



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail

California



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Visitors to the Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail, which traces a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, will get a front-row seat to the sight of waves crashing onto the beach, whales migrating way out at sea, or a heartwarming sunset at the end of the day. Spanning 7.5 miles, it runs the length of Half Moon Bay State Beach and a little beyond—from Pillar Point Harbor in El Granada to the Half Moon Bay Golf Links.

About the Route

Starting at the trail's northern endpoint at Pillar Point Harbor in El Granada, visitors will quickly be aware of another popular diversion: surfing. After passing a forest of sailboat masts at the marina, trail users will cross the jetty to Surfers Beach, which offers good waves under the

right conditions. (About 2 miles northwest is world-renowned Mavericks Beach, where 15- to 30-foot waves challenge surfers.)

Less than a mile from the harbor, the trail veers away from Cabrillo Highway/CA 1. At 1 mile, the trail ends at Magellan Avenue but resumes in 0.3 mile at Miramar Beach. To pick up the trail again, take a right on Magellan Avenue, then take the first left on Mirada Road, which ends at the beach. Here the trail follows the bluff past a series of beaches—Roosevelt, Dunes, and Venice—and park entrances at Young Avenue and Venice Boulevard.

The main State Beach park entrance and visitor center (open weekends only) is located at Francis Beach at the end of Kelly Avenue, 2.4 miles from Miramar Beach. Here trail users will find camping, picnicking, and the start of an equestrian trail that is separated from the Coastside Trail by a split-rail fence and runs about a mile south to Poplar Beach. Straying off the Coastside Trail onto the beach, stay a safe distance from temporary fencing that protects the nesting areas of the tiny western snowy plover, a threatened species.

The trail crosses the Seymour Bridge over a drainage in 1.1 miles. The Monterey pines and eucalyptus trees here offer some rare shade along the route. For the next 2.7 miles, the trail passes through wildlife and bird habitat at the Wavecrest Open Space before reaching its southern endpoint at the Half Moon Bay Golf Links.

The Half Moon Bay State Beach offers parking, picnicking, fishing, and camping, and visitors are encouraged to arrive early on weekends. Facilities are wheelchair accessible, right down to the availability of wheelchairs with balloon-style wheels for crossing the sand at Francis Beach. There's access from the trail to all the popular beaches along this stretch. Sunbathing is welcome, but swimming is discouraged due to dangerous currents and the absence of lifeguards.



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States: California

Counties: San Mateo

Length: 7.22miles

Trail end points: 11820 Cabrillo Hwy N (Half Moon Bay) to 1001 Miramontes Point Rd. (Half Moon Bay)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete, Dirt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Half Moon Bay Coastside Trail runs from 11820 Cabrillo Hwy N (Half Moon Bay) to 1001 Miramontes Point Rd. (Half Moon Bay), which both offer parking.

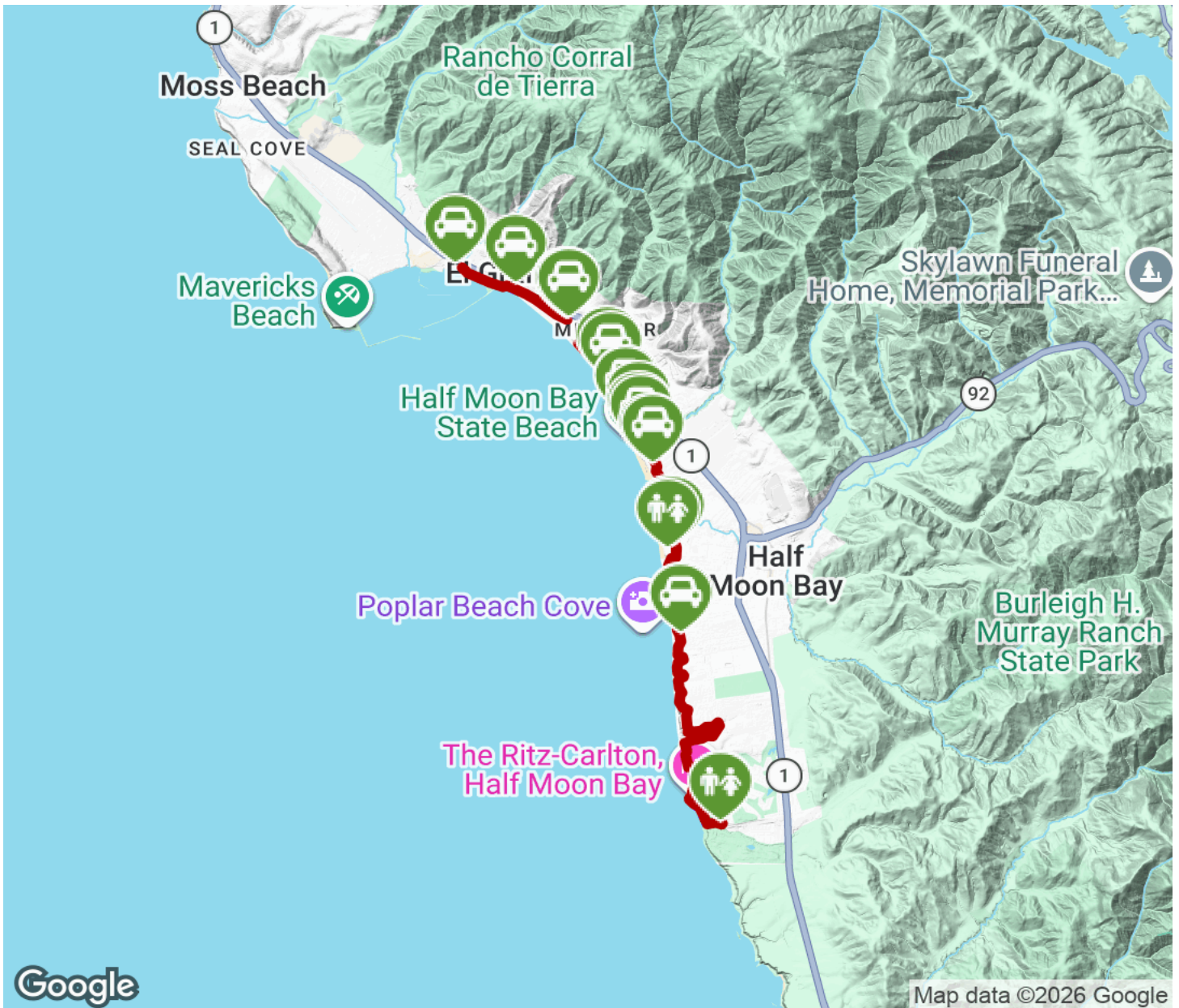
Additional parking and restrooms can be found at Venice Beach, 401 Venice Blvd.

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
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