



Bolsa Chica 'I Spy' Game

Autumn edition

What do you spy on the trails at Bolsa Chica?

How to play:

1. Check off items as you find them
2. Take a photo of the item if possible
3. Stay on Trail!

Can you find: (Note: Clues on the back!)

- Lizard
(Common Side-blotched)



- CA Ground Squirrel



- Great Blue Heron



- Osprey



- Desert Cottontail Rabbit



- Fish (Sea Mullet)



- CA Brown Pelican



- Bladderpod plant



- CA Buckwheat plant



- Coastal Prickly Pear



Once you have found all the items, send us your favorite photo to Erin@BCLandTrust.org and we will share it on our social media! Or you can tag us [@BolsaChica_LT](https://www.instagram.com/BolsaChica_LT) on Instagram with the hashtag [#BolsaChicaISpyGame](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/BolsaChicaISpyGame)

Optional: Send us a photo of your completed list with your name and address and we will send you a surprise!



Clues and more info on each item:

<p>Lizard (Common Side-blotched)</p>	<p>Side-blotched lizards, like the one in the photo, are small lizards that like to sunbath on the trails. They get their name from the dark spot right behind their armpits. Look carefully along the edges of the trails for them.</p>	<p>Fish (Sea Mullet)</p>	<p>Take a moment to watch the water. Did you see and hear a fish jumping? That's a mullet. It is thought that the fish jump out of the water to catch bugs and get rid of parasites on their scales. They will also school under the bridges like in the photo.</p>
<p>CA Ground Squirrel</p>	<p>These squirrels live in burrows under the ground and like to eat many native plants. You will find them scurrying under the bushes and sometimes sitting high on the fence watching for threats. If they see one, they call out with a loud beeping sound.</p>	<p>CA Brown Pelican</p>	<p>Big bird with big-pouched beaks. The CA Brown pelican used to be listed as Endangered, but because of conservation efforts, the population increased and are now off the list! You will find them in the water or plunging bill first into the bays.</p>
<p>Great Blue Heron</p>	<p>Look for these large blue and gray birds in the Palm trees near the point where they nest and raise their young. You can also find them hunting all along the trail and out in the field behind the fence when not at the water's edge. They will eat small rodents and reptiles as well as fish.</p>	<p>Bladderpod plant</p>	<p>The name 'bladderpod' comes from their seed pods that dangle like earrings under the branches. These yellow flowering plants are important to many insects, bees, and hummingbirds as a source of food in the spring and into the summer.</p>
<p>Osprey</p>	<p>Osprey, also known as Sea Hawks, are white and brown fishing raptors. They will hunt fish in the bays at Bolsa Chica. They will hover high up in the sky right before they dive into the water. When they catch the fish, they will align the fish's head facing forward to help the Osprey fly better.</p>	<p>CA Buckwheat plant</p>	<p>These plants are summer bloomers with small white or pink flower clusters off a long stem. The bees absolutely love these flowers. Dark small leaves cover the bushy part of the plant and they can be found along the Mesa trails. It is an important food and medicinal plant for the Indigenous Peoples (Tongva and Acjachemen Nation).</p>
<p>Desert Cottontail Rabbit</p>	<p>Cottontails blend in well with the brown hues of the mesa. They enjoy eating the native grasses and plants. They are easiest to spot in the mornings, but watch for their little white tails disappearing under bushes.</p>	<p>Coastal Prickly Pear</p>	<p>Find a whole hillside of these important plants near the pocket wetlands past the tall palm trees. Cactus groups make a great hiding place for smaller animals to hide from predators. They also provide a good source of food and water in their fleshy pads. Yes, many animals eat cactus, including squirrels and mice.</p>

Other things you might see along the trails: Other common lizards you could see are **Western Fence Lizards** which are larger and darker than side-blotched lizards, and **Alligator Lizards** which have long tails. **Egrets**, two of which are white, can be found fishing along the edges of the water. **Snowy Egrets**, the smaller of the two, almost went extinct when they were hunted for their long showy breeding feathers to decorate ladies' hats. A lot of birds of prey, or raptors, call Bolsa Chica home. **Cooper Hawks** and **Kestrels** hunt small animals and birds all over the reserve. **Red-tailed Hawks** and **Northern Harriers** are larger and can be seen using the thermals, or hot air currents, to soar high in the sky. **Turkey Vultures** are big black birds that also soar in the sky looking for dead animals to eat. You might also see **Rays, Sharks, Sea Hares**, or schools of small fish of **Topsmelt** also generally known as **Silversides**.