

Public Access Oakland Waterfront

Want to catch a fish...watch the sun set into Bay waves...scuff your feet on a sandy beach...launch a pleasure boat...gather driftwood...barbecue some ribs in the salt air...stretch out on green grass and listen to jazz - a few hundred feet from the bow of a giant containership...or spot a rare shorebird in its natural habitat?

You can enjoy each of these waterfront pastimes -- and many more -- along the 19-mile shoreline of the Port of Oakland. You can see the many facets of the Port of Oakland. It's the Bay's largest port -- the fifth busiest in the nation and the colorful hub of a trade and transportation network reaching around the world.



It's a quiet spot to picnic and contemplate the gray-green waves of the San Francisco Bay. It's the patina of sea-worn wood and the intricate detail of restored turn-of-the century buildings and the clean lines of office towers rising against the horizon. It's a trip back into history, to the days when author Jack London robbed the oysters beds and drank with his buddies at Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon.

Or you can go aboard the USS Potomac, the "floating White House" of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, now restored and open to the public.

There's the hustle and bustle of Jack London Square, with its myriad of events, shops and restaurants. There's the windswept beach of the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and the paths behind the Oakland International Airport, where you may catch a rare glimpse of the California least tern, an endangered species. The Port of Oakland also is one of the few ports that gives the public a chance for close-up views of working marine terminals. There's Port View and Middle Harbor Park, as well as an elevated platform near Clay Street and Jack London

Bay Bridge to Jack London Square

Port View Park

Port View Park, reopened and greatly expanded in 1995 after extensive redesign and reconstruction because of damage suffered during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, offers spectacular views of San Francisco Bay, the San Francisco skyline and Port of Oakland maritime operations at the Seventh Street Terminal. The park encompasses 4.5 acres of public access with areas for fishing, strolling, picnicking and special events. Port View Park also is the home of the International Maritime Center, a nondenominational chapel and recreational facility for visiting seafarers.



FACILITIES

Picnic areas, play area, fishing piers, snack bar and bait shop, second-story viewing area and historical display, restrooms, drinking fountains, parking, benches, public telephone.

DIRECTIONS

Located at the end of 7th Street.

Jack London Square

Fifteen square blocks of commercial and recreational activities, including opportunities for dining and shopping, strolling, ferry rides, and special events such as the weekly Sunday Farmers Market, the annual Maritime Day and the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. At the north end of the main plaza, at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Fishing Pier, is an elevated platform with views of Alameda and the gantry cranes at the Howard Marine Terminal. When the extension of the terminal is completed in early 1996, the cranes will be only 500 feet from the pier, giving visitors a close-up view of a working marine terminal. President Roosevelt's official yacht, the USS Potomac, is now moored next to the pier and is open to the public. (For details, call (510) 627-1215.) A mini park at the foot of Alice Street marks the south end of this area. The lightship, The Relief, will move in upon completion of the Howard Terminal expansion. Also see Jack London Square's site on the World Wide Web.



FACILITIES

Restaurants, bars, shops, marinas, guest berths, walkways and plazas, picnic areas, grassy play areas, fishing pier with fish-cleaning areas, restrooms, fountain, benches, public telephones, parking.

DIRECTIONS

Located at the foot of Broadway.

Jack London Square to Fruitvale Bridge

Channel Estuary Park

This park, located on port land and developed and maintained by the City of Oakland, includes a public boat launching ramp and a group picnic area. (For picnic reservations, call 510-238-3187). This park also has a fishing pier and a broad, stepped area providing excellent views of special events or the local bird population. A 1,500-foot pathway along the water connects the park with Jack London Village, at the south end of Jack London Square.

FACILITIES

Picnic tables and barbecue, fishing pier, grassy playing area, restrooms, public telephone, benches, parking with some double stalls for boat trailers.

DIRECTIONS

Located on the Embarcadero, between Oak and Fifth streets.



Embarcadero Shoreline

A series of intermittent shoreline pathways begins at 10th Street and follows the water south to 19th Avenue, linking restaurants, marinas and businesses along the way. Views are of the marinas, Coast Guard Island and the Ninth Avenue Shipping Terminal at the north end of the path. A 2,000-square-foot fishing pier is near the 16th/19th Street Overpass. Near the south end is Embarcadero Cove, a small complex of gardens, ponds and restored homes that have been converted into offices, and Quinn's Lighthouse restaurant, which once was an actual lighthouse marking the Southern Pacific Ferry Terminal at the beginning of the channel separating Oakland and



Alameda. There are intermittent breaks in the path, but it is an easy detour back to Embarcadero for a few feet. The shoreline path concludes just east of Dennison Street, where it parallels the Union Point Marina.

FACILITIES

Restaurants, picnic tables, fishing pier, fish-cleaning area, drinking fountain, benches, bicycle rack, parking. Restrooms are located at the Central Basin and Union Point Marinas.

DIRECTIONS

The path begins near the 1400 block of Embarcadero (just north of the 16th/19th Street Overpass) and ends just east of Dennison Street and Embarcadero.

Fruitvale Mini-Park

A mini-park below the Fruitvale Bridge to Alameda offers views of the working drawbridge itself, the houseboats along the Alameda shoreline and the barges and tugs and recreational boats using the tidal canal.

FACILITIES

Fishing pier, benches.

DIRECTIONS

Take the pedestrian ramp to the water just east of Fruitvale Avenue at Alameda Avenue and the Tidal Canal.

Oakland International Airport & Vicinity

Arrowhead Marsh

This 50-acre marsh resembles an arrowhead aimed at the heart of San Leandro Bay. A short boardwalk extends over the pickleweed and salt grass of the marsh and a fishing pier is nearby. In addition to the views of wildlife, there is a "Whale Garden" for children (two fiberglass gray whales "swimming" in the sand) and Roger Berry's Duplex Cone, a sculpture indicating the sun's path at summer and winter solstices.



FACILITIES

Fishing pier, play areas, restrooms, fountains, parking at nearby Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

DIRECTIONS

From Swan Way, near Doolittle Drive, follow the paved road to the parking lot at its end.

San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline/Martin Luther King Jr. Park

The 565 acres of water, marsh and land is a nature preserve, with magnificent views of the tidal lands with their plants and wildlife, and hiking and bicycle trails. The area extends from the end of the Tidal Canal near Tidewater and Lessor Street to Doolittle Pond at the Alameda/Oakland city line near the Oakland International Airport.

FACILITIES

Picnic and barbecue areas, playing fields, fishing pier, restrooms, drinking fountains, benches, boat-launching ramp, parking, snack bar.

DIRECTIONS

Major points of entry are at the end of Edgewater Drive, off Swan Way, and from Doolittle Drive.

Airport Shoreline Path

Located on top of the dike surrounding a tidal pond by the Oakland International Airport is a short 500-foot trail offering a view of the Bay on one side and, on the airport side a tidal pond that is home to the Least Tern, a bird on the California and Federal Endangered Species lists.



FACILITIES

Benches.

DIRECTIONS

Off Doolittle Drive near Harbor Bay Island Parkway.

Galbraith Golf Course

The golf course is temporarily closed, due to the dredging of the Oakland/Alameda Estuary. Following the dredging, it is to be reopened with a new and improved course.

Views of Working Marine Terminal

Port View Park

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FACILITIES

Picnic areas, play area, fishing piers, snack bar and bait shop, second-story viewing area and historical display, restrooms, drinking fountains, parking, benches, public telephone.

DIRECTIONS

Located at the end of 7th Street.

Jack London Square

An elevated platform with views of the gantry cranes at the Howard Marine Terminal is located at the north end of Jack London Square at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Fishing Pier. Since the extension of the terminal was completed in early 1996, the cranes are only 500 feet from the pier, giving visitors a close-up view of a working marine terminal. President Roosevelt's official yacht, the USS Potomac, is now moored next to the pier and is open to the public. (For details, call (510) 627-1215.) A mini park at the foot of Alice Street marks the south end of this area. The lightship, The Relief, will move in upon completion of the Howard Terminal expansion. Also see Jack London Square's (www.jacklondonsq.com) site on the World Wide Web.

FACILITIES

Restaurants, bars, shops, marinas, guest berths, walkways and plazas, picnic areas, grassy play areas, fishing pier with fish-cleaning areas, restrooms, fountain, benches, public telephones, parking.

DIRECTIONS

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Gulls & Terns

Water. The source of life. Virtually no living creature can survive without it. But water has an importance that goes beyond the vital task of supplying fluid for life. It forms the habitat not only for mankind, but also for birds, animals and plants.



Water is equally important to our economic well-being. Communities have historically been built around waterways, a convenient and economical means of transportation since the beginnings of history. Water transportation is a vital part of today's world.

In previous years there was less sensitivity to the need for environmental protection for waterways and the surrounding wetlands and marshes. Today we know that the maritime industry and the natural environment can coexist, bringing economic vitality to a region as well as the pleasures that come from walking along the water's edge and enjoying the natural wetlands.



As you visit the marshes and beaches and natural areas along the Port of Oakland's shoreline, you'll have a chance to encounter a large variety of gulls, terns and small animals.

These are some of the birds that you are likely to see if you sit quietly and watch and listen:

Western Gull

One of the largest gulls on the Bay, measuring up to 27 inches from bill to tail, the Western gull lives here year-round. The adult has a white head, yellow eyes, a yellow bill with a red dot on the lower mandible, dark wings with white spots at the tips and pink legs and feet. Some 3,000 nest on Bay islands and bridges, and an estimated 30,000 nest on the Farallon Islands. From October to April, more arrive

on the Bay from outlying nesting sites.

California Gull

This looks like a slightly smaller version of the western gull, except that it has dark eyes, the wings are a lighter gray and the legs and feet are greenish. It lives throughout western United States and Canada, nesting on islands in salt, alkaline and freshwater lakes. There are approximately 50,000 California gulls in the South Bay, making it the most common gull here.

Herring Gull

This gull is similar to the California gull, but has white eyes and pink legs and feet. It tends to be a scavenger, following boats and frequenting dumps. It spends the winter in the Bay area, nesting in northern Canada and Alaska.

Mew Gull

The gull is so-named because its call sounds like a low mewing. This is a small gull, about 16 inches long, with a white head, a short yellow bill, white spots on black wingtips and yellow legs and feet. It nests in Alaska and northern Canada, but spends the winter in the Bay area.

Caspian Tern

The largest North American tern, the stocky Caspian tern is about the size of a California gull, approximately 21 inches from head to tail. The adult has a brilliant orange bill, a black cap which fades in winter, and black legs and feet. The body is light gray above and white below. It is common on the Bay in the spring and summer.

Elegant Tern

The aptly named Elegant tern visits the central and south Bay between July and October. It is slightly smaller than the Caspian tern, with a long thin, orange bill, and black cap, legs and feet. Its tail is much more deeply forked than that of the Caspian gull.

Forster's Tern

This tern looks like a smaller version of the Caspian except that its bill is thinner and orange-red as are its legs and feet. Its tail is deeply forked. The Caspian gull, with a length of 14 inches, is the most common tern on the Bay during the spring nesting season and the summer.



California Least Tern

With a length of only 9 inches, the California least tern is the smallest North American tern. It resembles the Forster's tern except that its bill, legs and feet are orange-yellow instead of orange-red and its wing beat is quicker. It has black wing tips during the breeding season. The species was listed as endangered in 1970 but today is making a slow comeback. Approximately 100 pairs of terns have been found nesting in colonies at the Alameda Naval Air Station and the Oakland International Airport, where they are now protected.

Resources

Telephone Numbers to Help you Experience the Port

ORGANIZATION	PHONE NUMBER
Port of Oakland	(510) 627-1100
AC Transit	511
Alameda-Oakland Ferry	(510) 522-3300
BART	(510) 465-BART
Channel Estuary Park Picnic Reservations	(510) 238-3187
East Bay Regional Park District (Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline & Middle Harbor Shoreline Park)	(510) 562-7275
Jack London Square Event Information Line	(510) 814-6000
Jack London Square Marketing	(510) 208-4646
Jack London Village	(510) 893-7956
Harbor Master's Office	(510) 834-4591
The Potomac Association	(510) 627-1215