



## **A SLICE OF HEAVEN ON THE PACIFIC**

Unwind and spend some time on the Mendocino Coast

FORT BRAGG, CA—January 1, 2021—The crashing surf and misty sea air of the North Coast provide the perfect backdrop for the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. The 47 acre garden by the sea hosts an astonishing array of natural beauty with manicured gardens, fern-ringed ponds, hidden pocket gardens, coastal pine forests, and wildflower-strewn bluffs at ocean's edge. Here, roughly 15,000 California Gray Whales cruise the shores, ospreys circle above one of the richest marine environments in the world, and spectacular flowering terrain spans from the Pacific to the historic Shoreline Highway.

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens was founded in 1961 by retired nurseryman Ernest Schoefer and his wife, Betty. Ernest's keen eye spotted the ample supply of water augmented by the mild coastal climate and quality soil essential to acid-loving plants like Rhododendrons. Since its grand opening, more than 55 years ago, the Gardens has grown to include several nationally recognized collections.

No matter the season, there is something for everyone at the beautiful North Coast attraction. Spring brings a riot of color with stunning rhododendrons and magnolias. The Perennial Garden reaches its peak bloom over the summer and the dahlia collection explodes with color in the fall. A winter stroll offers a profusion of bulbs, camellias, and mushrooms. The regional treasure also serves as a haven for more than 180 species of birds and a harbor for rare and endangered plants. Visitors enjoy dramatic blooms, small town charm, local art, and shopping. A seasonal cafe offers made-from-scratch meals with ingredients picked straight from the organic Vegetable Garden.

The Gardens is home to a number of annual, or as we like to call them, perennial events such as California's largest Rhododendron Show with more than 800 entries. Once a year, Retro Sunday gives visitors a taste of the good ol' days with \$1 entrance fee, and \$1 single-scoop ice cream. Art in the Gardens is set amidst the spectacular background of the summer floral displays and Festival of Lights has become the main attraction for a coastal holiday getaway. The Gardens also offers year-round educational opportunities providing hands-on training from expert instructors and Gardens' staff.

The unique environment on the North Coast makes the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens a wonder year-round; each changing season brings new flora and fauna. Experience the rugged beauty of the Mendocino Coast mixed with peaceful tranquility at this garden by the sea.

Visit [www.gardenbythesea.org](http://www.gardenbythesea.org) for current hours. The Garden Store and Nursery are open year-round; Rhody's Garden Café is open April– September. (No admission fee to visit the Store, Nursery, or Café.)