For more information:

Kellet’s Whelk

Keyhole Limpet

Owl Limpet

Intertidal Safety Tips

- Remember you are entering a federally protected area, taking of any kind is against the law.
- Only explore in designated areas. Please stick to the path and heed trail warnings.
- Be respectful of the critters who live here, avoid disturbing their homes, and only touch with two fingers.
- Waves and algae can make the area extremely slippery. Wear sturdy shoes and step with caution.
- Be aware of the incoming tide. Do not turn your back to the waves and make sure that you can always reach dry land.

Contact the park for more information:
(http://www.nps.gov/cabr)
Sandcastle Worms ([Gomphoceridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gomphoceridae)), deep-sea polychaetes, can be found by covering them with their long arms, stretching their tube feet in order to cover the worm with sand, thus creating a mass of sand in the water. However, if the worm is disturbed, the arms will retract, revealing the worm. These worms are found in areas near the mouth of the beach, as well as in tide pools or under rocks in smooth sandy areas.

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Shore Crab ([Pachygrapsus crassipes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pachygrapsus_crassipes)), often seen feeding on the underside of rocks, are members of the genus *Pachygrapsus*. They are commonly found in rocky areas near the shore and are known for their large, powerful claws. While they are primarily scavengers, they also consume plant material and other forms of detritus. In the kelp forest adjacent to the tidepools, you will often find them crawling around and eating the Giant Kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*.

Spiny Lobster ([Panulirus interruptus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panulirus_interruptus)), a small, square-shaped crustacean, can be found swept 1 ft. in size. Though they are deep purple to reddish brown in color, they can range from light to dark brown. They are found mostly in the lower intertidal and are often found in holes or crevices in the mid- to upper intertidal. Spiny lobsters are among the most voracious predators and feed frequently on Giant Kelp. When the urchin’s predators are removed from an ecosystem, they can run rampant and form urchin barrens.

Knobby Sea Star ([*Pisaster giganteus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pisaster_giganteus)), the largest starfish found in the world, can grow up to 10 in. in diameter. Though they have five ambulacra and many more, unlike other sea stars they have web-like structures between their five arms. Bat stars in the tidepools are mostly small, ranging from 1 to 3 in. in diameter and found on the underside of rocks or in sandy areas. Bat stars are often found under boulders or in kelp holdfasts as they do not like being in the sunlight.

**Globose Kelp Crab** ([*Taliepus nuttalli*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliepus_nuttalli)), a small, square-shaped crustacean, can be found swept 1 ft. in size. Though they are deep purple to reddish brown in color, they can range from light to dark brown. They are found mostly in the lower intertidal and are often found in holes or crevices in the mid- to upper intertidal. Spiny lobsters are among the most voracious predators and feed frequently on Giant Kelp. When the urchin’s predators are removed from an ecosystem, they can run rampant and form urchin barrens.

**Sea Urchin** ([*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strongylocentrotus_purpuratus)), the most voracious predators and feed frequently on Giant Kelp. When the urchin’s predators are removed from an ecosystem, they can run rampant and form urchin barrens.

**Bat Star** ([*Patiria miniata*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patiria_miniata)), the smallest starfish, can be found in the lower intertidal stuck firmly to rocks with their suction cup tube feet. They are distinguished by the bright blue circles around their knobby spines. Sea stars feed on urchins by covering them with their long arms, pushing their stomachs out of their bodies, and digesting the animal externally.

**Anemone** ([*Anthopleura zolii*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthopleura_zolii)), the solitary sea anemone is the largest of the S. California anemones. They can reach a diameter of up to 10 in., but are often 3 to 5 in. and are light green in color. Their coloration comes from the symbiotic algae that live in them. Anemone catch their prey using stinging cells called nematocysts.