



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Recreation and Tourism Newsletter December 2015



Piedras Blancas
Northern elephant
seal rookery -
Elephant seal
season is here!
The Northern
elephant seal is the
largest seal in the
northern
hemisphere. Huge
adult males, as large
as 15 feet in length,
come to the pupping
and breeding areas,
located 8 miles north
of San Simeon.
Females arrive and
give birth to pups in
December and
January.

What is Migrating this Month? What, When, and Where

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of the most species diverse Marine Sanctuaries in the world. See what is in your Sanctuary today

Click on Seasons by the Sea Logo
See [What's Migrating?](#)



Click on the [Wildlife Calendar](#)
See the Migrating Calendar?

Wildlife Viewing Calendar

Click on Points of Interest to find out "[where](#)" to See
What's Migrating?

POINTS OF INTEREST



Annual First Night Event



Thinking about some local fish to celebrate the season? [Click here for information on how find local seafood](#) straight from the fishermen who catch it, and ideas for holiday recipes.



Coastal Discovery Center - While you are visiting the elephant seal rookery, stop at the Coastal Discovery Center, just across the highway from Hearst Castle at Hearst State Beach.

Special extended holiday hours - open 11-5 every day during the week of Christmas except for Christmas Day.

Come for fun family activities: scavenger hunt in the park, Junior Ranger guides, create a "wish upon a star" starfish, use binoculars to watch wildlife from the pier. Regular December hours are Saturday and Sunday from 11-5. For more information call 805-927-6575.

Did you miss a previous Recreation and Tourism Newsletter? The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary website now has them available. [Click here for your back issues](#)



We thought you may find this information helpful to your businesses. S.I.M.o.N. provides to the public an open source for pictures, names, species, and information about what is in your National Marina Sanctuary. Click on the photos section and be truly amazed. [Click Here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Pillar Point - Half Moon Bay Events



Santa Cruz Events

The Santa Cruz Yacht Club,



Moss Landing Events

Moss Landing is a quaint,

Visit downtown Half Moon Bay during Night of Lights and find the trees decorated in dazzling lights and many stores will stay open late for you to do some holiday shopping in the unique coastal shops.

The event generally features a tree lighting ceremony in Mac Dutra Park, a Parade of Lights down Main Street, carolers and musical entertainment, roasted chestnuts and activities for the kids.

The 2015 Night of Lights is scheduled for Friday, December 4 from 6-9pm. Click here for more details on the 2015 event!

[See all events >](#)



Monterey Events

Sunday, December 6th, 5:30pm - 8:00pm 2015
Brighten the Harbor Boat Parade Monterey Yacht Club's lighted boat parade, "Brighten the Harbor" will be held on Sunday, December 7. Watch the decorated boats cruise along Monterey Bay's coastline from 5:30pm-8:00pm.

[See all events >](#)

with support from the Santa Cruz Port District, invites ALL boaters to join the Lighted Boat Parade in the South Harbor on Saturday, DECEMBER 5, 2015. Parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. You will be judged in the categories of Theme, Lights, and Music. Prizes will be awarded based on participation in the following divisions.

[See all events>](#)

[Exploration Center Link >](#)



Big Sur Events

Big Sur. This narrow strip of paradise, ninety miles long and twenty wide, holds a romance and fascination in its very name.

It seems impossible to speak of Big Sur without reaching for poetry. Mere prose is helpless to convey its treasures--the jewel-blue sea, the hushed twilight of the redwood groves, the visions of buttressed cliffs rising up like hallucinations out of the mist. Such imagery

historic fishing village located in the middle of California's Monterey Bay coastline. A truly hidden treasure loaded with enjoyable activities.

Browse the galleries and shops, spend the day whale watching or walking the beach. There are beautiful and historic accommodations and the variety of restaurants is wonderful. Surfing is popular and there are special events held annually that should not be missed.

[See all events >](#)



Cambria - San Simeon Events - Piedras Blancas Light Station

December - The holiday season is here in Cambria and San Simeon -

Christmas at Hearst Castle
Discover why the holiday season was an exceptionally festive time for Mr. Hearst and his guests. Share in the splendor as you wind your way through the grounds, Casa del Mar-guest house, and the grand social rooms of

can only remind us of glories glimpsed. If you haven't seen the Big Sur, no one can explain it to you. If you have, no one needs to.

It has an ineffable quality. Once you pass from its environs, the memory instantly begins to vanish, and you find that snapshots are no help at all in reviving the exhilaration. There is nothing for it but to return.

[See all events >](#)
[Otter Cam Big Sur](#)

Casa Grande. Click Picture for more information

And while you are visiting the elephant seal rookery, stop in at the Coastal Discovery Center Special extended holiday hours Open 11-5 every day during the week of Christmas except for Christmas Day. Come for fun family activities: scavenger hunt in the park, Junior Ranger guides, create a "wish upon a star" starfish, use binoculars to watch wildlife from the pier. Regular December hours are Saturday and Sunday from 11-5. For more information call 805-927-6575.

[See all events >](#)

[Discovery Center Link >](#)

New Exhibits Coming Soon!!!!

The Sanctuary Exploration Center will be closed from December 9th-December 21st while we install NEW exhibits.

Come see the new exhibits at our re-opening on Tuesday December 22nd 10am-5pm!



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[Forward this email](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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