

Marin State and National Parks

Angel Island State Park

A brief ferry trip from Tiburon this former Civil War camp preserves many of its wooden army buildings. The island offers campsites, biking and hiking trails, bike rentals and sea kayak tours with breathtaking views. The Immigration Station Museum details the historic arrival of Asian immigrants. (415) 435-1915. Tram tours: 897-0715.

China Camp State Park

Site of the Bay Area's last Chinese shrimpfishing village—dating to the 1880s—this park offers 30 developed walk-in campsites. But most come to watch the multitudes of birds, hike, swim, fish, boat, or windsurf. (415) 456-0766.

Marconi Conference Center State Park

The Marconi Center was once home to a mile-high antenna that controlled ship-to-shore communications for the western seaboard. Historic buildings provide a spectacular setting for walking trails and views of Tomales Bay and its abundant wildlife. (415) 663-9020.

Mount Tamalpais State Park

This park's twisting road to the 2,571-foot summit is a paradise for hikers and bicyclists. It has 16 developed walk-in campsites, and 10 rustic cabins perch on a bluff overlooking the Pacific. (415) 388-2070.

Muir Woods National Monument

Until the 1800's, many northern California coastal valleys were covered with coast redwood trees similar to those now found in Muir Woods National Monument. The forest along Redwood Creek in today's Muir Woods was spared from logging because it was hard to get to. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt declared it a national monument. (415) 388-2596

Point Reyes National Seashore

Point Reyes National Seashore contains unique elements of biological and historical interest in a spectacularly scenic panorama of thunderous ocean breakers, open grasslands, bushy hillsides and forested ridges. There are visitor's centers at Bear Valley, Drakes Beach and the Point Reyes Lighthouse. (415) 669-1250

Olompali State Historic Park

This park was the site of the largest Coast Miwok villages. The discovery of a 16th-century English coin suggests possible contact with Sir Francis Drake. (415) 892-3383.

Samuel P. Taylor State Park

Enjoy open hillsides with hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails, creeks, canyons, and thriving redwoods. Some accessible campsites, 2 group camps, an equestrian camp, accessible picnic area and trail. (415) 488-9897.