

Crown Memorial State Beach

Shoreline Trail: Salt Marsh Overlook

Length: 3.5 mile round-trip **Elevation Gain:** 20 feet

Location: Alameda

GPS Coordinates: 37.7660936, -122.271548

Intensity: Easy (ADA accessible)



Park Features: From the late 1880s until just prior to World War II, Alameda Beach was a renowned amusement center and the largest beach on San Francisco Bay. Now operated by the East Bay Regional Park District, the park is devoid of the roller-coasters and thrill rides that it once sported. However, it now offers swimming, kayaking, beachcombing, birdwatching, and more. There are over 2.5 miles of shoreline with ample beach and water access, and the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary at the far end. The unique Crab Cove Visitor Center features exhibits on San Francisco Bay, including 800-gallon aquarium filled with marine life.

Trails Highlights: Scenic views of the shallow bay waters and the far cities and hills, as well as easy beach access, moderate temperatures and a flat, paved trail, make this route accessible to everyone. This trail will end at the Salt Marsh Overlook which provides a nice viewing area for shorebirds. Bring your binoculars and field guide to help identify the birds you see. This route also makes for a pleasant bike ride.

Trail Directions: Start at the Crab Cove Visitor Center. Head south on the Shoreline Trail and follow it to its end at the Salt Marsh Overlook. The pathway will take you along the beach on the right and the city on the left. You will pass many points to access the beach, as well as numerous bathrooms and water fountains on the way. Upon reaching the Salt Marsh Overlook, take a break if you like; then turn around and retrace your steps to return to the starting point.



Photo: Eric Sahlin



Driving Directions:

Once through the Oakland/Alameda Tube, you'll be on Webster St. Follow Webster to its end at Central Ave. Turn right on Central and then take the first left onto McKay Ave. Watch for the Crab Cove parking lot on your left.

Park Hours: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. unless otherwise posted or permitted.

Fees: \$5 per vehicle when kiosk is attended, \$4 per trailered vehicle, \$25 per bus, \$2 per dog. Guide/service dogs free; no dogs allowed on beach. On the lawn and pathway dogs must be on leash at all times.

Website: ebparks.org/parks/crown_beach



Photo: Marc Crumpler

Health Tip: In California, drowning is the leading cause of death, disability, and injury for children under five years of age. Watch your children at all times near any water bodies. Never leave a child alone near water for any reason. A child can drown in less than two minutes, even if he or she knows how to swim.