At right: adult male elephant seal

Prairie grasslands are golden stars, Arroyo de la Cruz manzanita, the Washburn day-use area. Only five native groups left in the world—on display of seasonal wildflowers. Take a hike myrtle, blackberry bushes and a great coastal strand and grassland. Look for woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, Simeon Bay at scenic vista points on the beach up the road from San Sakura, battling and mating on creeks and the fine old oaks wonderful. I love the sea any place in the world.”

I love this ranch. It is wonderful. I love the sea and I love the mountains and the hollows in the hills and the shady places in the creeks and the fine old oaks and even the hot brushy hillsides . . . I would rather spend a month here than any place in the world.”

William Randolph Hearst, in a letter to his mother Phoebe Apperson Hearst.
**Piedras Blancas Light Station** has been in continual operation since 1877. Owned and operated by the Bureau of Land Management since 2001, the light station is still in use as a navigational aid and for scientific research. Public tours of the Light Station are available. Visit [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov) to learn more.

The [California Coastal National Monument](http://access.parks.ca.gov) encompasses a shoreline length of 276 miles from Cambria to Montecito, and 5,322 square miles of ocean. The monument protects the coastal resources and offers activities such as scuba diving, kayaking, boating, surfing and fishing. California State Parks and the MBNMS jointly operate the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon, across the road from Hearst Castle. Volunteers will orient you to the natural and cultural resources of Hearst San Simeon State Park and the sanctuary. Call (805) 927-6575 or visit [www.friendsofhearstcastle.org](http://www.friendsofhearstcastle.org).

**PLANNING YOUR VISIT**

**ACCESSIBLE FEATURES**

California State Parks is committed to making certain that all visitors have access to the natural and cultural resources of the parks. Accessibility is continually improving. For updates, call (805) 927-2035 or visit [http://access.parks.ca.gov](http://access.parks.ca.gov).

Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument—Accessible parking is designated. The ticket and information area, restrooms, visitor center, Hearst Castle Theater and the gallery are accessible. Accessible tours are provided. Assistive devices, touchable artifacts and Braille transcripts may be requested. Sign language interpreters can be provided with advance notice. Reservations are highly recommended for the accessible tours.

**San Simeon Campground**—Three sites have accessibly designed picnic tables and level routes of travel to restrooms with generally accessible features.

**Washburn Campground**—This undeveloped campground has two generally accessible sites with firm surfaces and accessible fire rings. Toilets and routes of travel are generally accessible.

**Washburn Loop Trail**—Accessible trailhead, parking and restrooms are available at Washburn day-use area.

**Moonstone Bluff Trail**—This accessible one-mile beach boardwalk follows the coastal bluffs from the northern end of Cambria to the mouth of Santa Rosa Creek.

**FEATURES**

- **San Simeon**
  - **San Simeon State Park**
    - **San Simeon Light Station**
      - **Piedras Blancas Light Station**

- **Cambria**
  - **Montaña de Oro State Park**
  - **Morro Bay State Park**
  - **Harmony Headlands State Park**
  - **Limekiln State Park**

- **Los Osos**
  - **Roadside Park**
  - **Piedras Blancas SP**
  - **Old Metal Property SP**

**NEARBY STATE PARKS**

- **Limekiln State Park**
  - 40 miles north on Hwy 1, Big Sur (831) 667-2403
- **Harmony Headlands State Park**
  - 18 miles south on Hwy 1 (805) 772-7434
- **Morro Bay State Park**
  - 33 miles south, Morro Bay State Park Road, in Morro Bay, (805) 772-7434
- **Montaña de Oro State Park**
  - 43 miles south, Pecho Valley Road, in Los Osos, (805) 772-7434

**FACILITIES**

- **Visitor Center:** Visitors can purchase tickets for tours and park entry. Additional information is available at the center.
- **Tech Center:** Provides information on accessibility features and tours.
- **Hearst Castle:** The Castle is open for tours, allowing visitors to explore the grandeur of the Hearst family’s creation.
- **San Simeon State Park:** Offers a variety of resources and activities, including guided hikes and campfire programs. Call (805) 927-2035 for more information.

**TIDEPOOLING**

Tidepooling is a popular activity at the Elephant Seal Vista Points. Visit [www.elephantseal.org](http://www.elephantseal.org) for information on the best times to visit.

**NOAA San Simeon**

- **Moonstone Boardwalk:** Guided hikes and campfire programs. Call (805) 927-2035 for more information.
- **Ranger-led park programs:** Include Junior Ranger programs for children ages 7 to 12, and guided hikes and campfire programs. Call (805) 927-2035 for more information.

**FRIENDS OF HEARST CASTLE**

- **Friends of Hearst Castle:** A non-profit group that interprets and protects the natural and cultural resources of this unique historical and cultural resource. For specific details, visit [www.friendsofhearstcastle.org](http://www.friendsofhearstcastle.org).

**PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Volunteers:** Offer guided hikes and campfire programs. Call (805) 927-2035 or visit [www.friendsofhearstcastle.org](http://www.friendsofhearstcastle.org) for more information.

**ACCESSIBLE PARK PROGRAMS**

- **Ranger-led park programs:** Include Junior Ranger programs for children ages 7 to 12, and guided hikes and campfire programs. Call (805) 927-2035 for more information.