

## HOW TO QUEST:

You are holding a treasure map! Follow the movement clues (*italicized*) between the stops (numbered) and discover the natural and cultural treasures of Black Sands Beach. At your final destination you will find your Quest Clue. This is the “key” to your prize (see the “Now that you’ve finished your quest” section for your next step)! Have fun, be safe, and stay on marked trails on your adventure.

## BLACK SANDS BEACH QUEST TRAIL INFORMATION:

**Start:** At Black Sands Beach Trailhead, off Beach Road.

**Contact:** (707) 986-5400

[www.blm.gov/ca/arcata/kingrange](http://www.blm.gov/ca/arcata/kingrange)

**Quest Trail Name:** Black Sands Beach

**Total Length:** about 1 mile up beach and back/about an hour

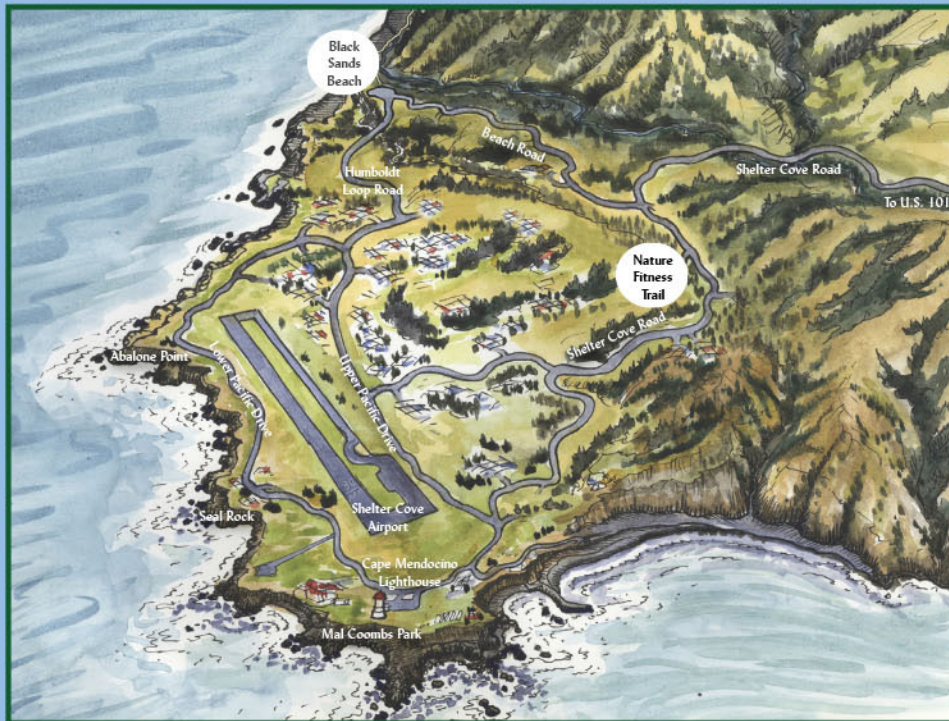
**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate depending on how soft the sand is.

**Driving Directions:** The King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) is located about 230 miles north of San Francisco and 60 miles south of Eureka.

All roads leading to the King Range NCA are narrow, steep and winding. Allow plenty of time between destinations, have a full tank of gas, and **BE ALERT TO ONCOMING TRAFFIC THAT MAY BE DRIVING TOO FAST AND IN YOUR LANE.**

All main roads are normally accessible to passenger cars except during heavy winter storms.

Directional signs mark all major intersections in the King Range NCA giving the road name and distances to primary recreation sites.



**From the NORTH:**  
U.S. 101 to  
Redway/Garberville  
exit.

**From the SOUTH:**  
U.S. 101 to the  
Redway/Garberville  
exit.

Follow signs from either direction to Shelter Cove/King Range NCA. Allow 45 minutes for the 22 mile trip to Shelter Cove.

## NOW THAT YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR QUEST:

Return to the BLM King Range Office (768 Shelter Cove Road, Whitethorn, open 8:00am–4:30pm). There you will display your Quest Clue and claim your prize. Or you can go to the Inn of the Lost Coast in Shelter Cove at 205 Wave Drive, (707) 986-7521. Open daily 9am-8pm to claim your prize. Or you can log on to the Redwood EdVentures website (below) and we'll mail your prize to you.

## WHERE WILL YOUR NEXT QUEST TAKE YOU?

The journey you've just completed is one of many Redwood EdVentures Quests. Find Quest locations and download free copies at [www.redwood-edventures.org](http://www.redwood-edventures.org). Teachers, students, and families can also explore hundreds of outdoor places and educational opportunities on the beautiful Redwood Coast. Find out why **nature is closer than you think!**



THINGS I SAW ALONG THE WAY...



Developed in collaboration with the Mattole Restoration Council along with Whale Gulch and Whitethorn School students through a grant provided by the Shelter Cove Property Owners Association.

Revised May 2016

# REDWOOD EDVENTURES QUEST

## KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA



## BLACK SANDS BEACH



## DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF BLACK SANDS BEACH

*Start this quest at the overlook with the National Conservation Lands mosaic on the ground.*

1 This grand mosaic that you see  
Where sky meets earth and sand meets sea,  
Honors public conservation lands  
That fill so many key demands:  
Adventure, recreation, sacred spaces,  
Outdoor labs and research places.  
A wall of mountains, remote and wild —  
The King Range was the first one styled  
A National Conservation Area known  
As the “Lost Coast” which the public owns.  
The longest coast trail (25 miles) in the lower 48;  
If you’re looking for solitude, the Lost Coast is GREAT!

*From the overlook walk east through the parking lot, past the bathrooms and follow the road down to the information booth at the trailhead. Beware of sneaker waves!*

2 There’s a simple motto that’s key to know  
When walking the coast: “Know before you go.”  
People have drowned in the deadly tides.  
We don’t want YOU taking an unexpected ride!  
So check the tide chart — time and date,  
Lest you, too, meet a nasty fate.  
Every day the moon’s strong pull  
Creates two high and low tides, be it new or full.



*From the kiosk turn around and follow the dirt trail, reading the signs along your descent to the beach. Walk on the pebbles or sand (it changes year to year) to the giant rock in front of you.*

3 You’re standing now before Big Rock,  
Orient yourself like the hands of a clock.  
To the west is the Pacific Ocean,  
Its crashing waves in perpetual motion.  
North you’ll see a small triangle  
Atop the ridge — King Peak from this angle.  
You’ve come from the east, along Humboldt Creek.  
It changes with the weather, sometimes week to week.  
If heading south take special care —  
On low tides ONLY; and at all other times BEWARE!



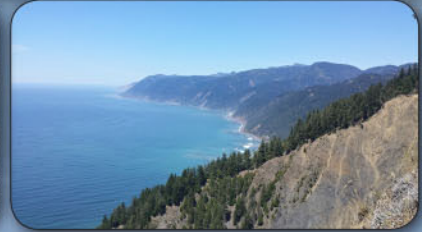
*From the giant rock, head north along the hillside following the bluff as you walk toward the creek. The creek could be wet or dry depending on the time of year.*

4 Telegraph Creek meanders and changes  
Its watercourse frequently rearranges.  
Forces of water, tides, and winds  
Have shaped this landscape to Nature’s whims.  
Look up the canyon at the short, bushy plants ...  
They’re not what you think, from just a brief glance.  
Stunted by winds, those bushes are TREES!  
Like the tall ones higher up — the Doug Fir species.



*Continue north along the bluff’s edge, for more than a 1/2 mile. Can you hear the creek over the sound of crashing waves? Look up at the cliffs where the bare earth, devoid of trees is up high. Right in front of you is evidence of a landslide where water seemingly appears to be coming out of nowhere, and flows towards the sea.*

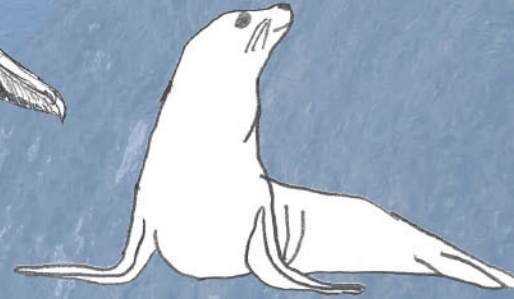
5 Kahluna Cliff’s landslide has stories to tell  
About erosion and times when this land slipped and fell.  
Embedded in soil, in layers of “strata” —  
The rocks, roots, and logs provide geological data.  
Deep underground, three earth plates are moving,  
Causing tremors and quakes as they’re shifting and grooving.



*On your way back, look for mammals at play in the water, some birds up in the sky and other birds flying over the waves. Look for different plant life along the hillsides. Can you tell how high the tide got at the last high tide? If you are here between November and March, you may see Gray Whales frolicking in the water.*



Credit: Sterling York



Credit: Mila Sayers, Whale Gulch School

**Final Clue:** on your way back to the trail’s beginning, did you see how many creeks you passed to get to Kahluna Cliffs’ landslide?



**WRITE YOUR QUEST CLUE HERE;**