

Doheny State Beach



Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks 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.



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



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CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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Doheny State Beach

25300 Dana Point Harbor Drive

Dana Point, CA 92629

(949) 496-6171

www.parks.ca.gov/doheny

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As California's first state beach, Doheny

covers 62 acres of scenic oceanfront. This Orange County beach beckons to 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 Acjachemen (Juaneño) tribe. For at least 9,000 years, they lived in coastal or valley villages from San Clemente to Aliso Creek. The first recorded contact between the Acjachemen and Europeans came in 1769 when Gaspar de Portolá led an expedition of Spanish soldiers and Franciscan missionaries to the area now called Orange County.

By 1776 Mission San Juan Capistrano had been constructed in an Acjachemen village; the tribal people who labored there were then called San Juaneños by the missionaries.

Juaneño customs and population rapidly declined as they succumbed to hard labor at the missions, confinement, and diseases carried by Europeans. Today the Juaneño tribe's culture and language survive in their traditional ceremonies and song; the tribe is pursuing recognition from the federal government.

Edward L. Doheny

Doheny State Beach takes its name from oilman Edward L. Doheny. In 1893 he borrowed money to dig the city's first oil well, striking oil at 200 feet deep. Doheny created a vast land and oil empire in Southern California and Mexico. Before he died in 1935, he donated 41 acres of his beachfront estate to the State.

In the late 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed campgrounds, picnic areas, and the custodian's lodges at Doheny beach and at nearby San Clemente. The sole CCC remnant at Doheny is a plaster and tile wall and entryway near the campground.



1967 surfers' mecca

SURF'S UP

Dana Point hosted surfing legends like surfboard maker Hobie Alter and *Endless Summer* filmmaker Bruce Brown. "Down Doheny Way" was memorialized in the Beach Boys' hit *Surfin' USA*. Its spectacular pipelines and point breaks ended when Dana Point's harbor breakwater was built in 1966. Doheny surf still breaks consistently.

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.



Gray whale

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 gray 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

Junior Ranger and campfire programs are offered during the summer. Check with the park staff for schedules and topics.

Doheny's remodeled visitor/interpretive center and aquarium exhibits show the natural and cultural history of the park habitats and surrounding open spaces.

The Junior Lifeguard Waterman's Academy, for ages 8 to 16, shares beach and ocean safety information, physical fitness, lifeguard



Experience many tide pool residents at the visitor center's exhibits.

skills, and ocean-oriented activities.

For more information, call (949) 496-6162 or visit www.doho.jg.com.

Camping

Warm water and more than a mile of sandy beach consistently earn Doheny State Beach the title of "Orange County's best camping site." Its 113 campsites, including 33 beachfront sites, have fire rings, picnic tables, and hot showers. The group camp can accommodate up to 40 people. Reserve at (800) 444-7275 or www.parks.ca.gov/doheny.

Beach Activities

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

Picnicking

Doheny's five-acre landscaped picnic area has plenty of family and group picnic tables,

barbecue grills, and parking. To reserve for a group from 25 to 1,000 people, contact (949) 496-3617 or doheny.events@parks.ca.gov.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

Parking, some camping and picnic sites, restrooms, showers, and the campfire and visitor centers are accessible. A boardwalk runs from the north picnic area to the palapa. A beach wheelchair may be available.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Warning: The sea is unpredictable and often dangerous. Use extreme caution. Never turn your back at the ocean's edge.

- Collection of dead wood is prohibited.
- Only registered campers may drink alcohol in their campsites. Special-event alcohol permit holders may serve alcohol.

- Dogs must be attended on a six-foot leash at all times and must be confined to a vehicle or tent at night. Except for service animals, no dogs are allowed on beaches.
- All natural and cultural features in the park are protected by state law and may not be removed or disturbed.

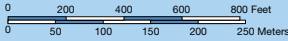
NEARBY STATE BEACHES AND PARKS

- San Clemente State Beach
225 Avenida Calafia, San Clemente 92672
(949) 492-3156
- San Onofre State Beach, 3 miles south on I-5 (Basilone Road exit) (949) 492-4872
- Crystal Cove State Park, 8471 North Coast Hwy. 1, Laguna Beach 92651 (949) 494-3539

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) 496-2923
www.dohenystatebeach.org



Doheny State Beach



Legend

- Major Road
- Paved Road
- Trail: Hike & Bike
- Beach Area
- Accessible Boardwalk
- Accessible Feature
- Barbecue Pit
- Bridge
- Building
- Campfire Center
- Campground
- Food Services
- Campground: Group
- Picnic Area: Group
- Campground: Hike & Bike
- Lifeguard Tower
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- RV Sanitation Station
- Showers
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Visitor Center/Aquarium
- Volleyball Court

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