

Humboldt Lagoons State Park



Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at **(707) 677-3570**. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact interp@parks.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.

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SaveTheRedwoods.org/csp

Humboldt Lagoons State Park

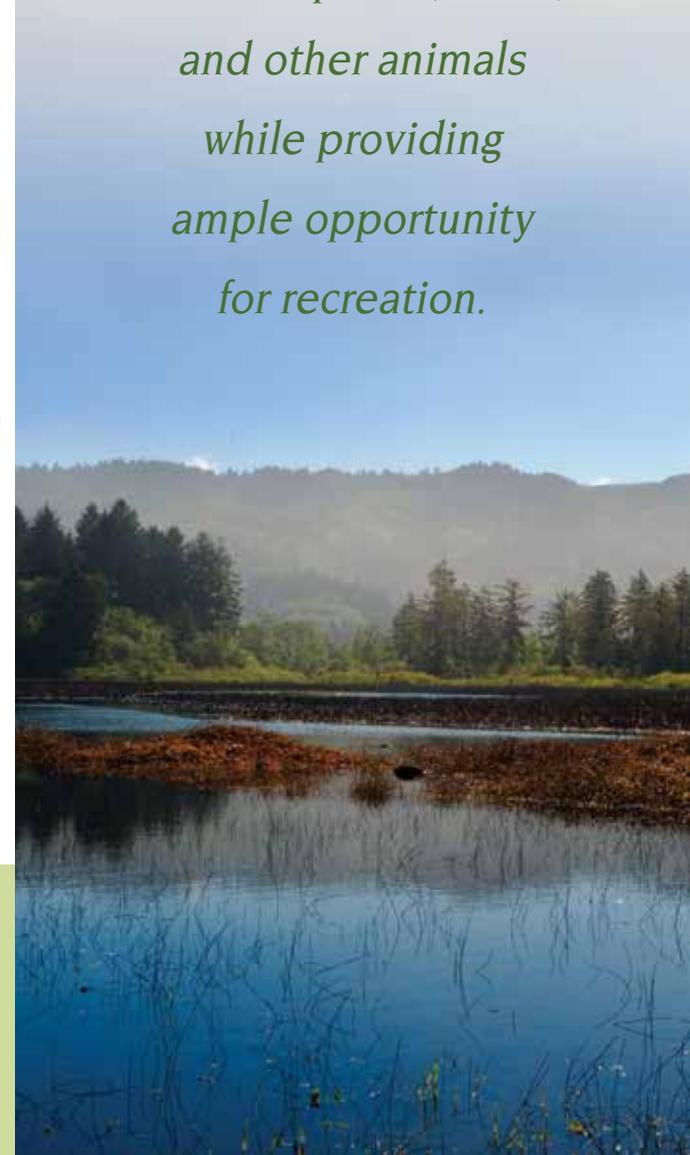
115336 Highway 101 North

Trinidad, CA 95570

(707) 677-3570

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*Part of the country's
largest lagoon system
supports a rich variety
of marsh plants, birds,
and other animals
while providing
ample opportunity
for recreation.*



Visitors to Humboldt Lagoons

State Park see part of the largest lagoon system in the United States. Lagoons are shallow, enclosed bodies of water along the coast—separated from the ocean by coastal strands or spits of land. Water flows in and out of the lagoons when it breaches (breaks through) these spits.

The park offers activities that include fishing, swimming, hiking, picnicking, and kayaking. From the flat, uncrowded beach and wetland areas, watch whales and migratory birds make their way along the coast.

Summers are usually mild, with morning fog burning off by midday. Cool winters bring rain; weather changes frequently.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

The Yurok have lived here for generations, inhabiting a coastal strip from Little River in today's Humboldt County to Del Norte County, and inland along the Klamath River. Though some villages were seasonal, others were permanent settlements where major ceremonies took place.

From several Yurok villages within what is now Humboldt Lagoons State Park, people fished for salmon, eel, trout, and steelhead, as well as marine mammals and shellfish.

Canoes of hollowed-out redwood logs carried the Yurok between villages and food sources. A system of trails was also established to connect far-flung settlements across rugged terrain.



Stone Lagoon

First European Contact

The Yurok people's first documented contact with non-Indians was in 1775, with the arrival of Spanish explorers at the nearby town of T'surai (near present-day Trinidad).

With the discovery of gold in 1850 along the Trinity River, the Yurok people's way of life nearly came to an end. Conflicts between the Yurok and many Euro-Americans forced the relocation of the Yurok to distant reservations. By the turn of the century, two-thirds of the population had been decimated. Today, the Yurok tribe has made a remarkable recovery. The most populous tribe in California with more than 5,500 members, the majority of Yurok live in Del Norte and Humboldt counties. The tribe has actively pursued cultural

and language revitalization, viewing Humboldt Lagoons State Park as part of their heritage.

NATURAL HISTORY

The Lagoons

Humboldt Lagoons State Park consists of four separate areas from south to north: Big Lagoon, Dry Lagoon, Stone Lagoon, and Freshwater Lagoon.

Big Lagoon frequently breaches its sand spit seasonally after heavy rains. Thousands of birds live or migrate through here, as does a federally endangered fish, the tidewater goby.

Dry Lagoon was once a fourth body of water. Farmers drained it, but their attempts to grow crops failed. Dry Lagoon's wetland now attracts elk and scores of migrant birds.

Stone Lagoon breaches its 1.5-mile ocean barrier much less frequently than Big Lagoon; years may elapse between breaks. Six environmental campsites are available. Watch for river otters or Roosevelt elk that graze south of Stone Lagoon.

Freshwater Lagoon, co-managed with Redwood National Park, is a fully enclosed body of water. The lagoon's largemouth bass, catfish, and cutthroat trout are joined by stocked rainbow trout.





Plant Life

The coastal strand beaches within Humboldt Lagoons support a dynamic coastal dune mat vegetation community. The lagoon margins of Big and Stone lagoons consist of brackish marsh, while

Dry Lagoon supports both freshwater and brackish marsh. Landlocked Freshwater Lagoon is bounded by a narrow band of freshwater marsh.

Native dune mats can be displaced by invasive exotic species such as jubata or pampas grass, iceplant, and European beachgrass. State Parks has been restoring the dunes here for several years, resulting in a vibrant dune mat community. Prairie balds, small patches of herbaceous vegetation found across Hwy. 101 from the visitor center, are dominated by various grasses interspersed with Douglas iris, clumps of Pacific reed grass, and bracken fern.

In the forest, coast redwood and salt-spray-tolerant Sitka spruce thrive near the ocean among western hemlock and grand fir. Red alder grows in riparian areas among large stands of willows.

Wildlife

As part of the Pacific Flyway, Humboldt Lagoons hosts more than 200 bird species, including endangered bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and threatened western snowy plovers. Black bears, herds of Roosevelt elk, and bobcats can be seen in the park. Watch for whales, dolphins, and sea lions offshore.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fishing—Licensed anglers may fish at Big Lagoon, Freshwater Lagoon, and Stone Lagoon. Use only barbless hooks

at Big Lagoon and only artificial lures with barbless hooks at Stone Lagoon. For full regulations and limits, visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/fishing.

Kayaking—All three “wet” lagoons allow kayaking. Freshwater Lagoon has the most protection from strong north winds.

Camping—Register to camp at Patrick’s Point State Park—(707) 677-3570. The first-come, first-served lagoon campsites are usually open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Stone Lagoon’s campground is reachable only by boat.

Picnicking—Picnic at the visitor center and at Dry Lagoon day-use area.

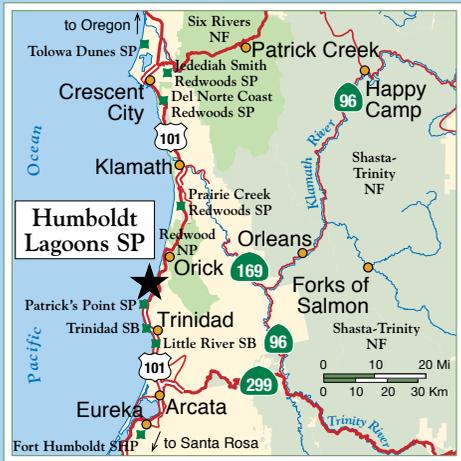
ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

There are no wheelchair-accessible activities yet at this park; however, accessibility is continually improving. For updates, visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov>.



Snowy plover

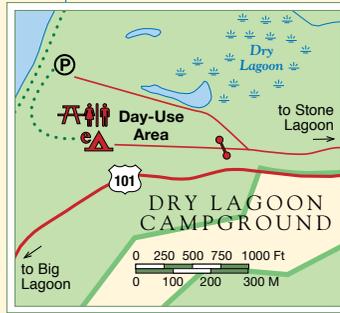
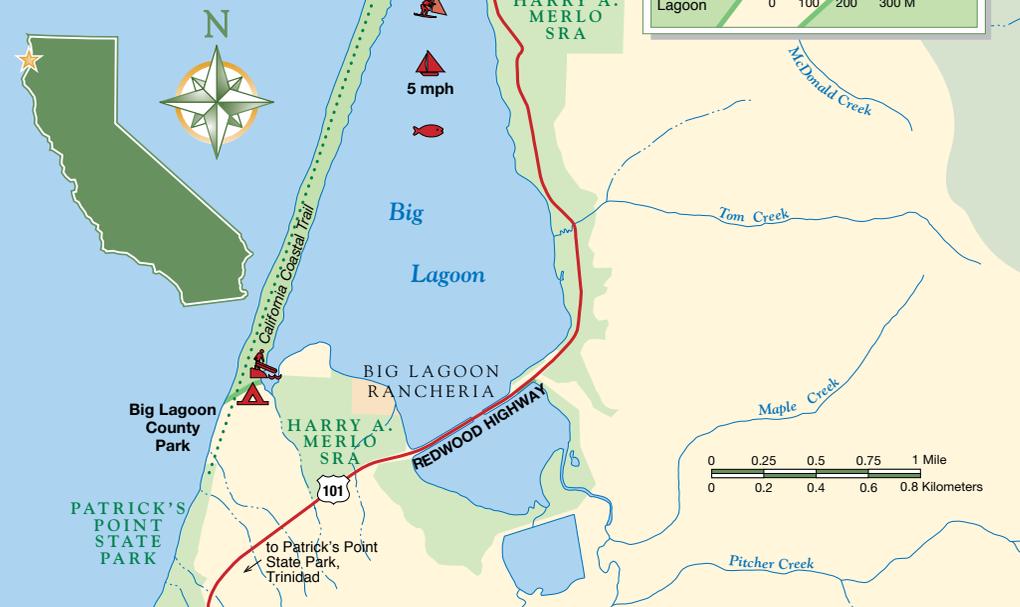
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Legend

	Major Road
	Paved Road
	Unpaved Road
	Trail
	Intermittent Stream
	Boating
	Boat-In Environmental Campground
	Campground
	Environmental Campground
	Fishing
	Hand Boat Launch
	Vehicle Boat Launch
	Locked Gate
	Marsh Area
	Parking
	Picnic Area
	Restroom
	Windsurfing

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NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Patrick's Point State Park
4150 Patrick's Point Dr.,
Trinidad 95570
(707) 677-3570
- Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area
32 miles north of Eureka
on Hwy. 101
(707) 677-3570
- Trinidad State Beach
19 mi. north of Eureka
on Hwy. 101
Trinidad 95570
(707) 677-3570

PLEASE REMEMBER

- All natural and cultural features are protected by law and may not be disturbed.
- Watch out for afternoon winds that may cause treacherous conditions, rogue waves, and ocean-side rip currents.
- Check current tide tables to avoid becoming trapped by high tide.
- Anglers age 16 and older must carry a current California fishing license.
- For your safety and theirs, do not approach elk for any reason.
- Except for service animals, pets are not allowed in campsites, on trails, or in dune areas, and they must not be left unattended.

This park receives support in part through the nonprofit Redwood Parks Association, 1111 Second Street, Crescent City, CA 95531 • (707) 464-9150
www.redwoodparksassociation.org