Nowhere Else On Earth

Something draws us to the sea and its islands. Maybe it is the thrill of traveling over water to an unfamiliar land or the yearning for tranquility—to walk on a deserted beach with birds, salty breezes, and the rhythmic wash of waves as our companions. You don't have to go far to find such a place. Off the coast of southern California the Channel Islands seem to float on the horizon like ribbons of dark rock. Named for the deep troughs that separate them from the mainland, the eight islands and their encircling waters are home to over 2,000 species of animals and plants—145 are found nowhere else on Earth. Isolation over thousands of years and the minging of warm and cold ocean currents give rise to the rich biodiversity of these islands. Today, five of the islands, their submerged lands, and the waters within one nautical mile of each island are protected as Channel Islands National Park.

A Safe Haven for Seabirds

Eleven seabird species nest on the islands, including the only major breeding colony of California brown pelicans in the western United States. Breeding colonies of northern fur seals, bright orange and black, and northern elephant seals, a major link in the food chain, are found on many islands. The islands provide essential nesting and feeding grounds for 99 percent of seabirds in southern California. The islands also protect millions of breeding seabirds, including the only major breeding colony of California brown pelicans in the western United States. The brown pelican and northern elephant seal colonies are among the largest in the world.

Living Alone

Lower ocean levels during the ice ages lowered the sea level. This widened the channel again and increased the isolation of animals and plants from the mainland. Many species evolved over time and adapted to the isolated environment. Many evolved to a size not seen on the mainland. Endemic plants and animals are found nowhere else on Earth.

People on the Islands

The islands were used for commerce. The Chumash used purple olivella shells to trade for ocean resources. In 1542, Cabrillo sailed into the Santa Barbara Channel. He named the islands, although his grave and many of their natural diversity. In 1980 Congress designated San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and the submerged lands and waters within one nautical mile of the islands as Channel Islands National Park. The waters extending out six nautical miles from each island are a National Marine Sanctuary. Channel Islands National Park monitors and protects threatened and endangered species, sensitive ecosystems, and preserves the natural and cultural history of the islands for generations to come.
Visiting Channel Islands National Park

Exploring Channel Islands National Park

Join the park community.
www.nationalparks.org

Exploring Channel Islands National Park

Within the park and sanctuary is a variety of wildlife and unique geological features. The islands we see today are the result of millions of years of plate tectonics, volcanic activity, weather, water, and wind. The islands are home to many species of birds, mammals, insects, and plants. A visit to the islands is a unique and unforgettable experience.

Planning Your Visit

When was the last time you gazed at the ocean? Did you see the islands? When was the last time you swam near the islands? Did you see any marine life? The Channel Islands are a treasure trove of natural beauty. Whether you are a nature lover or simply looking for a getaway, the Channel Islands are the perfect place to visit. The islands are open to all. For information go to www.nps.gov/chis.

Channel Islands National Park

This park covers over 140,000 acres and is located off the coast of California. The islands are one of the most unique and biologically diverse places in the world. The park is home to over 615 plant species and 101 animal species, including 11 species that are found nowhere else on earth. The park is managed by the National Park Service.

Visiting Channel Islands National Park

The National Park Islands at a Glance

Santa Cruz Island

9,491-acre, eight-mile-long and four-mile-wide island is home to over 100 species of plants and animals. The island is part of the Channel Islands National Park and is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The island is home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, the Channel Islands scrub jay, and the Channel Islands tree frog. The island is also home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, which is the official bird of the Channel Islands.

Santa Rosa Island

1901 Spinnaker Dr., Suite 105B
Island Packers, Inc.

This island is the most southern of the Channel Islands and is home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, the Channel Islands scrub jay, and the Channel Islands tree frog. The island is also home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, which is the official bird of the Channel Islands.

Anacapa Island

www.anacapaisland.com

This island is the most northern of the Channel Islands and is home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, the Channel Islands scrub jay, and the Channel Islands tree frog. The island is also home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, which is the official bird of the Channel Islands.

Santa Barbara Island

1691 Spinnaker Dr., Suite 105B
Island Packers, Inc.

This island is the westernmost of the Channel Islands and is home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, the Channel Islands scrub jay, and the Channel Islands tree frog. The island is also home to the Channel Islands brown pelican, which is the official bird of the Channel Islands.

Commercial Service to the Islands

Channel Islands Aviation

JDS Ferry Ave.
Camarillo, CA 93010
805-801-1301
www.flycia.com

Island Packers, Inc.

1501 Springwood Dr., Suite 105B
Ventura, CA 93001
805-658-5730
www.islandpackers.com

More Information

Channel Islands National Park

Visitor Center

Ventura 1901 Spinnaker Dr., Suite 105B
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
805-884-1475

Palm Springs, CA 92264
805-773-5000
www.nps.gov/chis

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