



WILDLIFE VIEWING AND STEWARDSHIP TIPS

Great wildlife viewing encounters involve good timing, observation skills, and a little luck! California's Highway 1 Discovery Route offers some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities anywhere. Use these tips to improve your chances for a memorable wildlife experience!

Be outside during dawn, dusk, and incoming tides.

Birds, fish, and mammals are active during these times. Look for churning water surfaces, diving birds, shiny dolphin backs, seals and otters in bays and on open water. Listen for songbirds singing in bushes and trees, especially during spring and early summer.

Look and listen for signs of wildlife.

Look for animal tracks and droppings (called scat). Large birds like ospreys, hawks, vultures, and cormorants leave noticeable white droppings (whitewash) on bushes, trees, sea cliffs and rocks. When you see this, look up to find where birds roost or nest.

Low tide exposes fascinating and fragile life on the rocks.

Venture carefully on rocks for a close-up peek into the exciting tidal world of animals feeding, interacting or waiting for the incoming tide.

Look for whales when seas are calm.

Look for whale spouts or blows, tail flukes, and dorsal fins. Big splashes may indicate a whale has just breached. Look for The Whale Trail viewing sites along the Highway 1 Discovery Route at: TheWhaleTrail.org

Stay at a distance, including drones.

If birds and animals get nervous, they show it by looking at you, raising their heads and stopping what they were doing. Any change of an animal's natural behavior is a disturbance.

Stay away from animals that appear sick or abandoned.

If you find an injured bird or land animal, you can help by calling Pacific Wildlife Care; 805-543-9453. If you suspect a marine animal is injured or in danger, call the Marine Mammal Center; 415-289-7325.



CALIFORNIA WHALE TRAIL

The Whale Trail is a nonprofit organization in partnership with NOAA Fisheries, National Marine Sanctuaries and other national marine conservation organizations with a mission to inspire appreciation and stewardship for the marine environment. Our locations are the biggest cluster of sites on the Pacific Coast. The viewing sites are ADA accessible and provide details about the whales, dolphins, seals and otters that can be viewed from shore.

See Whales From The Shore



Abundant Wildlife Seasons

Significant natural occurrences can be observed annually. Plan your next trip around your favorite species or group of animals.

ELEPHANT SEALS:

December, January, February, May

BIRDS:

December, January, February

GRAY WHALES:

March, April, May

OCEAN ABUNDANCE:

August, September, October

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES:

November, December, January February

SEA OTTERS:

Look for them ALL year