

# PRESS RELEASE

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation

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### For Immediate Release

1 December 2019

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## First Day Hikes 2020 Santa Cruz District – California State Parks

*On Wednesday January 1, 2020, California State Parks invites you to start the New Year outside as part of the tenth annual First Day Hikes initiative across America. First Day Hikes is a nation-wide promotion of healthy lifestyles and year round outdoor recreation through free guided hikes. First Day Hikes offer a great way to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and welcome the New Year with friends and family!*

### Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Highway 236 at 21600 Big Basin Way

(831) 338-8883 | [www.parks.ca.gov/bigbasin/activities](http://www.parks.ca.gov/bigbasin/activities)

Facebook: @BigBasinRedwoodsSP | Instagram: @bigbasin\_sp

### Buzzard's Roost Hike

Wednesday, January 1 at 9am

Join docents Kathy Willott and Glenn Joy for a 5-mile hike to Buzzard's Roost. We'll take an early hike in hopes of seeing things that might be hiding later in the day and share our findings as we go. We'll watch the environment change as we climb and enjoy the view from the top. Hikers should be able to do a steady uphill grade for 2.5 miles (elevation gain about 1,200 ft.), but we'll go at a pace that allows us to enjoy what we see. Wear good walking shoes, dress in layers, and bring snacks. Meet at park headquarters. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 338-8883. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Hike to Ocean View Summit**

Wednesday, January 1 at 10am

Escape the crowds on this 6-mile loop through shaded forest to a hilltop view of the coast. Join Docent Steve Stolper as we climb the Meteor Trail through the trees, gaining 600 feet before emerging at Ocean View Summit. After a relaxed lunch we descend back into the forest and return to headquarters. Bring at least one liter of water, lunch, snacks, and appropriate clothing. Meet at park headquarters. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 338-8883. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Hike to Mount McAbee Outlook**

Wednesday, January 1 at 10:30am

Join Docent Hal Anjo on a 6-mile, 3.5 hour moderate hike to McAbee Outlook. We'll stop at the top and enjoy the lovely ocean views, returning through a beautiful old-growth redwood forest. Learn about the different habitats as you watch the environment change as we climb and enjoy the view. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and good hiking shoes. Meet at park headquarters. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 338-8883. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Sempervirens Falls Hike**

Wednesday, January 1 at 11am

Join us on a 4-mile hike to visit Sempervirens Falls, old-growth redwoods, Ohlone grinding rocks, the birthplace of Big Basin and more! Bring water, snacks, and good hiking shoes. Meet at park headquarters. Free event. Vehicle day use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 338-8883. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Redwood Grove Loop Walk**

Wednesday, January 1 at 1pm

How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join us for this fun and informative guided half-mile stroll through a magnificent old-growth redwood forest. Meet the famous Mother Tree, the Father of the Forest and the incredible Chimney Tree on this 90-minute walk. Bring water and good walking shoes. Meet at park headquarters. Stroller and wheelchair accessible. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 338-8883. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

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## **Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park**

Felton | (831) 335-7077

Facebook: @HenryCowellRSP | Instagram: @Henry.Cowell.Redwoods.SP

### **Bird Walk**

Wednesday, January 1 at 8am

Join us for a morning avian stroll to hear and see some of the amazing birds that reside in our park, from hawks to songbirds and waterfowl, and maybe even a woodpecker or two. Bring

water and binoculars if you have them. Meet at the main parking lot off Highway 9. Heavy rain cancels. No pets. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 335-7077. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Fall Creek Hike**

Wednesday, January 1 at 9am

Hike through a young, 100 year old forest to examine evidence of the logging history and discover how the Bay Area was built on this 4-mile, 4-hour hike. Join us at one of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park's hidden treasures and explore the beauty of Fall Creek. Bring water, warm clothing, and a snack. Meet at the Fall Creek parking lot, approximately 0.5 miles up Felton Empire Road from the Highway 9 Intersection in Felton. Rain cancels. No pets. Free event. For more information, call (831) 335-7077. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Sandhills, the New Acquisition**

Wednesday, January 1 at 11am

Come explore the new Sandhills acquisition at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park on this 3-mile, 2 hour hike. See the hidden treasures and unique geology, plants, and animals of an amazing and fragile ecosystem. Don't miss out on this special opportunity to see a relatively unknown part of this magnificent park. Bring water, snacks, and hiking shoes. Meet at the probation center parking lot at 3650 Graham Hill Road. Rain cancels. No pets. Free event. For more information, call (831) 335-7077. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Redwood Loop to Cable Car Beach**

Wednesday, January 1 at noon

Come and walk through the majesty of an old growth redwood forest. Hear the story of the redwoods and learn what makes these tallest trees in the world so special on our way to Cable Car Beach and back. Bring layered clothing and water. Meet at the visitor center. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 335-7077. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Children's Story Circle**

Wednesday, January 1 from noon to 1:30pm

Join the Children's Story Circle under the Redwoods! Featuring three different books for different ages, all about the coastal redwood forest. Stories will be repeated. Drop in anytime and stay as long as you wish. An ideal introduction for children to stoke their enthusiasm and curiosity before you walk the loop through the grove of ancient trees. Bring warm layers and water. Meet at visitor center. If raining, program will move into visitor center. No pets. Free event. Vehicle day-use is \$10. For more information, call (831) 335-7077. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

### **Amphibian Adventure**

Wednesday, January 1 at 2pm

Join us for a ramble along the San Lorenzo River and Eagle Creek Trail to search for amphibians! Learn about the native and non-native species found in our forest. Bring warm layers, hiking shoes, and water. Meet at visitor center. Heavy rain cancels. No pets. Free

event. Vehicle day-use is \$10. For more information, call (831) 335-7077. Event made possible by Mountain Parks Foundation and California State Parks.

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## **Castle Rock State Park**

Located on Highway 35 in Los Gatos, 2.25 miles southeast of the Highway 9 junction  
(831) 291-8273 | Instagram: @castle.rock.state.park

### **Castle Rock Loop**

Wednesday, January 1 at 11am

Join us on an adventure to the Castle Rock formation. On this 1.2-mile interactive journey we will discuss the various park ecosystems, Ohlone history, Black Oak ecology, wildfire and more! Bring water, closed toe shoes, camera, and snacks. Meet at kiosk. Free event. Vehicle day use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 291-8273. Event made possible by Portola and Castle Rock Foundation and California State Parks.

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## **Portola Redwoods State Park**

9000 Portola State Park Road, La Honda | (831) 291-8273

Facebook: @PortolaRedwoodsStatePark | Instagram: @portola.redwoods.state.park

### **Old Tree Trail Hike**

Wednesday, January 1 at 2:30pm

Stroll through an old growth redwood grove in search of the “Old Tree” that’s over 1,200 years old, discover the banana slug’s vital role in this flourishing forest, and learn about the marvelous Marbled Murrelet and how park visitors can help save these endangered birds on this 1-mile, 1.5 hour walk. Bring water, closed toe shoes, snacks, warm layers, and a camera. Meet at visitor center. Free event. Vehicle day use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 291-8273. Event made possible by Portola and Castle Rock Foundation and California State Parks.

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## **Natural Bridges State Beach**

Located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, CA  
(831) 423-4609 | naturalbridgesstatebeach@gmail.com

Facebook: @NaturalBridgesStateBeach

### **Habitat Hike**

Wednesday, January 1 at 10am

There’s a whole lot more than just butterflies at Natural Bridges. On this 2-hour, 1-mile hike, experience the “backcountry” of the beloved park. Witness the diversity of over 5 distinct habitats and the animals that rely on living in the nooks and crannies of Natural Bridges. Bring water, snack, hat, warm layers, and rain protection. Meet at visitor center. Free event. Vehicle

day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 423-4609 ext. 8. Event made possible by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and California State Parks.

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## **The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park**

Aptos Creek Road, Aptos, CA 95003

Facebook: @TFoNMSP | Instagram: @nisenmarks.sp

### **History under the Trees**

Wednesday, January 1 at 10am and 2pm

Delve into forest history—and prehistory—while walking to the abandoned Loma Prieta town site and discovering marine fossils deep in the redwood forest. Bring water, snacks, and layered clothing. Meet at George's picnic area next to the steel bridge before the winter gate. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$8. Limited parking; carpooling encouraged. For more information, call (831) 685-6444. Event made possible by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and California State Parks.

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## **Seacliff State Beach**

State Park Drive, Aptos, CA 95003 | (831) 685-6444

Facebook: @seacliffstatebeach | Instagram: @seacliffstatebeach

### **Concrete Ship History Walk**

Wednesday, January 1 at 11am

Learn about Seacliff State Beach and its fascinating history on this 1-mile, 1-hour stroll to the Aptos Creek Bridge and back. Get the lowdown on the Concrete Ship, great storms from 1889 to present, "The Madman of Seacliff," and much, much more. Bring water and layered clothing. Meet at visitor center. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 685-6444. Event made possible by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and California State Parks.

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## **Wilder Ranch State Park**

Located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1 | (831) 426-0505

Visitor Center Open Thursday through Sunday 10am-4pm

Facebook: @WilderRanchStatePark

### **Englesman Loop Backcountry Hike**

Wednesday, January 1 at 9am

On this 7-mile, 3-hour challenging hike, we'll explore the natural and cultural history of the upper hills of Wilder Ranch. This hike includes several descents and ascents. Bring layered clothing, good walking shoes, water, snacks and lunch, and binoculars. Meet in parking lot.

Rain cancels. No pets. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 426-0505. Event made possible by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and California State Parks.

### **Old Cove Landing Trail Coastal Walk**

Wednesday, January 1 at 11am

We will explore the plants, animals, and geology of the spectacular coastal bluffs on this 2-mile family-friendly walk. Bring water, hat, closed toe shoes, and layered clothing. Meet at interpretive center. Trail stroller accessible. No pets. Free event. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. For more information, call (831) 426-0505. Event made possible by Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks and California State Parks.

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## **Half Moon Bay State Beach**

95 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay

(650) 726-8819 | [HMBParksVolunteer@parks.ca.gov](mailto:HMBParksVolunteer@parks.ca.gov)

Facebook: [@HalfMoonBayStateBeach](#) | Instagram: [@HalfMoonBaySB](#)

### **Burleigh H. Murray Ranch Park Property**

Wednesday, January 1 at 10am

Take a journey back in time on this 2.5-mile stroll along Mills Creek Trail to discover the lives of early pioneers and farming families who first settled here in the 19th century. Bring water and good walking shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at the Burleigh Murray parking lot located on Higgins-Purisima Road 1.5 miles east of Highway 1 near Half Moon Bay. For more information, call (650) 726-8814. Event free. Event made possible by Coastside State Parks Association and California State Parks.

### **Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve**

Wednesday, January 1 at 10am

Enjoy an easy 2-mile hike along the California coast into the Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve and visit popular spots for good bird watching. Bring water and good walking shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at the Pescadero State Beach central parking lot on Highway 1, approximately 0.25 miles north of Pescadero Creek Road. Free event. For more information, call (650) 726-8814. Event made possible by Coastside State Parks Association and California State Parks.

### **McNee Ranch at Montara State Beach**

Wednesday, January 1 at 10am

Join us for an easy 2-mile hike along the scenic Gray Whale Cove Trail. Discover ocean views, coastal plants, wildlife, and historic sites like a World War II bunker and evidence of the long-gone Ocean Shore Railroad. Bring water and good walking shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at Gray Whale Cove State Beach parking lot on Highway 1 just south of the Devil's Slide. Free event. For more information, call (650) 726-8814. Event made possible by Coastside State Parks Association and California State Parks.

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## Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park

Located 20 miles south of Half Moon Bay and 30 miles north of Santa Cruz, off Highway 1  
(650) 879-2120

### Light Station Grounds Stroll

Wednesday, January 1 at 10:30am and 1:30pm

Take a trip back in time while exploring the rocky coast of California on this 0.75-mile walk. Learn about historic shipwrecks and the significance of the lighthouse, which helps to guide vessels to their final destination today. Bring water and snacks and dress in layers for variable weather. Meet at picnic area. Free event. For more information, call (650) 879-2120. Event made possible by Coastside State Parks Association and California State Parks.

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## Año Nuevo State Park

Located off Highway 1, halfway between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz  
1 New Year's Creek Road, Pescadero, CA 94060 | (650) 879- 2025  
Facebook: @Ano.Nuevo.State.Park | Instagram: @anonuevostatepark

### Guided Elephant Seal Walks

Wednesday, January 1 from 8:45am to 2:45pm

Stroll over sand dunes on a moderate 3-mile, 2.5 hour hike with a docent naturalist to visit a large colony of Northern elephant seals. In the month of December, male elephant seals arrive and establish hierarchy, while pregnant females come ashore to birth to their pups. These popular guided walks take place rain or shine, so be prepared for windy, rainy conditions as well as muddy trails. Layered clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear are strongly advised. Umbrellas and strollers are not permitted. Pets are not allowed in the park. Tickets are \$7 per person plus \$3.99 reservation fee. Vehicle day-use fee is \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. People with accessibility needs may reserve an equal access walk along the boardwalk. Call Reserve California at 1-800-444-4445 or visit [www.parks.ca.gov/anosealwalks](http://www.parks.ca.gov/anosealwalks) for all reservations. For more information, call (650) 879-2025 or for recorded information (650) 879-0227. Events made possible by Coastside State Parks Association and California State Parks.

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**California State Parks** provides 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. Learn more at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

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