



# China Camp State Park

For your safety and enjoyment  
please follow these advisements and regulations

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## Emergency Resources

Call 911 for medical or law enforcement emergencies. Identify your location within the park as precisely as possible, using a GPS locator if available. Be sure to tell the dispatcher that you are in China Camp State Park. A park map is available detailing trail and facility locations.

## Park Hours

China Camp State Park is open 365 days a year thanks to volunteer efforts and the financial support from the community and Park visitors.

Most trails are available for hikers, runners, cyclists and equestrians from 8:00 a.m. to sunset. Turtle Back Nature Trail, an ADA certified trail, is restricted to foot traffic and wheelchair access.

Picnic and Village areas are open from 8:00 a.m. until sunset unless special permitted events or activities are scheduled.

Parking along the country road after park hours is not recommended.

## Park Fees

Parking fees for day use at designated areas are \$5.00 per passenger car, \$20.00 per bus with up to 24 passengers and \$40.00 per bus with 25 or more passengers.

Trail day use fees are \$3 per person.

Annual Passes: available at electronic pay stations or [www.friendsofchinacamp.org](http://www.friendsofchinacamp.org)

## Reserved Day Use Areas

Buckeye and Weber Points, overlooking San Pablo Bay, will accommodate up to 50 people. Each site has restrooms, parking, barbecues and picnic tables. Reservations may be made through Reserve America (1-800-444-7275) or through their website [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com). The daily use fee is \$75.00.

Larger events (up to 150 people) can be accommodated at Miwok Meadows and China Camp Village. Reservations and more information about such events can be obtained from [friendsofchina@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofchina@gmail.com) or (415) 488-5161. The daily base fee is \$150.00. Other charges may be added to accommodate special needs.

Some events will require permits and insurance. Contact the above for details.

### **Permits are required for commercial and large group activities**

All commercial activities in the park require a permit from Friends of China Camp. Phone (415) 488-5161 or email [friendsofchinacamp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofchinacamp@gmail.com).

Large non-commercial activities such as running and biking races require permits. Contact Friends of China Camp at [friendsofchinacamp.org](http://friendsofchinacamp.org) or (415) 488-5161.

Filming at China Camp must be arranged through California State Parks. Please contact David Kopler at (415) 898-4362 or [david.kopler@parks.ca.gov](mailto:david.kopler@parks.ca.gov).

### **Camping**

Check-in hours are after 2:00 p.m. Check-out time is 12:00 p.m. For visitor safety, the Back Ranch gate is opened at 8:00 a.m. and is closed to vehicle traffic at 9:00 p.m. nightly.

Campfires are permitted only in designated fire rings located in the campgrounds.

Campers may cook with propane or charcoal self-contained stoves.

To insure peace and adequate rest for visitors quiet hours are between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Camping at any one State Park is limited to 15 days for a single stay and 30 days per calendar year.

### **Protecting Plants, Animals, Geological and Archaeological Features**

Natural scenery, plants and animal life are principal attractions of the Park. They are integral parts of the ecosystem and natural community. As such, they are protected by Federal, State and Park laws. Disturbance or destruction of these resources is strictly forbidden ... *Leave only footprints – take only memories.*

The Park may order that a particular area is not to be entered for safety, plant rehabilitation or other reasons. No unauthorized person may enter or remain in a prohibited area.

Dead and down wood is part of the natural condition. Decayed vegetation forms humus and assists the growth of trees and other plants. For this reason, the gathering of down wood is prohibited. Fuel for campfires is sold at the campgrounds.

No person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface, or destroy any object of archaeological or historical interest of value.

Litter and Refuge: Garbage, trash, cigarettes, bottles and other rubbish should be placed only in designated receptacles. These items, if left on the trail on campgrounds, may be ingested by wildlife and prove harmful. Your pride and pleasure will be enhanced by a clean Park.

## **Dogs and other domestic animals in the Park**

*The following rules are in place to protect park resources, insure safety and visitor enjoyment and to prevent problems for you and your pet. Dogs, other than those who assist the permanently disabled, are prohibited on trails and wherever posted.*

Animals, including cats, cannot be turned loose in the Park. Dogs are allowed on leash in designated day-use areas, on paved park roads, and in the campgrounds but are never to be left unattended. Pets can be off-leash in a vehicle or tent if attended. They must be on a leash 6 feet or shorter and under your physical control at all time. No person shall keep a noisy, vicious or dangerous dog or animal or one which is disturbing to other persons.

Dogs are not permitted on trails. Dogs are prohibited from trails to protect park resources and for the safety and enjoyment of other visitors. Dogs are predators by nature, and their presence or lingering scent will disturb and frighten wildlife nearby. Dogs can transmit diseases and parasites to native animals, including foxes, coyotes, and deer. Dogs that run loose or become lost often harass or kill park wildlife. Some people are intimidated by dogs, even by friendly ones. Dogs reduce the amount of wildlife that hikers are likely to see. Also, dog waste along trails is a nuisance to encounter and may contaminate the local water supply. Dogs in wild areas can be bitten by snakes, raccoons, or other wildlife they happen to startle. Dogs frequently pick up ticks and are sometimes injured by toxic or thorny plants. If your dog comes in contact with poison oak, it can easily transfer the irritating oil to your skin. A loose dog can suffer painful or sometimes fatal falls. Occasionally a smaller dog is victim to some larger predator, such as a mountain lion or coyote. At China Camp specifically there are also some concerns about dog-bike interactions given the large volume and relative speeds of bikes on trails.

The marshes are particularly sensitive areas of the park. Millions of wild animals feed on marshes, mud flats, beaches and along streams and creek beds. These areas have become smaller over the last decade as humans have relentlessly filled the Bay, reducing safe habitats and available food. A dog chasing a rabbit or running into the water to fetch a stick can destroy the nest of a bird. If these nests are disturbed, they will be abandoned, the young will die, and the population will decrease. The Bay Area is part of the Pacific Flyway, a major highway in the sky for migratory birds. Some species fly thousands of miles to breed and hatch their young. Marshes and mud flats are major stopovers for their migration.

*Please help us protect all animals and visitors to the Park.*





## **Bicycle Safety**

Biking is not permitted on Turtle Back Nature Trail, a trail which meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) criteria.

Use caution at all times.

Speed limits:

- 5 mph on curves and when passing hikers and equestrians.
- 15 mph is the maximum speed on straightaways.

The campground area is not recommended for biking because of the prevalence of children and camping related activities.

Cycling is limited to established trails. Off-trail biking is illegal, destructive and prohibited by law.

## **Equestrian Safety**

Equestrian use is not permitted on Turtle Back Nature Trail, an ADA approved trail.

Be aware that the trails are multi-use and be prepared to come upon cyclists, runners, as well as hikers, individually or in groups.

## **Hiking Safety and Off Trail Use**

Off trail hiking is discouraged because of health and safety issues including the prevalence of ticks and poison oak and for the preservation of natural features.

Please observe instructions regarding no access to plant rehabilitation areas. Access to tidal marsh areas is prohibited to protect this rare California natural feature.

It is illegal to remove any plants or other natural items or property from the Park.

## Water Sports, Boating and Safety

Boating laws in navigable waterways adjacent to China Camp State Park are enforced by:

- Marin County Law Enforcement agencies including Marin Sheriff's Marine Services ((415) 479-2311 [http://www.marinsheriff.org/about.aspx?gi\\_id+89](http://www.marinsheriff.org/about.aspx?gi_id+89) and the California Coast Guard <http://www.uscgboating.org>).
- Please ensure you are aware of any applicable boating laws when boating or mooring near the park.

State Parks does not allow mooring overnight at the dock at the China Camp Village.

Unimproved small vessel launching is available at Bullhead Flat and the China Camp Village lower lot during park hours. Access is highly tide dependent. Launching or beaching at undesignated sites or at night is not permitted.

Safety is very important when swimming, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, windsurfing, or boating at China Camp State Park. There are NO Lifeguards. Life-vests are highly recommended. Tides in combination with winds can move very quickly at the park which creates very unsafe conditions.

More information is available at:

- Boating Laws: <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/pubs/ABC/>
- Life Jackets: <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoaterInfo/LifeJackets/Default.aspx>
- Harbors and Navigation Code:  
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=hnc&codebody=/>

## Fishing

Fishing from the Village Pier on San Pablo Bay is permitted during specified hours, usually on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to sunset. No license is required for fishing from the pier.

Fishing in other areas of the park requires a valid California State Fishing license from the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. Popular fishing areas are Five Pines Point (near Bullhead Flat) and Fisherman Point (North of Buckeye Point). Other fishing spots to consider are China Camp Point, Weber Point and Buckeye Point.

**Fish Smart in San Francisco Bay** ((510) 622-3170; [www.sfbayfish.org](http://www.sfbayfish.org)) Harmful chemicals like mercury and PCBs are in some fish in San Francisco Bay. Women 18-45 years old and children should only eat fish with less chemicals. Fish with less chemicals: Brown Rockfish, Jacksmelt, Red Rock Crab, California Halibut, Chinook (King) Salmon. Fish with more chemicals: Stripped Bass (*safe for women over 45 and men*), Surf Perches, Sharks, White Croaker (Kingfish), White Sturgeon.

## **Hunting**

Hunting, trapping and the use of any firearm or other weapon are prohibited in the Park. Possession of loaded firearms, pellet rifles, Airsoft guns, paintball guns, crossbows, sling shots, or any other weapon capable of harming a human or animal is prohibited. Licensed hunters making access in season to the blinds in the refuge (in the bay, beyond the park boundary) may not take weapons or dogs in the marsh. Access by foot may cause damage or disturbance to the marsh, which is one of the last and best preserved in the entire bay. Access by boat is recommended for those wishing to use the blinds.

## **Fireworks**

The possession or use of fireworks is prohibited.

## **Drones**

Drones or other unmanned aircraft are prohibited, as are all potentially dangerous or damaging activities.

## **Noise**

Loud disturbing noise is prohibited at all times.

Campground quiet time is from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.