Who We Are

About Us

The Point Vicente Interpretive Center is located adjacent to the Point Vicente Lighthouse in beautiful Rancho Palos Verdes. The facility offers both recreational and educational opportunities to the public.

The center originally opened in 1984 with a mission to present the unique features and history of the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Since our almost 10,000 square foot expansion in 2006, the interpretive center has featured exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the Peninsula with an emphasis on the Pacific gray whale.

This premiere whale watch site provides spectacular opportunities to view the annual migration of the Pacific gray whale from December through mid-May.

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes trains volunteers (docents) to lead tours inside the center, as well as hikes to local tide pools, hillsides and canyons. The docents are members of the City’s volunteer organization, Los Serenos de Point Vicente. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please call (310) 544-5265 or visit www.losserenos.org.

www.rpvca.gov

The Native Plant Garden at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center is over 7,000 square feet and contains over 72 species of native plants. Brochures can be found both along the trail and where the garden meets the center’s patio.

The Ibrahim El-Hefni Technical Training Foundation Outdoor Amphitheater is a seaside venue with panoramic ocean views built for public and private events. Bronze commemorative plaques are available for purchase.

The park grounds may be enjoyed daily from 9 A.M. until dusk. Picnic tables are available: however, open flames and barbecues are prohibited at this site. Dogs must be kept on leashes at all times. For more park information please visit us at the front desk.
Explore the Point Vicente Interpretive Center’s Sea Cave

The **Point Vicente Interpretive Center** offers visitors breathtaking ocean views and a chance to see the magnificent Pacific gray whale migration. The relaxing atmosphere of this coastal jewel encourages visitors to interact with and learn about the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

As you leave the Sea Cave, an exhibit on the **Tongva Native Americans** emerges. Genuine native artifacts as well as a model hut create a life-like feel.

**Take a Trip Back in Time with Our Cultural Room Exhibits**

Our featured exhibits include the history of the early ranchers, Japanese farmers and geological discoveries made on the Peninsula.

Learn about the **History of Whaling.** Amongst the many unique artifacts is a model of a **Whaling Shack** once located at Portuguese Bend on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Be sure to check out the **Whaling Boat** located just outside the building.

The **Superpowers** and **Ancient Mariners** exhibits allow visitors to explore what makes gray whales and their migration so special.

**Navigate the California Coast with A World in Motion**

On long term loan from the United States Coast Guard is a **Third Order Fresnel Lens** decommissioned from the Point Vicente Lighthouse.