



# SEACLIFF STATE BEACH

**WELCOME!** A mile-long expanse of soft sand connects Seacliff and New Brighton state beaches, inviting visitors to play on the beach, watch a glorious sunset, or stroll along the shore. The S.S. Palo Alto, an iconic concrete tanker, sits just offshore, forever out to sea. Built in 1919 and briefly used as an entertainment destination in 1930-1931, its deteriorating remains today provide habitat for many marine animals like sea stars, anemones, urchins and all the animals that depend on them as food sources.

The severe 2023 winter storms destroyed half of the park's protective seawall, the RV campground and the fishing pier that connected the beach to the "cement ship". The park's recovery is ongoing.



**Seacliff State Beach**  
State Park Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003



**Day-Use Areas:**  
8 a.m. to sunset



**Day-Use Parking:**

\$10/vehicle/day.  
Main parking area is the upper lot; beachside parking spaces also available.



**California State Parks**

**Passes Accepted:** Adventure, Disabled Discount, Explorer, Golden Bear, Senior Golden Bear, Golden Poppy, State Library, Veteran



**(831) 685-6500**  
711, TTY Relay Service  
[parks.ca.gov/Seacliff](https://parks.ca.gov/Seacliff)



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at (831) 685-6500. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact [seacliff@ports-ca.us](mailto:seacliff@ports-ca.us).

## ACTIVITIES

- The Seacliff State Beach Visitor Center and Park Store is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily Memorial Day through Labor Day. Otherwise, it is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.
- Scan the QR code to download the free Agents of Discovery app on your smartphone to play and complete Seacliff SB's "mission." Then pick up a prize at the visitor center! 
- Large group picnics and special events require a reservation and/or special event permit. For more info, contact (831) 400-8519 or [SCD.specialevents@parks.ca.gov](mailto:SCD.specialevents@parks.ca.gov).
- Beach wheelchairs are available to borrow for free; visit [thatsmypark.org/visit/beachwheelchairs](https://thatsmypark.org/visit/beachwheelchairs).

## THINGS TO DO

**If you have one hour**, stroll along the beach and look for sea glass in the sand, and sea birds, dolphins and whales in the water.

**If you have half a day**, check out the accessible Seacliff Visitor Center and Park Store for educational exhibits and local souvenirs. Then test your knowledge with the free Agents of Discovery app. Afterward, enjoy the ocean view while you eat lunch at the shaded picnic tables.

**If you have a full day**, bring your beach gear to relax or play in the sand and water. If the tide is low enough, take a walk (4 miles round trip) along the shore to New Brighton State Beach and back to explore this neighboring park's tide pools.



## Seacliff Resilience

In 2023, Seacliff State Beach experienced two severe storms with 25-foot waves that catastrophically damaged the park. The recovery process is an opportunity for visionary and strategic planning to address climate change-induced sea level rise and ensure public access in the future. Visit [SeacliffResilience.org](https://SeacliffResilience.org) to learn how State Parks will improve the park's resilience.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**School Programs**—Seacliff offers K-12 field trips and virtual visits during the school year focused on marine life, ocean conservation, the geological processes that created the beach or the engineering principles of the S.S. Palo Alto. For more info, visit [parks.ca.gov/santacruzfieldtrips](http://parks.ca.gov/santacruzfieldtrips).

**Summer Programs**—At neighboring New Brighton State Beach, Junior Ranger (ages 7-12, kids only), Little Ranger (ages 3-6 plus the family), and Campfire (all ages welcome) programs are offered Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Ask at the Seacliff Visitor Center for details.



## PLEASE REMEMBER

- The speed limit is 15 mph.
- Vehicles must park on pavement and not on gravel or dirt walkways.
- Climbing the unstable sandstone cliffs is prohibited.
- All natural and cultural features in state parks are protected by law and may not be removed or disturbed.
- Dogs must always be attended to by people and on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Do not feed or leave food out for wildlife.
- Injured wildlife? For birds and small animals, contact Native Animal Rescue at (831) 462-0726. For marine mammals, contact the Marine Mammal Center at (831) 633-6298.
- A license is required to fish from the beach and California Department of Fish and Wildlife limits apply. Visit [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov) for more info.
- Consuming alcohol is not allowed on the beach or in the day-use areas.
- Fires are not allowed on Seacliff's main beach. At New Brighton SB and Rio del Mar, fires must be confined to fire rings provided and attended at all times.

