

# THE COASTSIDE TRAIL

Beginning at Mirada Road, just south of Princeton-by-the-Sea, and ending approximately one mile south of The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay, the Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail winds alongside the 18th hole of the Old Course of the Half Moon Bay Golf Links, behind the resort, and continues alongside the Ocean Course to the south for an estimated length of 6.5 miles. The Coastside Trail offers sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, access to beaches, and provides a safe and scenic way to explore the Half Moon Bay coast. This oasis bordering the sea is a cherished segment of the California Coastal Trail, regularly traversed on foot and bike by residents, visitors, and commuters alike.

Running alongside important biological and sensitive coastal resources, the Coastside Trail offers views and access to coastal bluffs, flora, secluded beaches, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). As one of the largest national marine sanctuaries, the MBNMS supports one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems and is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, and invertebrates.

**Public parking, picnic areas, and restrooms are available to all who wish to enjoy the Coastside Trail.**

Public coastal parking spaces are available at the Cañada Verde parking area. An additional twenty-five public coastal parking spaces are available in the resort's garage parking structure, to the right of the resort's main entrance, prior to reaching the Half Moon Bay Golf Links. Coastal access parking spaces are available daily, between sunrise and one hour after sunset, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Coastal access parking spots are only available for public coastal access users, and are not intended for golfers or overnight hotel guests. Unauthorized vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense pursuant to California Vehicle Code 22685A.

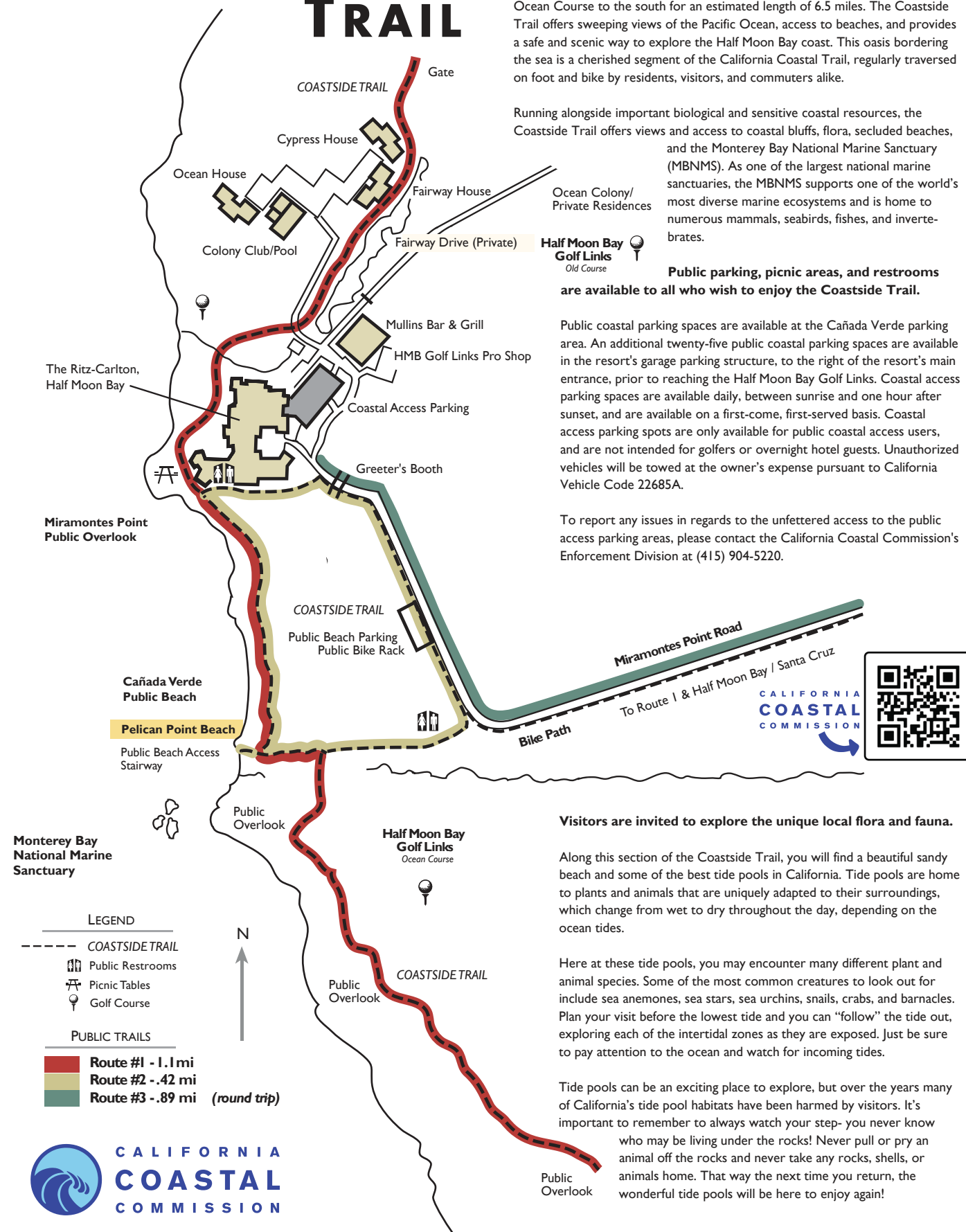
To report any issues in regards to the unfettered access to the public access parking areas, please contact the California Coastal Commission's Enforcement Division at (415) 904-5220.

**Visitors are invited to explore the unique local flora and fauna.**

Along this section of the Coastside Trail, you will find a beautiful sandy beach and some of the best tide pools in California. Tide pools are home to plants and animals that are uniquely adapted to their surroundings, which change from wet to dry throughout the day, depending on the ocean tides.

Here at these tide pools, you may encounter many different plant and animal species. Some of the most common creatures to look out for include sea anemones, sea stars, sea urchins, snails, crabs, and barnacles. Plan your visit before the lowest tide and you can "follow" the tide out, exploring each of the intertidal zones as they are exposed. Just be sure to pay attention to the ocean and watch for incoming tides.

Tide pools can be an exciting place to explore, but over the years many of California's tide pool habitats have been harmed by visitors. It's important to remember to always watch your step- you never know who may be living under the rocks! Never pull or pry an animal off the rocks and never take any rocks, shells, or animals home. That way the next time you return, the wonderful tide pools will be here to enjoy again!



## LOCAL PARKS AND BEACHES

The San Mateo County coast is one of the most geographically compelling and attractive spots in California. It features a wide diversity of nature within easy reach of The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay.

### BURLEIGH MURRAY RANCH STATE PARK

This California State park features 1,300 acres of rolling hills, a variety of trees, a winding creek, beautiful vistas, as well as an old English-style rambling barn and former dairy. Pets are not permitted. Open 8 a.m. to sunset. 305 Higgins Canyon Rd, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

### PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Visit the redwood groves and over 24 miles of various hiking trails in this 4700-acre park. Some trails are exclusively for mountain bikers and equestrians. Pets are not permitted. Open a half an hour before sunrise and half an hour after sunset. Directions from The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay: Travel south on Hwy. 1 to Purisima/Verde Rd. Turn left and travel east on Purisima Rd. to the park.

### MONTARA STATE BEACH

This sandy beach area backed by beautiful coastal bluffs is popular for exploring tide pools, fishing and surfing. Two parking areas west of highway 1 serve the beach area. Open 8 a.m. to sunset. Directions from the The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay: Travel north on Hwy. 1 for approximately 10 miles to Montara State Beach. The entry is west of Hwy. 1, across from the north end of the beach.

### MAVERICKS BEACH

Mavericks Beach is the site of the annual Mavericks big wave surf competition. The big wave surf area is located a quarter-mile offshore from the bluff top viewing areas outside the Air Force military installation on Pillar Point. The competition is held when and if conditions occur between November and March. Directions from The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay: Travel north on Hwy. 1. Continue on Capistrano Rd. to destination.

### FITZGERALD MARINE RESERVE

One of the best places in California to view tide pools, this three-mile stretch of beach and rock is inhabited by an abundance of marine life, including red abalone, sea stars, sculpins and giant sea anemones. At maximum low tide, as many as 30 acres of reef are visible. Open morning to dusk. Dogs permitted on Coastal Trail only. 200 Nevada Ave, Moss Beach, CA 94038

### SAN GREGORIO STATE BEACH

San Gregorio is the perfect beach for those who enjoy sun bathing, picnicking, volleyball, surfing, fishing and hiking. Open 8 a.m. to sunset. Directions from The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay: Travel south on Hwy. 1 for approximately 8 miles.

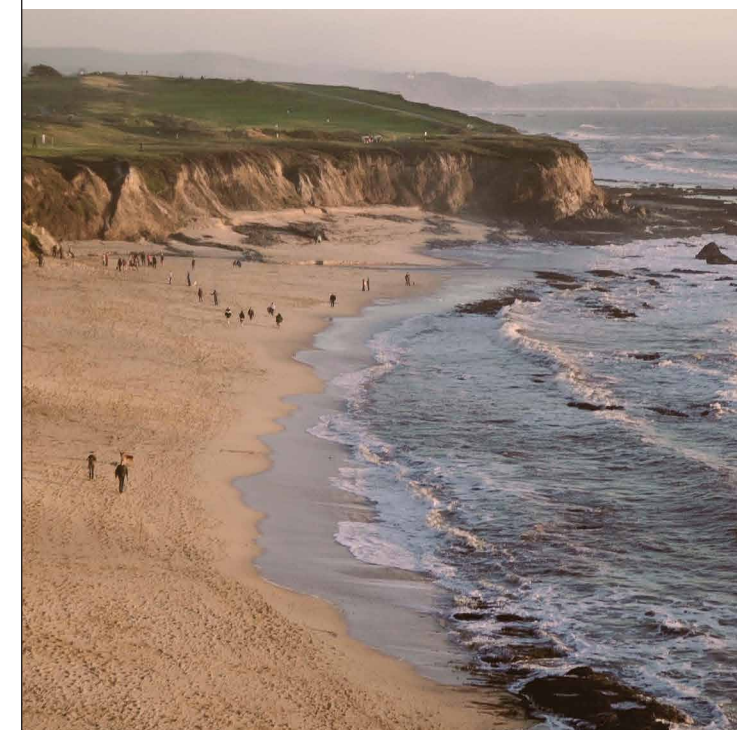
### POMPONIO STATE BEACH

Two miles of sandy beaches greet visitors, who enjoy dunes, tide pools, rocky promontories and, occasionally, seals and sea lions sunning themselves just offshore. Open 8 a.m. to sunset. Directions from The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay: Travel south on Hwy. 1 for approximately 11 miles.

### AÑO NUEVO STATE PARK

This 4,000-acre Coastal Preserve is a major gathering area for as many as 3,500 breeding northern elephant seals, which may be seen year-round. There is a three-mile, round-trip hike from the Coastal Preserve's public parking lot, over sand dunes and through native California flora. During the breeding season, mid-December through March, reservations must be made to visit the grounds with a ranger. From April to the end of August, the reserve is open for self-guided walks. Permits are complimentary and can be obtained at the entrance station from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30p.m. Pets are not permitted. 1 New Years Creek Rd, Pescadero, CA 94060

# WELCOME TO THE SAN MATEO COASTSIDE



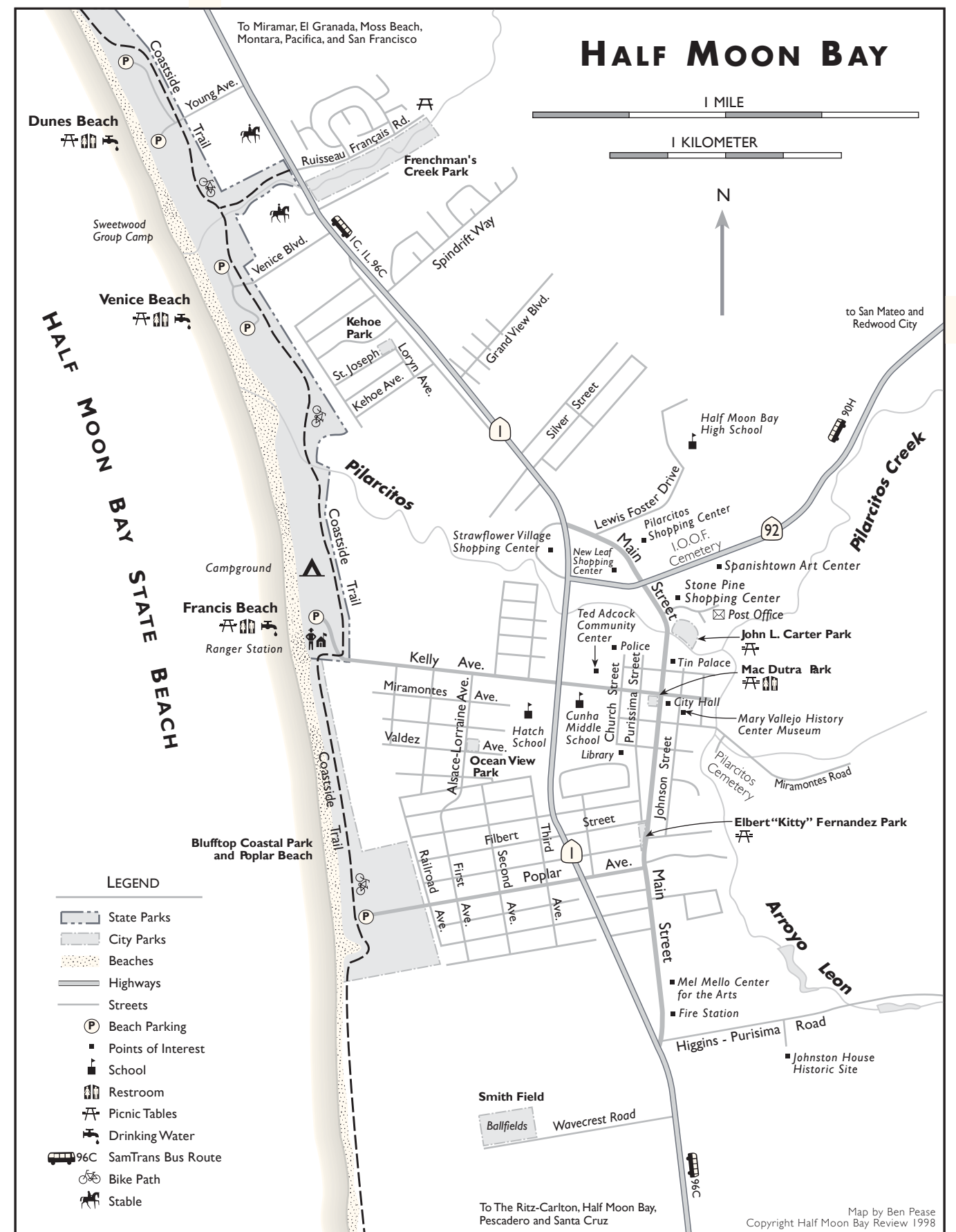
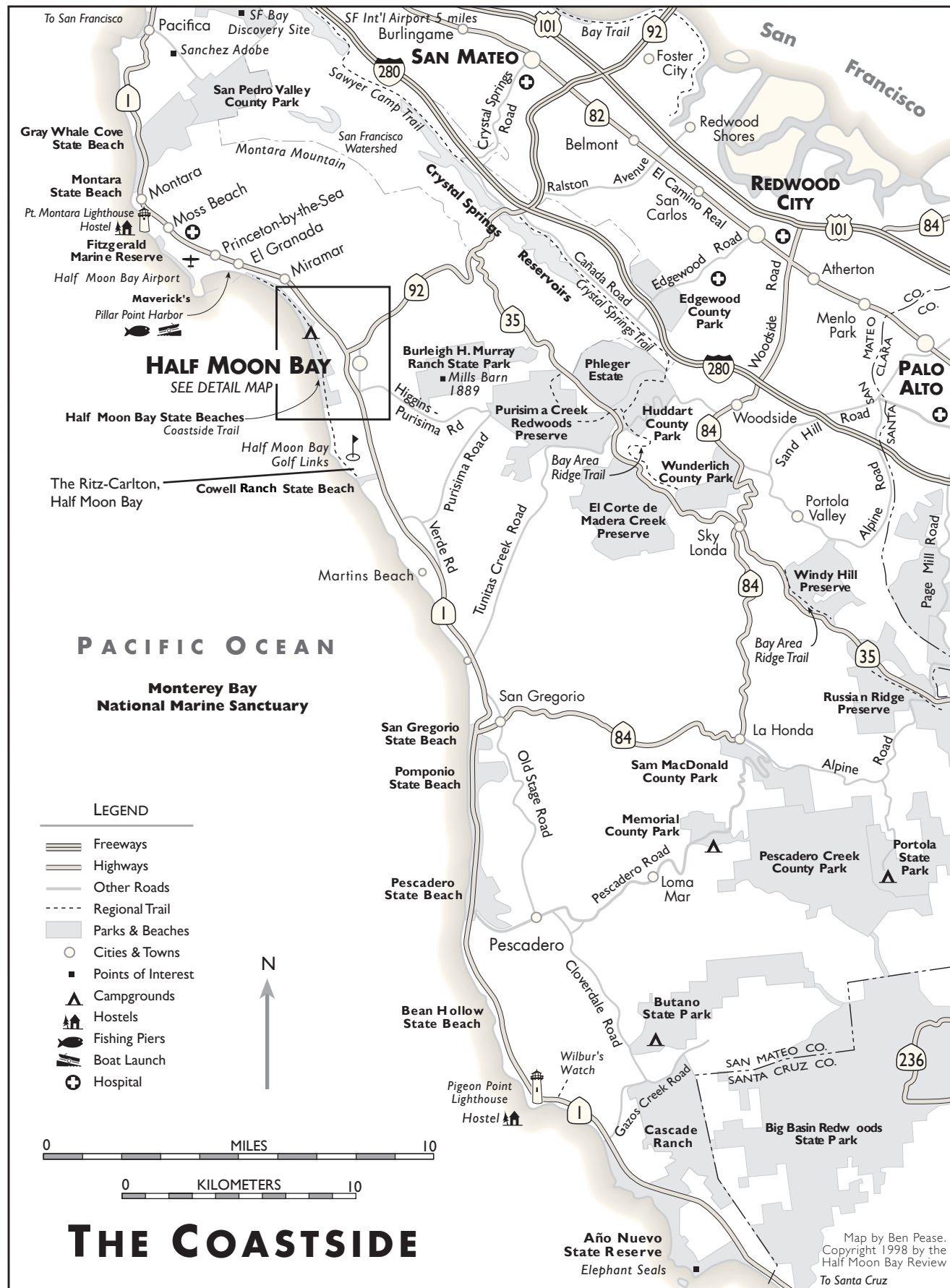
## VISITORS' GUIDE

### MAPS OF HALF MOON BAY AND THE COASTSIDE

Including the Coastside Trail, Local Parks and Beaches



CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION



The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay | Miramontes Point Road, Half Moon Bay, California 94019 USA | +1 650-712-7000