



Photo by Wyn Hoag

Pierce Point Ranch

Established in 1858, the renovated Pierce Point Ranch is one of the oldest ranches on the Point Reyes Peninsula and was one of the most successful dairy ranches of its time. The farm ceased operations in 1973 and three years later, Congress authorized creation of the wilderness area incorporating that ranch as habitat for the reintroduction of tule elk. Beginning in 1980, NPS invested in the rehabilitation of the ranch core, citing it as the best example of a nineteenth century west Marin dairy ranch. Pierce Point Ranch was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, and was subsequently opened to the public as an interpretive site. A short, self-guided path guides visitors through this historic and picturesque ranch complex. Pierce Point Ranch is also the entrance to the Tomales Point Trail and Tule Elk Preserve, where a long stretch of coastal bluff offers spectacular views of both Tomales Bay and the Pacific Ocean, and hikers can observe the herd of Tule Elk that roam this Point as their home range.

Get hike details and more by checking out [“Trail to the tip of the hummingbird’s bill at Tomales Point”](#), by Jules Evens via *Bay Nature*.