

E-SEAL NEWS

Friends of the Elephant Seal
Newsletter
Autumn 2001



For up-to-date information
visit our website!
www.elephantseal.org

Juveniles are here to rest

Elephant seals by the dozen have been showing up at the viewing area south of Piedras Blancas. The seals are juveniles that have come ashore to rest. From the vista point bluff, they can be seen lounging in heaps next to the dunes or playing in the water at the south end of the beach.

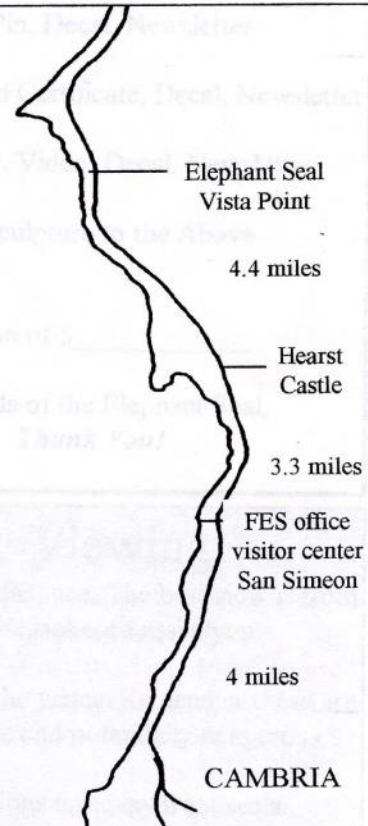
Vistors should not go down onto the beach to see the seals. It is very important not to get between a seal and the water. Remember, these are wild animals that are unpredictable and potentially dangerous. Ask a Friends of the Elephant Seal Docent to share their binoculars - and their knowledge about the seals - to get a better view of these incredible marine mammals.

Fall is typically a time of rest for seals too young to breed. In November, the not-quite-adult males - or sub-adults - will begin to come ashore, and the mature males will start arriving by the end of the month. Their presence marks the beginning of the breeding and pupping season - the most exciting time to watch the northern elephant seals at Piedras Blancas.

Where are all the adult seals?

In autumn, the adults are out at sea, bulking up for the winter months on land when they will be fasting. The males need enough blubber to see them through three months; the females need to fatten up for a four- to five-week fast. The females will convert blubber into rich milk that nourishes their pups.

GETTING AROUND MAP TO THE VIEWING AREA



Friends of the Elephant Seal

Office: Plaza del Cavalier
Highway 1, San Simeon
Mail: PO Box 490 Cambria Ca
Phone: 805-924-1628
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Calendar

September and October -

Young-of-the-year and juveniles haul out to rest.

November - Subadult males haul out. Mature males begin arriving at the end of the month.

December - Bulls continue to return. Females arrive. The first birth is usually mid-month.

January - Females continue to arrive. Peak of births usually last half of month.

February - Births continue. The peak of mating is around Valentine's Day. More females leave.

March - Last adults leave. Weaned pups teach themselves how to swim.

April - Females and juveniles return to molt.

May - Females & juveniles molt.

June - Subadult males return to molt.

July - Subadult and adult males molt.

August - Last of the male molt.

Friends of the Elephant Seal is a non-profit corporation dedicated to educating people about elephant seals and other marine life on the Central Coast. We rely on grants, memberships and your donations. Contributions are tax-deductible.

You can help us by becoming a member today.

Become a member of Friends of the Elephant Seal Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Level:

Individual (\$15/year) Decal, Newsletter

Family (\$25/year) Decal, Newsletter

Sponsor (\$50/year) Lapel Pin, Decal, Newsletter

Business (\$100/year) Framed Certificate, Decal, Newsletter

Educational (\$150/year) Book, Video, Decal, Newsletter

Lifetime (\$1000) Add Sculpture to the Above

I have enclosed \$ _____

This includes an additional donation of \$ _____

Please send contributions to Friends of the Elephant Seal,
PO Box 490, Cambria, CA 93428 **Thank You!**

Tips for Safe Viewing

1. View from a safe and respectful distance. The best view is from the bluff. Look for a docent in a blue jacket to assist you.
2. NEVER get between a seal and the water. Remember these are wild animals. They are unpredictable and potentially dangerous.
3. Dogs and seals don't mix. Keep dogs far away from seals.
4. Please stay off sand dunes - fragile areas for plants and animals.

Elephant Seals are protected by federal law. It is illegal to harass any marine mammal. If you see harassment, call 1-800-853-1964.