Garrapata State Park

Our Mission
The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation 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.

GRAY DAVIS
Governor
MARY D. NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources
ROTH COLEMAN
Acting Director, California State Parks

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA
94296-0001

For information call:
800-777-0369
916-653-6995, outside the U.S.
711, TTY relay service

www.parks.ca.gov

Garrapata State Park
Monterey Sector
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940
831-649-2866

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Welcome to Garrapata State Park, nestled at the base of the Santa Lucia Range. Garrapata’s 3,000 acres encompass a spectacular rocky shoreline and a beautiful inland area of steep mountains and deep redwood canyons.

The climate is moderate, with an average of 50-65 degrees year-round. Variable weather includes cool, foggy mornings, strong onshore winds, and hot summer days in the backcountry. The average of the Big Sur coast, three miles south of Monterey Bay and east to the Central Valley. The land and sea provided well for the Native Americans who managed to escape no longer had unlimited access to their food sources. By brought them into the mission system. Those who managed to escape no longer had unlimited access to their food sources. By brought them into the mission system. Those

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Garrapata State Park

—Cattle grazing and drought
—Northern mixed chaparral
—Northern bluff scrub includes lizard

parcel of the property in 1980, and it was classified a state park in 1985.

NATURAL HISTORY
Garrapata's bold, vertical headlands state of seismic movement.
several fault lines keeps them in a
rock and chert. Their proximity to
portion of marine sandstone, shale, volcanic
and offshore sea stacks are a combina-

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITIES
Garrapata's diverse terrain supports six
vegetation types and several plant and

Central coast scrub is dominated by coyote
tail, mock heather and dune buckwheat.

Chaparral
the denser, taller mixed chaparral
includes manzanita, blue blossom and
at Rocky Ridge shelters the sensitive California
horned lizard.

Grassland
Grasses, home to the black-shouldered kite,
(blue wild rye grow among the non-native
introduced non-native grasses. Near the
Rocky Ridge Trail rare California oatgrass,

N. Soberanes Family
In 1839 this area was part of Rancho San José
y Sur Chiquito, a Mexican land grant. The
acreage was later divided, and William B. Post purchased two 160-acre parcels. In 1867 he sold his land to Ezquezil
Soberanes, who operated a prosperous
cattle and sheep ranch for 24 years. Locally
famous for their musical talents, the
Soberanes family was also known for their
hospitality to ranchers traveling along the
cost to Monterey. A land title dispute
brought the colorful era of the Ezquezil
Soberanes Ranch to an end.

The Doud Ranch
In 1893 Francis Doud, an early Monterey
resident, combined this and other proper-
ties into the Doud Ranch, which operated
until the early 1950s. By the 1960s the
family had stopped running cattle, and
their wood-frame ranch house had
burned to the ground. The
State acquired its first

Welcome to Garrapata State Park, where spectacular rocky shorelines play counterpart with an inland area of
steep mountains and deep redwood canyons. The park is on the northern end of the Big Sur coast, three miles
south of Point Lobos State Reserve.
The climate is moderate, with a mean
average of 50-65 degrees year-round.
Variable weather includes cool, foggy
mornings, strong onshore winds, and
hot summer days in the backcountry.

PARK HISTORY
Native Americans
Until the mid-to late-1700s, the dominant
group here was the Costanoan people, now
known as the Ohlone. About 10,000 Ohlene
lived in the area south of San Francisco Bay to
south of Monterey Bay and east to the Central
Valley. The land and sea provided well for
them, and what they had in abundance they
traded for items they could not obtain locally.
In the late 1700s, without regard to the
Ohlone's desires, Spanish missionaries
brought them into the mission system. Those
who managed to escape no longer had
unlimited access to their food sources. By
1830 the loss of their lands, the disruption
of their network of village communities, and
their lack of immunity to European
diseases had reduced their num-
ters to about 2,500. Despite
these drastic changes, many descendants of the Ohlone
still live in the area.

Soberanes Family
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NATURAL HISTORY
Garrapata’s bold, vertical headlands and
offshore sea stacks are a combina-
tion of marine sandstone, shale, volca-
nic rock and chert. Their proximity to
several fault lines keeps them in a
state of seismic movement.

PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITIES
Garrapata’s diverse terrain supports six
vegetation types and several plant and
animal communities.

Scrub
Shelter for the endangered Smith's blue
butterfly.

Chaparral

visitors find colorful wildflower displays along coastal trails.
Beechy ground squirrels and Brewer's blackbirds live among the annual grasses. Coniferous forest—Coast redwoods dominate parts of Soberanes and Malpaso Creeks where sensitive spotted owls and Pacific giant salamanders live. Giant chain fern, redwood sorrel, California spikerush and western coltsfoot form a typical understory. Conifers and occasional big leaf maples and white alders shelter gray squirrels, Merriam chipmunks and numerous bird species. Streambank woodland and forest—Several species of willow and coyote brush grow along the lower portions of Soberanes and Doud Creeks and intermittent streams in the coastal area. Sixty species of mammals and 110 species of birds live in the coastal oak woodland. Mixed evergreen forest—On some north-facing slopes, tanoak, madrone and buckeye mix with coast redwoods. Song sparrows, facing slopes, tanoak, madrone and buckeye represent gate numbers as follows: gates 7 and 8 respectively.

Rocky Ridge Trail and the Soberanes Canyon Back country trails—Scenic overlook with bench—gates 18 or 19

Monterey Salinas Ridge (831) 625-4909, 667-2315. Guided tours only. Call for dates and times.

Soberanes Point trails—spur trails that return via the same route. The 2-mile round trip Soberanes Peak Trail are spur trails that return via the same route. The 2-mile round trip Soberanes Peak Trail loops around Soberanes Point and ends at Whale Peak.

Coastal Trail—because of the merciless, rocky shore off the north portion of the park and the depth of the underwater canyons, diving in this location is not recommended.

Wildlife watching—On some weekends in January, park staff lead whale watching programs as the Pacific gray whales pass by during their yearly migration. Call the park for information.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

The rough waters, steep trails and lack of amenities make this park inaccessible for visitors with physical disabilities. However, roadside pullouts along the highway provide vantage points for watching whale migrations and the ocean. Inaccessible restrooms are located between gates 8 and 9, and 10 and 11.

Pleasant Point—overlook the park's sheep graze on the rolling surf, wildflower-bedecked trails, rocky outcroppings, and the interplay between fog, clouds and sun. Hiking—The Rocky Ridge Trail, on the northridge of Soberanes Canyon, and the Soberanes Canyon Trail through the redwoods form a strenuous 4½-mile loop. The 1-mile North Fork Trail and the 1½-mile Peak Trail are spur trails that return via the same route. The 2-mile round trip Soberanes Point Trail loops around Soberanes Point and ends at Whale Peak.

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Getting There

Parking and trail access is via 19 numbered turnouts along Highway 1. All are on the ocean side of the highway. Numbered placards represent gate numbers as follows:

Garrapata Beach—gates 18 or 19

Scenic overlook with bench—gate 37

Soberanes Point trails—gates 8, 9 or 10

Back country trails—The trailheads for the Rocky Ridge Trail and the Soberanes Canyon Trail are on the east side of Hwy. 1 across from gates 7 and 8 respectively.

Please Remember

The surf is extremely dangerous. Do not swim, wade or climb on rocks.

Camping is not permitted—the park closes at sunset.

Rattlesnakes, ticks and mountain lions live here—walk only on established trails.

Dogs are only allowed on Garrapata Beach and must be kept on a leash at all times (6-foot maximum length).

Fires are not permitted.

Do not remove plants, minerals and other natural features.

Bicycles are permitted only on Rocky Ridge Trail.

Nearby State Parks

• Carmel River State Beach, Carmelo Street and Scenic Road, Carmel (831) 624-4909

• Point Lobos State Reserve, 3 miles south of Carmel (831) 624-4909

• Point Sur State Historic Park, 19 miles south of Monterey (831) 625-4419, 667-2315. Guided tours only. Call for dates and times.

• Andrew Molera State Park, 21 miles south of Carmel (831) 667-2315
Coast redwoods dominate parts of Soberanes and Malpaso Creeks where sensitive spotted owls and Pacific giant salamanders live. Giant chain fern, redwood sorrel, California spikenard and western coltsfoot form a typical understory. Conifers and occasional big leaf maples and white alders shelter gray squirrels, Mertiam chipmunks and numerous bird species.

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Mixed evergreen forest—On some north-facing slopes, tanoak, madrone and buckeye mix with coast redwoods. Song sparrows, facing slopes, tanoak, madrone and buckeye mix with coast redwoods. Song sparrows, flocks of American robins and occasional big leaf maples and white alders shelter gray squirrels, Mertiam chipmunks and numerous bird species.

MARINE HABITAT

The cold waters of Monterey Bay are rich with invertebrate organisms that are a food source for the area’s whales, pinnipeds and seabirds. Southern sea otters bob about in the offshore kelp forest. On the Lobos Rocks, California brown pelicans roost above resting sea lions.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Photography—Photographers can find inspiration in the rolling surf, wildflower-bedecked trails, rocky outcroppings, and the interplay between fog, clouds and sun.

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