

5 Humboldt Bay

One of the cleanest and most productive bays on the West Coast, Humboldt Bay is at the epicenter of the county's watchable wildlife. Stroll the Eureka Boardwalk or the paths of Woodley Island for up-close encounters with harbor seals, pelicans, herons, egrets and gulls. Rent a kayak or climb aboard the MV Madaket for on-the-water wildlife viewing. The Eureka Waterfront Trail hugs the bay for six miles, offering up many wildlife opportunities. To the south, the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge features hundreds of species and trails through tidal and wetland habitats. Don't miss the early spring Aleutian Geese sunrise flyoffs.

6 Humboldt Redwoods State Park

More inland and frequently warmer than Redwood National Park, Humboldt Redwoods State Park along the Avenue of the Giants encompasses majestic old growth redwood forests, upland meadows and the sparkling Eel River. Begin at the park Visitor Center near Weott for excellent displays of local wildlife, then hit the trails. Favorite nature viewing spots include Founder's Grove, Rockefeller Forest and anywhere along Bull Creek. Among the animals sighted regularly are black bear, black-tailed deer, raccoons, bobcats, ground squirrels, Steller's jays, red-tailed hawks, wild turkeys and banana slugs.

**Hwy 101,
32 miles
south of
Eureka**



6

7 Lost Coast

The longest stretch of natural shoreline on the West Coast teems with marine life. One of California's largest colonies of elephant seals barks and basks around the old Punta Gorda Lighthouse near Cape Mendocino. And big clumps of mussels, anemones, limpets, chitons, sea hares, snails, crabs, octopus and more reside in pristine tide pools, many around the village of Shelter Cove. (Be mindful of tides and wave forecasts.) Migrating whales are often spotted from nearby cliffs too.

Humboldt Species Checklist

Hundreds of bird, mammal and other animal species call Humboldt home. Here are some of our favorites. How many can you find?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Murrelet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Varied Thrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Plover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey | <input type="checkbox"/> Roosevelt Elk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great and Snowy Egrets | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern River Otter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit | <input type="checkbox"/> California Sea Lion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Raven | <input type="checkbox"/> Harbor Seal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steller's Jay | <input type="checkbox"/> California Gray Whale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Giant Salamander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brandt's Cormorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Banana Slug |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Pelican | <input type="checkbox"/> Bigfoot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aleutian Goose | <input type="checkbox"/> California Condor |

Humboldt Adventure Guides

Published by the Humboldt Lodging Alliance, a non-profit that promotes responsible tourism on California's Redwood Coast.

visithumboldt.com

WHERE TO SPOT WATCHABLE WILDLIFE in Humboldt County



**Roosevelt Elk, River Otters
& Marine Mammals
Whale-watching
& Best Birding Spots
PLUS Humboldt Species Checklist**

Humboldt
CALIFORNIA'S
REDWOOD COAST

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1 Redwood National & State Parks

Some 280 bird species have been recorded in the parks, including the endangered Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl. On and near the park's coastline, watch for whales, seals, sea lions and porpoises. Salmon and trout can be glimpsed in many of the park's streams and creeks, while its tidepools teem with mussels, sea stars, limpets, anemones, crabs and snails. Among the dozens of mammal species inhabiting the park, the Roosevelt Elk can most reliably be viewed as they congregate at Elk Prairie in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and at several other locations along Hwy 101. Solitary bull elk may also be encountered at Gold Bluffs Beach. The elk look tame but they are not – do not approach too closely! **Hwy 101, 40 miles north of Eureka**



2 Humboldt Lagoons

The Humboldt Lagoons have been dubbed "The String of Pearls" for their gem-like beauty, but they are equally precious for their wildlife viewing opportunities. Birdwatching is particularly rewarding, whether from canoe or kayak (ramps/launches at Stone Lagoon and Big Lagoon), or along the magnificent beaches that separate the lagoons from the ocean. All the lagoons offer shoreline, marsh, beach and (except for Dry Lagoon) open water habitats where cormorants, herons, egrets, pelicans, gulls, osprey, bald eagles, grebes, snipe and numerous other species can be spotted. **Hwy 101, 30 miles north of Eureka**



HUMBOLDT COUNTY



3 Trinidad Coast

Take Scenic Drive (Westhaven exit) north to Sue-Meg State Park for seven miles of wild coastal California. Hidden beaches, tidepools, spruce forest, ancient sea stacks and wind-swept headlands abound, as do wild animals including seals and sea lions, grey whales and many bird varieties. But the signature species is the Northern River Otter (not Sea Otter) to be spotted close to shore or even taking a break on Trinidad Pier. Also recommended for birdwatching and seasonal whale spotting: Hiking up Trinidad Head and along the trails north of Trinidad State Beach, College Cove and Sue-Meg State Park. **Hwy 101, 20 to 27 miles north of Eureka**



4 Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary

This is a prime spot for birding, hiking and great views of the Arcata Bay. At any time of the year wildlife can be viewed from a network of trails through the 225-acre marsh. The sanctuary is situated along the Pacific Flyway, a major migratory route for thousands of birds that breed in the far north and winter in California, Mexico, and Central and South America. These wetlands provide homes and migratory resting places for over 270 species (including the marsh's signature shorebird, the Marbled Godwit), while at the same time showcasing innovative techniques of environmentally friendly wastewater treatment. The Interpretive Center has books and resources. **569 South G St., Arcata**

