

each wave. This most inhospitable spot was hearth and home to a flock of various seabirds. I sat and watched this scene, this fitting end to a most magical hike.

On another trip, a friend and I launched our kayaks from the ramp at Marshall, paddled across Tomales Bay past Hog Island and into White Gulch. After pulling the kayaks above the high tide line, we bushwhacked in a zigzag pattern up the steep hill toward the trail. On the way, we almost walked through a large herd of elk. While they normally ignore people, we were not in the usual place. They kept moving off, always looking back to see what mischief we were up to. We finally located the trail almost a mile in from the ranch and continued toward the point. This was in early fall, the point was warm, almost free of wind and completely fog free. The views were stunning, the weather comfortably warm, the hike relaxing, but without the fog, some of the magic was missing.

Each time I take this hike, I explore something I had missed the time before. There are coves and pocket beaches, and a rich assortment of animal life, hiding in the fog just yards from the trail.

While there, be sure to wander through Historic Pierce Point Ranch. Each building has a sign explaining its history and use. Also, just before the ranch, a short trail leads to McClure's beach, a great place to watch the raw forces of nature.

*Meade Fischer is a Santa Cruz County writer, artist and environmental activist. More info at: [www.baymoon.com/~eclecticpress](http://www.baymoon.com/~eclecticpress) <<http://www.baymoon.com/%7Feclecticpress>>*

## GETTING THERE TOMALES POINT

Take Highway One through Marin, turn west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd., between Olema and Point Reyes Station. Stay on Sir Francis Drake as it curves to the right and continue through the little town of Inverness. Turn right on Pierce Point Road, continuing on to the ranch at the end.

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*The beach side of the point, about a mile in and almost obscured by fog.*

*Photo by Meade Fischer*