

**Explorers Club: Northern Calif Chapter Field Trip**  
**Sixteenth Century Visits to Drakes Bay, Pt. Reyes**  
**Saturday, September 10, 2016**  
**Led by: Ed Von der Porten, EC FN'80**



Drakes Bay is the site of two significant events in the sixteenth-century era of exploration: the 36-day visit of Francis Drake in 1579 during his voyage of circumnavigation and the shipwreck of Sebastian Rodriguez Cermeño in the Manila galleon *San Agustin* in 1595. These early European contacts, and the interactions of the Native Americans of the Coast Miwok People with the explorers, will soon be commemorated in a new National Historic Landmark District within the Point Reyes National Seashore. Drake's Cove was the site of the first English landing and claim on the shores of what would become the United States of America, the first English contact with its Native peoples, and the first church service from the *Book of Common Prayer* in this land. The Cermeño shipwreck was the first European shipwreck on these western shores. The interactions between Native Americans and Europeans generally were mutually respectful – although lacking in comprehension of each other's ways of life. The Landmark is the highest level of recognition given to an historic site by the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior, reserved for a few select places of national or international significance.

We will spend the day at Drakes Bay and our meeting point is about an hour and a half from San Francisco and points in the North Bay. The rendezvous point is the Bear Valley Visitors Center parking lot in the Point Reyes National Seashore, near the village of Olema. We will go into the visitor's center for orientation and a look at a notable ship model by one of our former members. Then we will travel by car and foot to view spots and to the cove where Drake camped and careened his *Golden Hind* in the summer of 1579. Bring your own lunches. Most of the trip will be easy walking, including a one-mile walk on hard beach sand. An optional short but steep hike up a hill is included, but those not choosing it will have much to see along the shoreline. The day will end with an optional dinner at a local restaurant.

Booklets about the explorers will be available for purchase on the day of the field trip.

**Field Trip Agenda:**

<b>Meet: Bear Valley Visitor's Center–Orientation</b>	10:00-10:30
<b>Drive to Ken Patrick Visitor's Center at Drake's Beach</b>	10:30-11:30
<b>Picnic lunch at Ken Patrick Visitor's Center picnic tables</b>	11:30-12:00
<b>Walk one mile to Drake's Cove via the beach</b>	12:00-1:00
<b>Low tide</b>	12:45
<b>Climb hill for topside view of Drake's Cove (optional)</b>	1:00-2:00
<b>Walk back to Drake's Beach</b>	2:00-3:00
<b>Drive to Limantour Spit Parking Lot (optional)</b>	3:00-4:00
<b>Views from Limantour Spit Parking Lot (optional)</b>	4:00-4:30
<b>Drive to Point Reyes Station (optional)</b>	4:30-5:00
<b>No host Dinner at the Station House Cafe in Pt. Reyes Station (optional)</b>	



**Directions:**

From HWY 101 north of San Francisco, drive west on Sir Francis Drake Highway until it dead ends at Highway 1 at the hamlet of Olema. Turn right on Highway 1. In a few hundred yards, turn left on Bear Valley Road. The intersection is signed but a little hard to see. In half a mile or so, turn left into the Point Reyes National Seashore. The intersection is signed. Drive up the hill for a few hundred yards and turn right into the parking lot at the Seashore Visitor's Center. The red barn near the turnoff is not the visitor's center: go farther up the hill. At the visitor's center, ask for the theater, where we will meet for orientation at 10:00.

**Logistics and Signup:**

Please RSVP by **September 3**. Field trip cost is \$10.00. **Make check payable to Explorers Club of Northern California.** Please send check to: Rick Blake, 3555 Carlsbad Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Contact info: [blake2@lnl.gov](mailto:blake2@lnl.gov), cell phone: 925-209-6175; work phone: 925-422-9910.

Rest rooms will be available in the morning at the Sea Shore Visitor's Center and at various locations along the trip. Please bring water and a brown bag lunch. Also bring hat, sun glasses, hiking shoes, hiking sticks, and dress in layers. Hiking level will be light to moderate.