

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE & NATIVE PLANT GUIDE



CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION



EXPLORE OUR STATE PARKS!

Be on the lookout for these wildlife species and native plants as you discover California's parklands, knowing that you are protecting, maintaining and enhancing their natural habitat through your support!

Always be respectful of animals and their habitats – and observe wild animals from a safe distance!

www.calparks.org

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE

Año Nuevo State Park: **ELEPHANT SEALS**

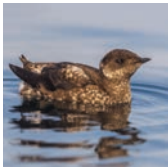
Marvel at northern elephant seals during a guided tour inside the Año Nuevo Coast Natural Preserve. Up to 10,000 elephant seals return to the shores each winter to breed and give birth along the scenic dunes and beaches. Don't forget your camera!



Portola Redwoods State Park:

MARBLED MURRELETS

Look high into the redwoods and you may spot one of these endangered seabirds. The murrelet nests high in the redwood canopy, hundreds of feet above ground. Old-growth trees in Portola provide an important habitat for the marbled murrelet.



Humboldt Lagoons State Park:

ROOSEVELT ELK

Park your car and catch a glimpse of majestic Roosevelt elk from afar. Once nearly extinct, herds of Roosevelt elk can frequently be spotted on the prairie or grazing south of Stone Lagoon. If you visit in May and June, you may even see newborn calves!



Mount Diablo State Park:

BLACK-TAILED DEER

A "keystone" species in the native California coastal ecosystem, black-tailed deer bound through the 20,000-acre park. If you visit during the summer, these beauties will be reddish-brown, and brownish-gray during the winter.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PLANTS

DOUGLAS IRIS (*Iris douglasiana*)

Blue, pink, purple, white and yellow: this stunning wildflower comes in an array of colors.

Where to find it: Grassy places, meadows, coastal prairie and in the understory of evergreen forest from Del Norte County to Santa Barbara County

Flowering season: Spring and winter



BLUFF LETTUCE (*Dudleya farinosa*)

This succulent is an important hummingbird plant along the coast. The tips of its basal rosettes are often bright red during the dry season.

Where to find it: Northern California on bluffs and coastal hillsides

Flowering season: Summer



ROCK PHACELIA (*Phacelia californica*)

The dense, "hairy" cluster of bell-shaped flowers are a food source for the endangered Mission Blue butterfly.

Where to find it: Coastal northern California in chaparral, woodland, coastal bluffs and grassland

Flowering season: Spring and summer



SEASIDE DAISY (*Erigeron glaucus*)

With its golden yellow face and flower clusters of deep blue, purple, lavender or white, these perennials brighten many state parks.

Where to find it: Coastal California on beaches, coastal bluffs and dunes

Flowering season: Spring, summer and winter

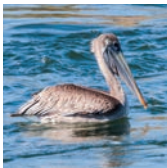


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE

Salton Sea State Recreation Area:

BROWN AND WHITE PELICANS

Bring your binoculars! The Salton Sea is a bird watcher's delight. From brown and white pelicans to herons, kingfishers and more, the Salton Sea has long-provided sanctuary to a diverse collection of wildlife and the critical habitats that nurture them.



Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve:

GRAY WHALES

You won't forget the sight of a gray whale migration. High above the sea, the bluffs are a great spot to watch the graceful sea mammals. Go late in the season to see females and their calves migrate back north.



Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area:

BALD EAGLES

Winter is the perfect time to take a Bald Eagle Barge Tour here, while bald eagles glide silently above the lake, fishing for their next meal. This bird of prey winters on the lake shores, and water-oriented birds such as snowy egrets and loons are plentiful.



Cuyamaca Rancho State Park:

PACIFIC TREE FROGS

You'll know this small amphibian by its dark "mask"— but you'll have to look closely! Smaller than a chicken egg, the Pacific tree frog also has the ability to change its color based on the air temperature to avoid being spotted by predators.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLANTS

CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT

(Eriogonum fasciculatum)

If you see honey bees on this drought-resistant bush, don't be surprised! Its pink and white flowers are a good source of nectar.

Where to find it: Southwestern California on scrubby slopes, in chaparral and dry washes

Flowering season: Spring, summer and fall



PURPLE SAGE (*Salvia leucophylla*)

Calling all wildlife! This highly aromatic shrub attracts a variety of birds and insects with its purple flowers.

Where to find it: Southern coast of California and Baja California, on dry, open hillsides

Flowering season: Spring and summer



SUGAR SUMAC (*Rhus ovata*)

The flower clusters of this fire-resistant shrub may look pink, but they actually have white to pink petals with red sepals.

Where to find it: Southern California in chaparral in dry canyons and slopes

Flowering season: Spring and winter



DESERT LAVENDER (*Hyptis emoryi*)

Bees and butterflies love this member of the mint family. Its purple buds and small, furry leaves make this drought-resistant plant easy to spot.

Where to find it: Southwestern California in sandy or gravelly soils

Flowering season: Spring and winter

