

## Operation: Crystal Cove State Park

With the creation of the Pacific Coast Highway, Crystal Cove became a popular attraction and was given its name in 1927. The Irvine Family, who owned the land, allowed family and ranch employees to use the land for personal use. Here they built and vacationed in the cottages overlooking the coast that are now a part of the National Registry of Historic Places.

In 1979 the State bought Crystal Cove from The Irvine Company. Today, the pristine views and rolling tides offer people some of the most relaxing environments and easy access to physical activities.

Hint: Use the entrance at the corner of PCH and Newport Coast Drive. Pass the entrance kiosk, make a left and park in parking lot #4.



Clue: Follow the trail towards the beach. Before the trail descends to the beach, take the trail that leads to the overlook. There you will find the key.

Crystal Cove State Park is a great place to participate in many different outdoor activities. It consists of 2,400 acres of backcountry wilderness with 18 miles of trails. Picnicking, playing on the beach, looking in the magnificent tide pools, playing catch, and riding a bike are just a small sample of activities you can do here. Bring some games to the park such as volleyball or horse shoes. Or take a walk or run along the paved path from Pelican Point to Reef Point. This 3 mile stretch will put you on your way to the recommended 10,000 steps a day! (1 mile = 2,000 steps)



The waters of Crystal Cove State Park are full of sea life. One of the most interesting and beautiful is the Coastal Bottlenose Dolphin. Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins have been observed and reported by Professor Dennis Kelly to give birth to their young right off the coast in what is called a "birthing circle". Birthing circles are a group of dolphins facing each other in a circular formation, with one individual in the center of the group. It is thought that this behavior and configuration allows assistance to the pregnant female by the other dolphins. The dolphins surround the pregnant female and once the baby is born, tail first, an "auntie" dolphin nudges the baby to the surface for its first breath. Babies are born all year so keep an eye out and you might witness one!