

THE ANTI-RACIST
SURFER'S GUIDE TO

POINT DUME



 COLOR THE WATER



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INTRODUCTION



This is a conscious, anti-racist surfer's guide to Point Dume. This information is intended for marginalized communities including Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) seeking access to Point Dume as a surf location as safely and informed as possible. Information here has been gathered over the course of nearly two years as part of Color the Water's Marine Protected Area Initiative. This project involved education about Marine Protected Areas as a whole, and wisdom gathered over dozens of site visits by Color the Water surfers of a wide range of surf experience levels, abilities, and identities.

Our hope is that this guidebook will support two things:

One, we hope that surfers seeking essential information on genuine access, safety, and ease will find this useful as a tool for navigating Point Dume, a place where access and surf wisdom are not readily available to those that are new to the area.

Secondly, we hope that the knowledge gained about Point Dume as a Marine Protected Area can foster a sense of care and consciousness about how important it is to protect and preserve the entire coastline.

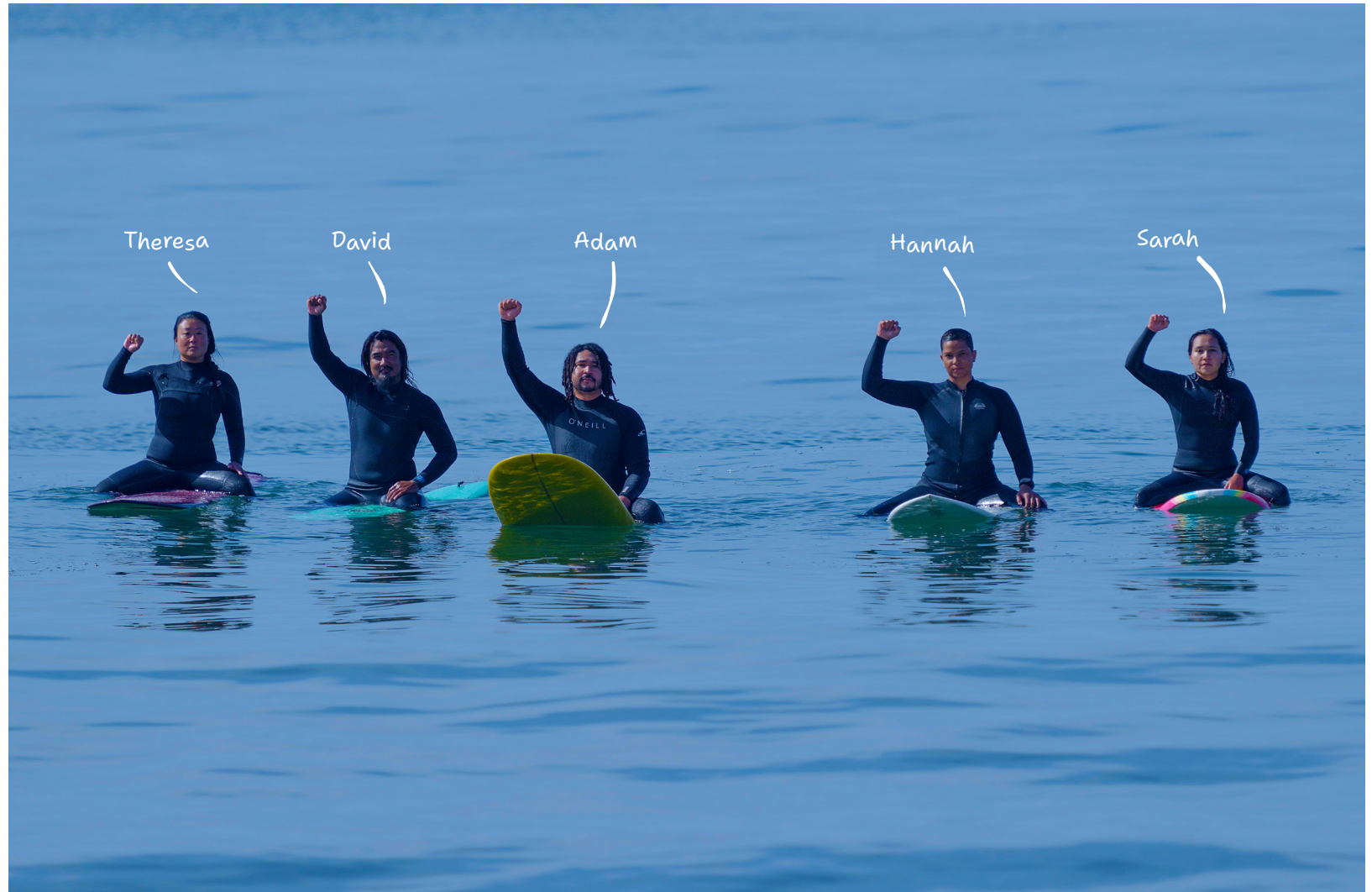
This guidebook is inspired by the Negro Motorist Green Book published by Victor H. Green. The Green Book was a community-sourced travel guide that collected and published word-of-mouth resources for African American travelers. It was first published in 1936 during the Jim Crow era where thousands of "sundown towns" across the United States legally barred African Americans from visiting or living in these locations. The Green Book provided information so that African Americans traveling across the US would find safe places to eat and sleep, along with other points of interest destinations and information that would be useful for travelers. In addition to providing critical information, it improved the quality of tourism for Black travelers to find

welcoming locations of rest and leisure while creating opportunities to connect with community while away from home.

The Green Book was a vital handbook that eventually faded out of business in the 1960s with changes in civil rights legislature ending legal segregation. (Credit: The Negro Motorist Green-Book, History)


Although currently, there are no formal regulations like segregation during the Jim Crow era, there is a surf culture that tends to extend membership only to the elite, those that have been born and raised in local surf communities. Surf information and wisdom is often something that is heavily guarded and only shared among regulars or locals. Despite the veneer of a laid back community of surfers who are one with nature, there are barriers to access that keep most BIPOC people away. This “locals only” attitude in California surf culture excludes BIPOC communities since we have been systemically displaced and barred from coastal communities through historically racist policies such as redlining. Many of the surfers in our BIPOC community started surfing in adulthood, after overcoming stereotypes, accessibility issues, and with deep intention to build a healing relationship with the ocean. So this guide is a tool to further support BIPOC surfers on their journey, remove some barriers to information and open up a much guarded surf break at Point Dume.

We organized dozens of site visits to the Point Dume area with



Color the Water community members. Our community members that visited this site represent a wide range of lived experiences. Our people ranged from age 5 to 75 years old, with varying physical abilities, comforts with nature, and surf knowledge. Nearly every participant visited Point Dume for the first time on a CTW organized site visit. In this guide, we harvested and compiled important information we thought would be critical for our people to

have a positive experience visiting the area. We hope you find this information useful and that you share this with other people that have been historically marginalized in surf culture to expand our places of belonging, as we continue to Color the Water.

 Please continue to do your part in educating yourself on the issue of land reparations and how you can support indigenous-led efforts. You can begin by looking up what indigenous lands you reside at native-land.ca and from there research land back initiatives for the people whose land you are on.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND LAND BACK

Unceded Chumash Land

We would like to acknowledge that wherever we are on the California coastline or anywhere in the United States, we are on Indigenous land. Point Dume is situated on unceded Chumash land.

At one time, Chumash territory encompassed 7,000 square miles that spanned from the beaches of Malibu to Paso Robles. The tribe also inhabited inland to the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley.

Utilizing resources from both the land and the sea, we called ourselves "the first people," and pointed to the Pacific Ocean as our first home.

Credit: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Our History
<https://chumash.gov/chumash-history>

It is important that we not only acknowledge this, but also take action toward getting land back to and supporting the land-based program of the Chumash people to whom this land belongs.

Organizations that support this work include and are not limited to:

Northern Chumash Tribal Council
northernchumash.org/land-back

Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation
www.wishtoyo.org

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
chumash.gov

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA)

Point Dume State Marine Reserve

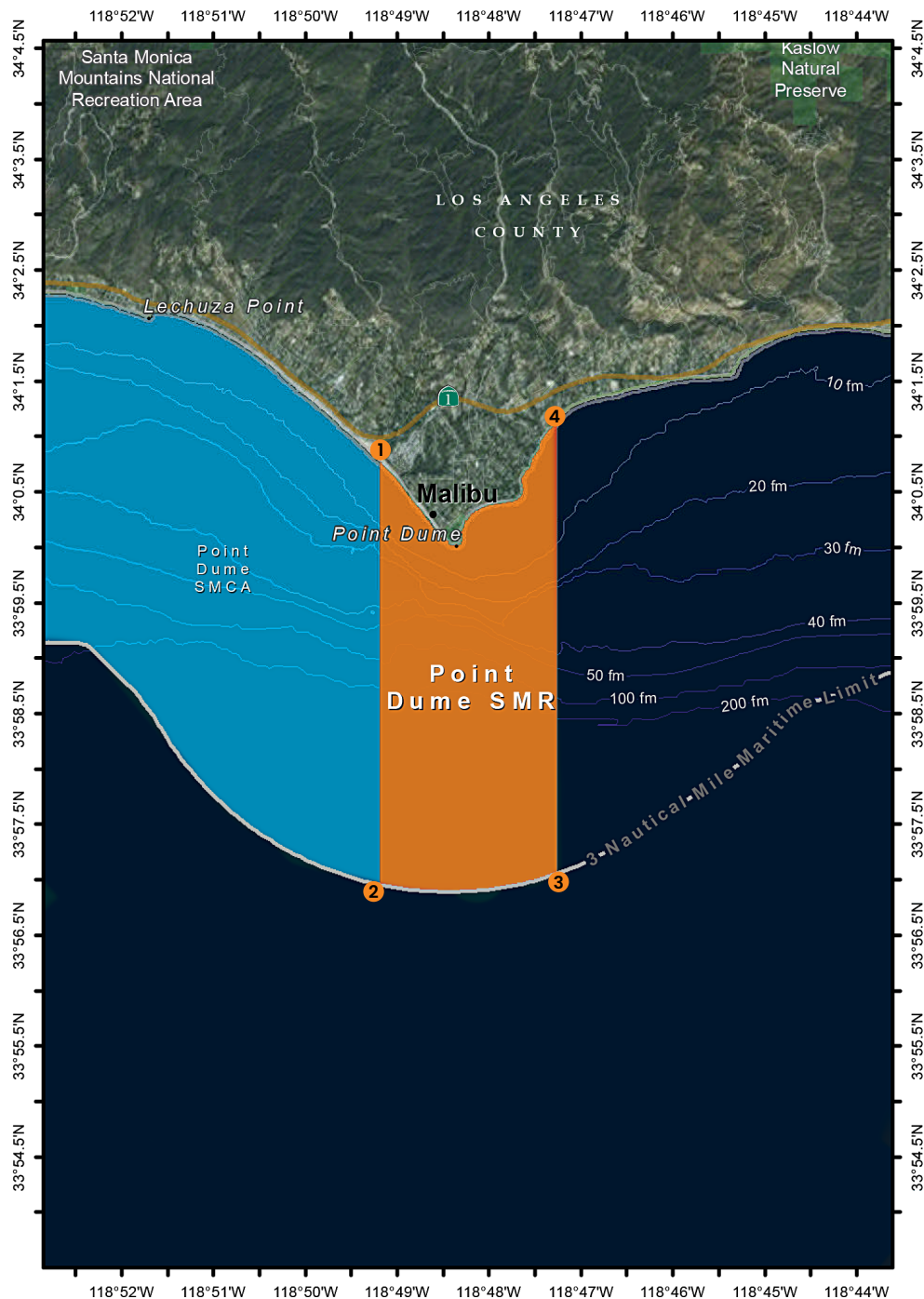
Point Dume State Marine Reserve (SMR) and Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) are two Marine Protected Areas in California's Network of 124 MPAs. Pt. Dume SMR and SMCA are located adjacent to one another along the coastline near Malibu in Los Angeles County. These marine protected areas (MPAs) hug the Point Dume promontory, a coastal flatland bluff that juts south into the Pacific Ocean and forms the northern end of Santa Monica Bay.

Point Dume SMR, which covers more than 7½ square miles off the tip of Point Dume, extends to depths of nearly 2,000 feet. The SMR protects an expanse of sandy beach, rocky shores, kelp forests, surfgrass beds, an upwelling zone, and nearly two square miles of deep submarine canyon. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource in the SMR.

Point Dume SMCA, the larger of the two MPAs, protects nearly 16 square miles extending to depths greater than 2,000 feet. The SMCA protects an expanse of sandy beach and seafloor habitat, rocky shores, kelp forests, surfgrass beds, an upwelling zone, and less than a quarter square mile of deep submarine canyon, which together create an area of high biodiversity. The SMCA also provides for excellent surfing, diving, tide-pooling, and whale watching opportunities. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource in the SMCA, except recreational take of white seabass and pelagic finfish (northern anchovy, barracudas, billfishes, dorado (dolphinfish), Pacific herring, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, salmon, Pacific sardine, blue shark, salmon shark, shortfin mako shark, thresher shark, swordfish, tunas, Pacific bonito, and yellowtail) by spearfishing is allowed. And, commercial take of coastal pelagic species (northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, and market squid) by round-haul net, brail gear, and light boat; and swordfish by harpoon is allowed.



MPA Overview



Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:
 34° 00.780' N. lat. 118° 49.200' W. long. ; ①
 33° 56.960' N. lat. 118° 49.200' W. long. ; ②
 thence eastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
 33° 57.061' N. lat. 118° 47.260' W. long. ; and ③
 34° 01.178' N. lat. 118° 47.260' W. long. ④

Closeup Boundaries



Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

Credit: From the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife website
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Point-Dume>

For more information:

Maps and downloadable information:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Point-Dume#622914702-printable-downloads>

Habitats Protected by the Point Dume MPAs

Sandy beaches serve as a buffer zone, protecting the shoreline, headlands, and sand dunes, and minimizing coastal erosion. Beyond protecting our coastline and providing a recreational area for visitors, the sandy beaches of Point Dume SMR and Point Dume SMCA are important habitat for a variety of species like sand crabs, clams, and California grunion. These remarkable little fish put on quite the show during spawning season! From March through September, hundreds to thousands of these little fish squirm completely out of the water to lay eggs in the wet sand of gently sloping sandy beaches.

Rocky shores provide visitors with an opportunity to glimpse the marine life that exists beneath the watery surface without going for a swim. Look into a tidepool exposed during low tide and you can see invertebrates like mussels, barnacles, sea anemones, nudibranchs, and maybe an octopus; you may also spy fish like juvenile garibaldi or opaleye darting around in the shallow waters. The best time to visit these rocky shores is during a minus tide, so check a tidal chart before heading out.

Surfgrass can typically be found along rocky shores and offshore in shallow rocky habitats. It can increase water clarity by trapping sediments, help prevent erosion, and act as a fantastic carbon sink, mitigating the effects of climate change in the surrounding habitat! Surfgrass also provides important nursery habitat for many species and life stages of local fish and invertebrates, like the commercially important California spiny lobster.

Sandy seafloors may appear “plain” or “boring” at first glance, but they are actually teeming with life! Camouflaged flatfish like sanddabs and California halibut blend in perfectly with these soft-bottomed habitats, which allows them to hunt for smaller baitfish like Pacific sardines. Bat rays will cruise over the sandy surface and flap their fins or dig their snouts into the soft sediment to uncover buried prey like clams and worms. Nearshore fish, like surfperches and croakers, feast on invertebrates buried in the sand, and in turn can attract larger predatory marine mammals such as sea lions and dolphins to the area. At depths between 65 and 230 feet, market squid spawn on these soft sandy bottoms.




Rocky reefs and kelp forests provide some of the richest and most important habitat within Point Dume's MPAs. Giant kelp anchors to the rocky bottom and provides a foundation for other species and plants to thrive in the area. Everything from large animals like giant sea bass to smaller invertebrates like scallops, and everything in between (including kelp bass, moray eels, sea urchins, leopard sharks, and more) depend on Point Dume's kelp forest habitat.


Submarine canyon habitat is easily the least accessible of all Point Dume SMR and Point Dume SMCA habitats due to depth and offshore location, but marine life abounds in these deeper waters. Gorgonian corals and sea pens line the upper canyon walls, which begin at about 200 feet deep. Extending down more than 1,000 feet, the deep canyon walls are home to the strange benthic siphonophore, spot prawn, squat lobster, and the highly armored California king crab. The canyon also drives cold water and nutrients to the surface through a process called upwelling. These nutrients feed plankton blooms, which attract krill and small fish— prime food for hungry whales and seabirds. Gray, fin, blue, humpback, and minke whales have all been spotted in the area feasting in the rich waters that upwelling promotes.

Credit: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Management News
<https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2018/07/23/exploring-californias-marine-protected-areas-point-dume-state-marine-reserve-and-point-dume-state-marine-conservation-area/>

Joshua

Mound of Mussels

 If someone tells you that the shoreline is private property they are misinformed. The coastline is open to the public and you have a right to use public space. "Locals only" is a racist motto that we need to end.

 Did you know that Point Dume was named after Padre Francisco Dumetz of Mission San Buenaventura. We wonder what the Chumash name for this place is.

WHERE IS POINT DUME?

Location

Point Dume is located in North Malibu, within a residential neighborhood just before Zuma Beach. It is not easy to find and there is no signage on the Pacific Coast Highway leading up to the area. The **Point Dume MPA** extends north and south from the specific surf location we are describing here.

Background of Malibu's "Public" Beaches

Malibu coastline where Point Dume is located consists of 27 miles of technically public beaches but 20 miles of the coastline are lined with private beachfront luxury homes creating a wall and physical barrier to the ocean.

The 1976 California Coastal Act states "Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea ... including ... the use of the dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation."

Many homeowners try to deter the public from visiting these beaches by posting Private Property signage, locking public access ways, and limiting parking along the **Pacific Coast Highway**. There is no coastal access signage on PCH indicating where Point Dume is located. Although Point Dume is visible from the small residential road Cliffside Drive but to access Cliffside Drive off PCH, you need to drive a series of winding residential roads with no wayfinding signage directing you to the designated marine protected area.

Point Dume
State Beach

Nature Trail

Nature Reserve

POINT DUME

HOW DO WE GET THERE? WHERE DO WE PARK?

Parking and Transportation

As far as we know, there are three designated locations for public parking around the surf break.

Upon finally arriving at Point Dume, parking is very scarce. Parking enforcement is conducted through the neighborhood by various parties including the sheriff's department, volunteer patrols, as well as residents who frequently report cars in violation. In addition to parking violations, these patrols have been known to issue tickets for expired registration, missing front license plates and other small fix it issues with your vehicle. At every single site visit, many parking citations were given to us and other surrounding cars.

THE STRIP 1

GRASSWOOD 2

POINT DUME STATE LOT 3

PARKING LOCATION 29245 Cliffside Dr, Malibu, CA 90265

Grasswood Avenue north of Cliffside Drive

6800 Westward Beach Rd, Malibu, CA 90265

PARKING FEE Free

Free

\$3-\$8 depending on season and length of visit

DESCRIPTION OF PARKING

a single strip of free 2-hour striped parallel parking located at the bluff top park area on Cliffside Drive. It includes 8 designed spaces for cars and 2 disabled parking spaces. The lines designating each spot are faded and often cars park between striped parking stalls increasing the parking spaces from 8 to 10, depending on how cars are spaced out.

There are approximately 25 free residential street parking spaces in select areas on Grasswood. There are areas on the western side of the street where the shoulder is wide enough to park a car. These are the informally acceptable places to park.

This is a state maintained paid parking lot that is more conventional, on the other side of Point Dume at the end of Westward Beach Road. It is a large parking area of many perpendicular parking stalls. There is an entry booth to the lot that is often unoccupied, and there are pay stations that can sometimes malfunction.

⚠️ They are very strict about being partially in the red zone

⚠️ Look for where other cars are parked on Grasswood. Pay careful attention to street signs that designate tow away zones on other residential streets, street parking is not allowed on many of the side streets. Be sure to park inside the yellow line on the shoulder, tickets have been written for cars parked on the line or outside the line.

⚠️ If the parking stations do not function, beware that parking enforcement will still issue tickets for those who do not get parking vouchers.

PROXIMITY TO POINT DUME SURF BREAK 0.1 miles even path

0.3 miles even path

0.4 mile hike
1.1 mile paddle around

⚠️ When walking in the summer, the road can get scorching hot, wearing shoes to the beach is suggested. At the beach, hiding them or keeping them above the high tide line is suggested

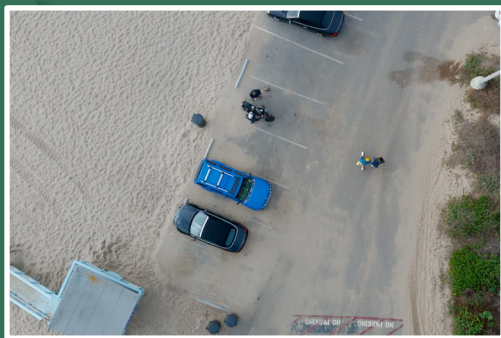
PARKING LIMITATIONS 2 hour
No parking after sunset, before sunrise

No overnight parking

No overnight parking

⚠️ Parking enforcement is known to do a full license plate check and look up the history on cars, along with looking for a list of other violations to give citations. Some cars will get multiple tickets at once (example: expired registration + no front license plate + after sunset parking = 3 different tickets that cost over ~\$70 each)

⚠️ Fill up on gas before getting on PCH, gas prices are about \$1 more per gallon the entire stretch.



Point Dume State Lot

Public Transportation does not take you close to Point Dume. The closest bus stop is the Heathercliff stop of the 134 Bus. It is a 1.3 mile walk from the bus stop on PCH to the Point Dume bluff area and stairs to the surf break.

Ride share information: Use the addresses listed above for destination. Please note cellular service is unreliable at Point Dume, which may limit the possibility of requesting a return home pick up from rideshare apps.



Grasswood



The Strip

👤 Don't hate on the parking attendants who are often young people of color, they are just carrying out orders and forced to do their job to earn a wage. They do not control the regulations. If you do see people in uniform, with formal clipboards, and/or from regulatory agencies, and have energy and bandwidth to share your thoughts with them, tell them about unfair policies or procedures you would like to change.



Just because this is what Point Dume has decided what is needed to be accessible, observe how this place can be more accessible to more people. What else would you suggest they install to make this place more welcoming and improve the quality of your experience? They can always make things more accessible for more people.

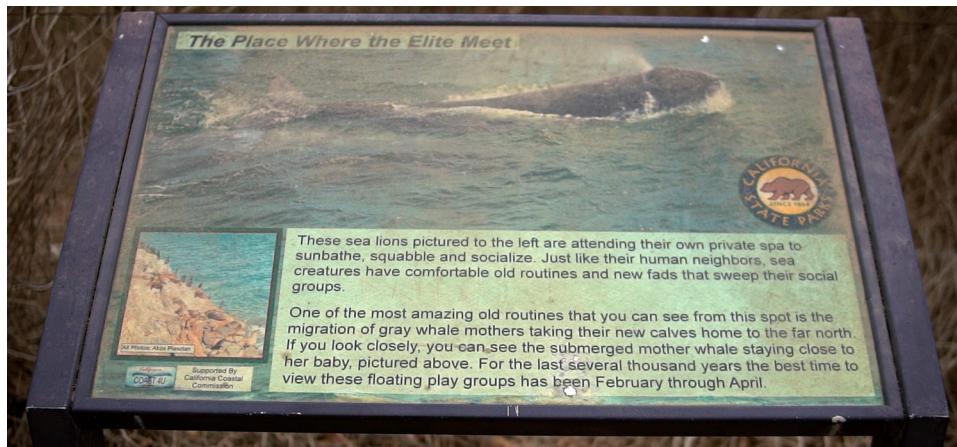
ONCE WE GET THERE, WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?


Accessibility, Amenities, And Safety

Legally defined accessibility is not the same as experiencing truly accessible places that welcome all people including those with disabilities and access needs. Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbor operates Point Dume State Beach and has restored the bluff area to comply with basic accessibility regulations for physical mobility, primarily wheelchair accessibility.

Point Dume bluff area

From the strip parking area where there are two designated disabled parking spaces, access aisles, and curb cuts in the sidewalks, there are relatively evenly packed accessible dirt pathways that lead to a wooden viewing platform and the stairs that take you down to the beach where tidepools and surf break are located. There is interpretive signage explaining the Marine Protected Area, facts about the flora and fauna of the area in both English. There is minimal Spanish translation on a few signs. There is no signage for vision impaired people.





The wooden stairs down to the beach are newly constructed and to current building code conditions. There are approximately 200 stairs that are evenly spaced with a landing every 18 stairs. There are guard-rails and handrails along the entire length of the stairs.

There is no bathroom or changing room. You will need to either get dressed into your wetsuit at your car or pack your surf equipment and

⚠️ Bring a changing towel or other method to cover yourself while changing, and changing mat if available to avoid tracking dirt.

change down at the beach.

⚠️ Be sure to bring drinking water and rinsing water for your gear (if desired).

There is no access to running water.
There is no lifeguard tower. The beach is not patrolled by a lifeguard. Instead a lifeguard by boat passes the beach cove every few hours,

⚠️ Bring your own food and snacks. There are a few businesses nearby but they are expensive and a bit bland.

Stairs to Beach

Point Dume Westward Beach area:

From the parking lot, there is slightly inclined sand to the shoreline. There is no access path or roll out mat for wheelchair or mobility assistance.

There are bathrooms, toilets, and sinks approximately every quarter mile along the parking lot.

There are lifeguard towers located close to the bathrooms.

There is interpretive signage explaining the Marine Protected Area, facts about the flora and fauna of the area in both English and Spanish. There is no signage for vision impaired people.

What to do in case of an emergency

In case of an emergency, it is important that we are equipped and capable to keep each other safe. Collective preparedness is essential. Though this guide is not intended as a comprehensive authority on emergency response, nor an exhaustive list of all emergencies that may arise, we do have some suggestions that can ensure that for most situations, we are all we need.

Check surf and weather reports before going. Gathering as much information as you can about the conditions you are going to enter into helps with understanding what risks there are.

Parking Lot

Assess the collective capabilities of your surf community each session. Are there water safety people among your group? Do people know CPR/wound care? Are there any medical professionals among you? Do you have emergency numbers (ie. community members, friends/family, etc.), enough phone battery, and places of reception? Ask and answer all these questions before going out, even on smaller days.

Have a first aid kit accessible to you. Point Dume doesn't have ample beach space, but there are places to put bags in plain view. Bringing a readiness bag can help in many emergency situations.

⚠ In all Point Dume locations, there is not reliable cellular phone service and there are areas with no signal at all, depending on the carrier. If you need to communicate with people, do so before arriving at the parking locations near the residential homes or businesses along PCH

👊 We keep each other safe. Surfing together with other community members is a good strategy to stay safer. If surfing alone, let a friend know when and where you are paddling out.



Watch the ocean before going in. One very important and often overlooked piece of surfing is simply watching the ocean. Try and see if you can get in rhythm with the sets and lulls. Check to see where rocks and boils that indicate rocks underneath are. Watch those surfing to see if anyone is aggressive, reckless, or unaware in ways you should stay wary of. This, combined with knowledge gained from reports, will really help in knowing how to stay safe in the ever changing conditions of the ocean

While surfing, be aware of changing conditions and crowds. Through the course of a surf session, conditions can change dramatically. Winds, tides, and swells all can change quickly. Keep an awareness and analysis of what's happening around you. Also, stay aware of all those around you, especially those who seem aggressive (often those with experience who are riding more waves than others. It is these people who often create situations of danger, prioritizing the comfort of riding waves over the safety of human beings. They then will tell you that it is you, that YOU shouldn't be out there because YOU are not safe. Reject this notion. You belong. Though you may not be as privileged to be experienced there, you have as much of a right to be in nature as anyone.

Create and use systems of communication. There are universal water signals that can serve as a foundation and function as signals to those versed in water safety. You can modify and create your own in community.

Account for all your people in the water. As with most activities that put us in vulnerable situations, there is safety in numbers. Additionally, while surfing with others, also make sure that everyone is at very least safe, and ideally comfortable and enjoying themselves. Check in with each other. Communicate intentions, plans, and any changes. Share waves, and most importantly, make sure everyone comes in safely or indicates that they are okay on their own.

👊 Through our years of experience holding space for our people, lifeguards have done more harm to us than helped. Though their oath involves "the protection of the health and safety of the public," their practices have been more punitive than anything else. Our surfers have been in dangerous situations which they navigated themselves out of only to be scolded by lifeguards who did nothing to help them. Some of the egregious instances of localism have come from lifeguards. Similar to our philosophy about police, we aim to be as prepared and equipped as possible to keep each other safe, even from lifeguards.

⚠️ Watch the ocean before going in

WHAT ARE THE WAVES LIKE?

Ocean Floor And Wave Formation

Point Dume is a point break. **Point Break** is a term that you may have heard frequently when referencing surfing from the movie starring Keanu Reeves to Malibu Surfrider Beach. A point break is when a piece of land juts out into the ocean creating an obstruction causing waves to break. Often, because this land mass does not change over time like sand bars, the waves at point breaks are predictable and consistent. Point Dume is a pretty consistent wave which allows one to learn about it without many variables changing at once.

There is a very rocky bottom with both big boulders and smaller rocks. Big rock formations on the ocean floor also are obstructions that cause waves to break in predictable patterns, so learning where the big rock formations or shelves at Point Dume are will help you figure out where to sit and line up to catch waves.

The waves can be steep or crumbly depending on the swell direction. Finding the place on the wave where you have the most fun is key! Though there may be fluctuations based on conditions, Point Dume involves a gradient of difficulty that starts on one side and ends on the other. With enough knowledge, it actually is a pretty straightforward place to navigate because all the waves start in a few general areas and all waves break in the same direction - right.



The whitewater here is different than shorebreaks like Dockweiler where you can ride nearly onto the shoreline. Rocks line the bottom, so kicking out or braking before the water gets too shallow is important to keep your body safe and to reduce damage to the board. The water is very clear here, so you can easily see rocks below.

The Shelf: The middle section is considered a secondary break. Waves crash right onto a shelf of rocks that are often visible. Many of them are lined with mussels.

⚠ It is not recommended to paddle straight out in this area. There are too many changes in depth of sharp rocks that can cause injury, board damage, and unnecessary difficulty. Either by the cliff or the stairs elbow is recommended, with the latter being the safest.

When waves are 3 feet or above, this wave often can become a whole separate peak than the cliff. It is a risky wave that breaks right along and in front of the shelf of rocks. On a very low tide, this is also a wave that can be ridden with caution. It is recommended that one know how to kickout of a wave before riding this wave. One should not ride straight or ride whitewater at this location.

When waves are small, this location can sometimes be ridden, but again with awareness of the rocks it leads almost straight into.

The Shelf

The Stairs

The Stairs: The Stairs is the spot we surfed the most during this time we've been visiting Point Dume. It is slightly to the left of the end of the stairs, situated more in front of the elbow of the stairs than the base.

⚠ Paddling Out just south of the elbow is comfortable. There is an area where one can walk out relatively easily and paddle early in a safer zone where less waves break.

The Cliff: If you are facing the ocean, the right side closest to the point cliff is considered the primary break.

⚠ The safest place to paddle out to get to this spot is right next to the cliff. When timed correctly, it is a very short paddle. Take caution and observe other surfers' wave paths and displayed empathy.

When waves are reported as 3 feet and above, this is where the waves are most difficult and dangerous, and the crowds can be most aggressive. The takeoff point can seem right in front of the rocks, and the wave itself can be quite fast.

*When the waves are small and/or the tide is low, the wave that breaks right along the cliff face may be the only one available. It may involve kicking out right in front of a big rock near shore. Caution strongly advised.

The Cliff

When waves are 3 feet or above, this is a great spot to surf for many reasons. One, there are plenty of waves to be had that often have closed out on surfers that have ridden from the other locations. Two, the crowd there is generally kinder and more humane. Third, the takeoff point is situated right next to a safer zone where almost no waves break because of the deeper water, so getting to a place of calm is easier.

When waves are small, this sometimes can be the only safe wave to ride. On a mid/low tide, there is a mussel lined rock that has the shape of a crescent that is partially visible. This indicates the very edge of the shelf, and is a great landmark in the water. Waves roll until they reach this point, then have a moment of steepness before slowing down into the deeper area to the right. There is one rock further in that indicates whether or not you've turned enough to the right, and then the wave continues to stay open until the patch of rocks to the far left. This wave still requires an intentional kickout or dismount of your board, but the risks are considerably lower.

 The Stairs



If you do not want to walk down the stairs with your surfboard, there is an alternative route to the surf break. You can park at the State Beach parking lot on Westward Beach where there is a shorter walk to the water and then paddle around the point to the surf break.

WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO SURF?

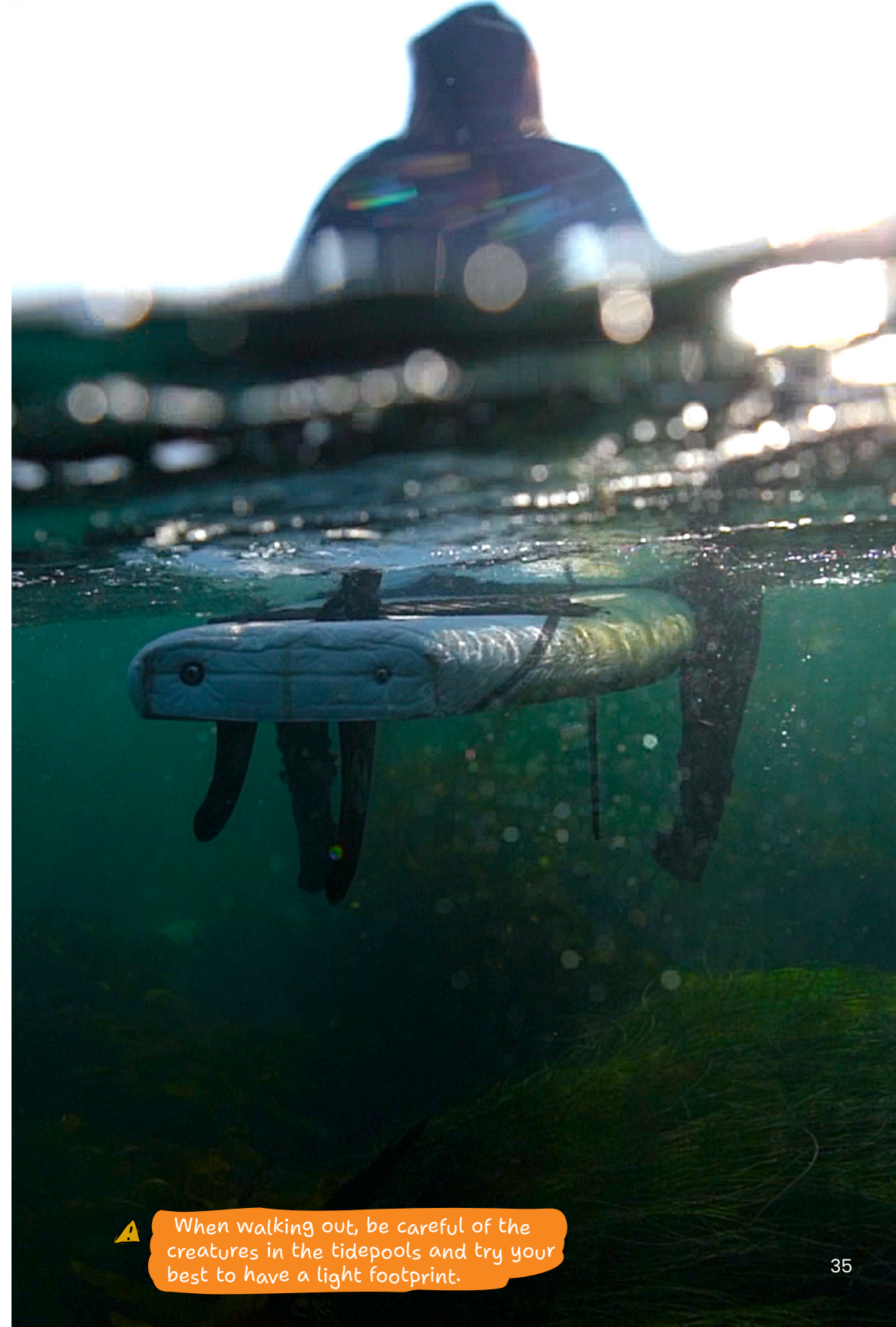
Surf Conditions

Point Dume surf conditions including wave height, swell size, wind direction and speed, and water temperature are available on **Surfline** and other surf report apps. There is no surf camera where you can see what the waves look like, so understanding what the data available translates into as surf conditions is important so that you do not make the journey to Point Dume to be met with unfavorable conditions for your surf experience.

During our site visits many CTW surfers have enjoyed Point Dume when the swell and wave height were small in the 1-2' or 2-3' foot range. When waves are larger there tend to be larger crowds and more aggressive surfers tend to be more outspoken and territorial.

Point Dume has a very rocky bottom, so at low tide many of the rocks are exposed and shallow waters create less space to catch waves. It's a great time to tidepool and witness the creatures in the sea, but more challenging to surf. High tide at Point Dume may mean that the waves do not break until close to the shore and on top of the rocks, making it also a bit more difficult to safely ride waves. We have found that mid-tide, between low and high tide, is a good time to surf this location.

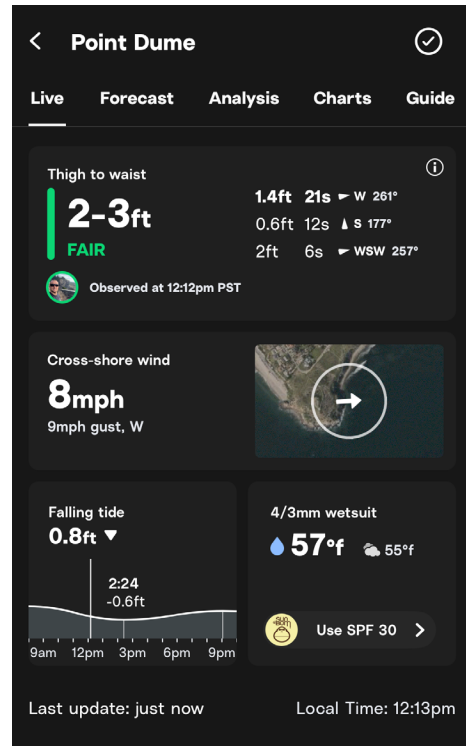
Point Dume is a special location, because it is a point, a piece of land that sticks out into the ocean, it creates a protected cove that shields strong winds from creating turbulence in the water. Often, when strong winds from the West blow out waves at other surf breaks along the PCH from Topanga to Malibu, Point Dume will have well formed waves because the cliffs block the wind from creating messy conditions. Often, when Malibu and other surf breaks are "blown out" surfers will come to Point Dume, knowing this area is protected from strong and high winds.



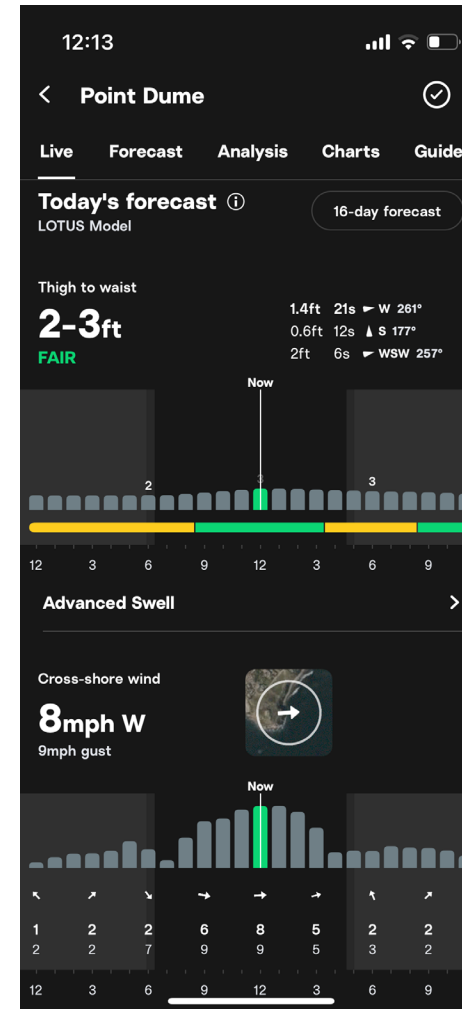
When walking out, be careful of the creatures in the tidepools and try your best to have a light footprint.

How to read the surf report:

This is the overview of the spot that gives the wave size (2-3 ft) and surfline assessment of wave quality (fair), the wind condition (cross-shore wind at 8mph, from the W), and tide condition (fall tide= going from high tide to low tide, 0.8' is water level. Low tide is at 2:24p and is -0.6 ft).



The color coded wave assessment (Poor, Fair, Good, etc) is a very subjective rating. This is based on the short-boarding ideals of large and hollow waves being "Good". So often they will rate a wave condition as poor but CTW surfers have had a great time in smaller and more gentle waves. Learn to rate your own waves based on the data, not what an able-bodied white cis-man surfer would rate it.



This second screenshot shows more detailed information about the swell and wind.

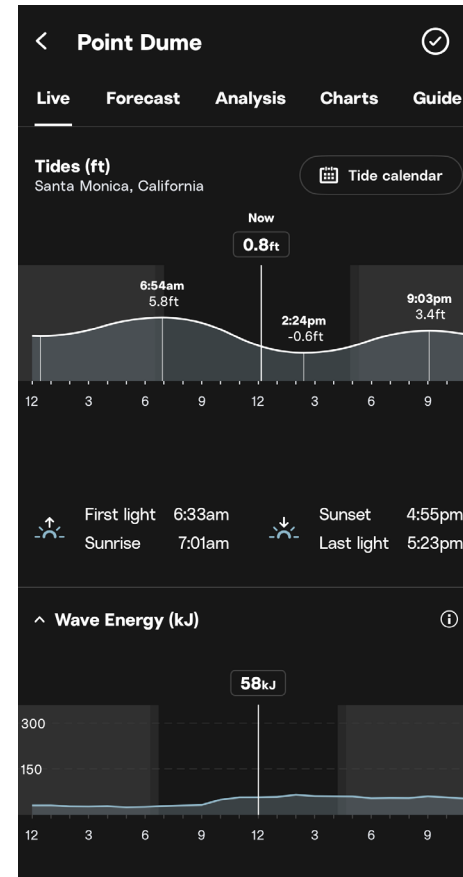
The swell information shows the wave height throughout the time of day, numbers at the bottom is time/hour. On this day, the wave size is 2-3 ft measured from the middle of the wave and if you were riding it, it would be around your thigh or waist. The small numbers above the graph show the different swells that make up the overall wave height. There are 3 different swells. The first one: 1.4 ft 21s W 261degrees- this means there is a 1.4 ft size swell (height it makes a buoy go up and down), the wave period is 21 seconds (time between wave peaks), and wave direction (from the West at 261 degrees).

The graphic below the swell information is the wind information. The wind greatly impacts how the waves tumble and quality of the wave. This graphic shows the wind condition throughout the day. The numbers on the bottom is the time/hour. The wind is coming from the West at 8 mph. You see the arrow and circle right over the Point Dume location, and it's pushing out from the land, the cliff will be blocking this wind, so the waves will be impacted less. Typically 8 mph winds are medium and you can feel it blowing around. Calm winds tend to be less than 5 mph, gusting winds will be felt over 10 mph.

⚠️ Learn what wave size feels comfortable for you, what wave size feels challenging for you, and decide what type of wave experience you want for the day. Check the surf report and observe the actual conditions to make meaning of the numbers on the app.

👣 Sometimes surfers will call small waves "trash". We have found often that when waves are rated poor or on the smaller size, we can have fun. Finding joy in all wave conditions is respectful and less hierarchical.

💡 Did you know that surf forecasting is based off of buoys and measurement tools originally placed in the ocean for military use? Historically, swell and tide information was used to plan attacks and invasions (think Storming the coast of Normandy during World War II). Since then, weather forecasting reports began to use the information from these data tracking devices to predict surf conditions for non-military use. No wonder there is a lingering sense of violence when dominant surf culture describes waves and wave riding ("The waves are pumping", "Let's shred", "You killed it!")



This third screenshot shows the tide conditions throughout the day. High tide is at 6:54am at a level of 5.8 ft and low tide is at 2:24pm at a level of -0.6 ft. There is another high tide at 9:03pm at 3.4 ft. Point Dume is best at a mid tide, between high and low tide, so anytime between 9am-1pm is ideal. Surfline also includes sunrise and sunset times. Mid tide is also between 4pm to 7pm, but because the sun sets at 4:55pm, this is not an ideal time to surf this location since it will be dark. And you will get a ticket after sunset.





No one owns the ocean and local surfers who demonstrate colonizer attitudes that think they control the surf break definitely should not dictate how and where you surf. Find space for your waves and do not feel like you always need to defer to the loudest people in the water, they are not there to support your wave riding.

WHAT IS THE VIBE?

Crowds and Localism

Point Dume is a popular tourist attraction, so there are a diverse group of people visiting the vista and hiking the trails and there is a wider representation of a range of racial, age, and gender demographics than surfers in the water. At almost every site visit, Color the Water surfers were the only BIPOC surfers in the water. Several times, CTW surfers were approached and asked if they were local or from the area- this is often an antagonistic way to assert superiority of those that live nearby.

The surf break along the north end of the cove along the rocks is the main point where the largest waves and most aggressive surfers will line up. In front of the stairs, in front of the elbow of the stairs next to a mussel lined crescent shaped rock, there is another peak where less paddling for waves is less contentious. This is the location where we primarily surfed and felt the most comfortable.

Along the south end of the cove is the beginning of Little Dume, another surf break that is about a half mile walk from the stair. Little Dume is even harder to access than Point Dume, as many walkways are locked and only accessible to homeowners. The surf break location is about a 20-30 minute walk from either public entrance at Paradise Cove or the stairs at Point Dume.

A few of our CTW surfers have encountered altercations out in the water resulting in verbal arguments, hostility, with the attempt to discourage future visits to the area from local surfers who frequent the surf break.



Listen to your gut, whether it's excitement or caution, listen to your body and have that guide your surfing, where you surf and which waves to ride.



CLOSING THOUGHTS



We hope this guidebook provides you with a portal to a more natural world where you can step away from human-made devices, commune with the ocean and the land, and develop a more intimate relationship with the sublime.

Point Dume is known to be a sacred site for the Chumash people, and you can feel why this is a special place when you visit. Point Dume is a piece of land that juts out on the Pacific coastline, creating a precious cove that is protected from harsh winds providing respite for creatures both land, air, and sea. It is a wild ecosystem and to witness this harmony and interconnection up-close is a remarkable experience. To surf and swim with the sealions, the dolphins, and even whales spotted during site visits creates lasting memories. Swaying with the kelp forests as you sit on your surfboard while waiting for the waves brings a sense of oneness with nature. The pounding waves on huge rock formations reminds you of the power of the ocean, humbling one to remember that as surfers we are not in control of the waves but must attune to the tides and swells of Mother Ocean. We hope this place can remain a sacred place for all people, and to ensure that we must find ways to return this land to the Chumash, so that they can continue to steward and care for this place as it was time immemorial.



Until land back and land reparations can be realized, we hope that surfers and visitors can carry out some of the necessary work to protect this place and ensure the environmental sustainability of the ecosystems. Pick up trash when you see it, refrain from collecting plants, shells, and creatures, share knowledge of the place and how to preserve this fragile marine sanctuary, learn more about land back efforts in the area and regionally, and take action. We are more than surfers, we can learn from indigenous water protectors and land defenders, and move from bystanders and strive towards freedom fighters to support the larger movement for liberation of our people and our planet.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Color the Water is a racial justice organization that radically re-imagines surf culture. CTW is a community for anti-racist BIPOC to reclaim space in the ocean through joyful, defiant liberation seeking surf guidance, protection, celebration, education, and media.

This guidebook was a collective effort including the work of:

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Thank you to all the Color the Water community members that contributed feedback, insights, and reflections on this place.



FOLD OUT MAP



Point Dume Marine Protected Area is located on unceded Chumash Land

- Point Dume State Marine Reserve (SMR) and Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) are located adjacent to one another along the coastline near Malibu in Los Angeles County. These marine protected areas (MPAs) hug the Point Dume promontory, a coastal flatland bluff that juts south into the Pacific Ocean and forms the northern end of Santa Monica Bay.
- Point Dume SMR, which covers more than 7½ square miles off the tip of Point Dume, extends to depths of nearly 2,000 feet. The SMR protects an expanse of sandy beach, rocky shores, kelp forests, surfgrass beds, an upwelling zone, and nearly two square miles of deep submarine canyon.
- Point Dume SMCA, the larger of the two MPAs, protects nearly 16 square miles extending to depths greater than 2,000 feet.

P Parking Overview

- The Strip:** 29245 Cliffside Dr, Malibu, CA 90265. Free 2 hour parking From sunrise-sunset
- Grasswood:** Grasswood Avenue north of Cliffside Drive. Free parking, no overnight parking
- Point Dume State Beach Lot:** 6800 Westward Beach Rd, Malibu, CA 90265, \$3-\$8 paid parking lot, no overnight parking
- Parking enforcement is conducted through the neighborhood by various parties including the sheriff's department, volunteer patrols, as well as residents who frequently report cars in violation.
- In addition to parking violations, these patrols have been known to issue tickets for expired registration, missing front license plates and other small fix it issues with your vehicle.

