



## PRISONER'S HARBOR, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for your participation in this field trip to Santa Cruz Island! We are excited you have chosen to help us provide your child and their classmates with a safe and educational visit to the Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary. To be sure you are aware of what's being asked of you, please take the time to read this information, and visit our website as recommended below.

Upon arrival at the harbor, all students and chaperones will receive a safety talk while the teachers take care of the administrative tasks in the office. We appreciate your focus during this briefing, as the crew will be expecting your help during the boat ride to keep students mindful of the rules they learn. The more eyes and ears we have on deck, the safer the journey.

Once on board, the boat trip to Prisoners will take 1½ hours. Upon arrival at the Harbor, be prepared to step from the boat to a ladder, where you will climb 2-5 rungs to the pier. The distance of the hike is dependent on the pace and skills of each group and can range from 1½ - 4 miles with multiple elevation changes of 150-200 feet, including some steep rocky terrain. The trail is rated "Moderate to Strenuous" by the Park Service, and is recommended for more mature students and/or small groups. While the naturalist will lead the tour, we appreciate your assistance in insuring the students gather, focus, and listen during group presentations.

Lunch will be eaten on the island, usually before the educational program. There are no trash facilities – this is a "pack it in, pack it out" National Park. Please help the students remember this and help them repack their lunches and trash accordingly. We prefer that students are responsible for their own refuse for the valuable lesson it teaches them. Also, large trash bags are an attraction to the birds on the island, who tear them apart looking for food scraps. Classes will not necessarily eat together in the same area.

Please also be aware that there is limited, if any, cell service on the island, so if you are arranging childcare for other members of your family, you should leave a land-based phone contact with that provider. You are welcome to give the Island Packers number for emergencies only, as they can contact the captain to get a message to you. (805-642-1393)

More information about the trip can be found on our website [islandpackers.com](http://islandpackers.com). Go to the Education K-12 link and scroll all the way to the right through the additional information for your destination. We look forward to your participation in our Floating Classroom programs and hope that this field trip will create a life-long memory for your family.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mills  
Education Coordinator