



The Nature Conservancy
Santa Cruz Island Preserve
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Thank you for your cooperation and participation in the Santa Cruz Island landing permit program. Your continued assistance with the natural stewardship of the island is appreciated.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a landing permit to go ashore on Santa Cruz Island?

Yes. A landing permit is required by all private boaters and kayakers before they may go ashore on The Nature Conservancy's portion of Santa Cruz Island. The Conservancy owns the western 76% of the island, with the remaining 24% of the island under National Park Service ownership. Permits are issued to private boats only, not to commercial vessels or commercial charter parties. Permits are valid during daylight hours only; visitors are not permitted ashore after sunset or before sunrise.

Landing permits are available for 30 consecutive days or for one calendar year. All annual permits expire on December 31st in the year they are issued.

Landing on the National Park Service's property on the eastern portion of Santa Cruz Island does not require a permit from The Nature Conservancy. For permission to land on the National Park Service's property, call the Channel Islands National Park at (805) 658-5730.

How many people can be brought out on a landing permit?

Landing Permits are issued to one applicant only for a single boat with a maximum group size of ten persons.

How do I get a landing permit?

Apply online at www.nature.org/cruzpermit.

Is there a cost for the permit?

Yes. You may obtain a permit for 30 consecutive days for \$30, or a calendar year permit for \$70. All annual permits expire on December 31st in the year they are issued. A permit is required for each boat, and signed waivers are required for all crew members coming ashore.

How much time will it take for me to receive my permit?

Please allow at least 10 business days prior to your planned departure for application approval, processing and delivery of your permit.

What does the landing permit provide?

The Nature Conservancy's landing permit for Santa Cruz Island provides private boaters and kayakers access to the Conservancy's portion of the island for parties of ten persons or less. The fees from the permit system go toward the Conservancy's preservation efforts on the island, and they cover the costs of administering the program. The permit application packet includes the application itself along with a list of visitor rules pertaining to the protection of the property and a liability release form. Anyone wishing to come ashore must have agreed to the rules and regulations and have signed the release form. **No pets are allowed on shore.**

Can I use the landing permit to go anywhere on the Conservancy's property on Santa Cruz Island?

Access to the portions of the island owned by The Nature Conservancy will be permitted, with the following inland access restrictions:

- No hiking into or in the central valley of Santa Cruz Island is allowed (map provided with landing permit) or on the canyon road (Canada del Puerto) to the south of Prisoners' Harbor.
- No access at Christy Beach is allowed.
- While on any portion of Santa Cruz Island owned by The Nature Conservancy, the permit holder and all members of the permit holder's party, whenever separated from the permit holder, must carry a copy of the permit and show it to The Nature Conservancy's staff, if requested.

Can I camp on Santa Cruz Island?

No. Your landing permit is valid only during daylight hours. Camping is prohibited on The Nature Conservancy's portion of Santa Cruz Island. The National Park Service does provide camping facilities on their eastern portion of the island.

Can I have a campfire on Santa Cruz Island?

No, due to extreme fire danger, there is no smoking or building fires of any type allowed on Santa Cruz Island.

Can I bring my dog ashore on Santa Cruz Island?

No pets of any kind (including, but not limited to, cats and dogs) are allowed on Santa Cruz Island.

Please do not bring any plants, seeds or cut flowers onto the island. Help to preserve and protect the island's native biodiversity by not bringing things that do not naturally occur there. Respect the island's native flora and fauna, and keep non-native species off the island.

Can I collect wildflowers or other souvenirs from Santa Cruz Island?

No souvenirs or specimens of anything found on the Conservancy's portion of Santa Cruz Island may be taken from the island. You may not dig in any Indian mounds or other architectural remains located on the island or disturb the terrain in any way.

Cutting down, injury of, picking of, collection of or other disturbance of any trees or other plants or vegetation is not allowed, whether or not the plants are living or dead.

Where is the best anchorage to land on Santa Cruz Island?

Santa Cruz Island has a variety of habitats and beautiful anchorages to share with its visitors. As is always the case whenever stepping into a wilderness area, you should check the weather, Santa Barbara Channel conditions and the extended forecast before visiting and make your determination of destination based on these factors.

When is the best time to visit Santa Cruz Island?

The island has something to offer its visitors throughout the entire year. Each season brings with it a change of weather, colors and beauty. You should determine the best time for your visit based on weather, Santa Barbara Channel conditions and extended forecast. All these factors change during the year and can change from day to day as well.

Do I need a landing permit for my kayak?

If you plan on going ashore, yes, you do need a landing permit. All boaters who wish to go onto The Nature Conservancy's property are required to have landing permits. (On the application, under "Boat name and/or CF#," please write "kayak.")

Are there any restrooms on Santa Cruz Island?

There is one public restroom located on the northern boundary of The Nature Conservancy's property, where it adjoins the National Park Service's property at Prisoners Harbor on the north shore of the island.