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# How To Get To Muir Woods, San Francisco

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#### By Jan Ross

Before we traveled to San Francisco, we had never heard of Muir Woods. Who would have dreamed that an incredibly gorgeous, pristine forest which is a world-renowned National park was located right on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge?



Park Rangers and volunteers present 15-minute talks and guided one-hour tours of the park and these are a great introduction to the park as these folks are very knowledgeable about the park and the wildlife. Just check the program board at the park entrance to see if one is available when you are visiting; no reservations are necessary. There are also self-guided programs which can be purchased for \$1 each at the Visitor's Center and these are well worth the money if the guides are not available

# How to visit Muir Woods

Muir Woods is handicap accessible with 1.5 miles of paved or boardwalked trails which are mostly flat and there are also plenty of

benches for those with limited mobility to take a rest.

Photo: Matthew Barker

Bring a disposable water bottle which you can refill at the park as they do not sell plastic bottles of water to help keep the park clean.

Picnicking is not allowed as the park is relatively small and they want to discourage any litter which might have an impact on area wildlife. So bring a granola bar and stick the wrapper in your pocket before you leave! Or just plan to take a picnic to the nearby Muir Beach which is only about 3 miles away. It's a small beach with a seasonal lagoon behind it and is a great place for bird-watching, playing on the beach and swimming if it is very warm.

There are no lifeguards so keep this in mind if you have children with you but there is a nice picnic area with grills.

Don't pick up anything in the park as a souvenir as every stick, rock and leaf is protected and may be essential for the habitat of an animal, but souvenirs are available for purchase in the gift shop.

### Official information:

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http://www.nps.gov/muwo/index.htm

#### Hours:

Muir Woods is open all day most days but check the web site for the few days during the year they are closed.

#### **Entrance Fees:**

\$7.00 Adults (16 years and older)

Free for children 15 years and under

\$20.00 Muir Woods annual pass (good for one year and allows all passengers in a private vehicle into the park)

There are also annual national parks passes for all the parks and special passes for military, etc. Just check the web site.

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