

# Straus Home Ranch

## Planning Your Visit

**Overview:** For decades, our home has been a gathering place for friends and visitors from around the world (long before West Marin got 'discovered'), providing inspiration and sanctuary. In June 2014, we opened our doors to a larger community and have tried to anticipate all the details, so that you can simply show up and immediately begin enjoying this truly magnificent slice of paradise. Photos & more information: [StrausHomeRanch.com](http://StrausHomeRanch.com). Please share this with your guests in advance of your trip.

**Bedrooms:** We have four bedrooms, each with a queen bed. The pull-out queen sofa in the downstairs den can make available with advance notice and for an extra fee. We provide all bedding and linens.

**Bathrooms:** Both bathrooms are supplied with EO® (a fabulous local brand of essential oil based) shampoo, conditioner and shower gel; blow dryers, and other amenities. And just let us know if you've forgotten your toothbrush.

**Pets:** We don't allow pets. Sorry.

**Phones:** There is no cell phone reception here on the farm. However, the house is equipped with a land-line (unlimited domestic calling), as well as wireless Internet, so you can make calls with Skype, FaceTime, etc. The landline is: 415-663-1194.

**Grocery Shopping:** The city of Petaluma offers the widest array of options, including Whole Foods, Petaluma Market, Trader Joe's and Safeway. In nearby Pt. Reyes Station, options include the Palace Market, Toby's Feedbarn, Tomales Bay Foods and the Bovine Bakery. There's also a small convenience store in the nearby town of Tomales.

**Kitchen:** Our kitchen is well-equipped for your cooking / baking needs, with lots of pots, pans, paraphernalia (rice cooker, popcorn maker, waffle iron, espresso maker, etc.), plates, cookbooks and pantry items (including tea, sugar, flour, rice, cooking and olive oils, spices and condiments). Guests have also been known to discover a welcome basket (including a selection of delicious organic dairy products) upon arrival. 😊

**Entertainment:** Our TV is Internet-ready, with access to our AmazonPrime account (pay per view movies billed at-cost), a Blu-ray/DVD player with a growing selection of DVDs, and a cable/adaptor for connecting to your laptop video; however, no local broadcast or cable TV available. We have a small, eclectic library of books, board games, puzzles, crayons and colored pencils (not just for kids), outdoor games (including horse shoes, paddle ball, badminton), and a couple of yoga mats. We also have an iPad (with some games and e-books) and a portable music player (blue-tooth).

**Weather:** We recommend dressing in layers, as local weather conditions might be foggier, windier and cooler than even three miles in either direction.

**Gas Stations:** The nearest gas station is 13 miles away in Pt. Reyes Station. If you are arriving via Petaluma, we recommend that you fill up there, as the gas in Pt. Reyes is significantly more expensive out \$0.50 / gallon more expensive. This is also a quick charge station for electric cars in Pt. Reyes, in the Tomales Bay Food / Cowgirl Creamery parking lot.

**Drought:** As you may know, California is in a severe, long-term drought - still today, in summer 2016! Water conservation is critically important, so please, help conserve water by doing what we did growing up here on the farm: short showers (3-5 minutes, and turning off the water while lathering) and turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth or scrubbing dishes.

**Shoeless House:** We like to keep the farm outside the house, which keeps the inside cleaner. We request that all guests take off their shoes before entering. Bring warm, comfortable socks or slippers for walking around in the house.

**Smoking:** Smoking is allowed outside only, either on the front porch or in the front garden.

**Access to Pastures:** We allow access to the fields only with a guide (i.e. one of the Straus siblings). But don't panic – there's tons of beautiful places in our neighborhood for taking walks and hikes!

**The Beach:** There's a small stretch of beach directly across the street, perfect for launching kayaks and canoes. We have beach towels and an Igloo cooler available. Bonfires are not allowed anywhere on the ranch or beach.

**Kitchen Kiosk:** We have a small, self-serve kiosk in the kitchen, selling an assortment of locally-crafted artisan, organic foods and items. We offer these items, priced below retail, simply as a convenience. Payment for all items is easily made by credit card using our iPad / Square app.