

# Golden Gate Biosphere



*Situated in North-Central California with lands and waters in Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties, the Golden Gate Biosphere represents a highly diverse complex of terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments, complemented by a rich cultural history, and the natural and intellectual resources of the San Francisco Bay Area. Since its designation in 1988, a network of federal, state, and local governmental entities, NGOs, universities, and public partners have worked in tandem to promote collaboration in scientific research, education, conservation, and sustainable development within this diverse and unique region.*

## Mission

**Our mission is to protect the natural and cultural resources of the dynamic North-Central California coastal bioregion and to enhance adaptive capacity through conservation, education, research and monitoring, and sustainable development. The foundation of the Golden Gate Biosphere is built upon dedicated partnerships with communities adjacent to and within its boundaries with the understanding that local engagement and initiative are key to long-term success.**

## A Unique Opportunity

**Our region shares many of the environmental challenges occurring throughout the world: The pressures and consequences of climate change, population growth and urban expansion, over-exploitation of natural resources, the loss of biological diversity, and pollution pay no heed to international borders. With its collective wealth of natural, scientific, and cultural resources, the Golden Gate Biosphere can benefit from, and add to, the experience and knowledge of other biosphere reserves in the World Network.**

*Audubon Canyon Ranch \* Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary \* Bodega Marine Reserve \* Farallon National Wildlife Refuge  
Fort Point National Monument \* Golden Gate National Recreation Area \* Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary  
Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve \* Marin Municipal Water District \* Muir Woods National Monument  
Mount Tamalpais State Park \* Presidio Trust \* Point Reyes National Seashore \* Samuel P. Taylor State Park  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed \* Tomales Bay State Park*



*The Golden Gate Biosphere enables a synthesis of our community's collective conservation, scientific, educational, and cultural values that surpasses the capacities of each individual entity. In keeping with this philosophy, the Golden Gate Biosphere's status as one of over 650 sites within UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which spans 120 countries, expands the reach of our learning, research, and collaboration to a global scale.*

**Size:** 72,458 km<sup>2</sup>

**Status:** Designated a biosphere reserve by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program in 1988

**Combined Protected Areas** cover is 1,118 km<sup>2</sup>

**Composition:** A resilient network of 10 independent land and water-holding partner organizations with a total of 16 units between them. These partner organizations represent federal, state, and local government entities, NGO's, universities, and public partners

**Consists of** wildlands as well as protected and multiple-use managed areas, from marine and aquatic ecosystems, to the urban, agricultural, and rural communities that characterize the region

<http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/goldengatebiosphere.html>

