

VISIT MENDOCINO MAGIC IS REAL

Mendocino Coast Whale Festivals

Each and every March, coastal Mendocino County celebrates the migration of gray whales. Fun for locals and visitors alike, you'll find wine walks, foot races, beer tastings, interactive science demonstrations, even a Bloody Mary competition – all to celebrate the most majestic of marine mammals. Check out the numerous events and activities – there are fun happenings for everyone in the family!

Mendocino

Saturday, March 2nd Wine Walk

Meander through the village of Mendocino and duck into shops that are hosting wineries. Hop onboard the MTA Trolley for a scenic ride to each participating wine tasting venue. Tickets available for purchase. Noon – 4:00 PM.

Sunday, March 3rd Gray Whale Information Station

Learn more about gray whales, how to spot them, why we celebrate and learn about more fun Whale Festival activities led by California State Park Interpreters throughout the month of March. All ages welcome; binoculars provided. Ford House Visitor Center. 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Little River

Saturday, March 9th Spring Ranch Whale Walk

Join a California State Park Interpreter to walk the historic Van Damme Spring Ranch property while spotting gray whales. Learn why whales migrate and why we celebrate the Whale Festival. Participants can park and meet in the Highway 1 pull-out, north of Spring Ranch barns and across from Gordon Lane in Mendocino. This is a bumpy trail, so strollers are not recommended. This is a free event and binoculars are provided. Donations for MendoParks are graciously accepted. 10:00 AM.

Saturday, March 9th Battle of the Bloody Marys

Grab your friends and head to Little River Inn for what has become an annual must-attend event with professional bartenders and amateur mixologists vying for titles such as 'Best Use of Heat', 'Best Garnish', 'Most Innovative' and 'Best Overall'. Tickets available for purchase online. 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM.

Fort Bragg

Friday, March 15th Whale Trivia and Science Social – Hands Through Time

The night starts with a whale trivia contest, followed by a Science Social presentation by whale expert Jeff Jacobsen called "Hands Through Time". \$10-\$20. Noyo Center Marine Field Station, 32430 N Harbor Dr. 6:00 PM.

Saturday, March 16th
36th Annual Whale Run & Fun Walk

Join other race enthusiasts for a run and fun walk along the coastal trail in Fort Bragg. This popular event features a Kiddie Race, 10K Run, 5K Run and 5K Fun Walk. It's one of the most beautiful places for a race! Sign up deadline is March 9th. Soroptimist International of Fort Bragg and Noyo Sunrise is proud to sponsor and host this annual event.

Saturday, March 16th
Downtown Wine Walk

Meander about downtown Fort Bragg and duck into shops that are hosting wineries from around Mendocino County. Event includes live music. Tickets available for purchase. 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Saturday, March 16th
Fort Bragg Rotary Beer Fest

It's a party at the annual Rotary Beer Fest – featuring live music and BBQ for purchase at Eagles Hall. Sample local and regional craft beers, meet the brewmasters and have a heck of a good time! Taste the ales and watch the whales! Tickets available for purchase. Must be over 21; ID required. No kids, no pets. Free bus rides. 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Saturday, March 16th
Humpback Acoustics

Whale acoustics expert Jeff Jacobsen will share recent recordings of humpback songs from excursions off the Mendocino Coast. Enjoy this special pop-up exhibit, in addition to the other exhibits at the Discovery Center. Discovery Center Museum, 338 N Main St. 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

Saturday, March 16th
Marine Themed Marionette Show

Marionette performance by Chris Oates with a focus on marine life. Thirty-minute show perfect for families. \$5.00. Noyo Center Marine Field Station, 32430 N Harbor Dr. Two performances: 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM.

Saturday, March 16th
Marine Mammal Exhibit Open House

The Noyo Center will open the doors to its Marine Field Station in Noyo Harbor to showcase a variety of marine mammal skeletons and new displays. While there, enjoy the wildlife (sea lions, harbor seals, and river otters) and great view of the Noyo River from the Field Station deck. Noyo Center Marine Field Station, 32430 N Harbor Dr. 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

Saturday, March 16th
Symphony of the Redwoods

Andrew Sords will be the featured artist on violin, with Bryan Niles conducting as the Symphony of the Redwoods performs the works of Bruch, Victor Bendix and Borodin at Cotton Auditorium. 7:30 PM.

Saturday, March 16th
Science Cinema: *Right Over the Edge*

A screening of the documentary *Right Over the Edge*, which chronicles North Pacific Right Whales. The filmmakers will be on hand for a Q & A after the film. \$10. Noyo Center Marine Field Station, 32430 N Harbor Dr. Showing at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, March 17th**Mendonoma Whale & Seal Study**

Mendonoma Whale & Seal Study's Scott and Tree Mercer will be on hand at the Crow's Nest to do a daily count of migrating gray whales. They'll help visitors spot whales and answer questions about these incredible creatures. While there, enjoy the marine science exhibits at the Crow's Nest. Crow's Nest Interpretive Center – Noyo Headlands South Trail. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Sunday, March 17th**Larry Foster Book Signing**

Local author and artist Larry Foster will be signing copies of his stunning book *The Art of Discovering Whales*. Discovery Center Museum, 338 N Main St. Noon – 2:00 PM.

Sunday, March 17th**Marine Mammal Exhibit Open House**

The Noyo Center will open the doors to its Marine Field Station in Noyo Harbor to showcase a variety of marine mammal skeletons and new displays. While there, enjoy the wildlife (sea lions, harbor seals, and river otters) and great view of the Noyo River from the Field Station deck. Noyo Center Marine Field Station, 32430 N Harbor Dr. 2:00 – 5:00 PM.

Saturday & Sunday, March 16th & 17th**Town Hall Craft Fair**

The Soroptimists are also hosting an indoor craft fair at Town Hall. Come by to see the incredible work of local artisans and craftspeople. You won't find a better place to get a one-of-a-kind gift for a fan of Fort Bragg. 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Fridays & Saturdays in March**MacKerricher Whale Walks**

Join a California State Park Interpreter to spot gray whales, learn why whales migrate, and why we celebrate the Whale Festival! This walk is free of charge, all ages welcome and binoculars are provided. Trails are ADA accessible. Donations to MendoParks are gratefully accepted. Meet at Ward Avenue parking area, north of MacKerricher State Park entrances. Walks are at 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM.

Saturdays & Sundays in March**Guided Whale Walks**

Join Noyo Center for Marine Science volunteer docents on a guided walk along the Coastal Trail, ending at the Crow's Nest Interpretive Center. Sunday walks will feature both Spanish and English speaking docents. Noyo Headlands South Trail. 10:00 AM.