



DISCOVER



1. Antelope taking a break at B Bryan Preserve. 2. Point Arena Lighthouse. 3. You need to eat at Uneda Eat, the best restaurant in town. 4. House-cured salmon with yogurt and pumpkin seeds at Uneda Eat. 5. Franny's Cup & Saucer boasts a bevy of homemade jams.



A PERFECT DAY IN

# POINT ARENA, CA

This small Mendocino County town celebrates summer with boulder-strewn beaches, roaming giraffes, and the state's newest national monument. *By Lisa Trottier*

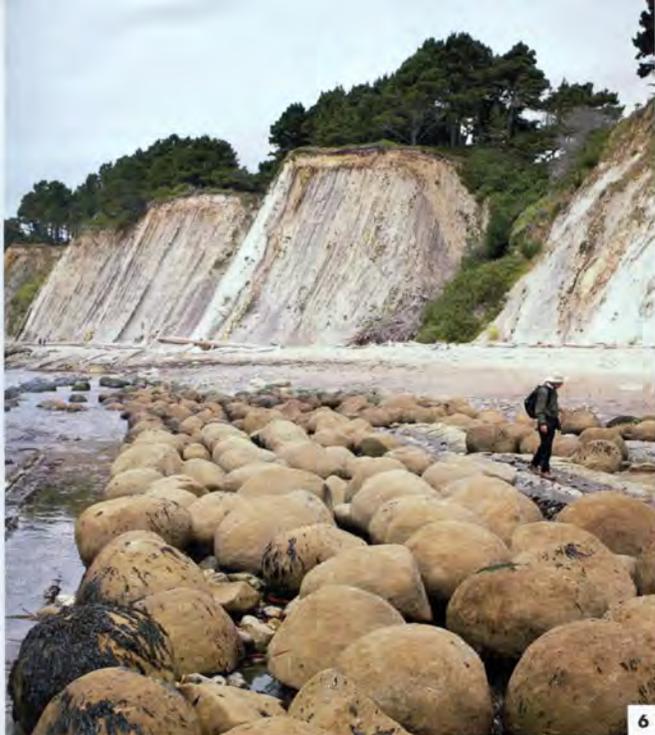
## The coastline is all yours

There was a time when only the locals and a few lucky cows knew how to access the prime stretch of land between downtown Point Arena and the coast. But last spring, after a

series of deals by the Trust for Public Lands, the federal government named **Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands** California's newest national monument. Now the 1,665-acre swath of grassy ocean-view blufftop is reserved just for ...

well, for you. From behind city hall, follow a path to the top of the striated ocean cliffs to watch dive-bombing seabirds, surfers working the break below, and boats unloading abalone. Two miles to the north, the pencil-thin **Point Arena**

**Lighthouse** marks the westernmost point in the Lower 48. If you've got some time, you could do a lot worse than trace the coastline all the way there. *City hall: 451 School St.; Lighthouse: 45500 Lighthouse Rd.; [pointarenalighthouse.com](http://pointarenalighthouse.com).* →



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6. Low tide at Schooner Gulch State Beach.

7. & 8. Gluten-free goodies at Franny's Cup & Saucer. 9. An endangered Rothschild's giraffe roves the 9-acre enclosure at B Bryan Preserve.

Land Rover. Meet kudu, roan antelope, and three kinds of zebra, and finish up at the giraffe house, made of reclaimed barn wood and accented with stained-glass windows, where you'll feed the five doe-eyed half-brothers apples and yams from a walkway. Can't get enough? There are two vacation cottages on the property if you

want to stick around longer. \$30; 130 Riverside Dr.; [bbryanpreserve.com](http://bbryanpreserve.com).

## Eating well is easy

Avoiding bad-clam-chowder syndrome on the Mendocino Coast can be a dodgy business. But you can't miss at **Uneda Eat**. Owners Rob and Jill Hunter found what had once been a butcher shop called Uneda Meat, painted out the M, and turned it into a nine-table bistro. Dishes are seasonal, with standouts like crisp quinoa fritters with pomegranate and tangy yogurt and a star-anise clay-pot pork. Square your dinner with a midday snack of *macarons*, a *croque monsieur*, and *cannelles* at **Franny's Cup & Saucer**, the bakery across the street, and you may be ready to relocate permanently. *Uneda*: \$\$; 206 Main St.; [unedaeat.com](http://unedaeat.com). *Franny's*: \$; closed Aug 17-26; 213 Main; [frannyscupandsaucer.com](http://frannyscupandsaucer.com).

## You'll have a ball at the beach

Even at high tide, **Schooner Gulch State Beach** is impressive: high cliffs, heaps of bleached driftwood. But to see how it earned the nickname "Bowling Ball Beach," hit it at low tide, when, along the waterline, you'll find exposed a cluster of boulders so perfectly round, it's downright eerie—as if giants from the age of Narnia



### GETTING HERE

Point Arena is about 130 miles north of San Francisco on State 1.

stood up in the middle of a game of marbles and walked off, never to return. It's a strange sight made even stranger by the bowling alley-like lanes cut into the rock that lead from some of the balls into the surf. Park 3 miles south of town, where Schooner Gulch Rd. intersects State 1; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov).

## The one-stop nightlife

Wondering what happens when the sun goes down? Look no further than Main Street's **1929 Arena Theater**, the only one to have survived along this stretch of coast. To keep locals and the neighboring communities happy, the theater books it all: One night there might be a hard-rocking band from Santa Cruz, the next a Day of the Dead festival with home-made *mole* and entertainment provided by local kids trained in flamenco. 214 Main; [arena-theater.org](http://arena-theater.org).

### THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

*"I've been here 14 years now, and there's still nothing like biking through the redwoods and smelling the ocean."*

—JILL HUNTER, CO-OWNER OF UNEDA EAT

## You can feed the animals

Dozens of hoofed African animals roam across 110 acres on the edge of town at **B Bryan Preserve**. Some came from Texas by way of... Mississippi; it's a long story, but Judy or Frank Mello will explain it all as you make the feeding rounds in a vintage open-top safari