Ready File (BRF) format of the text from the park brochure.

**Hearing:** Films in the Bear Valley Visitor Center are closed-captioned, but left on permanently. Sign language interpreter services need to be requested at least five days in advance. Contact info: 415-464-5135, or [john\\_a\\_dell'osso@nps.gov](mailto:john_a_dell'osso@nps.gov).

**Mobility:** Some of the park's features pose challenges to persons using wheelchairs or with other mobility impairments. If physical access is not possible, alternative accommodation in the form of a digital virtual tour may be available at the visitor center, and also available on the park's website.

The park has a wheelchair at the Bear Valley Visitor Center to lend.



**Developmental and Learning:** Park staff and docents adapt their programs to include multi-sensory experiences for persons with developmental and learning disabilities.

**Service Animals:** The Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on September 15, 2010, in the Federal Register. These requirements, or rules, clarified and refined issues that had arisen over the previous 20 years and contain new, and updated, requirements, such as those pertaining to service animals.

Since March 15, 2011, only dogs are recognized as service animals under titles II and III of the ADA. National Park Service sites and facilities must permit service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed to go. Service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair,



assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition, i.e., dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Justice's Revised ADA Regulations: Implementing Title II and Title III page at [www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAregs2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/ADAregs2010.htm).



**Electric Personal Mobility Assistance Devices** (e.g. electric scooters, Segway® devices) is a motor vehicle as defined in Title 36 CFR. “Electric personal assistive mobility device” or “EPMAD” means a self-balancing, non-tandem two-wheeled device, that is not greater than 20 inches deep and 25 inches wide and can turn in place, designed to transport only one person, with an electric propulsion system averaging less than 750 watts (1 horsepower), the maximum speed of which, when powered solely by a propulsion system on a paved level surface, is no more than 12.5 miles per hour.

These devices are allowed in many front country areas, but not on any backcountry trails.

**Rest Stops:** Benches that allow for companion seating are situated throughout the landscape and inside buildings. Not all have backs or arm rests at this time.

**Rest Rooms:** Men’s and Women’s restrooms are accessible. However, at this time the park does not have a designated “family bathroom.” If you have a personal attendant of the opposite sex and require privacy, park staff can give assistance to secure a restroom facility.





## Planning Your Visit

### General Information

Point Reyes National Seashore was established to preserve and protect wilderness, natural ecosystems, and cultural resources along the diminishing undeveloped coastline of the United States. Located just an hour's drive from a densely populated metropolitan area, the Seashore is a sanctuary for countless plant and animal species and a haven for human inspiration, education, and recreation. The Seashore is intended to serve as a model of effective and successful environmental stewardship—a coastal sanctuary where park staff, partners, and the public are actively involved in the common goals of maintaining, protecting, restoring, and preserving the natural and cultural integrity of the park.

### Access Passes

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are permanently disabled or Blind are eligible for the Interagency Access Pass. This **free**, lifetime admission pass is valid at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Reclamation sites. It provides the pass owner and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle free admission to these areas. Point Reyes National Seashore does not have an entrance fee.





The Access Pass is available at no charge when obtained in person at designated locations or for a \$10 processing fee online with proof of eligibility. The pass is nontransferable and does not generally cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. At Point Reyes, the Access Pass is available at the Bear Valley Visitor Center.

Visitors must supply their Access Pass number when making a camping reservation. For more information or to download an application, visit [www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm)

### **Personal Assistance Requests**

To request personal assistance (such as sign language interpreter, audio description, special education classes, etc.), please contact the park at least five days in advance at 415-464-5135.

### **Parking**

Designated accessible spaces are marked with the international access symbol and are reserved for vehicles displaying an accessible parking placard or license plate. A map with accessible parking locations, picnic areas, restrooms and camping locations for Point Reyes National Seashore is on the back of this Guide. The current number of accessible parking spaces at the following locations are identified next to their names:



Bear Valley Visitor Center – 4 + 1 for electric vehicle charging

Bear Valley Trailhead parking – 2

Fivebrooks Trailhead – 1

Palomarin Trailhead – 2

Limantour Beach – 4

Clem Miller Environmental Education Center – 1

Point Reyes Hostel – 1

Mount Vision Road – 1

Estero Trailhead – 1

Bull Point Trailhead – 1

Point Reyes Beach North – 2

Drakes Beach – 4 + 1 van accessible stall

Point Reyes Beach South – 2

Chimney Rock Trailhead – 1

Lighthouse parking lot – 2

Lighthouse accessible parking location – 3

Abbotts Lagoon Trailhead – 2

Pierce Point Ranch – 1

### **Disabled Parking Placards – For Out-of-State Visitors**

If you're visiting California and would like to use a Disabled Person Placard for parking, you must apply for a California “Temporary Parking Placard” for non-residents, good for up to 90 days.

California Temporary Disabled Parking Placard Application

[www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/forms/forms/reg/reg195.pdf](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/forms/forms/reg/reg195.pdf)



## Check for Updates Online

Check the park's website for updates on access alerts at:

[www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm)

Also social media platforms such as [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

## Shuttle Buses

Shuttle buses operate only during the whale watching season from the last weekend in December into April each year. The buses only operate on weekends and holidays, weather permitting. Individuals with a Disabled Person Parking Placard or plate may drive their personal vehicle to the Lighthouse accessible parking lot and the Chimney Rock parking lot during times when the shuttles are operating. The fee is currently \$7 per person; children sixteen and under are free. Most buses are accessible with



wheelchair lifts and tie-downs. Maximum size for wheelchairs on shuttle buses and tour buses is 24 inches wide x 46 inches long with a weight limit on tour buses of 750 pounds. Bus drivers will help passengers on and off buses or notify them of stops. If you need assistance, ask the bus driver. For additional information follow this link: [www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/shuttle.htm#accessibility](http://www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/shuttle.htm#accessibility)



## **Park Website**

The website provides the following accessibility features on park pages: adjustable text sizes, invisible links that allow persons using screen readers to jump to content of interest, alternate text for images, and alternate text for link titles.

Text and descriptive photo captions are compatible with audio readers.

The website provides current park information and activities, history, culture, stories, and photo and video galleries, as well as links to social media and other maritime venues. Point Reyes National Seashore Website: [www.nps.gov/pore/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pore/index.htm)

For your convenience, this guide contains many links to the park's website regarding accessibility information and secondary accommodation for access to the park's attractions and features.

## **Park Guided Tours and Secondary Access**

### **Ranger-Led Tours and Personal Assistance**

Rangers and docents will do their best to adapt their program to be inclusive. If accommodation is not possible, staff can recommend an alternate experience.





## Printed Self-Guided Tours

The park brochure is currently available in Braille, English, French, German, and Spanish. The Jr. Ranger booklet is also in large print format at the visitor center desk. All park brochures in English and foreign languages can be viewed in large print as PDF's on the park website at: (**In Progress**)

Park brochures and map:

[www.nps.gov/pore/learn/publications.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/publications.htm)

## The Seashore's Three Visitor Centers

### Bear Valley Visitor Center

The park's primary Visitor Center provides an orientation of the park's roads, trails, and human and natural history. The Bear Valley Visitor Center was designed to blend in with the historically significant ranching culture of this area and is located in the heart of the Olema Valley. The interior exhibit space provides a glimpse of the diverse ecosystems and cultural heritage of the park and includes a touch table, auditorium, and book sales area. Exhibits are accessible with a wheelchair. [Audio-visual programs](#), shown in the auditorium, are available upon request. Natural history books, cards and posters are for sale in the bookstore. Permits for [backcountry camping](#), as well as





[beach fire](#) permits, may be obtained here. Allow at least 45 minutes to view exhibits and to watch an audio-visual program. Open: Year-round. Closed: December 25. Phone: 415-464-5100 x2 x5.

The parking lot at Bear Valley has four universal disabled parking spaces and one universal disabled parking space for electric charging as well as an accessible route to the visitor center. Additionally, the exhibit area has multiple ramps to access and view the dioramas and interpretive panels, all with compliant fonts and sizes and a minimum 70% contrast of text on images. Restrooms are accessible.

Free Films About Point Reyes at the Bear Valley Visitor Center: *Point Reyes: The Point of Kings* is closed-captioned, but captions are always on.

## **Lighthouse Visitor Center and Ocean Exploration Center**

The Lighthouse Visitor Center is located 45 minutes west of Bear Valley on the Point Reyes Headlands, at the end of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Large print information on the exhibit panels, as well as Spanish translation, are available. On weekends and holidays from late December through mid-April when visitation by whale watchers to the Point Reyes Lighthouse area is heavy, visitors are required to ride a [shuttle bus](#) from Drakes Beach to the Lighthouse and Chimney Rock areas during the shuttle season (see page 12, **Shuttle Buses**) unless you have a disabled parking placard. There is a 0.4-mile walk (mostly uphill) from the



parking lot/shuttle stop to the Lighthouse Visitor Center. There are two locations for accessible parking closer to the visitor center. With a placard, one can drive to the accessible parking location closer to the Lighthouse. Restrooms are accessible. Contact the Bear Valley Visitor Center at 415-464-5100 x2 x5 in advance of your trip for more detailed information. Open: Year round, Friday–Monday. Closed: December 25. Phone: 415-669-1534

### **Kenneth C. Patrick Visitor Center at Drakes Beach**

Located at beautiful Drakes Beach, the Kenneth C. Patrick Visitor Center contains exhibits that focus on contacts with Coast Miwok Indians and sixteenth century European explorers, marine fossils and marine environments. A Minke whale skeleton is suspended from the ceiling. Allow 20–30 minutes to view exhibits.

Park- and ocean-themed books, guides, postcards and maps, along with coffee and packaged snacks are for sale in the PRNSA bookstore adjacent to the Visitor Center. Restrooms are accessible.

The Kenneth C. Patrick Visitor Center is 30 minutes from Bear Valley on Drakes Beach Road off of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Several accessible parking spaces and a ramp to access the visitor center, restrooms and bookstore. Exhibits are accessible with a wheelchair. Open: Most weekends and holidays in winter. Closed: December 25. Phone: 415-669-1250.



## **Point Reyes National Seashore Association Bookstores**

Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) is a cooperating association of the National Park Service. They work in partnership with Point Reyes National Seashore and the public to preserve, restore and maintain wildlife habitat, trails, and historic sites at Point Reyes.

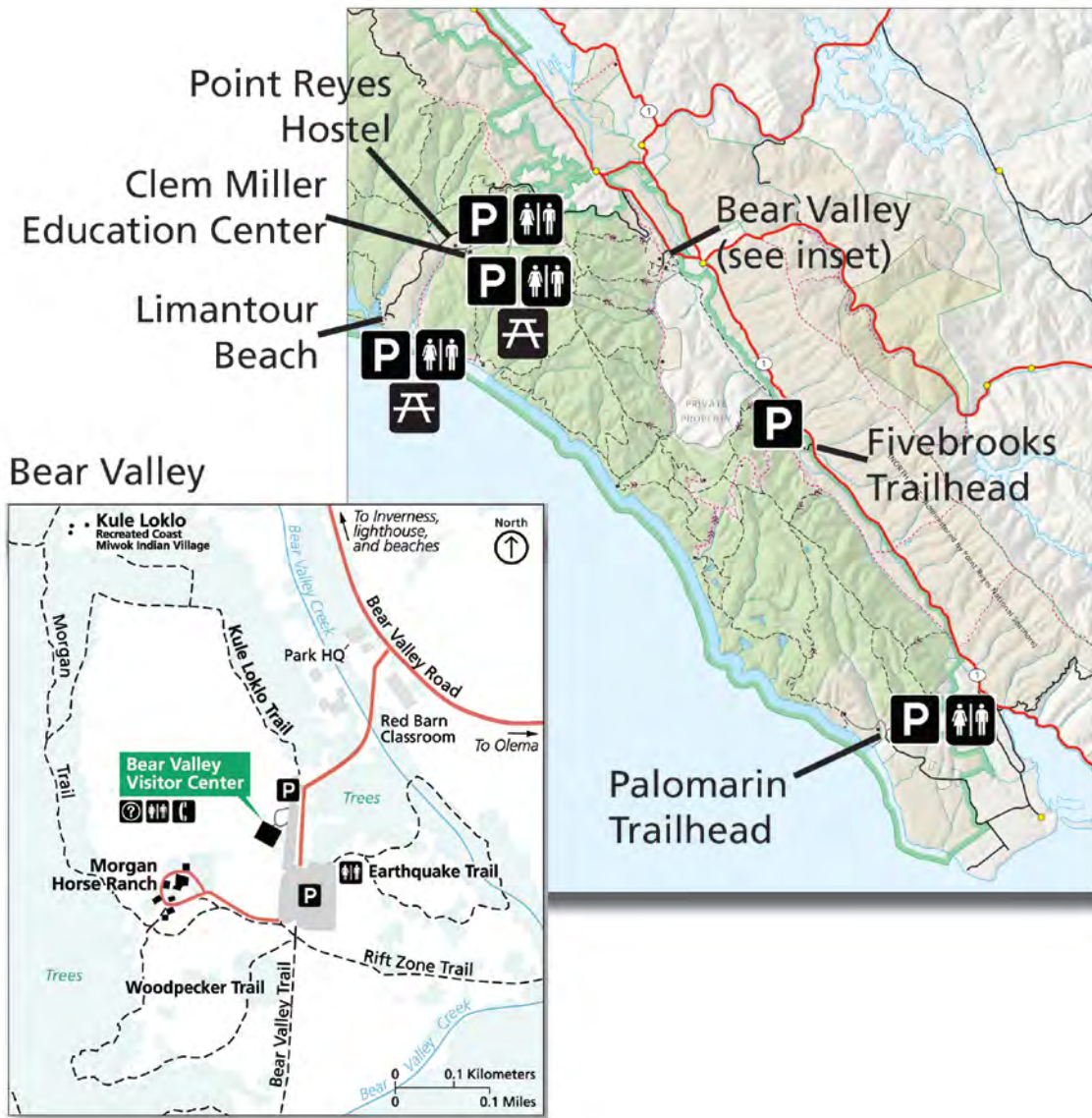
In each of the three park visitor centers, the bookstore is operated by the PRNSA (<http://www.ptreyes.org/>). The bookstores have accessible paths of travel for wheelchair mobility and are located in the Bear Valley and Lighthouse Visitor Centers as well as the Drakes Beach Bookstore.







### South District Map

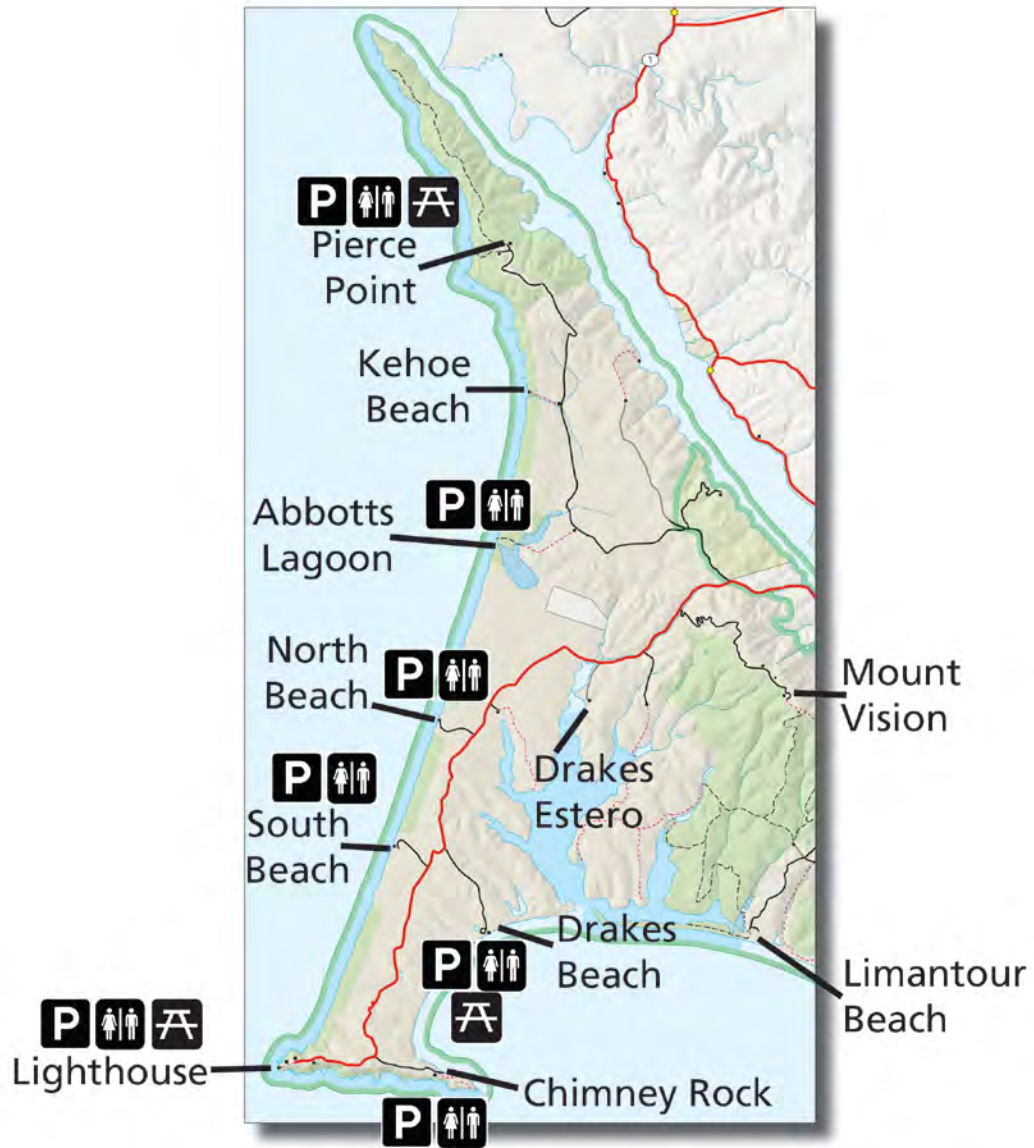


Legend	Accessible Parking	
	Accessible Restroom	
	Accessible Picnic Area	





### North District Map



Legend	Accessible Parking	
	Accessible Restroom	
	Accessible Picnic Area	



## **Accessible Features by Location**

### **Abbotts Lagoon**

A flat trail leads 0.25 miles to an overlook of the lagoon. Restrooms are accessible and there are two designated parking spaces. There is no beach access.

### **Bear Valley - Park Headquarters**

#### **Bear Valley Visitor Center**

This visitor center has a gently ramped, multilevel interior. Many displays are well placed for use or viewing from a seated position. Restrooms, and a telephone on the outside information board, are accessible. A tactile park map is located on the inside bulletin board. Designated parking is located in front of the center. A wheelchair is available on request. *Point Reyes: The Point of Kings* an introductory film produced by Discovery Communications, Inc., is closed-captioned and shown on request.

#### **The Earthquake Trail**

This 0.6-mile trail is paved and self-guiding. Although this is an easy, walkable trail with gentle slopes, some areas are not to accessibility standards. A picnic area, restroom and two designated parking





spaces are located at the trailhead. Funding requests have been submitted to make this trail fully accessible.

### **Kule Loklo, a Coast Miwok Cultural Exhibit**

(Assistance required) The first part of the 0.4-mile dirt trail is quite steep. There are no accessible restrooms. Contact visitor center for access.

### **Morgan Horse Ranch**

With an accessibility placard, you may take the road to a small parking area close to the stables. Most exhibits are viewable. Call 415-663-1763.

### **Bear Valley Trail to Divide Meadow**

(Assistance advisable) This 1.6-mile well-packed dirt trail is uphill and a bit rocky the first 0.25 miles. The remainder of the trail has been accessed with motorized wheelchairs. Vault toilets at the meadow are not accessible.

### **Chimney Rock and Historic Lifeboat Station**

Accessible parking and restrooms are available. Interpretive signs are viewable from wheelchairs and talk about wildflowers and human history of the area. Great views of Drakes Bay. Access to Historic Lifeboat Station by request for overnight accommodations with one accessible room and bathroom on the first floor. For information, call 415-663-1200.



## **Clem Miller Environmental Education Center**

This site is run by the Seashore's Cooperating Association, the Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) ([www.ptreyes.org](http://www.ptreyes.org)), and is used year round by schools and nature and science camps. Main building houses a large classroom with commercial kitchen. A ramp allows access to the building. Ramps also exist to access the bath house and four overnight cabins with bunk beds.

## **Drakes Beach and Ken Patrick Visitor Center**

This complex includes a visitor center, snack bar, picnic area, telephone, and restrooms which are all accessible. There are several designated parking spaces. There is no beach access.

## **Five Brooks Trailhead**

Parking stalls marked with an accessible placard and restrooms exist. Trailhead information accessible from parking lot on gravel trail which can provide limited viewing of the pond.

## **Lighthouse Visitor Center**

Parking close to the Lighthouse Visitor Center is available by arrangement. Call 415-669-1534 for hours of operation. The visitor center and exhibits, observation deck, restrooms, water fountain, and a telephone are all



accessible, but the lighthouse itself is not. Images and video clips are available at the visitor center desk and shown on an iPad for visitors who can't physically go down to the lighthouse. A wheelchair is available on request from the visitor center.

### **Limantour Beach**

Accessible restrooms and parking are available. No accessible beach access.

### **Mount Vision Road**

Mount Vision Road offers a fifteen minute drive up winding Mount Vision Road off Sir Francis Drake Highway and takes you to three spectacular vista points (on clear days). Two look west towards Drakes Bay and Estero and one near the top looks east over Tomales Bay. No facilities.

### **North and South Beaches**

Each parking lot has an accessible restroom and designated parking spaces. There are short paved paths along the dunes with lovely ocean views. There is no beach access.





## Pierce Point Ranch and Tomales Point Trailhead

A flat trail provides access to a self-guided tour of the ranch complex. Panels have ADA-compliant fonts. A telephone in the lower parking lot is accessible.



### Point Reyes Hostel (concession operation)

This site has four accessible sleeping units (twenty beds) with adjacent accessible bathrooms, kitchen, community area, and parking. It is operated by Hosteling International, Inc. For reservations and information, call 415-663-8811 or visit their website at <http://www.norcalhostels.org//reyes/>.