

2015 Whale Festival Events at MacKerricher and Mendocino Headlands State Parks

MacKerricher State Park: (located three miles north of Fort Bragg on Highway 1) MacKerricher State Park's 2015 Whale Festival is a popular 'Must-Attend' event on March 20, 21 and 22 at this free, day-use park. Activities are listed below. Guided whale programs are scheduled at MacKerricher every Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. through March 22. For additional information call (707) 961-0471.

An ideal location for watching migrating whales, MacKerricher provides a wheelchair accessible boardwalk, allowing an easy traverse across the headlands to a deck situated on Laguna Point near the whale route. Docents will present public whale talks on the dates below, and will provide binoculars and a spotting scope to help visitors study whales and other fascinating marine and bird wildlife near MacKerricher's shores. A rare, reconstructed Gray Whale Skeleton is on permanent display near the visitor center and entry kiosk. The skeleton is a composite of two whales that beached on the Mendocino Coast, two years apart. Humpback Whale bones are also on display giving a visual size perspective between the gray and humpback whales.

Event in Fort Bragg

Friday, March 20: 7 p.m.

Close Encounters of the Marine Mammal Kind –Join us for a slideshow presentation about marine mammals seen along the Mendocino Coast. Fort Bragg Library, 499 East Laurel Street. Call (707)961-0471.

Schedule of Events at MacKerricher State Park

Saturday and Sunday, March 21 and 22: 11 a.m.

Whale Walks –Docents present an informative overview of gray whales. The talk/walk starts at the MacKerricher Visitor Center and then proceeds to the whale skeleton before driving to Laguna Point for whale watching.

Saturday, March 21: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Whale Fact Scavenger Hunt and Arts and Crafts for children.

At MacKerricher State Park start out at the visitor center and then go through the park to find clues. Answer questions about gray whales. Then get a prize.

Sunday, March 22: 1:00 p.m. to 3p.m.

Help us paint the whale skeletons at MacKerricher State Park.

The whale skeletons on display need to be painted for protection. Paint and some brushes will be provided. Bring paint brushes and wear old clothes. Rain or fog will cancel painting the whale skeleton.

Mendocino Headlands State Park: (located in Mendocino village on Highway One) The park will hold the following events at the Ford House Visitor Center and Museum, 45035 Main Street, Mendocino, CA open 11am to 4pm daily.

Built in 1854 for Jerome Ford, the acknowledged founder of Mendocino, the Ford House has exhibits highlighting the area's natural and cultural history, including a scale model of Mendocino as it was in 1890. For additional information, visit the Ford House online at <http://mendoparks.org> , on Facebook, or by calling the Ford House Visitor Center at (707) 937-5397.

Schedule of Events at the Ford House

- **“Whale Tales”** Exhibit at the Ford House Visitor’s Center, featuring bones from a Gray Whale, information regarding the grays whale migration, and an interactive exhibit that lets you quiz yourself on whale facts. Throughout the month of March.
- Knowledgeable docents will be on hand at the Ford House throughout the Whale Festival with tips on when and where to watch for whales, and to answer questions regarding gray whale natural history.
- **Docent-led whale watch walks** are scheduled during the Mendocino Whale Festival at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 7th, and 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 8th. A limited number of binoculars and spotting scopes are available. Meet at the Ford House.
- **Thanksgiving Coffee will be providing free coffee tasting** at the Ford House during the Mendocino Whale Festival, Saturday only, March 7th, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.