

What To Bring



Winter weather at the Reserve can be *extreme* and unpredictable. Be prepared for windy, rainy conditions, as well as muddy trails. A warm jacket, layered clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear are strongly advised. Bring bottled water for drinking on the trail.

- *Umbrellas and baby strollers are not permitted for safety reasons.*
- Cameras and binoculars are welcome.
- You may bring a snack or picnic lunch for before or after the walk.
- *Pets are not allowed in the Reserve and cannot be left inside parked vehicles in the parking lot.*

Directions & Parking Fees

Año Nuevo State Reserve is located on State Route 1, between the cities of Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay, about 1.5 hours south of San Francisco. Watch carefully for the brown entrance signs on State Route 1. Allow extra time during rainy weather.

Parking fees are collected from all vehicles, except grades one through 12 school groups arriving by school bus.

- Auto Regular\$7.00
- Auto Senior (age 62+)\$6.00
- Bus (10-24 passenger)....\$50.00
- Bus (25 + passengers)....\$100.00

What Will I See?

Adult seals begin arriving on the beaches by mid-December. Bulls engage in battles for breeding access to females. Pregnant females come ashore to have pups beginning in mid-December, with births reaching a peak by late January. Mothers nurse their pups for about a month before weaning their pup, mating, and departing back to sea. By the end of February most adult seals have returned to the sea, leaving behind hundreds of weaned pups.

In March groups of pups play in the dunes and learn to swim in the tide pools before departing to the sea.

Facilities & Resources:

A Visitor Center features natural history exhibits and a bookstore. Picnic tables, restrooms, and drinking water are available.

Año Nuevo State Reserve
Pescadero, CA 94060
(650) 879-2025
8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Recorded Information:
(650) 879-0227
www.parks.ca.gov



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Año Nuevo State Reserve

Guided Seal Walks 2008-2009

Año Nuevo State Reserve is home to a large colony of Northern Elephant Seals. Seal activities and population counts vary widely from December 15 through March 31.

The Reserve offers naturalist-guided walks between December 15 and March 31, which feature the seals in their natural habitat. *To view the seals during this period, you must be on a Guided Walk.* These popular three mile walks, over rolling sand dunes, last about two and a half hours and are considered moderately strenuous. They operate daily from early morning to mid-afternoon rain or shine.



Two types of guided walks are offered from December 15 through March 31: School Group Seal Walks and Public Seal Walks. Advance Reservations are recommended for these guided walks, to ensure space will be available when you arrive.

School Group Seal Walks

School Group Walk tickets are offered weekdays for grades 1 through 12 only.

- *Tickets for all School Group Walks go on sale the first Saturday in October.*
- The price per School Group ticket is \$21.00. *Each ticket allows entry for up to 20 students plus two required adult chaperones, for a total group size of 22.*
- School Groups without the required number of adult chaperones will not be admitted on the school group walk.
- Each caller may purchase up to four School Group tickets.

Public Seal Walks

Public Seal Walks operate daily for individuals, families, or groups.

- *Starting Oct. 20, tickets go on sale as early as 56 days in advance, and no later than one day before arrival.*
- The price per ticket is \$7.00. Children age three and under are free and do not need a ticket.
- Children age 17 and under require one adult chaperone for each 10 children.
- Each walk has a capacity of 20 persons, including chaperones.



Reservations

To reserve your guided School Group or Public Walk, check for their open reservation periods:

Call 1-800-444-4445

From Oct. 2 through Apr. 30,
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Pacific Time weekdays, and
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekends

From Mar. 1 through Oct. 1,
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily

From Dec. 18 through Dec. 31,
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and
New Year's Day.

Unreserved tickets for a walk date are sold at the reserve, first come first serve, on the walk date, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Public Transit Option

San Mateo County Transit will not be offering bus service to Año Nuevo this season.



Special Needs Reservations

Accessible seal walks are available on a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk. Reservations are required. For reservations or information phone (650)879-2033 beginning December 1, between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



The price per person is \$7.00.

Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need special assistance should contact the park office to determine if their specific needs can be met.

Cancellations and Exchanges

Guided Walks take place rain or shine. There are no ticket exchanges or refunds for cancellations, no-shows, or late arrivals. Refunds are issued only when the Reserve cancels a walk. As much notice as possible will be given in the event of a cancellation.

