

Bats at Point Reyes

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Bats are an important part of any local ecosystem, and many bats live near this area of the park.

- Bats consume a lot of insects, including insects that can damage crops or forests. Some bats pollinate plants and disperse seeds, and some eat fish!
- Bats are found in nearly every habitat in the world, and are the only flying mammal.
- Most bats use specialized echolocation, a kind of sonar, to locate prey and to fly through darkness without crashing into anything (including each other).
- Most species of bats are only active at night, and sleep in caves, trees, buildings, and other roosts during the day. Some roosts have over a million bats!

The park's bat species are active mainly at night. Occasionally, you may see a bat out in daylight. However, if you see a bat that is behaving erratically, is unafraid of humans, or is lying on the ground, it may be sick. **Humans can get some of the diseases that make bats sick, including the fatal disease rabies, so it is important not to touch or approach bats closely so that you do not get sick too.** Dead bats located in a storage area in the Park have recently tested positive for rabies.

If you see a bat on the ground or acting sick, do not approach it and tell a park ranger right away. If you accidentally contact a bat, report this to a park ranger and talk to your doctor. The bat will be tested for disease and you may need medical treatment to prevent rabies. This can keep both you and bats healthy!



For More

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