



Explore the Batiquitos Lagoon No-Take SMCA!

The Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Trail also has a series of QR codes that you can scan for more information and use to help you navigate on this Quest!



Did you know that in addition to being a marine protected area, parts of Batiquitos Lagoon are also an ecological reserve?

Find out more: wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/Batiquitos-Lagoon-ER

Start at the Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center

#1 Marsh View: (QR code #1) The Kumeyaay word for cattail is 'epilly. The cattails in the water are growing in fresh filtered urban runoff, from storm drains in the street. That is why it is important to keep trash out of the street so it doesn't go into the lagoon and then the ocean. When you see cattails you will know that there is fresh (unsalted) water. Red winged black birds use them as a nesting site. Can you draw a picture of a cattail? Why do you think it is called a cattail?

#2 Lagoon Birds: (QR code #2) Large wading birds such as great blue herons and great and snowy egrets are seen in and along the lagoon year round. They wade through the water stalking fish to eat. Look out on the lagoon, do you see any large birds?

#3 Prickly Pear Cactus: (QR code #4) The Kumeyaay word for prickly pear cactus is Hpaa. These plants survive with little rainfall. Tribes who lived here used the cactus pads, the seeds and the fruit as an important food source.

#4 Marine Terraces: (QR code #6) The Kumeyaay word for houses is 'ewaa. Look across the lagoon at the hill on the other side that has houses on top. About 100,000 years ago that was the beach and where you are standing would have been the bottom of the ocean. When the sea level went down, the lagoon was created and has been here ever since.

#5 Shell Fragments: (QR code #7) The Kumeyaay word for seashell is Halyak. There are many pieces of shells on the ground. Archaeologists can look at the shells and see what the Kumeyaay ate in this location and how they use shells for tools. Can you draw a picture of a shell? Can you explain what an archaeologist is?

#6 Pack Rat Den (QR code #10): The Kumeyaay word for pack rat is Maalk. Pack rats live in a den with many rooms and tunnels. They also love shiny objects and will bring them back and bury them. There have been keys, jewelry, hair clips, coins, and many other shiny objects found buried in their dens. They sleep during the day and only come out at night. Be very quiet so you don't wake them up!

#7 Mudflat Ecology: (QR code #12) When the tide goes out you will see mud all around the lagoon. Although it looks like nothing is there, many little animals such as worms, clams, snails, and shrimp live in the mud. They are a source of food for many shore birds with long legs and long beaks that walk around the shore and eat the small animals that live in the mud. These small animals are an important part of the food chain. Can you explain what a food chain is?

#8 Lemonadeberry: (QR code #16) The Kumeyaay word for lemonadeberry is Huutat. This plant needs very little water to survive and has thick waxy leaves which help it to stay hydrated. They have a tart, sticky berry that grows in the spring. Indigenous people use the berries in water and make a type of lemonade. If you touch the berry with your finger and then put your finger on the tip of your tongue, you can taste it!

#9 The Nature Center: There are many examples of animals, insects, rocks, birds, and marine life on display. After you look around, write down the name of the favorite thing that you saw and what you learned about it.