

COASTING BY: JASON REALE  
CLIFFS OUT NEAR THE CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL TRAIL IN GOLDEN GATE  
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.



## 3 WAYS TO SEE Marin County

By Lisa Jung

### KAYAK

#### PADDLE TO PRISTINE ANGEL ISLAND

When the coastal fog rises, there's no better way to view the San Francisco skyline than from the cockpit of a kayak across the Golden Gate near Sausalito. And paddling along houseboat communities in the calm waters of Richardson Bay is more peaceful than morning yoga. Sea lions and pelicans join your tour of the inlet that flanks Sausalito, Mill Valley, Tiburon, and Belvedere. Rent a boat from Sea Trek Kayaks ([seatrekkayak.com](http://seatrekkayak.com)) at Schoonmaker Point Marina, then paddle 4 miles southeast of the inlet to Angel Island and killer views of Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge. Camp at one of 15 tent sites; site #4, on the island's southwest side, has the best vistas, while the Kayak Camp on its northwest side has easy beach access. [angelisland.org](http://angelisland.org)

### BACKPACK

#### HIKE THE MARIN HEADLANDS

There are 16,634 people per square mile in San Francisco, but only 476 in comparatively uninhabited Marin County, where 2,751-foot Mt. Tamalpais rises like a wooded exclamation point over the Bay Area bustle. Link up dayhiking trails and coastal campgrounds to create a surprisingly rugged 14-mile weekend loop. After parking at a pullout on CA 1 near Muir Woods Road, walk 1 road mile to Muir Beach and the trailhead for the California Coastal Trail. For the next 5.8 miles, you'll climb steeply on the CCT to vantage points high above the surf on your way to the Miwok and Bobcat Trails and Hawk Camp, home to the headland's most remote tent sites. On the next day's return, you'll pass an organic farm and Zen meditation center in Green Gulch. [nps.gov/goga/mahe](http://nps.gov/goga/mahe)

### MOUNTAIN BIKE

#### HAMMER THE SPORT'S FIRST TRAIL

Mountain biking was born on Marin County dirt 30 years ago, with the funky town of Fairfax at its epicenter. Relive the sport's first downhill race by cranking down Repack Road, which drops 1,000 feet over 2.5 miles on 1,762-foot Pine Mountain. After this quick history lesson, head south to Mt. Tam's exhilarating singletrack. Start at Deer Park trailhead and pedal the Shaver Grade, Rocky Ridge, and Rock Spring-Lagunitas Trails to Mt. Tam's summit. Drop down Old Railroad Grade, a former train track shut down by wildfire in 1930, then spend the night in one of the rustic cabins at West Point Inn (415-646-0702) after this 11-mile ride. Next day, hammer back up Tam, then descend Eldridge Grade to rolling Shaver Grade and your car (10 miles). [marintrails.com](http://marintrails.com)