

# Spring on the Coast – Point Reyes and Tomales Bay

May 20 to 22, 2025



Chimney Rock/J. Sakaguchi



Chimney Rock/Sunset



Point Reyes Lighthouse.



Photo Sources: Various.



Pierce Ranch/D. Grimm

**What/Why:** Visit and photograph the scenic coastal areas of Point Reyes National Seashore and Tomales Bay, north of San Francisco and south of Bodega Bay (yes where the movie “The Birds,” was filmed).

The area is made of rolling green hills, colliding with Pacific Ocean. Seascape and landscape encompassing beaches, cliffs, wildflowers, and coastal wildlife will be your photographic opportunity. Want some buildings, check out Point Reyes lighthouse and the historic coast guard station at Chimney Rock.

For a change of pace, drive around Tomales Bay. You will find small towns (Tomales, Point Reyes Station, Marshall) and views of the bay. If your “oyster” fan, you are in one of the prime producing areas in the USA.

For those of you wanting a view from the water, we have arranged a local expert to cruise the bay. Space is limited and we need to be on the water at high tide (morning and evening). Our guide will take the boat party to areas catering to sunrise/sunset, birds as well as scenic areas around the Tomales Bay (details in packet).

Wild animal, a fellow member recommends Point Reyes Safaris. This is a private photo tour (limited to 3 per tour). The guide will drive you through the backroad across ranches and open area to capture photos of deer, elk, bobcats, badgers and more.

**Where:** Point Reyes National Seashore and Tomales Bay

**When:** May 20 – 22. Do a check-in on Monday May 20, check-out Thursday May 22. Three-night stay.

**Where to stay: Tomales Bay Resort and Marina.**

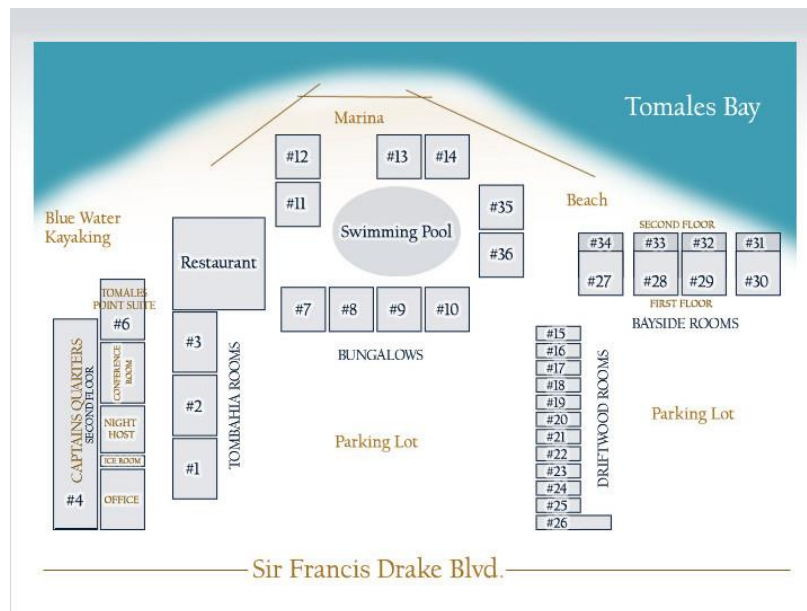
We are recommending Tomales Bay Resort and Marina located at 12938 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Inverness, California. It is located about 30 minutes (15 miles) from the Point Reyes lighthouse. And 10 minutes (5 miles) to Point Reyes Station.

There are thirty-four rooms at the resort. For more information about the resort please use this Website: [Tomales Bay Resort 2024 - Lodging in Pt. Reyes, Marin County, California](https://www.tomalesbayresort.com)

**MAKING A RESERVATION: YOU CAN MAKE A BOOKING 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF CHECK IN DATE. THUS, YOU MAY START BOOKING MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>. WHEN YOU BOOK TELL THEM YOU ARE PART OF THE GROUP: LINCOLN HILL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP. THEY WILL GIVE YOU PRIORITY OVER INDIVIDUALS.**

Contact phone (415) 669-1389 [Email info@tomalesbayresort.com](mailto:info@tomalesbayresort.com)

Room rates start from \$175 and go to \$285 plus taxes and fees per night. There is also a extra large room called the Captain’s Quarters (1,300 sqft). This rents for \$500/night.



If you are unable to secure or wish to stay in a different location in Tomales Bay, recommend **Motel Inverness** at 12718 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Inverness, CA 94937.

Contact: 1-415-236-1967 [Point Reyes Lodging | Motel Inverness | Point Reyes National Seashore Vacation](#)

Room pricing in the \$175+ range per night. [Online Reservations](#)

Motel Inverness is about 2 miles away from the Tomales Bay Resort. They have nice indoor seating area to relax by the front desk. And there is a walkway that extends out into the marsh/bay area, nice views. No restaurant.

## How to Photograph the Coast

Have collected a few links for your reference.

[How to Photograph the Coast - Nature TTL](#)

[10 Tips To Help You Capture Better Coastline Photos - Infrared Conversions, IR Modifications & Photography Tutorials | Life Pixel IR](#)

[7 Coastal Landscape Photography Tips \(+ Examples\) Photography Academy](#) (smartphone landscape photography).

**We encourage you to do your own research as well, lots of things out there to read.**

### Key Take-Aways from most of the articles?

- 1) Time of day of day (light), cloud coverage, sunrise, sunsets, and surroundings.
- 2) Turn-around, sunrise/sunset could be creating some interesting things behind you.
- 3) Pick a point of interest, use close-ups. A vast sea is nice but may not be that interesting.
- 4) Camera – have your tripod and ND filters for slowing water motion.
- 5) Shutter speed can vary a photograph a lot.
- 6) Be aware of the environment (tide levels, sun location, etc.)
- 7) Foregrounds can play a key role in your photo.
- 8) Smartphone, consider using a tripod. Know how to set-up manual control on your smartphone to control exposure.

### Camera Equipment:

- This is the ocean and salt bay. Wipe your stuff down.
- All lenses should be available to you (wide, close-up, medium, telephoto).
- Filters – ND. If your shooting in black/white, color filters.
- Tripod and remote release. It can be windy, have something to weigh down the tripod.

### Other Gear

- Flashlights or other lighting gear if you're planning early morning/evening photo work.
- Walking sticks, portable chairs, or other supports

- First aid kit, sunglasses and hats, sunscreen.
- Some areas will NOT have cell phone coverage. Apple phones have SOS – satellite capability. **Check your phone to see if it has emergency call out capabilities.**
- Clothing – you’re at or near the ocean. Dress in layers. Have rain wear available. Count on there being wind.
- Walking/hiking shoes or boots with good support and grip.

**Terrain of the Area:**

- Coastal areas mostly are dirt trails. Depending on location some have paved access. Ground can be uneven. Walking sticks encouraged. Better to be safe.
- There are cliffs and drop-offs, stay on the trails.
- Point Reyes lighthouse. The Lighthouse Visitor Center (LHVC) and the stairs leading down to the lighthouse (LH) are open from 10 am to 4 pm on Thursdays through Mondays (provided there are no active exceptions), and **closed Tue. & Wed.** The stairs to the LH are closed when winds exceed 40 miles per hour. The LH's clockwork room, which houses the original clockworks & from which one can get a close look at the first-order Fresnel lens, is usually open on days the stairs are open from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, as staffing & weather permit. **To get from the parking lot to the lighthouse itself, one must walk—mostly uphill—0.45 mi (0.7 km) to the Lighthouse Visitor Center, and then descend 313 steps.** [Visit the Point Reyes Lighthouse - Point Reyes National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

**Tides Impact Your Photo Shoot:**

- The level of the tide will impact where you go and what you’ll be able to photography.
- Low tides will expose the marsh if your on Tomales Bay, these are mud flats.
- If your planning to photography the USS Point Reyes shipwreck recommend doing this at low tide.
- Safety, both low and high tides can impact your safety. Please pay attention.
- **See Page 18 for the May’s entire tide chart. It also provides sunrise and sunset times.**



www.USHarbors.com

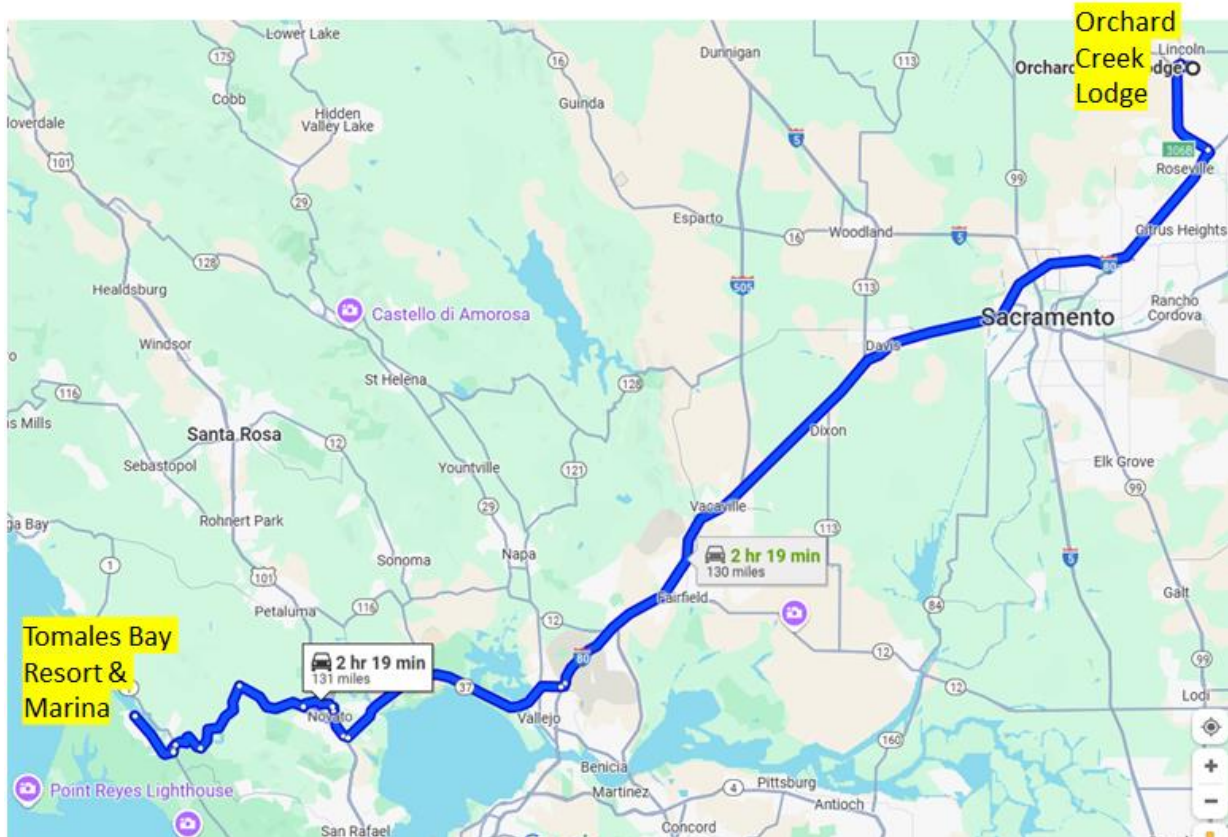
**Tomales Bay entrance, CA - May 2025**

Date	High				Low				☀		☾	
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon	
19	Mon	3:48	4.2	6:39	3.9	11:28	-0.3			5:54	8:18	☾
20	Tue	5:01	3.9	7:18	4.2	12:17	2.7	12:22	-0.1	5:54	8:18	☾
21	Wed	6:23	3.7	7:53	4.5	1:29	2.1	1:15	0.2	5:53	8:19	☾
22	Thu	7:48	3.6	8:28	4.9	2:28	1.3	2:06	0.6	5:52	8:20	☾
23	Fri	9:07	3.7	9:03	5.3	3:21	0.5	2:54	1.1	5:52	8:21	☾
24	Sat	10:20	3.8	9:40	5.7	4:11	-0.3	3:42	1.5	5:51	8:22	☾
25	Sun	11:26	3.9	10:20	5.9	4:59	-0.9	4:30	2.0	5:50	8:22	☾

## How to get there from Orchard Creek Lodge

Direction to Tomales Bay Resort & Marina, 12938 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Inverness, CA 94937

Time: 2.5 hours, 130 miles. **Use your GPS to plug in address of resort.**



## **Alternative - How to get there, the scenic route**

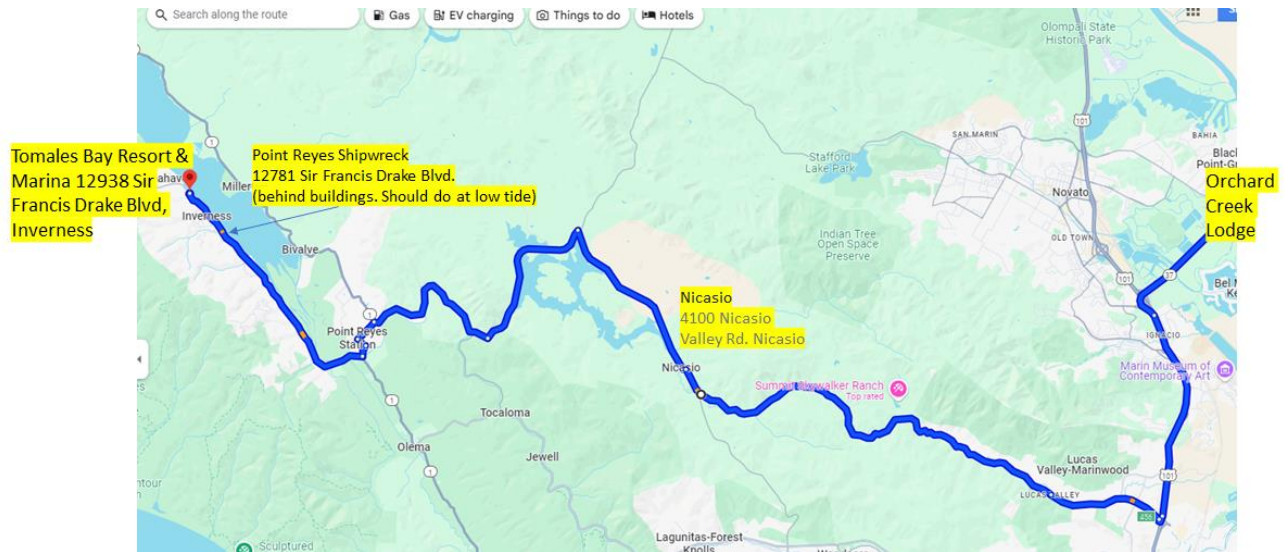
Direction to Tomales Bay Resort & Marina via Nicasio. Time: 3.0 hours, 135 miles. **Use GPS to plug in addresses on the following map.** This alternative route is driving from Orchard Creek Lodge to Nicasio.

The photo op in Nicasio is chapel, old-style houses and rolling hills. [TOWN — Nicasio.](#)

If you arrive around lunch recommend Rancho Nicasio restaurant. [Wedding, Event, Venue, Restaurant, Bar, Live music, Dancing | Nicasio, CA \[HOME\]](#)

As you drive this route it will take you through forest areas, rolling green hills, cheese farms (some open to public) and some views of water inlets.

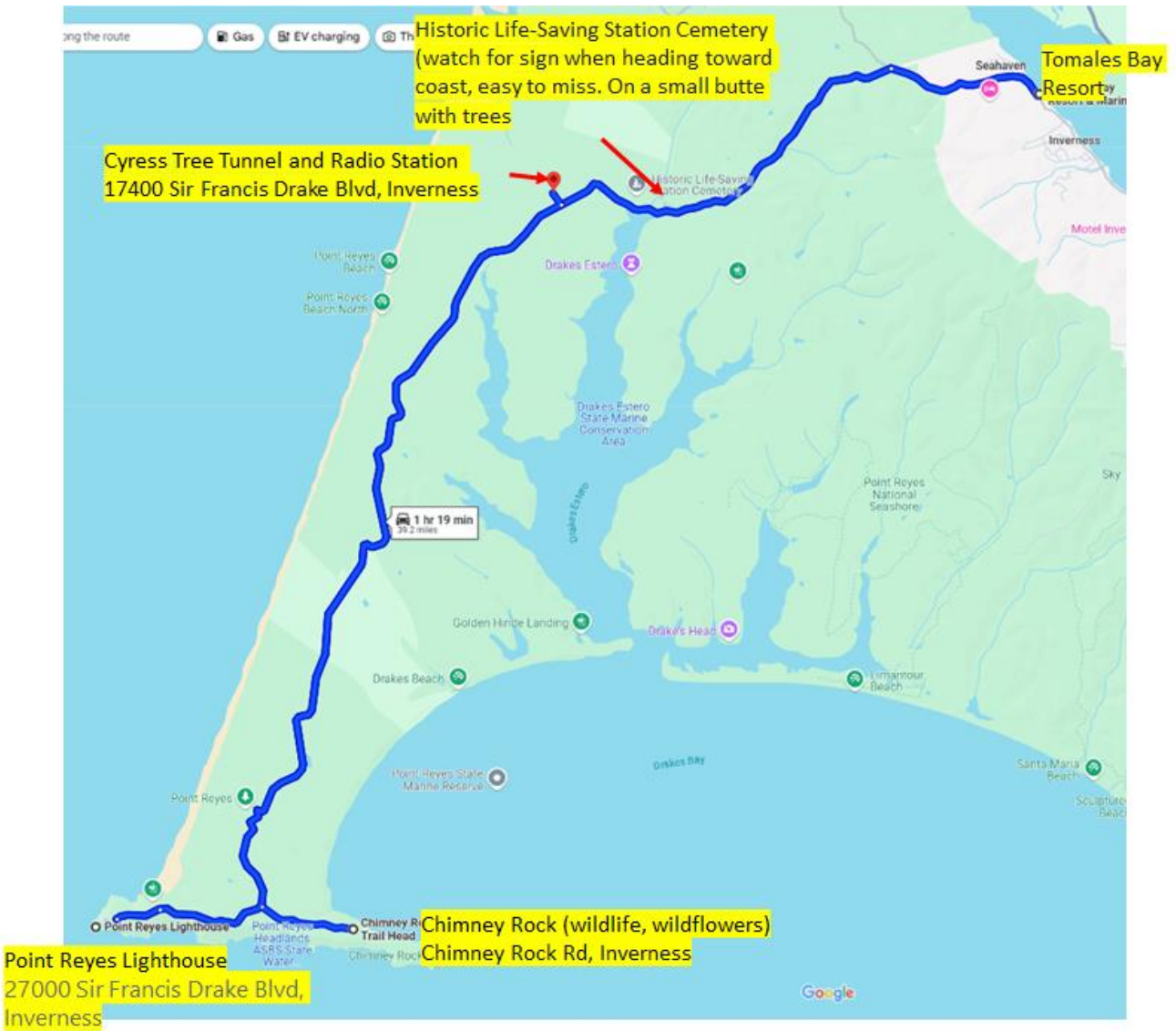
## The “Scenic” Route



### Photography Opportunity - The Coastal Route Photo Op Highlights

- Point Reyes Lighthouse, non-operational. [Visit the Point Reyes Lighthouse - Point Reyes National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
- Chimney Rock and old coast guard station - coast/cliff, wildflowers, sealions, deer, coastal views, old, white-washed buildings, rolling hills landscape. [Chimney Rock - Point Reyes National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
- Cypress tree tunnel – a famous photo op. At the end of the tunnel stands an old radio station. [Historic KPH Maritime Radio Receiving Station and Cypress Tree Tunnel - Point Reyes National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
- The Coast guard cemetery sits on a small butte among a stand of trees. Walk around and enjoy some good views of surround ranch and undeveloped area as well as water inlets. [The U.S. Life-Saving Service Cemetery at Point Reyes National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
- As you drive along Sir Francis Drake Blvd there are pull-outs to snap a photo of the surrounding landscape, mix of rolling hills and valleys. Be on the lookout for elk and deer.
- Sunsets, either the lighthouse or chimney rock areas.

## The Coastal Route

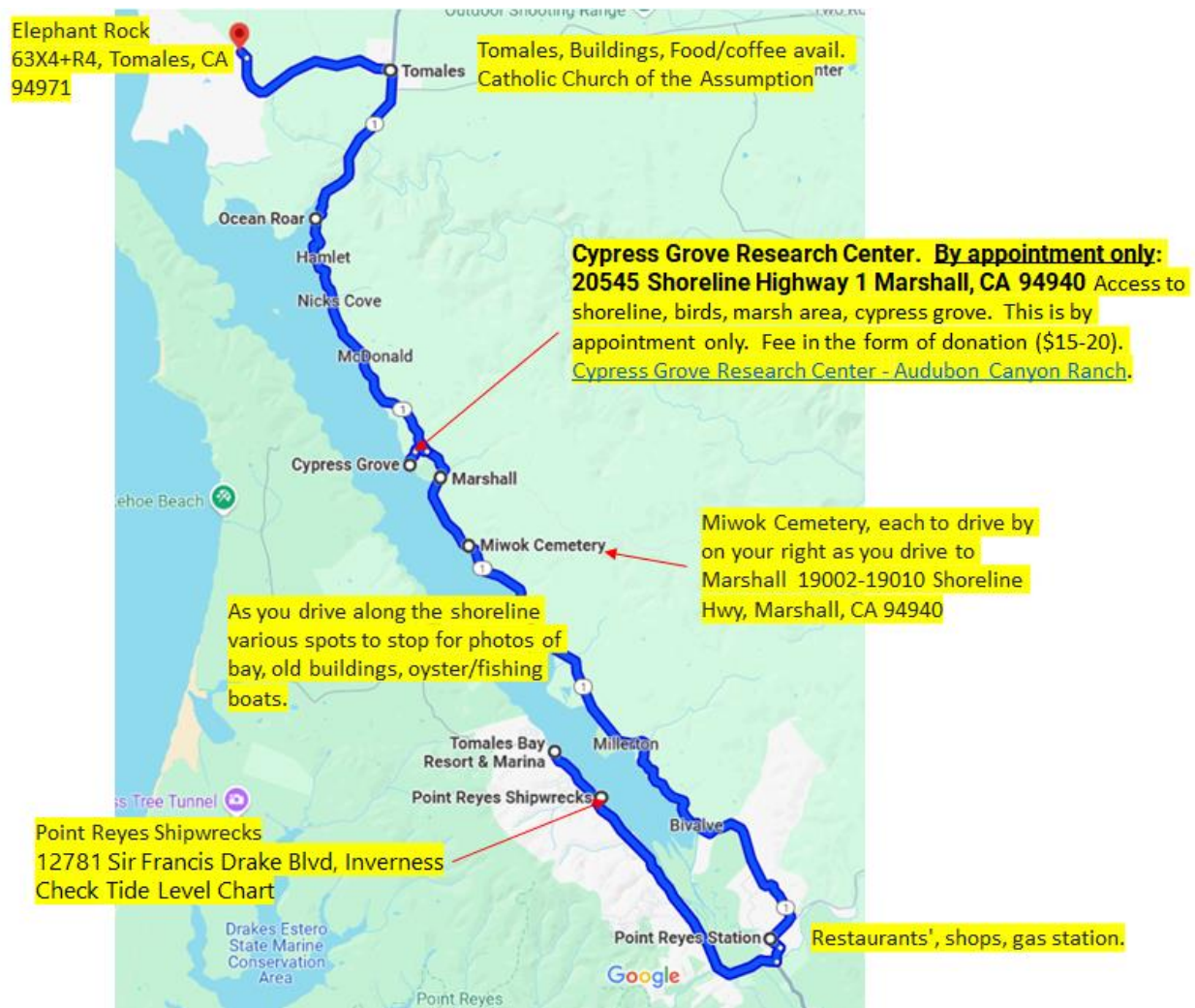


### Photography Opportunity - Around Tomales Bay, head toward Tomales

- Stop and see the last remains of Point Reyes shipwreck – check a tide book. 12781 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Inverness
- Point Reyes Station, the town has restaurants, a grocery store, and shops.

- Drive up Shoreline Highway (1), stop and photograph the various fishing spots, pier areas, old building, seashore.
- Head to the town of Tomales. You will pass through Marshall and many other sites to photograph. See map for other ideas.

### Around Tomales Bay Route



### Tomales Bay From the Water (limited Seats on Chartered Boat)

- We have arranged a special private boat tour on Tomales Bay let our guide, Andrew Buckingham. The tours will provide unique photo opportunities to capture a sunrise and a sunset. After (sunrise) or before (sunset), the tour will cruise along inlets and



shorelines most frequented by our bird friends. Andrew brings the knowledge only the locals have.

- **Each day the excursion is limited to six people. Seat available is on a first come, first serve basis. You must email Jim at [jimlhpc@gmail.com](mailto:jimlhpc@gmail.com)**
- The cruise will last about 1.5 – 2:00 hours. Dependent on tide.
- Andrew Buckingham is our captain and will cruise to various inlets and the bay to capture the shoreline and bird wildlife (dependent on birds).
- Available days:
  - Wed. May 21. Depart from Tomales Bay marina at 6:00am.
  - Thursday May 22. Depart from Tomales Bay marina at 7:15am.
- Cost: \$300/boat each day. Cost divided by the number on boat.
- We will have a waiting list if both cruises get booked. Payment would be due at the time of notification of seat availability.
- **Payment due in advance to Jim Sakaguchi by May 12<sup>th</sup>. Cash preferred.**
- If you are signed-up, payment is required in advance to hold your seat. **If you decide to cancel, refund only available if a person can be found to take your seat.**
- Cancellation – weather condition or equipment failure (boat). Refund will be provided.



### **Safari in Point Reyes (extremely limited availability with tour company)**

- Fellow member did the ½ day tour and thoroughly enjoyed the safari.
- Go to this website page regarding tour details/options: [Wildlife Safari | Point Reyes Safaris](#)
  - “If you are a photographer, we will tailor your safari to the exact goals you have for your time here. If your goal is to photograph a bobcat, we'll dedicate the time to that goal. If your goal is to photograph as wide a variety of wildlife as possible, we'll do that. The day is yours.”
- There is a full and ½ day safari.
  - Pricing for Full day (10 hrs.): 1 person - \$795, 2 person - \$895, 3 person - \$995
  - Pricing for Half day (5 hrs.) per group: \$495, up to three people.

- If interested sign-up at the company's website immediately. [Point Reyes Safaris | Wildlife Viewing and Photography Tours](#)
- Phone number: 303-929-8443 Company does suggest email since they are in the field. [Contact | Point Reyes Safaris | Daniel Dietrich](#)
- NOTE: We have NOT made any prior arrangements. Book directly with Point Reyes Safari. Believe they do require a partial deposit to hold your spot. Inquiry with them about cancelation policies.

### **Bodega Bay – Want a little nostalgia.**

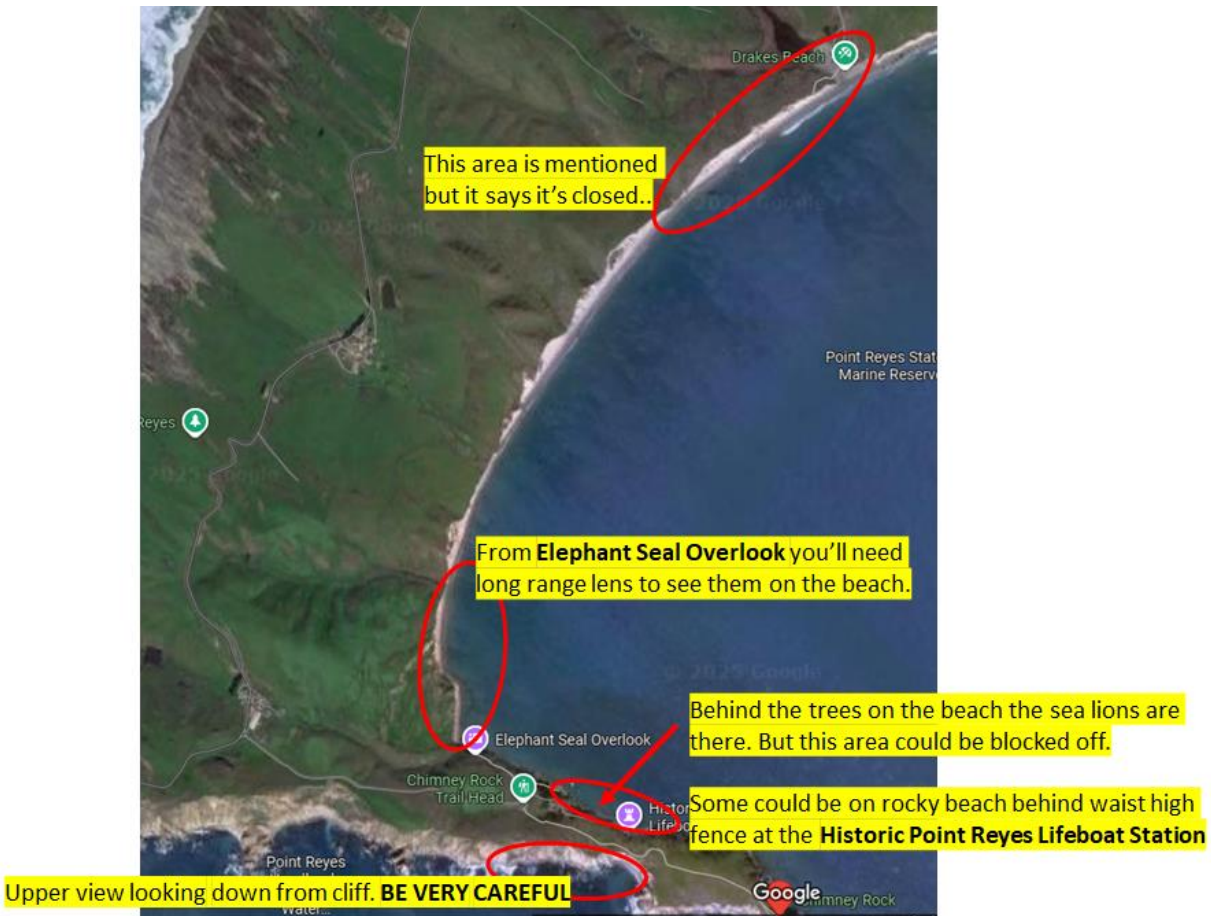
A visit to the town of Bodega Bay takes you back to Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" movie. The church and some of the other structures used in the movie are still there. Suggest reading the following if interested in doing the 1-hour drive from the resort to the town.

[Alfred Hitchcock's 'The Birds' Filming Locations in Bodega Bay - Sonoma County Tourism](#)

### **Meeting the Elephant Seals.**

The park does protect the privacy of the colonies. Before venturing out to see them at Point Reyes/Chimney Rock area please go to this site. The park updates road access/closures that pertain to the viewing areas.

[Meet the Point Reyes Elephant Seal Colonies](#)



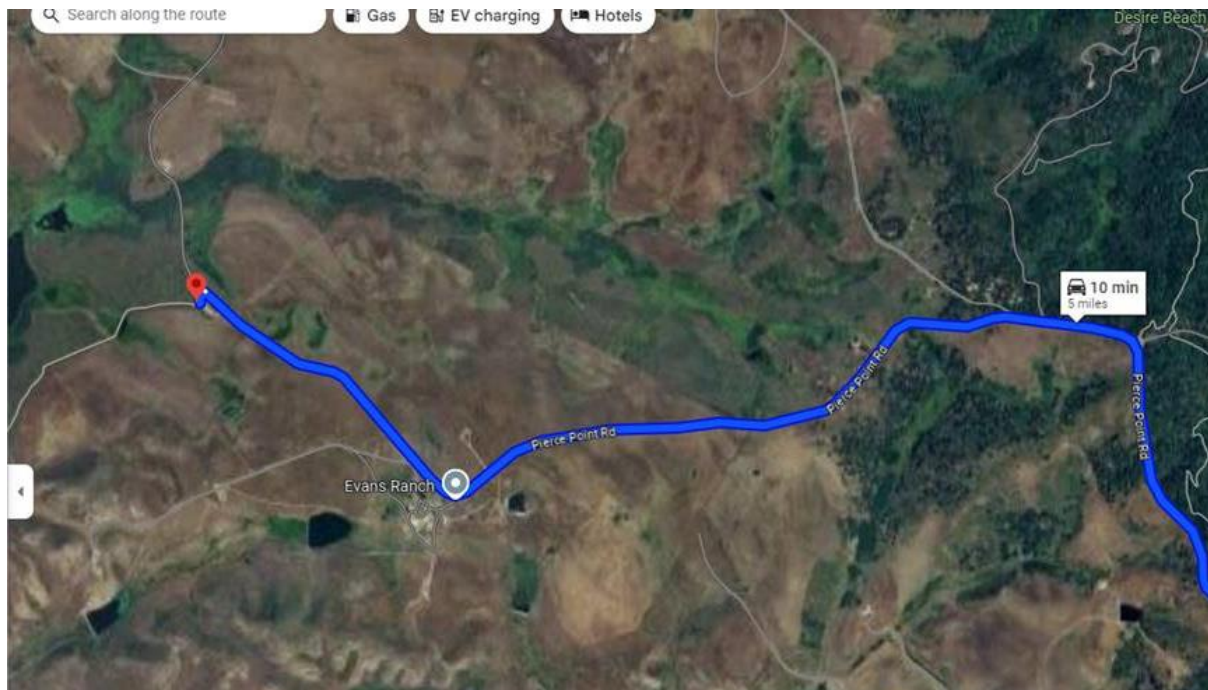
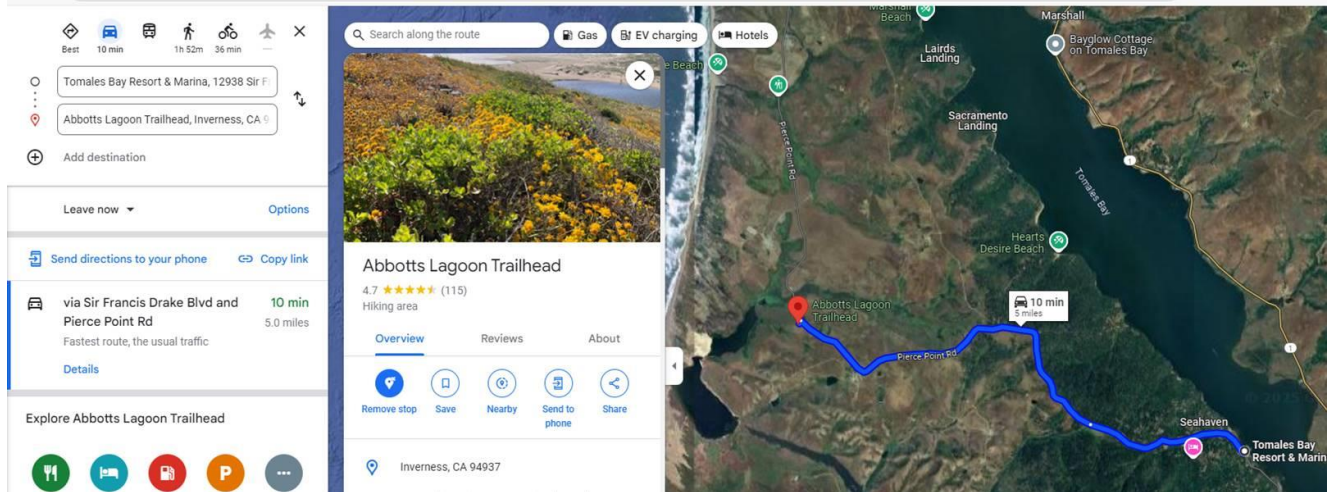
### A Local's Suggestion.

A local told me about going out to Abbott Lagoon Trailhead at sunset. He recommends the view of the lagoon and Pacific ocean.

Abbotts Lagoon is known for fantastic [birding](#) opportunities (particularly in the fall and winter), and beautiful [wildflowers](#) in the spring. Abbotts Lagoon is a series of three coastal lagoons. The upper (easternmost) lagoon is the smallest and contains the freshest water; the lower (westernmost) lagoon is the largest and saltiest. From Parking lot to beach is about 2.8 miles (one way).

[Hike the Abbotts Lagoon Trail to the Ocean \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

Head to the coast from Tomales Bay Resort on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. About 1.5 miles look for Pierce Point Road on the right and take it. Abbotts Lagoon Trailhead parking lot will be on your left about 3.5 miles after the turn-off.



### Pierce Ranch and Tomales Bay Trailhead

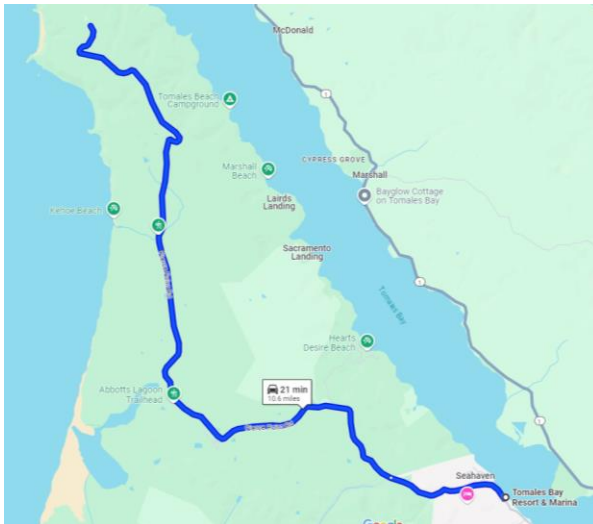
Pierce Ranch (aka Pierce Point Ranch) was the best dairy ranch in California as of 1900. It was the largest ranch operation on the Point Reyes peninsula in the late 1800s. Imagine what ranch life was like as you walk through the ranch complex, where interpretive signs describe the history and function of the various buildings. Historic features include the main house, a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, barns, dairy houses, and many other structures.



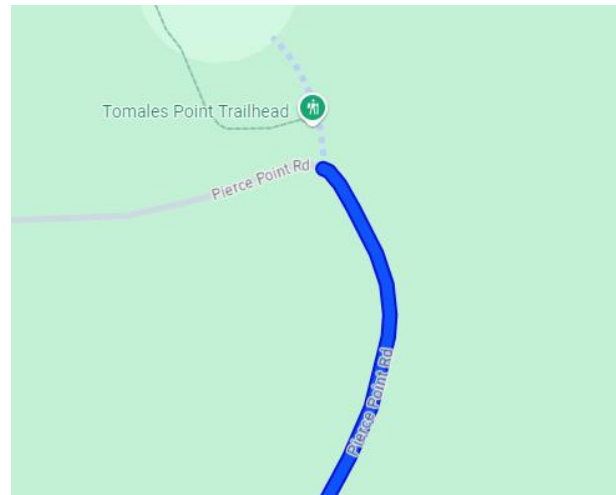
[Pierce Ranch \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

[Tomales Point Trailhead \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

Getting there from Tomales Bay Resort (10 miles). Head southwest toward Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Continue straight onto Pierce Point Rd. Ranch will be on your right off Piece Point Road. Once at the parking lot you can walk to the ranch and connect onto the Tomales Point Trailhead. The trail is 9.5 miles roundtrip.



From Resort to Pierce Ranch parking lot.



## Social Gatherings

- Tuesday May 20. 5:00pm Welcome dinner. Location to be announced.
- Wednesday May 21. Sunrise on the docks - 5:30am, sunrise at 5:53am. Sunrise photo op and coffee at Tomales Bay Resort and Marina. All hotel rooms have coffee makers, bring your thermos cup. There are several seating areas as well as the dock area to capture sunrise coming up over the mountains to the south and reflecting the bay.

- Thursday May 22, Sunset at the coast. We will discuss once there. We either will head out to Chimney Rock or Abbott Lagoon. Dependent on weather.
- Evening gatherings - Weather permitting, bring some wine/beverages and snacks to take advantage of the Tomales Bay Resort and Marina. They have outdoor seating areas and a private beach.
- Share you day plans with other members. Some of you may want to ride share and see the sights together. Use text or email to be attending members. List will be provided to confirmed attendees.

### **Hiking trails in the area.**

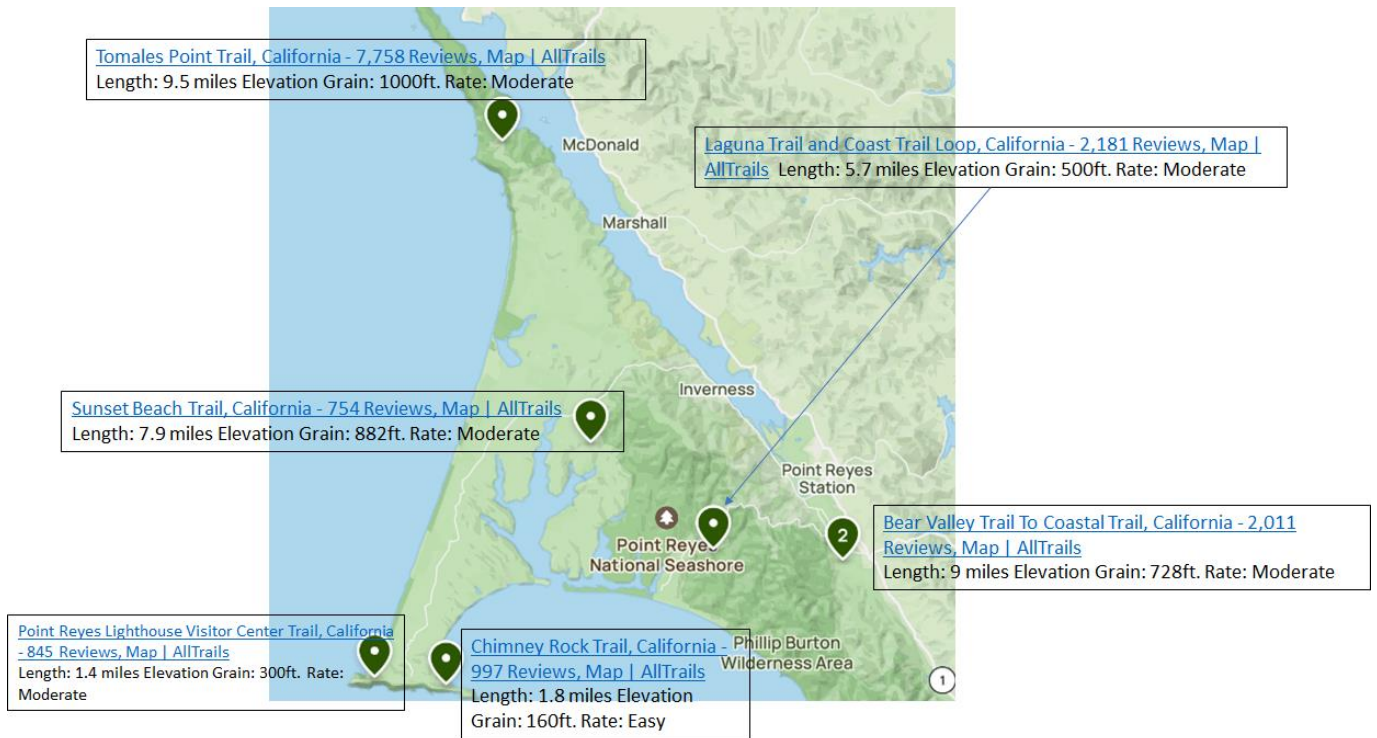
Tomales Bay and Point Reyes offer many areas to hike. Advise using these links as well as Alltrail if you have access to the application.

[Trail Guide & Suggested Hikes - Point Reyes National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

[Maps - Point Reyes National Seashore \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)



The following is from Alltrail. [10 Best hikes and trails in Point Reyes National Seashore | Alltrail](#)



## Where to Eat

The following restaurants are in the area. Most are Seafood and American menu based. Pricing is middle to high side. **CALL before going to ensure they are open.**

### Restaurants in proximity to Resort (1 to 3 miles)

Saltwater Oyster Depot, Open Sat, Sun, Mon.

12781 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Inverness, CA 94937

[Saltwater Oyster Depot](#)

+14156691244

Tap Room (Small place), Open Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat.

12301 Sir Francis Drake Blvd Suite B, Inverness, CA 94937

[TAP ROOM MENU - Inverness Park Market](#)

+14156631491

### Restaurants In Point Reyes Station (5 miles from Resort)

Station House Café Open Mon, Tues, Fri, Sat, Sun

11285 CA-1, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

[Restaurant & Bar - A Point Reyes Station Favorite Since 1964 – Station House Café](#)

+14156631515

Side Street Kitchen Open Wed, Thur., Fri, Sat, Sun

60 4th St, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956



<http://www.sidestreet-prs.com/>  
+14156630303

Point Reyes Roadhouse Open – all days, call.  
10905 CA-1, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956  
<https://m.facebook.com/pointreyesroadhouse/>

**Other side of Tomales Bay 10+ miles.**  
Mable's Restaurant and Patio Open Tue – Sat, dinner only  
18500 CA-1 Building B, Marshall, CA 94940  
<https://www.mablesrestaurant.com/>  
+14156639020

Tony's Seafood Restaurant Open Tues-Fri, Sat Sun.  
18863 Shoreline Hwy, Marshall, CA 94940  
<http://tonyseafoodrestaurant.com/>  
+14156631107

The Marshall Store, Outdoor seating only, **Call for hours.**  
19225 CA-1, Marshall, CA 94940  
<https://themarshallstore.com/>  
+14152469306

The Boat Oyster Bar – Hog Island Oyster Company.  
If you wish, join us for lunch at Hog Island Oyster Farm, lunch reservation is for 3:00pm (menu is cooked and raw oyster dishes). [The Boat Oyster Bar - Hog Island Oyster Co.](#) Outdoor seating only.  
**Monday only. Closed Tuesday-Thursday.**

### **Car-Ride Share**

#### **Getting from and/or to Tomales Bay Resort and Marina.**

For those requesting ride assistance we will need to know this when you are signed-up. Prior to the trip we will solicit to see who is willing to accommodate anyone needing a ride over or back from the resort. Those volunteering, we will provide contact information to those needing ride assistance. It will be up to those parties to work out logistics.

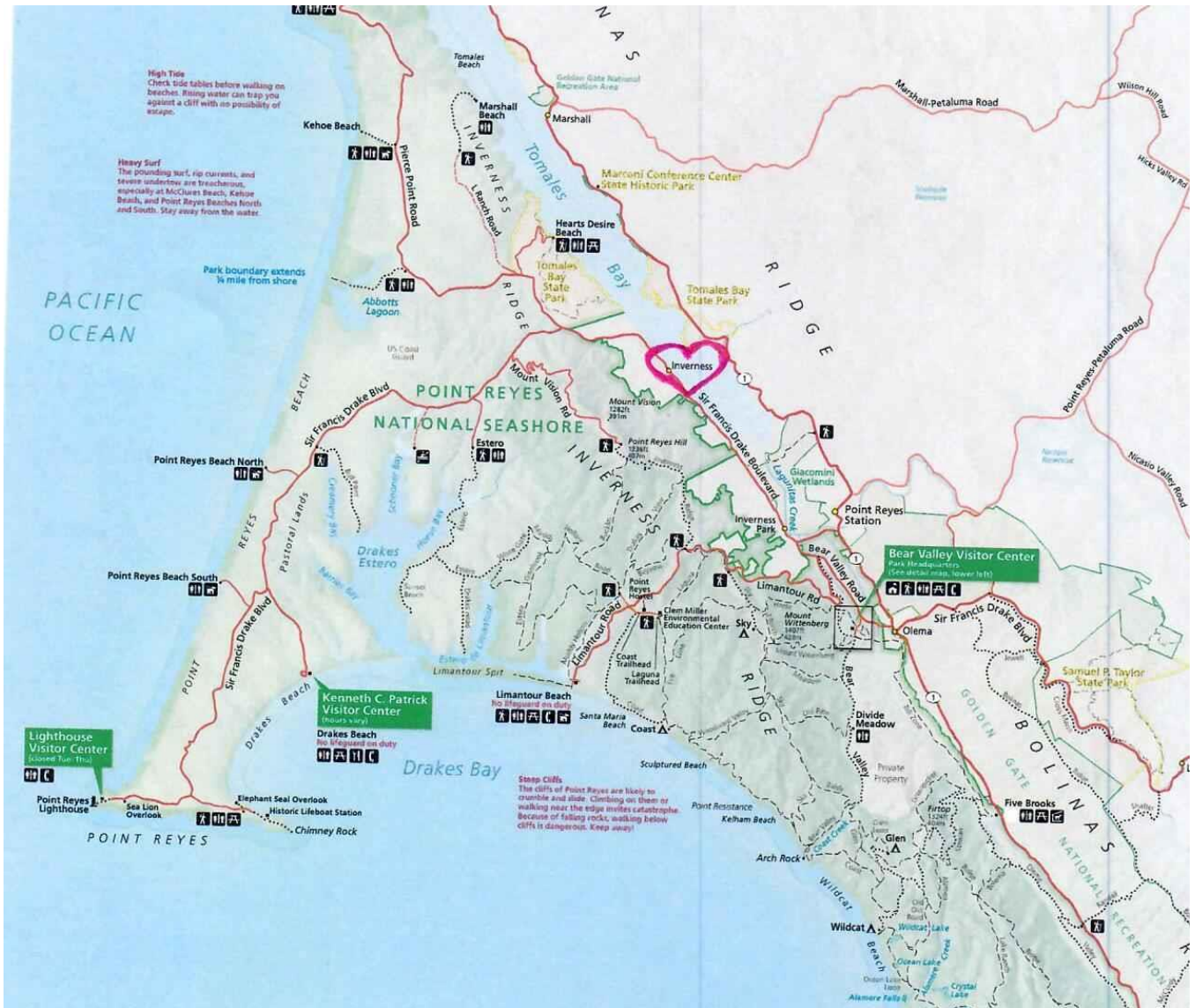
#### **Seeing the sights.**

If you would like to hook-up with someone while at the venue, we will provide contact information to all those attending and those offering ride assistance. It will be up to those parties to work out logistics (what, when, where).

We are planning to do a pre-meeting, so some of this can be worked out prior to the field trip.

































### **Reference Materials**

General area of Point Reyes.



Tide, Sunset, Sunrise Chart.

## Tomales Bay entrance, CA - May 2025

Date	High				Low							
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon	
1	Thu	1:48	5.5	4:30	4.0	9:26	-1.2	9:19	2.8	6:11	8:01	
2	Fri	2:42	5.1	5:39	3.9	10:27	-0.8	10:40	2.9	6:10	8:02	
3	Sat	3:44	4.7	6:43	4.0	11:32	-0.5			6:09	8:03	
4	Sun	4:56	4.2	7:38	4.2	12:09	2.7	12:37	-0.2	6:08	8:04	
5	Mon	6:15	3.9	8:22	4.3	1:29	2.3	1:36	0.1	6:07	8:05	
6	Tue	7:33	3.7	8:59	4.5	2:34	1.8	2:27	0.4	6:06	8:06	
7	Wed	8:44	3.6	9:30	4.6	3:27	1.3	3:10	0.7	6:05	8:07	
8	Thu	9:47	3.6	9:56	4.7	4:12	0.8	3:48	1.1	6:04	8:08	
9	Fri	10:43	3.6	10:20	4.8	4:51	0.4	4:23	1.5	6:03	8:09	
10	Sat	11:34	3.6	10:43	4.9	5:26	0.0	4:56	1.9	6:02	8:10	
11	Sun	12:22P	3.7	11:08	5.0	5:59	-0.2	5:28	2.2	6:01	8:11	
12	Mon	1:08P	3.7	11:35	5.0	6:30	-0.4	6:01	2.5	6:00	8:11	
13	Tue			1:53	3.7	7:03	-0.6	6:34	2.7	5:59	8:12	
14	Wed	12:05	5.0	2:38	3.7	7:37	-0.6	7:09	2.9	5:58	8:13	
15	Thu	12:38	4.9	3:25	3.7	8:14	-0.6	7:48	3.0	5:57	8:14	
16	Fri	1:16	4.8	4:15	3.6	8:56	-0.6	8:34	3.1	5:57	8:15	
17	Sat	1:58	4.7	5:06	3.6	9:43	-0.5	9:35	3.1	5:56	8:16	
18	Sun	2:48	4.5	5:56	3.7	10:34	-0.4	10:53	3.0	5:55	8:17	
19	Mon	3:48	4.2	6:39	3.9	11:28	-0.3			5:54	8:18	
20	Tue	5:01	3.9	7:18	4.2	12:17	2.7	12:22	-0.1	5:54	8:18	
21	Wed	6:23	3.7	7:53	4.5	1:29	2.1	1:15	0.2	5:53	8:19	
22	Thu	7:48	3.6	8:28	4.9	2:28	1.3	2:06	0.6	5:52	8:20	
23	Fri	9:07	3.7	9:03	5.3	3:21	0.5	2:54	1.1	5:52	8:21	
24	Sat	10:20	3.8	9:40	5.7	4:11	-0.3	3:42	1.5	5:51	8:22	
25	Sun	11:26	3.9	10:20	5.9	4:59	-0.9	4:30	2.0	5:50	8:22	
26	Mon	12:28P	4.1	11:03	6.0	5:47	-1.4	5:20	2.3	5:50	8:23	
27	Tue	1:26P	4.2	11:50	6.0	6:36	-1.7	6:11	2.6	5:49	8:24	
28	Wed			2:22	4.2	7:26	-1.7	7:06	2.8	5:49	8:25	
29	Thu	12:38	5.8	3:16	4.2	8:17	-1.5	8:06	2.8	5:48	8:25	
30	Fri	1:30	5.5	4:11	4.2	9:08	-1.2	9:12	2.8	5:48	8:26	
31	Sat	2:24	5.0	5:04	4.2	10:01	-0.9	10:27	2.7	5:48	8:27	