

Doheny State Beach



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



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Discover the many states of California.™

Doheny State Beach

25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive

Dana Point, CA 92629

(949) 496-6172

*At daybreak, the calm
ocean draws surfers
waiting for that
elusive perfect wave.*



As California's first state beach, Doheny

covers 62 acres of scenic oceanfront. Located in picturesque Orange County, this beach beckons to all those seeking sun, sand and surf.

Doheny State Beach enjoys mild weather year-round, with generally fine air quality and coastal breezes. Average summer temperatures range in the high 70s, while winter ushers in fog and slightly cooler mid-60-degree weather.

PARK HISTORY

Native People

The Dana Point area was primarily inhabited by the Juaneño (Acjachemen) tribe. For over 10,000 years, these natives lived in coastal or valley villages from Long Beach to Oceanside. The first recorded contact between the Juaneño and Europeans came in 1769 when Gaspar de Portolá led an expedition of Spanish soldiers and Franciscan padres to the area now called Orange County.

By 1776 Mission San Juan Capistrano had been constructed upon a Juaneño sacred site and the tribesmen were then named San Juaneños by the padres. Juaneño customs and population rapidly declined as the natives lost their lands and succumbed to European diseases to which they had no immunity. Today the Juaneño tribe's culture and language survive in traditional ceremonies and song, and the tribe is pursuing recognition from the federal government.

Edward L. Doheny

Doheny Beach takes its name from oilman Edward L. Doheny. In 1892 Doheny was an unsuccessful silver miner living in downtown Los Angeles. He noticed an old wagon hauling *brea*—the Spanish word for pitch—and realized its potential as a cheap substitute for coal.

In 1893 he developed the first oil well at the La Brea Tar Pits. Doheny created a vast oil empire in Southern California and Mexico. In 1929 his only son, Ned, died in a tragic shooting. Devastated, the senior Doheny's health suffered. Before he died in 1935, he donated 31 acres of prime beachfront to the State.



1960s-era surfers' mecca

Surf's Up

Dana Point became home to surfing legends like surfboard maker Hobie Alter and *Endless Summer* filmmaker Bruce Brown. As a surf spot memorialized in the Beach Boys' hit *Surfin' USA*, Doheny's beach enjoyed spectacular pipelines and point breaks until the Dana Point harbor breakwater was built in 1966. During the summer, Doheny surf still breaks consistently.



Humpback whales migrate in spring.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Plants and Animals

The park's four sensitive wetland/riparian plant ecosystems are coastal brackish marsh, southern willow scrub, southern sycamore riparian woodland, and mule fat scrub. The park provides habitat and nesting ground to such birds as black-crowned night herons, ruby-crowned kinglets and snowy egrets, while black-bellied plovers and sanderlings dart across the sand. Doheny enjoys migratory visits from whales offshore and monarch butterflies in season. Marine life includes grunion, halibut and stingrays, while garibaldi and common dolphin also swim beneath the waves.

ACTIVITIES

Junior Ranger and Interpretive Programs

Natural history and environmental programs are offered weekly each summer in the Campfire Center. Annual Grunion Night and Halloween Haunt events are held in fall and spring. Junior Ranger programs are available for children Monday through Friday in summertime.



Beach volleyball is a popular sport at Doheny.

Picnicking

Doheny provides a five-acre landscaped picnic area with plenty of picnic tables, barbecue grills and parking.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible campsites, picnic sites, restrooms and showers are available with nearby parking. The Campfire Center is also accessible.

A wooden boardwalk extends from near the North picnic area about halfway across the beach. Call (949) 496-6162 to reserve a beach wheelchair.

NEARBY STATE BEACHES

- Crystal Cove State Park, 30 minutes north of Doheny on Pacific Coast Highway past Laguna Beach. (949) 494-3539
- San Clemente State Beach, 10 minutes south of Doheny on I-5 (Calafia Ave. exit) (949) 492-3156
- San Onofre State Beach, 8 miles south of San Clemente on I-5 (Basilone Road exit) (949) 492-4872

This park receives support in part from a nonprofit organization. For more information, contact: Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association 25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive Dana Point, CA 92629 (949) 496-6172 www.dohenystatebeach.org

Camping

Doheny State Beach, with over a mile of sandy beach and some of the warmest water in California, was voted Orange County's "best camping site" for 14 consecutive years. There are 122 campsites, including 33 beach front sites with fire rings, picnic tables, and hot showers. A new group camp can accommodate up to 40 people. Make reservations at (800) 444-7275 or www.parks.ca.gov.

Beach Activities

A rocky area at the beach's western end attracts divers and anglers. During low tide, visitors may explore tide pools. Volleyball, swimming, sunbathing, kayaking and windsurfing are popular, while surfing is restricted to the day-use beach north of San Juan Creek.

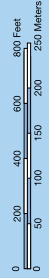
PLEASE REMEMBER

Warning: The sea is unpredictable and often dangerous. Use extreme caution when in the water; never turn your back at the ocean's edge. Ask about current water conditions from lifeguards.

- Collection of dead wood is prohibited.
- All vehicles must remain on pavement.
- Alcohol consumption is confined to the campsites only.
- Dogs must be kept on a six-foot leash at all times and must remain off the beach. Dogs must be confined to a vehicle or tent at night.
- Natural and cultural features in the park are protected by state law and may not be removed or altered.



Doheny State Beach



Legend

- Major Road
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Beach Area
- Accessible Boardwalk
- Accessible Feature
- Barbeque Pits
- Bridge
- Building
- Campfire Center
- Campground
- Food Services
- Group Campground
- Group Picnic Area
- Hiker/Bike Campground
- Lifeguard Station
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- RV Sanitation Station
- Showers
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Visitor Center
- Volleyball Court

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