

## Devil's Slide Trail

Park Headquarters 650-355-8289

Police, Fire, or Medical Emergency 911

Funding for this brochure provided through a grant from



### San Mateo County Parks

Reservations 650-363-4021

General information 650-363-4020

[www.SMCoParks.org](http://www.SMCoParks.org)

**The Department** manages parks, trails, and historic sites to preserve public lands and provide opportunities for education and recreation. The system's properties include parks, preserves, trails, and historic sites located throughout the County and encompassing nearly 16,000 acres.

**The parks** represent our region's wondrously diverse natural settings, from rugged tidepools, lush mountain forests, and remote campsites to Bayfront shoreline, sunny picnic areas, and popular playgrounds.

The Department sells annual passes, offering unlimited entrances to all County Parks for a year.

### Support your parks

**You can volunteer** to help rangers protect and improve parklands and serve park visitors. The Devil's Slide Trail Ambassadors assist park rangers by observing and reporting on trail conditions and providing information to trail visitors. To volunteer, visit [www.SMCoParks.org](http://www.SMCoParks.org) or call 650-599-1306.

**The San Mateo County Parks Foundation** raises funds to improve the quality of County Parks for our community. For information, visit [www.SupportParks.org](http://www.SupportParks.org).

**San Mateo County Parks**

Wild places & friendly spaces



Wild places & friendly spaces

# Devil's Slide

A San Mateo County Regional Trail



Frances Freyberg Blackburn

## Devil's Slide Trail

This 1.3-mile-long trail is built on what was once a treacherous stretch of Highway 1 and the site of frequent landslides, accidents, and closures. When the Tom Lantos Tunnels opened in 2013, the San Mateo County Parks Department began converting this segment of the old highway to this public multi-use, non-motorized trail.

The trail opened in 2014, and offers spectacular ocean views and unparalleled opportunities for viewing birds and marine mammals.

The Devil's Slide Trail is a section of the California Coastal Trail, which will extend 1,200 miles from Oregon to Mexico.



Frances Freyberg Blackburn

## Trail geology

Devil's Slide Trail offers a great demonstration of coastal geology. At the south end of the trail, the weathered rock face is the granitic rock of Montara Mountain. In contrast, at the north end, rough sedimentary layers of shale and sandstone – once ocean floor – have been thrust up and folded over millions of years. Landslides in this area occur where the sedimentary layers were thrust over the granitic rock.

Millions of years of upward pressure has weakened and broken these cliffs. At the same time, the pounding surf washes away the bottom of the slide. Devil's Slide continues to move into the Pacific Ocean, part of the natural process that shapes our ever-changing coastline.



## A legacy of land protection

The growing coastside population led to the passage of the California Coastal Act in 1976. Nearby protected areas include three National Marine Sanctuaries and state Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, just to the south in Moss Beach, is both an MPA and a San Mateo County Park.

The California Coastal Act protects these marine areas and the shoreline through a partnership between San Mateo County and the California Coastal Commission.



Peter LaTourrette

## Wildlife

Opportunities to see wildlife along the trail are abundant. Trail users may see raptors overhead, such as Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon. Songbirds in the area include Song Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, and Golden-Crowned Sparrow.

The area also includes many seabirds, which choose to nest in remote places where predators cannot easily reach chicks or eggs. The offshore rocks and cliffs are perfect spots for Peregrine Falcons, Pigeon Guillemots, Brandt's Cormorants, Western Gulls, and Common Murres. The fencing and native vegetation hides hikers and visitors so the birds can nest without fear or disturbance. Please respect their privacy.

Offshore, you may see marine mammals, including gray whales migrating from their winter breeding grounds in Mexico and their summer feeding habitat in the Arctic. Look for spouts or splashes that indicate whales or other marine mammals.



Frances Freyberg Blackburn



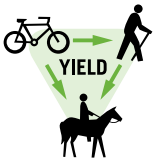
Kathy Swifty

## Trail hours and use

- Hours** The Trail parking lots open at 8am. Closing time changes seasonally, and is posted.
- Pets** Dogs on leash are allowed on the trail.
- Smoking** No smoking in County parks, on trails, or at historical sites.

## Trail details

- Devil's Slide Trail is 1.3 miles each way.
- Hikers, runners, bicyclists, and equestrians share this trail. Please be alert and courteous to all trail users.
- Bicyclists should stay in the marked bike lane and respect the 15 mph speed limit.
- Bicyclists younger than 18 are required by law to wear helmets.
- Always yield to equestrians by stepping to the side.
- Weather conditions, fire danger, or trail maintenance may cause trail closures. Check trail signs for closure notices.



For more trail information, visit [www.SMCoParks.org](http://www.SMCoParks.org).

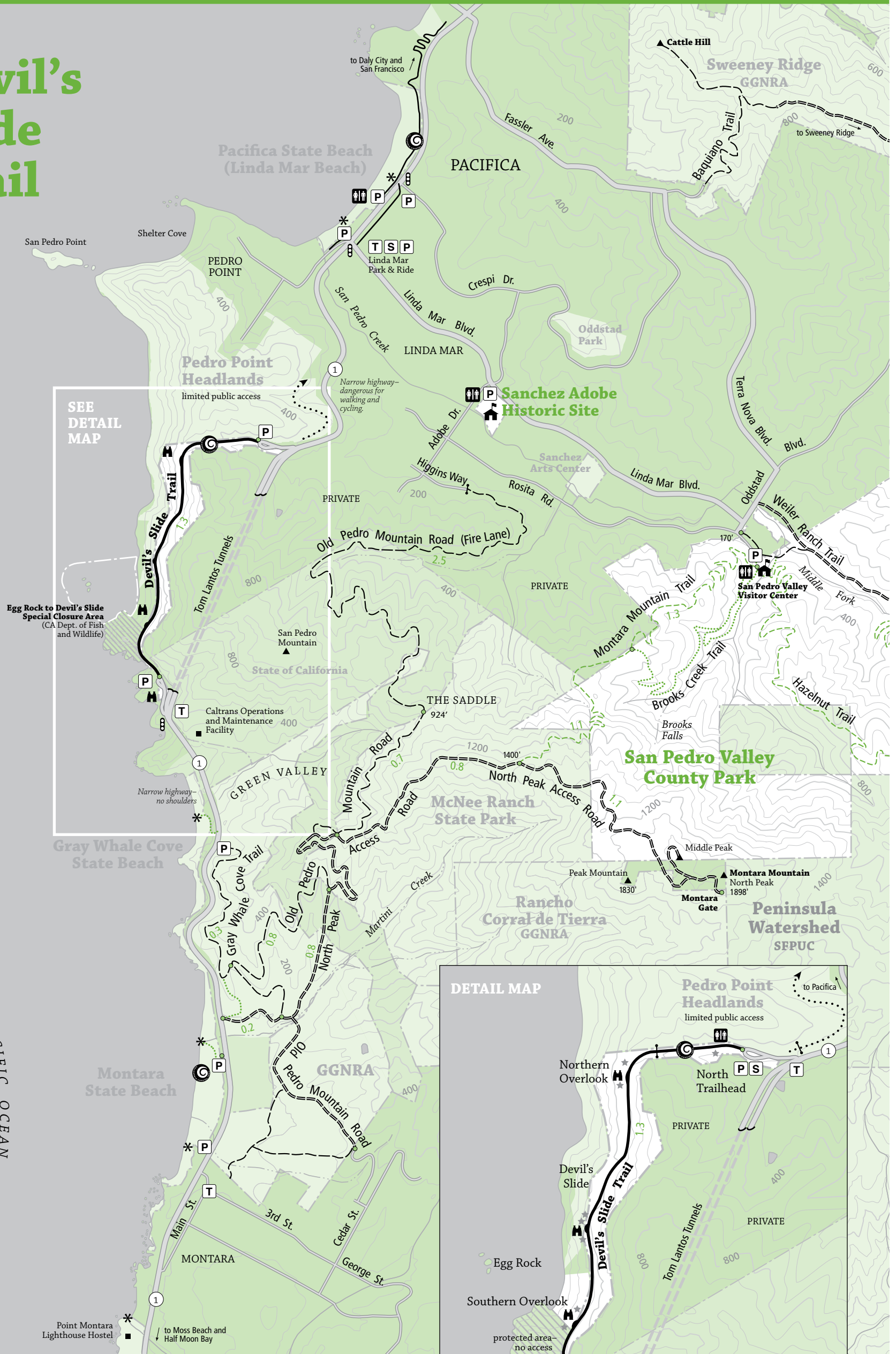
## Public transportation

Because trailhead parking is so limited, public transportation is a good option for accessing Devil's Slide Trail.

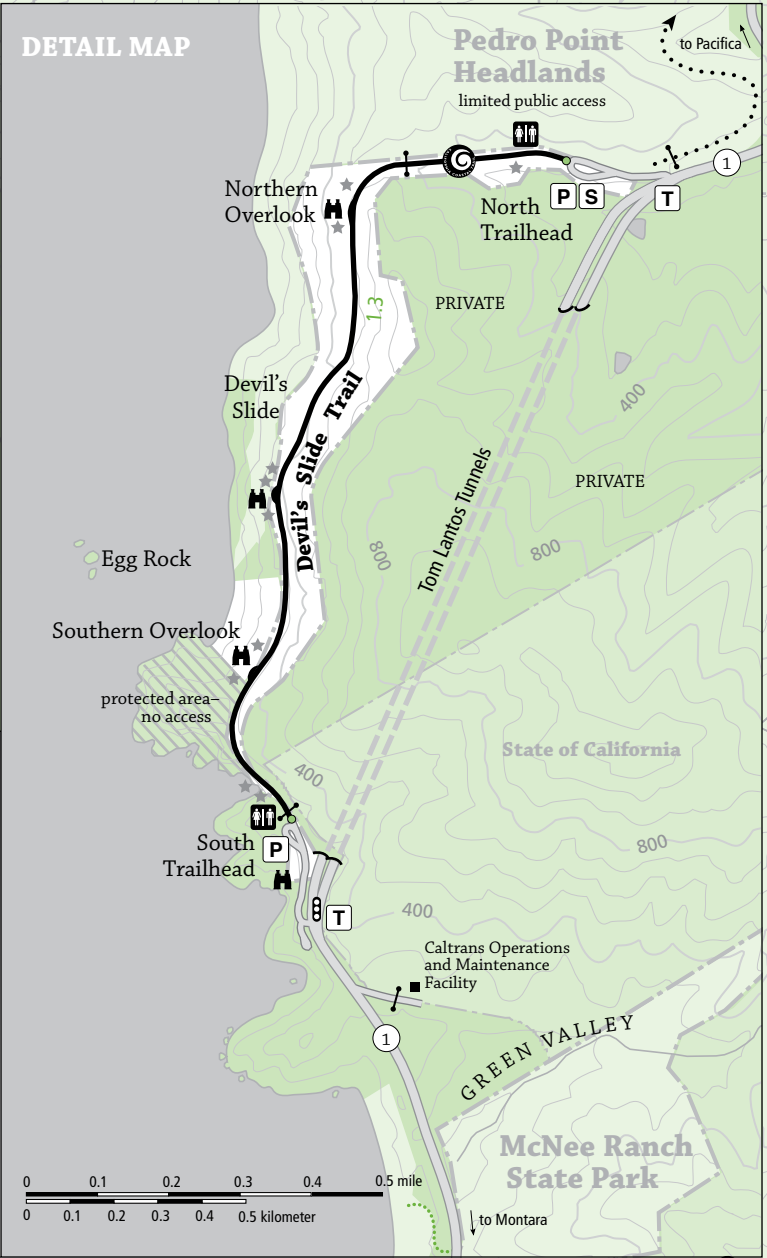
**SamTrans:** Visit [www.SamTrans.com](http://www.SamTrans.com) for map and schedule information for Route 17, which services the coastside, including the southern trailhead of Devil's Slide Trail.

**Free weekend shuttle from Pacifica:** [www.CityofPacifica.org](http://www.CityofPacifica.org) and select "Devil's Slide Ride."

# Devil's Slide Trail



SEE  
DETAIL  
MAP



### LEGEND

- |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Paved multiple-use road (bicycle/equestrian/hiking) | Other public lands  | Gate                               |
| Paved bike path (bicycle/hiking)                    | Other protected lands (access by permit except on trails shown) | Beach access                       |
| Multiple-use road/trail (bicycle/equestrian/hiking) | Private property  | Overlook                           |
| Hiking/equestrian trail                             | Parking   | Traffic signal                     |
| Hiking trail  | Public transit stop   | Restrooms                          |
| Future trail  | Devil's Slide Ride shuttle stop                                 | Ranger station/visitor information |
| Trail distance (miles)                              | California Coastal Trail (CCT)                                  | Interpretive signs                 |

