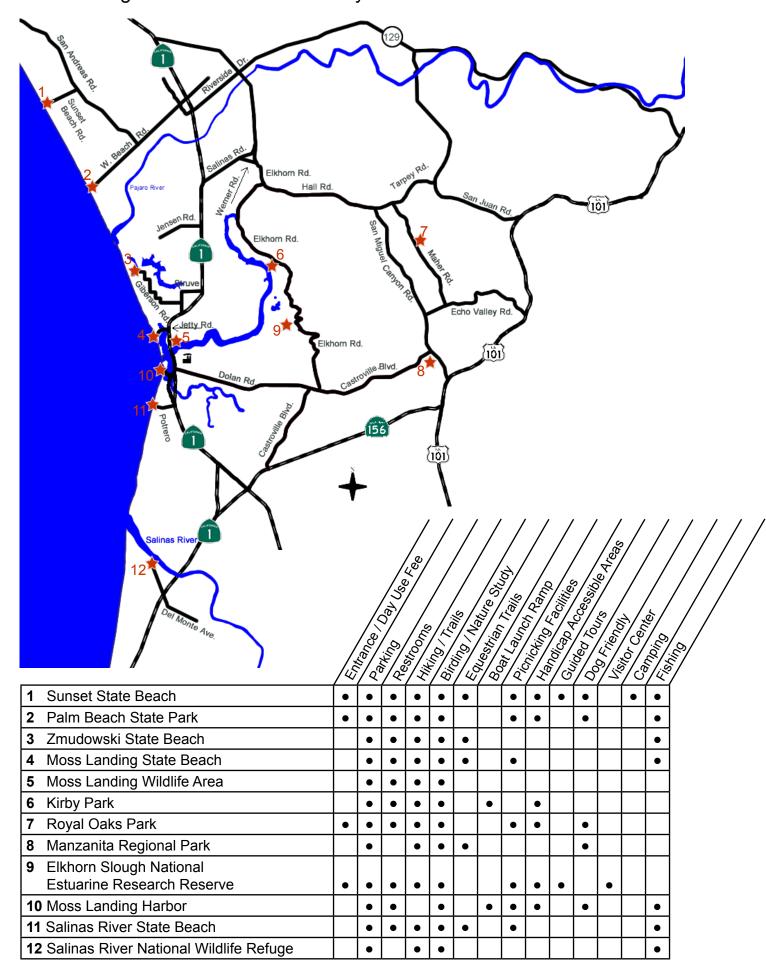
Elkhorn Slough Area Access and Activity Guide



1. Sunset State Beach

The beach features pine trees, mountainous sand dunes, and ocean side picnic spots. Bordered by large agricultural fields west of the city of Watsonville, the beach is a year-round destination for thousands of visitors.

Address: 201 Sunset State Beach Rd., Watsonville

Phone: (831) 763-7062

Location: The beach is 16 miles south of Santa Cruz via Highway One and San Andreas Road.

Website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=544

Features: 90 campsites, BBQ facilities, restrooms, interpretive programs, swimming, fishing, hiking, camping, houseback

trails

2. Palm Beach State Park

This is a very popular day use beach located in Southern Santa Cruz County. The beach is wide spread and perfect for long walks or a picnic or simple day in the sun. Fishing and swimming are popular activities at Palm Beach and there are picnic tables in the day use area. Dogs are welcomed on the beach, but must be kept on a leash at all times. \$10.00 day-use parking fee.

Address: West Beach St., Watsonville

Phone: 831-763-7063

Location: From Highway 1, north of Moss Landing, take the Riverside Exit west, go right on Lee Rd., then left on West

Beach Street, follow it to the beach.

Website: http://www.santacruzstateparks.org/parks/palm/

Features: Picnic tables, barbecues, restrooms, outdoor showers, dog friendly

3. Zmudowski State Beach

Pronounced "mud-OW-ski" (the Z is silent), this beach is popular for birding, horseback riding and fishing. White-faced ibises, American bitterns, snowy egrets, and other freshwater birds have been sighted at the freshwater pond just before the end of Giberson. Gulls, pelicans and terns can be found at the mouth of the Pajaro River, at the northern end of Zmudowski State Beach. The beach features the Pajaro River estuary, where a natural preserve has been set aside. Horses are only allowed near the waterline. Swimming and water sports are hazardous because of strong rip-currents.

Address: Giberson Road, Moss Landing

Phone: 831-649-2836

Location: The beach is located 20 miles northwest of Monterey off

Highway 1. Take Struve Road and turn to Giberson Road.

Website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=572

Features: Birding hotspot, hiking, equestrian trails, fishing

4. Moss Landing State Beach

Offshore fishing, surfing, windsurfing and horseback riding are popular activities. The beach is a favorite place for picnics because the dunes protect it from afternoon winds. This area is an important stop along the Pacific Flyway so birdwatching is popular.

Address: Jetty Road, Moss Landing

Phone: 831-649-2836

Location: North of Moss Landing on Jetty Road off Hwy 1.

Website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=574

Features: Fishing, equestrian trails, birding, wildlife viewing.

5. Moss Landing Wildlife Area

Although this area is 728 acres of salt ponds and salt marsh, most of it is closed for wildlife protection. There is a short slough-side trail for great birding possibilities and one of the best places to watch otters from the shore. All plants and animals are protected. Waterfowl hunting is allowed. No pets allowed.

Special Hunting Restrictions: No rifles or pistols may be used or possessed. Area regulations are subject to change. Special restrictions on recreational uses, hunt days and methods of take are listed in the current year's issue of Hunting and Other Public Uses on State and Federal Areas, available at Fish and Game offices and places where licenses are sold.

Address: Hwy 1, Moss Landing

Phone: (831) 649-2870

Location: Adjacent to the N bank of Elkhorn Slough, 1-1/4 miles N of the town of Moss Landing on Hwy 1.

Website: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region4/mosslanding.html Features: Wildlife viewing, birding hotspot, short slough-side trail, hunting

6. Kirby Park

With a boat ramp and small dock you can launch your small vessels into the quiet waters of the Slough. The Elkhorn Slough Foundation maintains a paved slough-side trail that is wheelchair (and stroller) accessible.

At the time this website posted, fishing at Kirby Park was forbidden. Please contact the Department of Fish and Game for more information.

**Note- Please use caution. This parking lot has had break-ins in the past.

Address: Elkhorn Road, Watsonville

Phone: (831) 728-5939

Location: North of the Reserve on Elkhorn Road

Features: Boat ramp, dock, trail, birdwatching, handicap accessible slough-side trail.

7. Royal Oaks Park

Located in north Monterey County, Royal Oaks Park was established in 1966 and is the oldest park in the Monterey County Parks system. This 122 acre day use facility is situated in a small valley studded with Coast Live Oaks. Royal Oak's country setting makes it the ideal place for your next family outing. Royal Oaks Park has much to offer the outdoor enthusiast. The park facilities include a softball field, playground equipment, basketball, volley-ball and tennis courts, and miles of hiking trails. Hours vary throughout the year. They accept reservations for group picnics and youth group camping. Day use fee due on entry.

Address: 537 Maher Road, Watsonville, CA 95076

Phone: (831) 755-4899

Website: http://www.co.monterev.ca.us/parks/royaloaks.html

Features: Extensive picnic facilities, hiking trails, sports fields, play ground, dog friendly.

8. Manzanita Regional Park

Just like the name says Manzanita is home to three species of manzanita species found only in this area.

Manzanita Park is operated by the North County Youth Recreation Association (NCYRA) and the entrance gate for vehicle access is only open during their scheduled events which vary throughout the year.

The schedule of events for 2010 is listed below but is subject to change without notice. For more information call the NCYRA at (831) 663-0859. There are no posted hours, park outside the gate and walk in to hike, walk dogs, jog. or ride horses.

Address: 17100 Castroville Blvd., Prunedale, CA 93907

Phone: (831) 663-0859

Location: The beach is 16 miles south of Santa Cruz via Highway One and San Andreas Road.

Website: http://www.castrovilleccp.org/ManzanitaPark

Features: Trails, hiking, equestrian trails, dog friendly, sport fields,

9. Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

Open Wednesday - Sunday, 9am - 5pm. The Reserve is the headquarters for the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation. There are a host of programs hosted by the Reserve including research, education, restoration and outreach. They offer guided tours on the weekends and hold special volunteer events throughout the year.

This Reserve does not permit dogs or bikes on the trails. When the Reserve is closed you cannot access the trails, restrooms or facilities. There is a small day-use fee for adults, children are free.

Address: 1700 Elkhorn Road, Watsonville, CA 95076

Phone: (831) 728-2822

Location: East of Moss Landing, off Dolan Road. See Map.

Website: www.elkhornslough.org

Features: 5 miles of trails, visitor center, bookstore, information, research and education programs, guided tours, picnic

area, accessible facilities and restrooms.

10.Moss Landing Harbor

The North Moss Landing Harbor area is the main boat launch and access point for kayakers.

Address: Hwy 1 North of Moss Landing

Features: Boat ramp, kayak rentals / tours, restrooms, parking, wildlife viewing

11. Salinas River State Beach

The mile-long Dune Trail explores some of Monterey Bay's intriguing sand dunes & links two coastal access points of Salinas River State Beach. The beach and dunes at Salinas River State Beach are part of Monterey Bay's unique coastal dune system and it is home to many species of birds, including the California brown pelican, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, western snowy plover, western gull, black phoebe, western scrub-jay, California towhee, white-crowned sparrow, and more. The beach is a popular fishing site.

Address: Potrero Road Phone: 831-649-2836

Location: From Highway 1 at Moss Landing, turn onto Potrero Road & follow it 0.5 mile to the parking lot at Salinas River State Beach. The other trailhead can be found by continuing south on Highway 1 to Molera Road. Follow signed Monterey

Dunes Way 0.5 mile to the beach.

Website: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=573

Features: Hiking, birding and nature study. Dogs are not allowed in this fragile landscape.

Warning: Both trailheads have been the site of vehicle break-ins. Lock your car and take your valuables with you.

12. Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge

At just 367 acres, the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge boasts a colorful mosaic of coastal dunes, beaches, salt marshes, saline ponds, grasslands, and riparian habitats. During the spring and fall migrations, thousands of birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway flock to the refuge, seeking shelter and food in one of the few remaining wetlands along the central California coast. Established in 1973, Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge protects several threatened and endangered species, including western snowy plover, California brown pelican, Smith's blue butterfly, and Monterey spine-flower.

Existing facilities are limited to an isolated, unpaved parking area and several walking trails. Please help keep our trails clean and take your trash home with you. There are no restrooms, drinking water, or picnic facilities at the refuge. While the refuge is open year-round, access is difficult during the rainy season due to mud on the entrance road. Waterfowl hunting is permitted in season and in designated areas only. Dog walking, kite-flying, motorized vehicles, horseback riding, fires, fireworks, overnight parking, camping, and weapons (except firearms used for waterfowl hunting in permitted areas during legal hunting season) are NOT permitted.

Address: Del Monte Blvd., Marina

Phone: 510-792-0222

Location: From the Slough area go south on U.S. Highway 1 to exit 412 for Marina/Del Monte Blvd. Go right on Del Monte

Blvd. which becomes a dirt road. The dirt road ends in the refuge parking lot.

Website: http://www.fws.gov/sfbayrefuges/salinasriver

Features: Birding hotspot, hiking.

