

Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach

Crab Cove Visitor Center to USS Hornet: SF Bay Trail

Length: 4.12-mile round trip Elevation Gain: Approximately 40 ft.

Location: Alameda

GPS Coordinates:

37°46'9"N, 122°16'4"W 37.769357, -122.278075

Intensity: Easy



Park Features: Bay Area locals and neighborhood friends have long loved the shores of Alameda. This 2.5-mile stretch of shoreline (once known as the “Coney Island of the West”) is commemoratively named for the late Assemblyman Robert W. Crown. Today the shoreline lacks the roller coasters and thrill rides it once had, but the beaches are popular for swimming, board sports, kayaking and more. Private equipment rentals and lessons are available during the summer season. The shoreline is an important habitat for native birds and sea creatures. At low tide, visitors explore the abundant wildlife that exists below the water’s surface. The Crab Cove Visitor Center offers extensive knowledge about the shoreline to the public and charter groups. Interpretive programs are offered on the weekends, and on weekdays by reservation.

Trail Highlights: This featured route follows the SF Bay Trail to Encinal Beach. From Encinal Beach continue for about a half mile to the USS Hornet Museum, which is open daily for tickets, tours, and a comprehensive history exhibit. The trail is mostly paved (gravel just before Encinal Beach). Parts of this route utilize city streets, so double check your understanding of the route before taking off.

Trail Directions: Portions of this route are on city streets. Turn right on the paved trail at the end of McKay Ave. (in front of large park office building). Follow through a small gate (this gate and the one at Central Avenue remain open from dawn to dusk). Continue for .4 miles, passing by the private residences of Crown Harbor toward Central Avenue. Upon meeting Central Avenue turn left. Follow the sidewalk for .6 miles. After passing in front of Encinal High School, turn left down the road marked SF Bay Trail and Encinal Boat Ramp to Encinal Beach; this is a long, straight stretch to the parking lot – be aware of cars as you head to the shore. After passing through the parking lot, turn right on the SF Bay Trail and continue for about a half mile to the USS Hornet Museum. Explore the exhibit or retrace your steps back to the Crown Cove Visitor Center.

Driving Directions: In Alameda, follow Webster Street across town. Turn right on Central Ave., go one block, and turn left onto McKay Ave. (at Fosters Freeze). Crab Cove is toward the end of McKay on the left.

Park Curfew/Hours: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees: \$5 parking fee (when attended)

Website: www.ebparks.org/parks/crown_beach

