



## Off the Beaten Path

# Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

*Rich sea life and ocean recreation*

### Experiences in breathtaking ocean abundance

The waters that swirl around the five islands within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary combine warm and cool currents to create an exceptional breeding ground for many species of plants and animals. Forests of giant kelp are home to numerous populations of fish and invertebrates. Every year over 27 species of whales and dolphins visit or inhabit the sanctuary including the rare blue, humpback and fin whales. On the islands, seabird colonies and pinniped rookeries flourish while overhead brown pelicans and Western gulls search the water for food. The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is located 25 miles (22 nautical miles, 40 km) off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. Visitors to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary can enjoy recreational opportunities such as tidepooling, diving, snorkeling and kayaking.

### Home to over 150 historic shipwrecks and aircraft

...and just 25 have been discovered. Many of the shipwrecks in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary are accessible to scuba divers at depths appealing to a variety of skill levels.

### Learn more about America's lands and waterways in the area:

[Channel Islands National Park](#), [California State Parks](#)

### Known For

- Whale watching, boating
- Kayaking, snorkeling
- Tidepooling
- Diving, fishing
- Shipwrecks, maritime history



### Nearby Cities

- 25 miles (40 km) off shore of Santa Barbara, Ventura California;
- Los Angeles, California (1.5 hours);
- Orange County, California (3 hours)

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