OFF THE SHORE
The California gray whales’ southern migration begins in mid-December and continues until early February. The best viewing is usually in January. Gray whales have been seen as late as mid-March. The best location for viewing is the end of the Headlands Trail.

Molera is in the middle of a sea otter refuge area. Otters prefer to eat, rest, and groom their thick fur while floating on the surface of the water. Be aware of where there are sea otters and where they are safe. The Headlands Trail provides an area where you can occasionally see otter. Harbor seals and California sea lions can be seen along their rocky shoreline or occasionally swimming in the surf line. Look for skinny black or gray mottled forms on the protected rocks, occasionally raising their heads to avoid a wave.

SLEEPER WAVES
Every year many people on the central coast drown when they are washed off rocks and carried out to sea. Don’t be caught unprepared. Be sure to have a life jacket and a whistle. Beware of seemingly gentle waves. Children are especially vulnerable to drowning and have no sense of danger.

VALUABLES
Although there is little problem with theft at Molera, visitors are advised to be careful. Store money, jewelry, and other valuables securely. Do not leave ice chests, lanterns, stoves and other equipment outside unattended.

FOOD STORAGE
Raccoons and other wildlife can be dangerous to your food. They are wild and may bite or claw you. Do not touch or handle feed as food. Food should be stored in a bag, away from your sleeping area or locked in your vehicle.

IS IT ALL RIGHT TO CAMP ON THE BEACH?
Camping permitted only in the trail camp. By establishing one camping area, the trail camp, we can maintain restrooms, collect trash, allow fires and provide effective protection for the beaches and the nearby tidal flats. So, for your protection as well as that of the park, please DO NOT CAMP ON THE BEACH.

WHY DO MY DOGS HAVE TO BE ON A LEASH?
Dogs were among the first wild animals to be domesticated. They have remained popular with people because of their loyalty and service to their masters. However, in their protective attitude toward their masters, dogs can pose a threat to people and wildlife. The behavior of dogs varies depending on the breed and age of the dog. Some dogs are more aggressive than others, and they can cause damage or injury to wildlife. The park has established a rule requiring that all dogs be on a leash to ensure the safety of both visitors and wildlife.

WHERE CAN I GET WOOD?
Visitors are permitted to collect up to 50 pounds of deadwood from the beach. Wood may be purchased at the park or at any of the stores along Highway One. To reduce human impact on the environment, dead and downed branches, and logs in other areas of the park are protected. As wood decays it restores the soil’s nutrients, helping to return the land to a natural state.

ANDREW
MOLERA STATE PARK

Contact the Park for Current Camping Information
(831) 667-2315
Andrew Molera State Park is located 22 miles south of Carmel on Highway One. Facilities include 15 miles of hiking trails, an unpowered parking lot with a small picnic area, and a primitive walk-in camp. Water and toilet facilities are available. The park ascends from a 2% mile ocean-front beach to the Big Sur River, grassland and redwood forests. Access to trails is available from the parking lot or any of the gates along Highway One.

WHERE I CV I M TOWED

Discovery Molera

Andrew Molera State Park

Looking Back

Before the arrival of settlers, The Big Sur coast was inhabited by a small group of Native Americans, the Esselen Indians. Although very little is known about them, it is thought they may have lived here for 1,000 years and had several small villages.

Eusebius Molera was the son of an eminent Spanish family in California. His father died in 1847. Andrew Molera was given the property to the Nature Conservancy in 1986 on the condition that it would be developed, and that it was named after his brother Andrew. Andrew Molera was famous for his large size, gracious hospitality and the waggons of Montgomery that the park is named after. In the late 1890s, the park was open to the public since 1972.

Wildflowers and Redwoods

Andrew Molera includes several plant communities. The most common is the western red oak, which is found throughout the park. Although many of the animals are nocturnal, it is not unusual to see black-tailed deer, bobcats, raccoons, and gray fox in the daytime. The most controversial animal is the wild pig. The European wild boar was brought to the Carmel Valley in the early 1900s, and has since become a game species for hunters in the early 1900s, and adapted to the rugged terrain easily. While it is an exciting game species, it can cause problems for crops and livestock. The California Department of Fish and Game has declared the wild boar a game animal. A list of all the game species in the park (available from the park ranger) is available from any park employee.

In the woods

Snakes play an important role in maintaining a balance among the many species in the park. The black rat snake, king snakes, Monterey ring-necked snakes, aquatic snakes, king snakes, Monterey ring-necked snakes, aquatic snakes play an important role in maintaining a balance among the many species in the park. The black rat snake, king snakes, Monterey ring-necked snakes, aquatic snakes, etc. are all very beautiful and unique to the area. If you are lucky enough to see a snake, PLEASE leave it alone. At all with all wild animals: if you don't bother it, it won't bother you.
EAST MOLEREA
East of Highway One lies the majority of Moleria's 4,000 acres. Experienced hikers will enjoy walking up the steep path through what was formerly cattle grazing land. At the top of the first ridge is an old redwood grove. For more ambitious hikers, an animal path continues to Moleria's southern boundary.

BIG SUR RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM
Heavily forested with stands of Redwood and Oak trees, the trails upstream from the parking lot include: River Trail, Bobcat Trail, Twin Cottonwoods Trail, and Cooper Loop. The forest floor is covered with a lush carpet of ferns and redwood scum. Near the river is a good place to see a variety of birds and animals, have a picnic, or take a cool dip in the river. These trails are visible from either the parking lot or any of the gates along Highway One. The level of the river changes with rainfall, so watch the current when crossing. (Moderately strenuous) From the River Trail the Hidden and South Boundary Trails climb to the crest of the ridge and join the Ridge Trail. (Strenuous)

THE BEACH TRAIL AND HEADLANDS TRAIL
If a flat, easy walk to the beach is what you are looking for, follow the trailline road through Trail Camp, past the historic Cooper Cabin, and on to the river mouth and beach. Deer, bear, and other animals are often seen on this one mile walk. The beach is most accessible during the summer months when footbridges at the parking lot and river mouth are in place. Just below the river mouth is the Headlands Trail which will take you out to Moleria Point. The view of Moleria Beach is truly spectacular. You may see otters, seals, sea lions, and a variety of birds nesting on the rocks. (Not strenuous)

Warning...
Poison Oak, found throughout the park, has an oily substance on its leaves and stems, and a juice that is highly irritating to the skin. Note carefully the shape of the leaves, which turn from a shiny green in the spring to rich orange and red in the fall.

This park is a natural area for ticks. Please check yourself and others in your party for ticks. If you find any embedded ticks, seek immediate first aid and medical attention.

Remember...
- Mountain bicycles are permitted only on the Beach, the Ridge Trail, and trails to the Beach via Trail Camp and Creamery Meadow. Please yield trail courtesy to all you meet.
- Horses are not allowed on the Headlands, nor the Spring Trails, nor in the Trail Camp Area. Horse Rides are available by calling the Moleria Trail Rides, at (408) 635-4864.

THE BLUFFS TRAIL AND MOLERIA BEACH
Moleria Beach stretches south for 2 miles. As you walk you may notice the purple patterns in the white sand caused by Abalone dissolve in the cliffs. At low tide you can stroll all the way to Cooper Point and back. Unfortunately, when the tide comes in, the waves crash against the bluffs making most of the beach inaccessible. PLEASE WATCH THE TIDE CAREFULLY. A large "deepwater" may come when you are not expecting it. (Not strenuous) The Bluffs Trail extends two miles along the bluffs through coastal brush. It is almost level and allows you to hike south even during high tide. The Bluffs Trail turns into the Panorama Trail as it begins to climb up the ridge. (Strenuous)

PACIFIC OCEAN

RIDGE TRAIL AND PANORAMA TRAIL
This trailline road follows the top of ridge from the bluffs to the south boundary of the park. 12 miles with a 1200 foot elevation gain. The Ridge Trail, while primarily in grove, does go through a beautiful oak forest and the view of the Big Sur coastline is spectacular. From the Ridge Trail you can take the Hidden or South Boundary Trails down to the river trails. As you reach the highest point, the Ridge Trail will turn down the Panorama Trail. As the name implies the trail has a panoramic view of the coastline and will take you to the Bluffs Trail. (Strenuous)