

VENTURA – SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

13k YRE Rated: 3C Y0872

Make reservations for your boat ride at Island Packers by phone at 805-642-1393. You will need to pay by credit card over the phone to secure your spot on the boat. The price in 2016 was \$59 for one adult, round trip and \$54 round trip for a senior, 55 and up. For information, use info@islandpackers.com.

Special Programs – Animal Safari – Scorpion Bay, National Parks Centennial – Santa Cruz Island is part of Channel Islands National Park, Treasure Hunt – Golden State, Ports Of Call – Ventura Harbor

Start: Island Packers Cruises, 1691 Spinnaker Dr. #105B, Ventura, CA 93001.

Directions to start point: Take the 101 Freeway North to Victoria Ave. Turn left On Victoria Ave. and drive ½ mile to Alivas Park Drive. Turn right on Alivas Park Drive to Spinnaker Drive. Turn right on Spinnaker to the Island Packers sign. **Arrive 45 minutes before the boat is scheduled to leave.**

Your walk on Santa Cruz Island begins with a 22 mile boat ride on the Island Packers catamaran, the Islander. The Islander carries up to 144 passengers and has a Galley on board for food and beverages and restroom facilities. The boat leaves at 8:00 AM (summer schedule), 9:00 AM (winter schedule), and leaves the island for the return trip to Ventura Harbor, about 4:00 PM (summer schedule), 3:30 PM (winter schedule). (These are approximate times, please check with Island Packers for more accurate times for the day you will be making the trip!)

The boat ride takes about an hour, depending on sea conditions and sights along the way. Dolphins can usually be seen, and from the end of December to late in March, California Gray Whales can also be seen. The boat lands on Santa Cruz Island at Scorpion Harbor. Leaving the boat is normally from the rear of the boat up a short ladder onto a concrete pier.

NOTES: A National Park Ranger meets all boats and introduces the island to the visitors. The Ranger can describe the trail system and answer your questions about distances and difficulties of the various trails. The Ranger also leads a guided walk, which is helpful in understanding animals, plant life, and, the history of the island. If you return from Smuggler's Cove with additional time before the boat returns to pick you up, walk several other trails. Just remember to keep track of your time so you don't miss the return trip!

There are no food facilities on the island. Each person must bring all food and beverages, including water. Likewise, everything brought to the island must be taken back to the mainland. Restroom facilities are available near the landing and in the campground.

Dress casually and in layers of clothing for cold and / or warm weather. Bring a warm coat and hat. A lightweight raincoat is suggested for sea spray. The weather on the island can be unpredictable. Hiking shoes or boots are recommended, although, rubber soled shoes with a good grip work well. Cameras and binoculars are great to bring along.

For more information, check the Island Packers web site at, www.islandpackers.com. It also has links to other informative sites about Santa Cruz Island, including a link to the Channel Islands National Park page. The Visitor's Center for the Channel Islands National Park is just down the road from Island Packers at 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura.

When walking across the island to Smuggler's Cove, be sure to allow enough time to return before the boat's scheduled departure! Trail Rating: 3C

1. Head up the dirt road after receiving the Park Ranger's orientation.
2. Head towards the Visitors Center. Restrooms here.
3. Continue left past the Visitors Center and right at the T in the trail.
4. Turn left at the 4-way split at the sign that includes Campgrounds on it.
5. Shortly, ahead, you will see a sign on the right that says, Smugglers Cove 3.5 miles straight ahead.
6. Head up the steep hill on the wide dirt trail and turn right at the top of the steep hill.
7. Continue following the wide dirt trail as it winds around.
8. After several KM's, you will come to a fork in the road with a sign marker.
9. On the sign will be Smugglers Cove. Continue walking straight ahead for Smugglers Cove.
10. After going downhill (again for several KM's), you will pass another sign that says, Smugglers Cove straight ahead.
11. When you reach Smugglers Cove, walk to the edge of the water, then eat your picnic lunch. (Restrooms available here) (Watch your time for the boat ride home)
12. Now, it's time to start back, following the sign for Scorpion Cove. 4.7 miles straight ahead.
13. You are reversing your route going back the way you came to Smugglers Cove.

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**In case of an EMERGENCY, call 911
Event related assistance: Neil Cohen
(818) 789-3929 ncohen181@yahoo.com**

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Ventura Santa Cruz Island 13 km

