

**Please be aware of poison oak;** it is extremely common at Pt. Reyes. It is most abundant in sunny areas with other shrubs, but is also a common understory associate in most forest types. **It is very difficult to recognize at this time of year because it usually has no leaves.** To lessen your chances of the encountering it, do not wade through dense brush, and try not to touch your hand against naked stems of any shrub when you reach for mushrooms. The active ingredient is an oil, which can be washed off with strong detergents. The best soap is Tecnu, which is especially designed for poison oak. It is available in most pharmacies. When you are done for the day wash your hands and wrists with Tecnu or other soap and **cold** water. After you have washed avoid touching your pant legs until they have been washed.

If you have a reaction to poison oak it will not show up until the next day at the very earliest, and it is more typical for the reaction to take several days to develop. Initially the reaction will be a red itchy patch, but after several days it can develop into blisters, and the itching will continue for days or even weeks. Cortisone creams helps, but if you are unfortunate enough to have a very bad reaction consult a physician who can prescribe steroids.

Poison oak as it looks in the winter:



## Drive and Stop Routes

**Limantour Road 1** - easy and likely productive.

### Directions

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour Road (the first road). Drive along Limantour Road and stop any at sites that catch your fancy. Concentrate your efforts in the area between the beginning of the road and the Bay View Trail head parking lot, which is near the top of the ridge just before you start to descend toward the ocean. **In the more open sunny areas be aware of poison oak, especially at and after Sky Trailhead!**

### Zones to mark on your collections

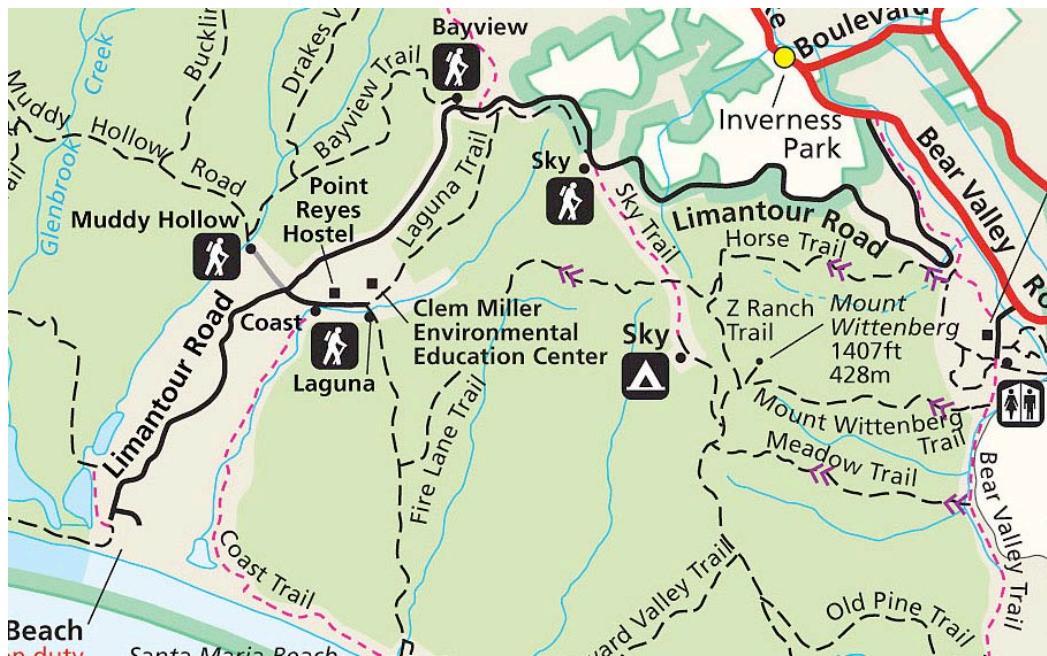
**LIM-1** Meadow and Oak woodland near the beginning of the road.

**LIM-2** Young second growth Douglas Fir Forest before Sky Trail head parking lot

**LIM-3** From Sky trail head to Bay View Trail head

**LIM-4** from Bay View Trail head to the junction of Muddy Hollow/ Hostel Road

**LIM-5** from the junction of Muddy Hollow/ Hostel Road to Limantour Beach parking lot.



**Limantour Road 2** - easy and likely productive in the young pine areas.

**Directions**

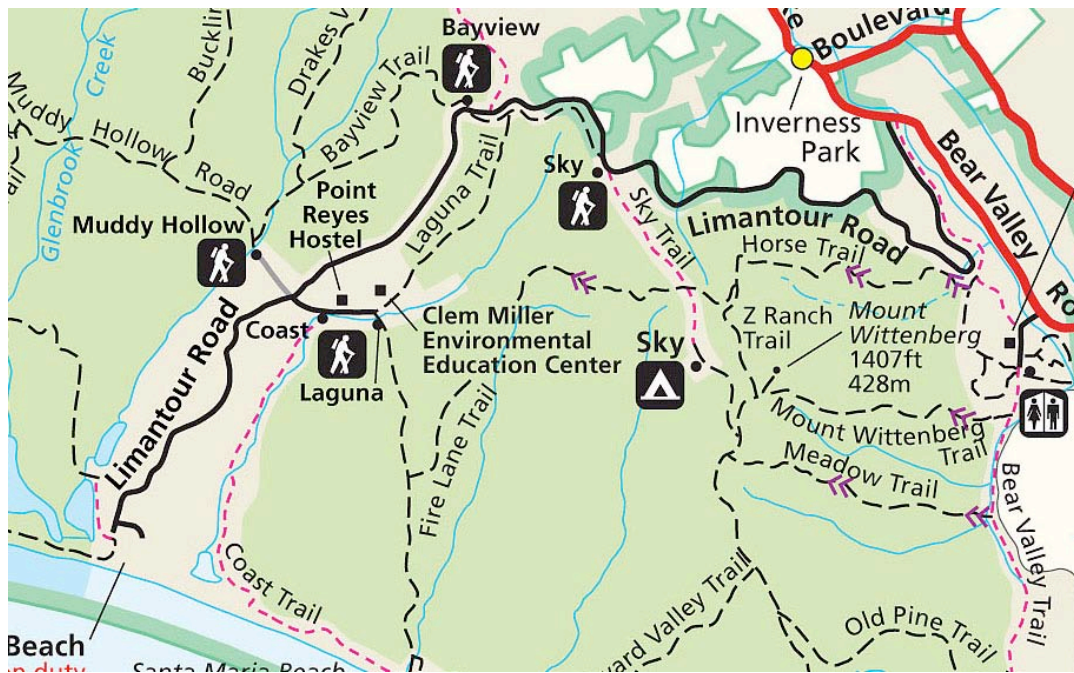
From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour Road (the first road). Drive along Limantour Road until you reach the Bay View Trail head. Start there and continue toward the beach, stop at any sites that catch your fancy. **In the more open sunny areas be aware of poison oak, especially at and after Sky Trailhead!**

**Zones to mark on your collections**

**LIM-4** from Bay View Trail Head to Junction of Muddy Hollow/ Hostel Road

**LIM-5** from Junction of Muddy Hollow/ Hostel Road to Limantour Beach Parking

lot.



**Limantour Beach** - Dune and grassland area. These areas can be rich in several genera of saprobes.

**Directions**

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour Road (the first road) and follow the road all the way to the beach. Park at the main lot. Walk to the beach and collect in and around grass and shrubs just behind the dunes. Then get back in your car head back up Limantour Rd. and take the first right toward the other parking lot on the east end of the beach. Again walk toward the beach and collect in the grasslands and shrubs just behind the dunes. You can also try in the shrub/grasslands before the parking lot. There is a recent prescribed burn that could be interesting.

**Zones to mark on your collections**

**LIMB-1** dunes west of main parking lot (there is a trail in these and its easier to walk)

**LIMB-2** dunes east of main parking lot

**LIM-5B** Recently Burned area on the way to the second parking lot

**LIMB-3** dunes near second parking lot



**Mt Vision Road-** mature Bishop pine forest and coastal scrub. This route gives beautiful views and excellent habitat.

**Directions**

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Drive north until the road dead ends into the Sir Francis Drake and turn left. Continue past Inverness Park and Inverness. When the road forks about 1.5 miles past Inverness stay on the main road to the left. Less than a mile after this fork turn left onto the narrow paved road marked Mt. Vision. Stop and collect along this road anywhere that it looks interesting and is safe to pull off. The lower parts of the road are mostly scrub community with isolated pockets of pine. Further up this becomes a continuous mature pine forest, and near the end it becomes a young (post-fire) pine forest and scrub. All of these pine areas can be incredibly productive. **Be careful of poison oak throughout, but especially on the lower parts of the road or anywhere with lots of other shrubs.**

**Zones to mark on your collections**

**MtVB** – bottom part of Mt. Vision Road before the pine forest become fairly continuous

**MtVM** – middle area of Mt Vision Road where the mature Pine forest becomes continuous.

**MtVT** – top of Mt. Vision Road where the pine forest is young.



## Easy hikes

**Bear Valley Trail 1** - A flat wide, easy road-like trail. Mostly through lower elevation mixed woods and grassy meadows.

### Directions

From the Bear Valley visitor's center walk south along the wide dirt road marked as Bear Valley trail, collected in areas along trail walk as much or as little and then return by the same route.

### Zones to mark on your collection labels

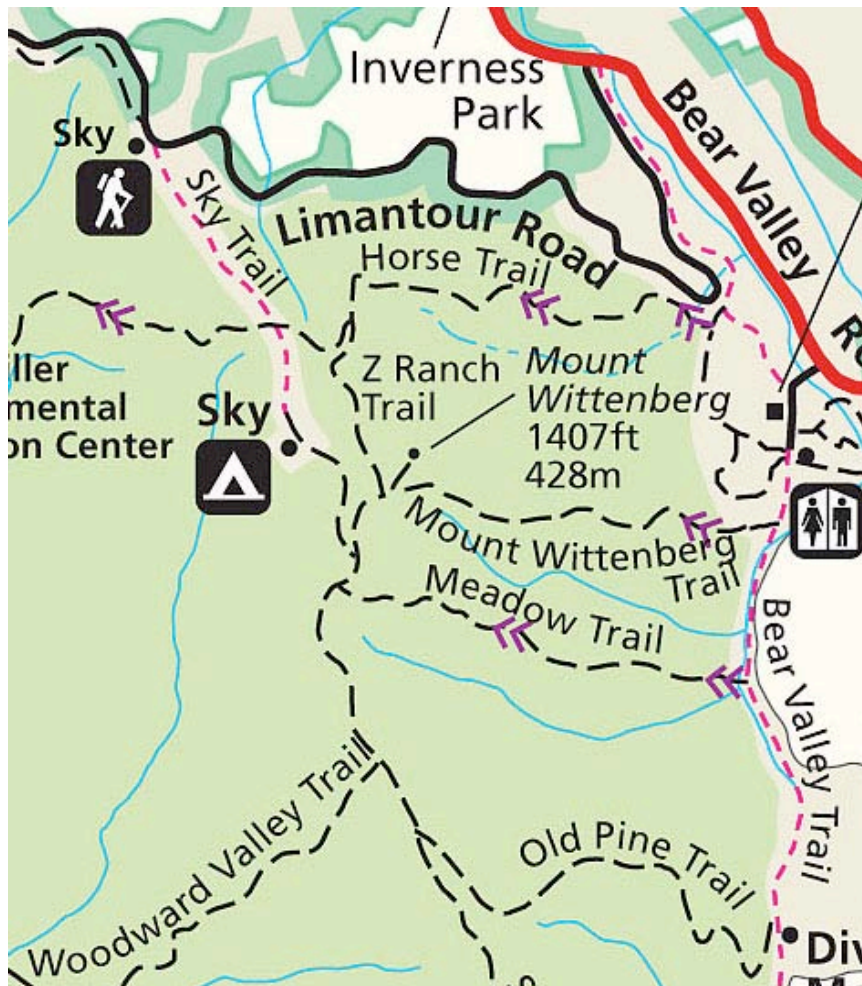
Bear-1 from the visitor's center to the start of the forest

Bear-2 is from the start of the forest until the junction with the Meadow Trail (0.8 miles)

Bear-3 is between the with the Meadow Trail (0.8 miles) and the Old Pine Trail (1.6 miles)

**Bear-4** from Baldy Trail to Old Pine Trail

**Bear-5** from Arched Rock to Baldy trail junction



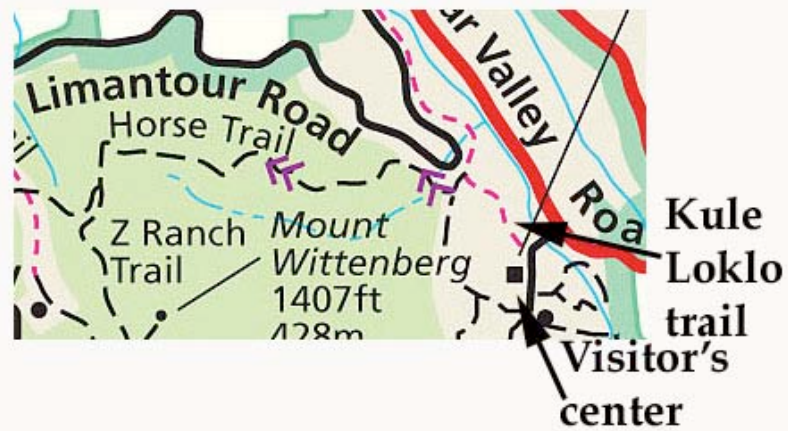
**Kule Loklo Trail** - flat wide trail in lowland Oak-Bay forest.

**Directions** the Kule Loklo Trail starts at the north end of the northern most Bear Valley parking lot. It runs for about 0.4 miles and ends at the Miwok Village. The horse trail starts there and goes up toward Mt Wittenberg. Walk as far as you like and return by the same route

Mark your Collections

KULE – for the Kule Loklo trail

HORSE – for the Horse trail



**Estero Trail area** – Drive with short walk; mature Monterey pine forest and coastal scrub

**Directions**

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Drive north until the road dead ends into the Sir Francis Drake and turn left. Continue past Inverness Park and Inverness. When the road forks about 1.5 miles past Inverness stay on the main road to the left. Drive past the Mt. Vision road, and less than one mile later turn left at the sign marking the **Estero Trailhead**. Park in the lot and start on the trail collecting in the grasslands/scrub community and in the pine forest that is about 1/2 mile or so down the trail. Be careful of poison oak especially in the first section of pine forest (there is less further in); **this forest can be excellent collecting**. Past the forest the trail crosses a bridge and becomes rather muddy, but includes some farm and scrub areas (this area is not high priority, but if you go there, go ahead and collect.

**Zones to mark on your collections**

**EsteroM** – Estero trail meadow/scrub area between trailhead and forest

**EsteroF** – Estero trail planted forest





**Tomales Pt.** – The trail is broad, fairly flat and easy for the first mile. Dune, scrub, grassland areas; lots of Elk! Usually rich in *Agaricus*, puffballs, and various other saprobes. The scenery can be stunning and there is little or no poison oak, but the wind can be brutal.

**Directions:**

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Drive north until the road dead ends into the Sir Francis Drake and turn left. Continue past Inverness Park and Inverness. When the road forks about 1.5 miles past Inverness take the right on Pierce Point Rd and head north to Tomales Pt. Drive to the end of the road, park at Pierce Ranch (just before McClure Beach) and take the Tomales Pt. Trail. It is easy to go off trail in this area and search the grasslands.

**Zones to mark**

**TomPt1** – first part of Tomales bay trail up to Windy Gap (the first big drop in elevation).

**TomPt 2** – trail after Windy Gap.

**KEHOE** – if you stop and collect along Kehoe beach trail

**ABBOT** – if you stop and collect along the Abbots lagoon trail



## South Olema Trail - mixed Oak/Bay woodlands with Douglas-fir

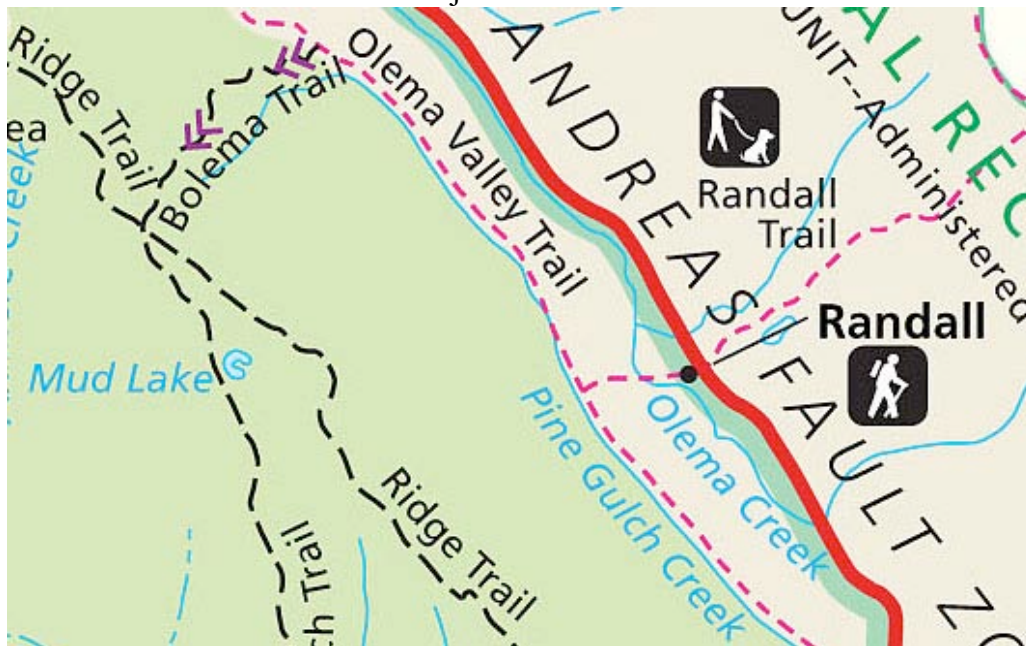
**Directions:** From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn right onto Bear Valley Rd then turn right again on HWY 1. Drive about 6.2 miles, and park at the small pull-off for the Olema and Randall trails. Take the Olema Trail and at the trail junction (0.5 miles) continue on the Olema Trail north toward the Bolema Trail (the more wooded direction), or south into the meadows. Return by the same route.

### Mark your collections

**OLEMA2** – for the Olema Trail up to the junction with the Bolema trail

**BOLEMA** – Bolema Trail

**OLEMA1** – for Olema Trail after junction



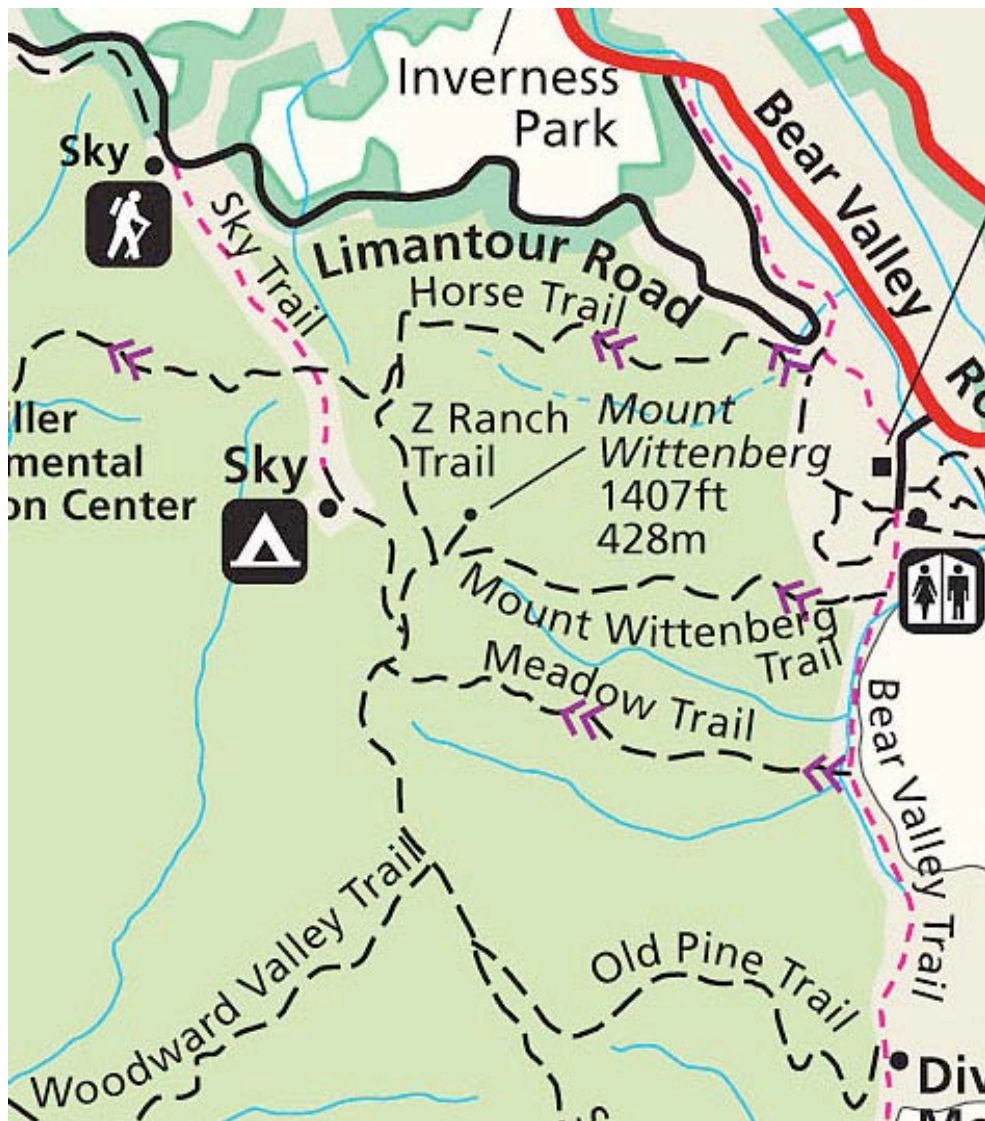
## Moderate hikes (longer or up and down hills)

**Sky Trail from Limantour** a short to long hike along an uphill old road. Vegetation is mixed Douglas-fir Pine and Douglas-fir forest.

### Directions

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour Road, drive about 2 miles and pull into the Sky trailhead on left. Walk up the Sky trail and to Sky Camp (1.3 miles) or as far as you feel like and return by the same route

Mark your collections **SKY-1**

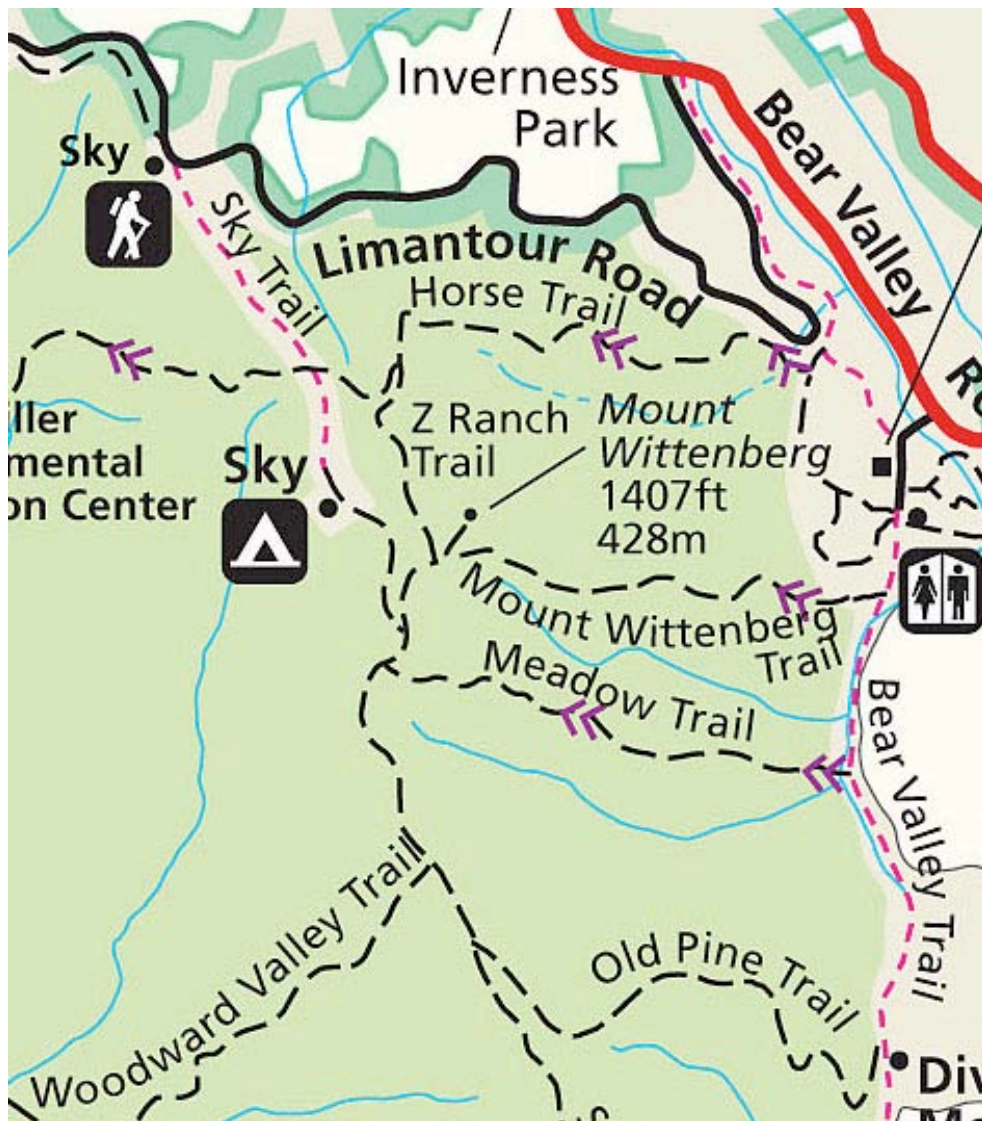


**Horse Trail to Mt. Wittenberg** a steady uphill along a wide trail through mixed oak Douglas-fir forest

**Directions**

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour, drive about a mile. When the road takes a sharp right, there is a pull-off on the left near a gate. Stop there, and walk through the gate. After about 100 yards the horse trail turns off to the right and continues uphill 1.7 miles to next trail junction. Take the trail as far as you want collecting along the way and then return the same way.

Mark your collections **HORSE**



Upper Bay View & Laguna Trail – **young post-fire pine forest and northern coastal scrub**

**Directions:** From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour Road (the first road). Drive along Limantour Road as you crest the hill and start going down to the ocean you'll see huge numbers of young pine. The first turn-off to the right is the Bay View Trailhead; pull in and park. You can walk down the Bay View trail or cross Limantour Rd and walk along the Bay View Trail to the Laguna Trail (0.5) miles. Both trails eventually drop into coastal scrub, but have young pine and some Douglas-fir in the first half mile or so. Walk as far as you choose, but remember that you have to walk back up. If you have a two car group you could drop one car at Muddy Hollow or the Laguna trailhead and do a one way downhill walk (about 2 miles). Watch for poison oak.

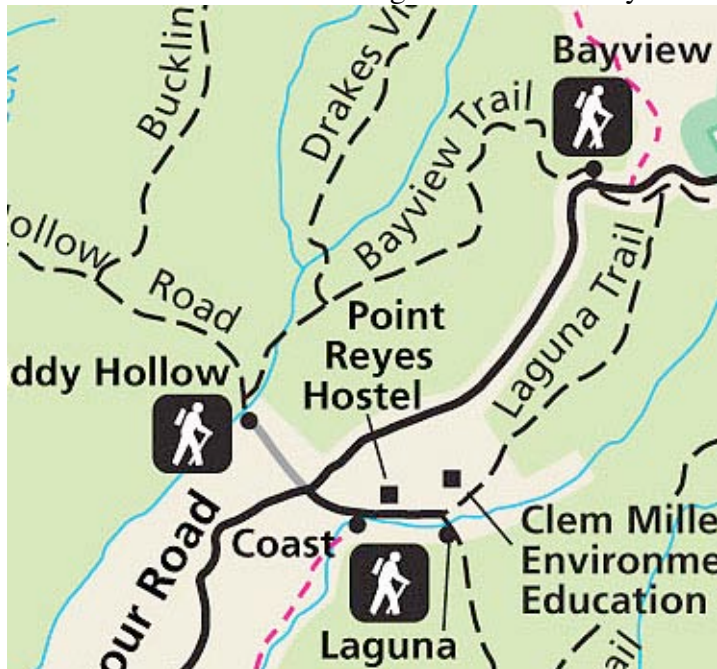
**Zones to mark on your collections**

**BAY-1-** Upper Bay View Trail in the pine forest

**BAY-2 –** Bay View Trail across the road from parking lot

**BAY-3 –** Lower Bayview Trail from end of pine forest to Muddy Hollow

**LAGUNA-1 –** first half of Laguna trail from Bay View to Hostel Road



**Lower Bay View Trail/Muddy Hollow** – Cypress grove, Alder and willow along creek, coast scrub.

**Directions** From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour Road (the first road). Drive along Limantour Road until you reach the Muddy Hollow turn off and then turn right into it. Park when the road ends, and walk across Muddy Hollow Creek (this can be tricky if the water is high), and at the trail junction head up the Bay View Trail. The Cypress grove and the creek side vegetation has some unique fungi. Further up the trail you will encounter mostly northern coastal scrub and isolated pine. Watch for poison oak in this area. Walk up as far as you wish.

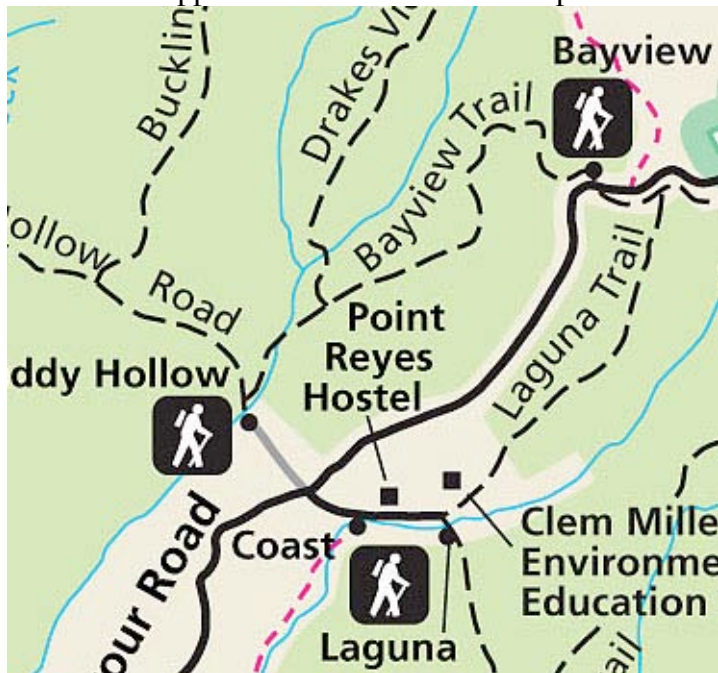
**Zones to mark on your collections**

**MUD** – muddy hollow area with creek vegetation and Cypress

**BAY-3** – lower Bay View and Drakes View trail until you reach fairly continuous pine forest

**BAY-1**- Upper Bay View Trail in the pine forest

**DRAKE** – Upper Drake View Trail in the pine forest



**Lower Laguna trail** – Coastal scrub with pockets of young Douglas-fir and Pine; deer and Elk likely.

**Directions** From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn left onto Bear Valley Rd. Turn left at Limantour Road (the first road). Drive along Limantour Road until you reach the Muddle Hollow/Hostel turn off. Turn Left toward the hostel, drive past the hostel, and then park at the Laguna trailhead. Walk down the Laguna Trail. It's 0.8 miles to the first trail junction. At that point you can either go up the fire trail, or continue toward the beach (1.0 miles). Return by the same route.

**Zones to mark on your collections**

**LAGUNA-2** – Laguna Trail up to junction with the Fire Lane Trail

**LAGUNA-3** – Laguna trail from junction to beach

**FIRE** – Lower Fire Trail



## long or strenuous hikes

**Bear Valley Trail 2** – a moderately long (6.2 miles) walk along a flat wide, easy road-like trail. Mostly through lower elevation mixed woods and grassy meadows.

### Directions

From the Bear Valley visitor's center head south along the wide dirt road marked as Bear Valley trail. **Without stopping to collect walk directly to the Baldy Trail Junction (3.1 miles from visitors center).** Turn around and collect on your way back. If you really feel like walking continue on to Arch Rock (1.3 miles more). Concentrate your collecting in BVT (5, 4, and 3)

### Zones to mark on your collection labels

**Bear-5** from Arched Rock to Baldy trail junction

**Bear-4** from Baldy Trail to Old Pine Trail

**Bear-3** is between the Meadow Trail (0.8 miles) and the Old Pine Trail (1.6 miles)

**Bear-2** is from the start of the forest until the junction with the Meadow Trail (0.8 miles)





**Five Brooks Area** – A long uphill trail through Douglas fir forest; some pine occurs near the ridge top. Great habitat!

**Directions**

From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn right onto Bear Valley Rd then turn right again on HWY 1. Drive about 3.7 miles, just pass Stewart’s Horse Ranch and turn into the Five Brooks Trailhead. From the parking lot walk the trail and when you reach the end of the pond turn left onto the Olema Trail. A few hundred yards later, about half way around the pond, the trail turns right away from the lake (if you go straight you end up at the stables). Continue on the Olema Trail for 1.3 miles to the junction of the Bolema trail. Take the Bolema Trail to the Ridge Trail (1.1 miles). Once at the ridge trail either return via the same route or turn right on to the Ridge trail, take it 0.8 miles to the Stewart Trail, and then take the Stewart Trail back to the parking lot (2.7 miles).

**Alternatively you can reverse this route going up the Stewart, which is basically a road. This is a more gradual trail with less mud.**

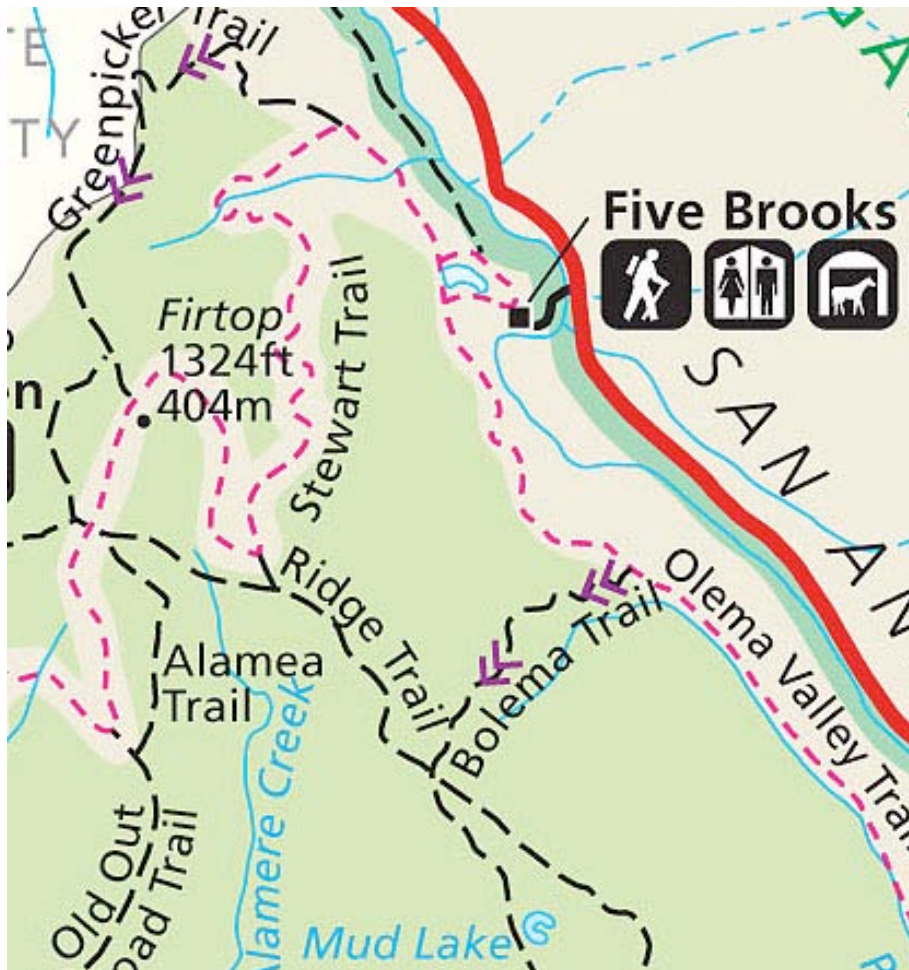
**Zones to mark**

**OLEMA-1** - Olema trail

**BOLEMA** - Bolema trail

**Ridge-1** - Ridge Trail

**STEW** - Steward Trail



**Teixiera trail to the Ridge trail** Steep climb through Douglas-fir forest

**Directions** From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn right onto Bear Valley Rd then turn right again on HWY 1. Drive 8.5 miles and pull off at the side of Hwy 1 at the trailheads for the McCurdy and Olema Valley trails. Take the Olema Valley Trail for 0.5 miles. When you reach the the Teixeira Trail take it and head up to the ridge. If you reach the next trail junction (1.2 miles up hill) go either way on the Pablo Pt. Trail and then return by the same route.

Mark you collections

**OLEM-2 – Olema Valley**

**TIEX – Teixeira trail**

**PABLO – Pablo Pt. Trail**

**Ridge-2 – Ridge trail**

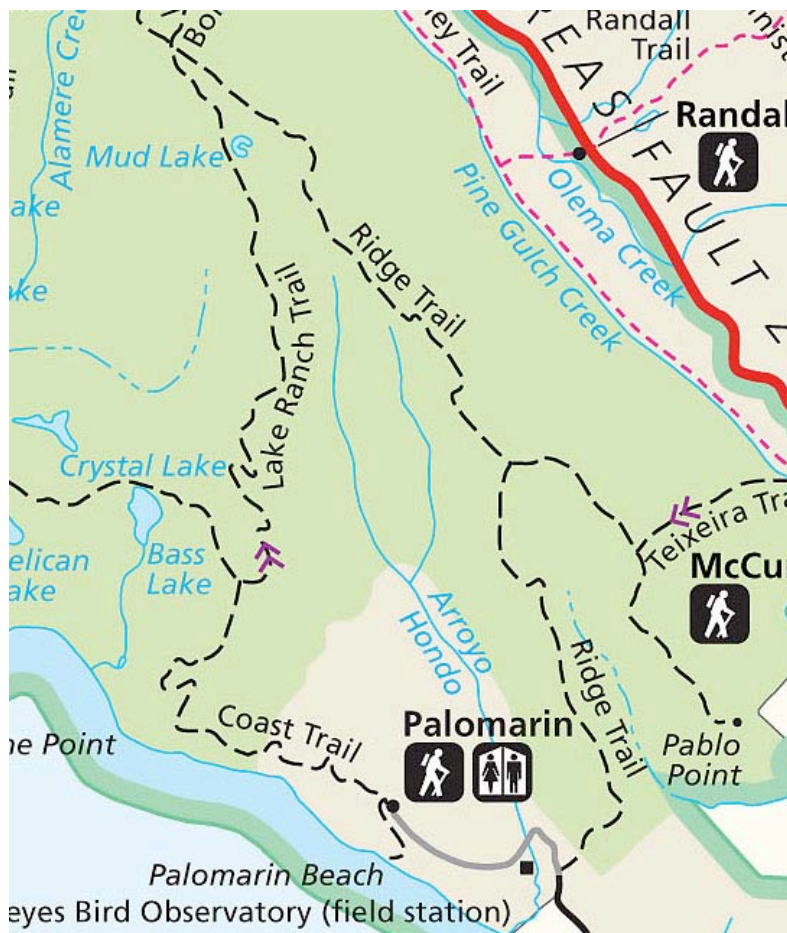


**Ridge Trail from Palomarin** steep climb through open scrub to ridge with Douglas-fir.

**Directions:** From Bear Valley Visitor Center drive back out and turn right onto Bear Valley Rd then turn right again on HWY 1. Drive 9.7 miles, past Dog Town, past two 3-way intersections signs, and one unmarked road. Just before you reach Bolinas Lagoon, there is an **4-way intersection sign with no road name**, turn right there and at the next T-intersection turn left. Drive 1.7 miles and just as you are entering the outskirts of Bolinas turn left onto Mesa Road (there is a sign for the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory). Continue on Mesa Rd. about 2 miles to the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Park and take the Ridge Trail on the right side of the road that goes up the hill. 0.6 miles later this intersects the Pablo Pt trail; turn left and stay on the Ridge Trail continue 1.7 miles to the Lake Ranch Trail intersection, or until you get tired then return. Return by the same route. **Be careful of the poison oak on the first part of this walk.**

Mark your collections

### Ridge-2- Ridge trail



**Mt Wittenberg trail**– a moderate (3.6 mile) to long (6.4) hike depending on your return route. It's a steep, strenuous trail, but it's a beautiful hike through old and young Douglas Fir Forest. You will also encounter some old Bishop pine along the Sky and Old pine trails.

**Directions**

From the Bear Valley Visitor's Center walk south along the wide dirt road marked as Bear Valley Trail. **Near the edge of the forest the Mt. Wittenberg trail cuts off to the right. Take it and start collecting.** Continue as far as you have energy or until you reach the trail junction near the summit (1.8 miles). **Return along the same route for a total hike of 3.6 miles).**

If you are up for a longer hike return via the Old Pine Trail (6.4 total) or the Meadow Trail (4.4 miles). To do this take the Sky trail south toward ocean. At the junction of Meadow Trail you can take it and return to the Bear Valley Trail (1.6 miles), or the continue on the Sky Trail past the Woodward Trail (0.8 miles), and at the Old Pine Trail junction (0.3) take a left and follow the Old Pine Trail to the Bear Valley trail (1.9 miles), and return by the Bear Valley Trail to the Visitor center (1.6 miles).

**Zones to mark on your collections**

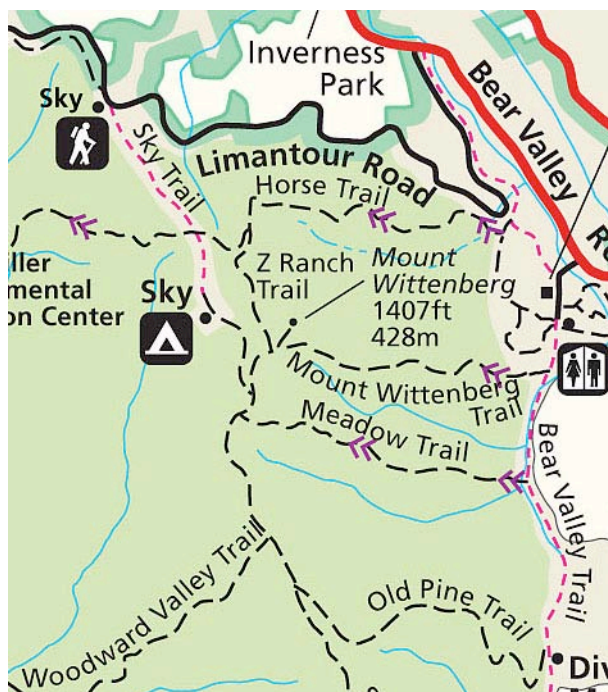
**MtWit-1** – Mt Wittenberg trail from Bear Valley to the beginning of the open grassy summit area

**MtWit -2** – Mt Wittenberg trail near the summit and the grassy meadows around the trail junctions

**SKY-2** – from the meadow to the Old Pine Trail

**Meadow** – along the Meadow Trail

**Old-Pine** – along the Old Pine Trail



**Meadow Trail** - a moderate (4.8 mile) hike, but it's steep and strenuous. It mostly goes through old and young Douglas Fir Forest.

**Directions**

From the Bear Valley Visitor's Center walk south along the wide dirt road marked as Bear Valley Trail. Continue past the Wittenburg trail and **at the junction of the Meadow Trail (0.8 miles) take it and start collecting.** Continue up (literally) the Meadow Trail and at the next trail junction either turn around and return the way you came, or turn left and head toward Mt. Wittenburg. At the junction of the Mt. Wittenburg Trail turn right and head back to the Bear Valley Trail and back to the visitor center.

**Zones to mark on your collections**

**Meadow** – along Meadow Trail

**MtWit-2** –near the summit and the grassy meadows around the trail junctions

**MtWit-1** – from Bear Valley to the beginning of the open grassy summit area

