

NOYO HARBOR INN

AUTUMN VIBES AND LUXURY ON THE MENDOCINO COAST

Experience All that Northern California's Fall Season

Has to Offer at The Noyo Harbor Inn

FORT BRAGG, CA – Autumn brings a certain slant of light to California: a softening of summer's harsher edge and the promise of perfect weather. And while these seasonal vibes exist along all 840 miles of the California coastline, they feel particularly remarkable on the redwood-studded Mendocino Coast, which boasts an embarrassment of riches when it comes to hiking trails and beaches.

California Wild

Occupying the northernmost stretch of California's famed Highway 1, the towns and attractions of the Mendocino Coast feel just a bit more wild and less trampled by the crush of populations to the south and east. It's like a trip back in time to unhurried coastal California—but with no shortage of modern luxuries and amenities to indulge the senses.

Case in point: The boutique 15-room **Noyo Harbor Inn** (noyoharborinn.com) in Fort Bragg, which includes the HarborView Bistro & Bar, a *Wine Spectator*-award-winning restaurant so beloved, that locals frequent it, too. This historic estate from the 1860s underwent a six-and-half-year transformation that, in its wake, has created an immaculate retreat brimming with artisanal design, modern amenities, tranquil garden paths and views of the Noyo Harbor and the Pacific. One of the few working fishing harbors in the state, the Noyo Harbor is alive with boats, kayakers, paddleboarders and the sounds of abundant wildlife including river otters, Harbor seals, sea lions and waterfowl.

Within an easy, five-minute drive from the inn is downtown Fort Bragg with its quaint shops, coffee houses, museums, art galleries, wine bars, restaurants and breweries. Meanwhile the picturesque, bustling town of Mendocino is just a 15-minute drive to the south.

Trash to Treasure

Fort Bragg's famed Glass Beach was created by the town dump that was formerly located along the coastal bluffs. "Fort Bragg has the highest concentration of sea glass in the world," said Captain Cass of the Fort Bragg Sea Glass Museum & Gallery. "It's because the rock formations here set up wave patterns that keep everything on the beach. The glass doesn't wash up because it never left!"

Small beaches and walking and biking paths along the sea bluffs are numerous in Fort Bragg, with the pinnacle being The Noyo Headlands Coastal Trail. Stretching more than 10 miles, the level, wide path provides easy access for strollers and wheelchairs, too. The trail leads to the new Noyo Center for Marine Science where marine-themed displays and docents work to enhance ocean conservation.

Botanical Gardens that Spill into the Sea

Just a few miles south of town, the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens offers 47 acres of themed gardens, a café, retail nursery and four miles of trails that wind to the edge of ocean bluffs. The site is famed for its rhododendrons that thrive in the foggy, coastal climate. The locally hybridized “Noyo Chief” rhododendron is the official flower of Fort Bragg. Other notable aspects of the grounds include the Perennial Garden; rare and endangered plants; weirdly shaped forest pines; and the more than 180 bird species that may be found there.

Hikes to the Lights

Located halfway between Fort Bragg and Mendocino, the Point Cabrillo Light Station offers easy access to visitors who choose to hike or drive. The light was established in 1909 and today, it is a preeminent location from which to watch the annual migration of gray whales. The Point Cabrillo light is also one of the few lighthouses that offers “lantern room” tours on certain dates throughout the year. Tickets are \$10 per person and guests are required to climb three sets of ladders. The Point Arena Lighthouse, located about 30 miles south of Point Cabrillo, was originally built in 1870, but had to be completely reconstructed after the 1906 earthquake. It offers tours of its tower, whimsical outdoor grounds and more.

Ride the Rails through the Woods

Downtown Fort Bragg is also home to the train depot where the famed Skunk Train’s “Pudding Creek Express” traces the first tracks laid down by the California Western Railroad. Passengers (pets, too) enjoy a scenic seven-mile round trip along the beautiful Pudding Creek Estuary, which is home to blue herons, ospreys, egrets, and more. This 75-minute journey stops at the Glen Blair Junction where guests may stretch their legs (or visit a forest pub!) amid the ancient redwoods. Rail bike rentals are another exciting activity offered by the railroad.

Experience Quaint Harbor Luxury

In order to make the most of these and other Mendocino Coast attractions, consider the Noyo Harbor Inn as a cozy hideaway from which to stage your outings. The inn’s multi-level decks, terraces and garden paths are a world all their own. Idle the day away on a hidden garden bench while inhaling the intoxicating scents of Heirloom Roses, Climbing Thyme and Provence Lavender. Wander down to the spa room for a treatment while overlooking river views, or traipse up to the inn’s dog park, or to the organic kitchen garden. Relax in the charming gazebo before passing through the garden gate to the heart of the harbor community. The 1920s-style bar is popular for its nightly happy hour deals and resident mixologist who crafts specialty cocktails with her housemade bitters, liqueurs and garnishes.

All this is here to enjoy amid the therapeutic soundtrack of seagulls, sea lions and breaking waves. For the latest packages, please visit noyoharborinn.com

Autumn Events to enjoy while staying at Noyo Harbor Inn:

-October 1: First Friday Fort Bragg Art Walk, <https://mendocino.com/eventfestival.html>

- October 5: Multi-course Whiskey Dinner Benefitting Maui, write to: info@noyoharborinn.com
<https://www.visitmendocino.com/event/whiskey-dinner-at-noyo-harbor-inn/>
- October 7: Noyo Harbor Fish Market & Salmon BBQ, <http://noyoharbordistrict.org>.
- October 14: Point Cabrillo Lighthouse Lens Tour, <http://pointcabrillo.org/events>.
- October 28: Noyo Headlands Race – half and full marathon, <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/FortBragg/NoyoHeadlandsRace>
- October 38: Fort Bragg’s Magic Market Festival, <https://visitfortbraggca.com/fort-braggs-magic-market/>
- November 4 -5: Mendocino Fall Fest '23, <http://www.mendocinogrove.com>.
- November 9: Mushroom Dishes Paired with Murder Ridge Wines at HarborView Bistro & Bar at Noyo Harbor Inn, <https://www.visitmendocino.com/event/harborview-bistro-bar-at-noyo-harbor-inn/>
- November 30: Mendocino Historic District Walking Tour, <https://www.kelleyhousemuseum.org/walking-tours/>

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Built in the 1860s as the home of lumber baron Alexander Wentworth MacPherson, the Noyo Harbor Inn has seen many incarnations through the decades as a family residence, boarding house, bed and breakfast, restaurant and bar. In 2011, the property was purchased by Joseph Marino, who launched an extensive six-year renovation using local artisans and the finest indigenous materials. Reopened on Thanksgiving Day in 2017, the Noyo Harbor Inn offers modern comforts while retaining the charm of its original Arts & Crafts design. Today guests enjoy the property’s manicured gardens; Prohibition-era style bar and libations; full-service restaurant; spa services; and 15 spacious rooms and suites, many with harbor views, fireplaces, soaking tubs, private decks and more. See noyoharborinn.com