



Guidebook Information

Photos available upon request

Quick Description

Whether you're an environmentalist wanting to understand what plights affect the residents of our oceans or a parent of school-age children looking to see a cute baby seal, there are lots of discoveries to make at The Marine Mammal Center's rebuilt headquarters in Sausalito, California. The Center's glass walls and viewing platforms allow visitors to peer into the workings of a state-of-the-art animal rescue, rehabilitation and release facility – from food preparation stations to animal care chartrooms and patient pools housing a variety of species. It also reveals key areas used for marine mammal research – from laboratory activities to necropsies (post-mortem marine mammal examinations). Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Free admission and small fees for docent and audio tours. Free self-guided tours available.

Overview

The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit veterinary hospital, research and educational center dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals - primarily elephant seals, harbor seals, and California sea lions - and to the study of their health. Since 1975, the Center has been headquartered in the Marin Headlands, within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and has rescued and treated more than 17,000 marine mammals. Animals are rescued for a variety of reasons, including malnourishment, maternal separation, entanglements and human interactions, as well as diseases.

Address

2000 Bunker Road
Fort Cronkhite
Sausalito, CA 94965-2619

Phone 415.289.7325

Website <http://www.marinemammalcenter.org>

Hours of Operation

10 a.m. through 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Admission

Free

Tours

- Docent-Led Tours

\$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, kids under 4-years old go for free; members and a guest are also free. Book online to guarantee place on docent led tours at <http://marinemammalcenter.eventbrite.com/>.

A popular way to visit The Marine Mammal Center is with a trained docent tour guide who brings groups of visitors through the facilities twice each day. Docent guides are very knowledgeable, engaging, and able to address specific questions as needed. Designed for visitors of all ages, the tours are offered more frequently during the summer and through September 11 -- Monday *through* Sunday at 11 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. During school breaks (i.e. winter break, spring break, and summer vacation), tours are offered daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

- **Audio Tours**
Listening devices are available to rent during visitor hours for \$7 per person, \$5 for members, and FREE when you purchase a new membership (starting at \$25 per year).
The new self-paced, 30-minute audio tour offers visitors the opportunity to visit The Marine Mammal Center guided by the voices of experts, including the executive director, veterinary scientists, education experts, and volunteers. The tour goes to 20 locations throughout the facility and you'll even hear the familiar sounds of animal patients in the background as well those of some of the Center's volunteers at work.

- **Free Self-Guided Tour**
Free and no reservations are needed.
Visitors who are looking for a more independent option might consider visiting The Marine Mammal Center with a self-guided tour, which includes a map, a rich selection of exhibits for learning, and the option of asking questions at select areas where docents are available.

About the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Marin Headlands)

Located near Rodeo Beach, The Marine Mammal Center is nestled in the Marin Headlands with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and Rodeo Lagoon. Visitors who want to make a day of it can hike the miles of park trails around the facility and picnic along the beach. Other attractions in the park include the Bay Area Discovery Museum, a Nike Missile Site and Cold War Museum, Point Bonita Lighthouse, Fort Cronkhite, Headlands Center for the Arts, and the Headlands Visitors Center (<http://www.nps.gov/goga/index.htm>). Visitors to the park can stay at the Youth Hostel or the new Cavallo Point hotel and spa at Fort Baker (<http://www.cavallopoint.com/>)