Patrick's Point is a tree and meadow-covered headland with a broad sandy beach that juts into the Pacific Ocean thirty miles north of Eureka. Though the larger park is in the heart of California's coast redwood country, the principal trees within the park are spruce, hemlock, pine, fir and red alder. Spring and summer wildflowers include Douglas iris, trillium, azalea, rhododendron, fairy bells, false lilies-of-the-valley, skunk cabbage, and salal. In addition, the blooms of blackberry, huckleberry, thimbleberry, and salmonberry bushes bring color to the meadow.

The shoreline here ranges from broad sandy stretches of beach to sheer cliffs that rise high above the sea. A number of "sea stacks" - parts of the mainland that have been isolated by the pounding surf - stand offshore like pinnacles. South of Agate Beach, several trails wind down the cliffs to ledges from which fishermen catch ling cod, greenlings, sea trout and rock cod.

Just south of Patrick's Point is Abalone Point, where the Yurok had a seasonal camp. Though the Yurok lived in permanent villages north and south of the park, they came here in the summer to harvest fish, mussels, sea lions and other game.

Black-tailed deer are a common sight along the bluffs and in the meadows, especially at sundown. You may see and hear sea lions and seals on the offshore rocks in the southern part of the park near Palmer's Point. Here, too, you can investigate the fascinating world of the tidepool. Look, but don't disturb the life you can see in these pools. Removing the animals that live in these pools can kill them, and they are, after all, protected by law.

AGATE BEACH

This gently curving sand strip can be reached by a short, steep trail from the Agate Beach Campground. Small agates, for which the beach is named, are polished here by the constant movement of sand and water. Winter's driving winds and high tides also deposit driftwood of many shapes and sizes.

TRAILS

Rim Trail is a two-mile-long walk that offers excellent views of the ocean and offshore rocks as it follows the edge of the Coastal Range. It is an excellent place to see birds, including the rare third race of the coastal Solitaire. The Agate Cove Trail leads to a cove where the rare coastal Solitaire may be seen. The Calvert Trail is a short, steep trail that leads to a cove where the rare coastal Solitaire may be seen.
Once the old logs rotted completely away, these trees were left standing on long, tentacle-like roots. This 30-mile-long self-guided nature trail provides a great opportunity to learn about some of the park's most interesting plant life.

The terrace that now makes up the main part of the park was once entirely submerged beneath the ocean. A trail system makes it easy to explore the forests and meadows that now cover this old marine terrace. A couple of short, steep trails make it possible to reach the tops of Comerford Rock and Lookout Rock, old sea stacks that were left high and dry when the ocean receded. In some parts of the park, plant life is so abundant that hikers moving along the trail are sheltered and isolated by walls of vegetation.

### Yurok Indian Village

In the fall of 1990, the newly constructed Yurok Village of Sumeg was dedicated. Funds to create the village were provided by the 1984 State Park Bond Act. The actual construction work was planned and carried out by the Yurok people working with local park staff. Sumeg consists of two typical family houses, a sweat house, three changing houses, and a one-family 'Red House' that also serves as a Native American Museum. Modern amenities include an RV park, a covered cook shelter, and picnic tables.

All of these structures are made from boards split from redwood trees that have fallen in northern California state parks. Stone and other local materials were also used in the structures. Although the idea of constructing a Native American village at Patrick Point originated in the 1970s, planning did not begin until 1986. Construction began in 1988.

Although the Yurok people have permanent villages in the area north and south of Sumeg Park, this area was used primarily for seasonal encampment, and the name "Sumeg" is simply a place name for the site. Nevertheless, the Yurok Village of Sumeg is of cultural importance not only to the Yurok people and Native Americans in general but also to all Californians. Ceremonies are held here by Native Americans and many school groups visit the village when they study California history.

The village of Sumeg is open every day to the public.

### Native Plant Garden

In 1973, Patrick's Point Garden Club established what has become a native plant repository, comprised of many plants as possible that grow in the unique environment of our coastal fog belt and the humus transition zone between the ocean and mountain slopes. The emphasis is on indigenous plants from the Oregon border to the Van Duzen River and from ocean's edge on up the seaward slope of the Coast Range. Most of these plants can be found in the park's garden areas and are also found in Native American diets and recipes. As with any garden venture, this native plant garden is not "finished," but is completely "furnished" with all possible specimens.

The Native Plant Garden is located just east of and adjacent to the Yurok Indian Village.

### Trinidad

Many visitors to Patrick's Point like to visit the historic town of Trinidad, just five miles south of the park. The first incorporated town on the North Coast, and the smallest incorporated town in California with just 255 residents, the site of Trinidad was discovered and described on Map of Pituco in 1775 by the Spanish maritime explorer, Captain Bruno de Heceta. The town was founded in April 1850 and enjoyed a flurry of activity for a few years, when it was the port from which miners and supplies reached the gold mines. Later, the miners' camps at Gold Bluffs Beach in present-day Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Trinidad once had some 3,000 residents and served as the county seat from 1853 to 1854, but once the gold rush was over most everyone drifted away.

Today, park visitors enjoy scenic vistas of the rugged coastline and Trinidad Bay. The old lighthouse on Trinidad Head, a replica of the original, is no longer open to the public. Boat-launching and rentals are available, as are party boats for fishing expeditions.

### Camping and Picnicking

The Alabone, Penn Creek, and Agate Beach campgrounds have 124 family campsites, each with a table, stove, and cupboard. Water faucets and restrooms are nearby. The park also features fully developed picnic areas complete with barbecues and restrooms. During the summer, a variety of interpretive programs are available. Check the bulletin boards for specific details about campfire programs, nature hikes, and other interpretive programs of special interest. Youngsters enjoy learning about the environment through the Junior Ranger Program.

The park's group campground, Beach Creek, can accommodate up to 150 people. There is a covered cook shelter, hot showers, seating for 150 and a place to build a traditional campfire.

Campsite reservations may be made by calling MISTIX at 1-800-444-7276 and using your VISA, Mastercard, or American Express. Reservations may be made up to eight weeks in advance (12 weeks for the group camp) and until just twenty-four hours before arriving. The reservation period is generally from the Friday before Memorial Day to the week after Labor Day.

There are two picnic areas that can be reserved directly through the park. Red Alder is suitable for groups up to 150 people and Bishop Pine for smaller groups of 50 or less. Red Alder has a covered cook shelter with propane stove and sink, restrooms, picnic tables, a fire ring, and barbecue. Bishop Pine has more limited parking, a barbecue and picnic tables. Restrooms are nearby.

### Please Remember...

To make your visit to Patrick's Point as pleasant as possible, please keep these points in mind.

Dogs are permitted only in the campground and day-use areas, not on the trails or on the beach. They must be kept in an enclosed vehicle or tent at night, and on a controlled six-foot leash during the day. There is an extra fee to bring a dog into the park.

Swimming is not advised. The ocean off Patrick's Point is cold and dangerous. Children should not even be allowed to wade, as there are unexpected holes in the underwater sand and the undertow can be very strong. Occasional "sleeper" waves appear unexpectedly and can be much larger than previous waves.

### All Plant and Animal Life is Protected!

Please do not pick wildflowers or mushrooms, as they are an important part of a very fragile ecosystem.

Bears and raccoons enjoy a good meal, so don't leave your food or garbage out to attract them. Ice chests and camp cupboards are not bear proof, so store your supplies in airtight containers. They will usually be safe in your car trunk. And don't feed the animals! It's illegal and it isn't safe for them.

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Patrick's Point State Park
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Cover Photo by Sally Merges
BEARS AND RACCONS CAN MEAN TROUBLE! DON'T INVITE THEM TO YOUR CAMPSITE!

Bears are a part of the natural scene of the park, but inviting them into your campsite, on purpose or accidentally, can result in damage to your camping equipment — or to you! Though they may appear friendly, the bear is a wild animal — and he can outrun you, and climb trees besides.

Raccoons, too, may seem friendly and cute, but the acquisition of food is their top priority. Hands, fingers, or even ankles that come between them and their food can get painfully nibbled.

Both bears and raccoons will seek out food items stored in your campsite and will go to great lengths to obtain possession, but a few precautions will ensure you of a safe park stay:

☐ Keep a clean camp. A bear or raccoon uses his nose to read your menu — and if there's lots of fragrant food odors from leftovers to attract him, it's quite likely he'll pay you a surprise visit.

☐ Store food in airtight containers, or wrap it carefully. Wrapped food is normally safe locked in a hard-topped car or in a car trunk, but campsite cupboards and ice chests are not bear proof!

☐ Don't feed the animals. Hungry animals will frequently beg for food, but once fed they may become aggressive in their demands for more.

☐ Never get between a mother and her young. Young animals are cute — but an irate mother isn't.