



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.* →



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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.

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

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.

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. *Franny's*: \$; closed Aug 17-26; 213 Main; 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.

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.

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