

San Luis Obispo County Visitors & Conference Bureau

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Hub & Spoke Tours

Two or Three Night Itineraries

Day 1- North Coast

Castles and Wildlife

Ragged Point-

Snuggled along Highway 1, several hundred feet above the rocky shore of Big Sur, Ragged Point offers stunning views of the Big Sur coast line and the Santa Lucia Mountains. There is a 30 room hotel, restaurant and gift shop and gas station.

Piedras Blancas Light Station-

The lighthouse built in 1875 north of San Simeon is operated by the Bureau of Land Management. The site is being restored and will be open for limited tours.

Elephant Seals-

The Elephant Seal rookery is 4.5 miles North of San Simeon (Hearst Castle) on Highway 1. There is a large free parking lot and volunteer docents are available with information about these amazing creatures. The elephant seals use the beach all year long as they mate and give birth. The Elephant Seal population is estimated to be 2,600 individuals.

Hearst Castle-

Hearst Castle was originally built as the private estate of art collector and publisher W.R. Hearst. Today it is a California State Park, open to the public daily for guided tours (Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years day). The Experience Tour is recommended for first time visitors, It combines Tour No. one of the estate with the National Geographic Theater's giant screen presentation of "Building the Dream" about Mr. Hearst and the Castle. The Visitors Center near San Simeon on Highway 1 is about 8 miles north of Cambria.

Cambria-

This small community sits among the pine covered hills along the coast near Hearst Castle. Home to many artists, the town offers galleries, unique shops, restaurants, and cafes.

Harmony-

The sign at the edge of town says Population 18. This small village features pottery, a glass blower, Post Office and the Harmony Valley Winery tasting room. About five miles south of Cambria on Highway 1.

Cayucos-

The beach town of Cayucos is a haven for surfers and fishing enthusiasts, where visitors can find a host of antique shops, restaurants and taverns along its "old California" main street. The long, uncluttered white sandy beach is home to the Cayucos pier built in 1875.

Morro Bay-

Natural History Museum

The Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History (the only one in the California State Park system) sits on a hill overlooking the Morro Bay Estuary offers panoramic views of the coastline and Morro Rock. The Museum features 26 interactive exhibits designed to delight and educate both young and old. Entry fees are \$2 for adults, free to children 16 and under. The Museum is open from 10:00 am to 5:00p.m. daily (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day).

Morro Bay Harbor

The seaside community of Morro Bay is home to a commercial fishing fleet, which provides area restaurants with the freshest of seafood. The town sits along the bay, guarded by Morro Rock that towers 576 feet over the harbor entrance. Nature and outdoor activities abound, including bicycling, kayaking, surfing, fishing, and whale watching. A bird watcher's paradise, Morro Bay is a Bird Sanctuary, home to over 250 species.

Montana de Oro State Park

One of California's largest state parks, consisting of 8,000 acres including seven miles of spectacular undeveloped coastline The Visitor Center in the historic Spooner ranch house is open daily during the summer, and on weekends the rest of the year. Costumed docent programs and nature walks are available.

Day 2- South Coast

Along the Sea Shore

Avila Beach

Avila Beach is a small community, along a sandy cove, with a backdrop of rolling hills. The beach is among the most popular local beaches known for it's sunny weather and safe swimming. Piers extend into the bay offering spectacular views of the coastline and beaches.

At the end of Avila Beach Road (2 miles) Port Harford is a working seaport and fishing center with cafes and fine dining on the pier. The Avila Valley area is home to natural hot springs, agricultural adventures, and wine tasting.

Pismo Beach

Pismo Beach bills itself as a "Classic California Beach town" and backs the claim with unspoiled sandy beaches and a 1,200 foot pier lined with fishing enthusiasts. The white, sandy, uncrowded coastline offers a perfect landscape for kite flying, shell gathering and sand castle building.

Arroyo Grande

Quaint downtown area located just across the swinging bridge to the South County Historical Society park featuring historical buildings and exhibits.

Oceano Dunes

The Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area is a unique sand dune environment recognized by scientists, and the public as the finest, most extensive coastal dunes remaining in California. The Oceano Dunes offer visitors recreational activities such as swimming, surfing, surf fishing, camping, and hiking in addition to off-road vehicle activity.

Oso Flaco Lake

Approximately half of the coastal dune-lagoon ecosystem is permanently protected for habitat and passive recreation. A Nature Trail leads pedestrians on a mile-long boardwalk which parallels the Oso Flaco Lake and Creek flowing into the Pacific Ocean. While it is part of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, no vehicles are allowed on this protected portion.

Day 3- North County

Wine Country and Ag Adventures

Paso Robles

The northern portion of the county, around Paso Robles, is the largest appellation and is home to two distinct geographic areas roughly divided by the city and Highway 101.

San Luis Obispo

This viticultural area includes Edna Valley, Arroyo Grande Valley as well as Avila Valley and Nipomo. The valleys have east-west orientations and are distinguished by the marine air flowing directly into the valleys from the Pacific Ocean that moderates the temperature.

Ag Adventures

In San Luis Obispo County Ag Adventures are as varied as the crops and animals raised here. From petting zoos to cattle drives, small gardens to vast greenhouses, it's all here for you to explore. Meet people who live from the land and want to share their heritage and farm products with you. For more detail see: *Ag Adventure Itinerary*.

Day 4- San Luis Obispo

Mission San Luis Obispo

Located in downtown at Chorro and Monterey Streets in Mission Plaza, Old Mission San Luis Obispo serves the local Catholic church parish. Visitors are welcome and the gift shop and museum are open Monday - Saturday 9:30 to 5, closed Sundays.

Mission Plaza

In front of the Mission along San Luis Obispo Creek, Mission Plaza is a community area with public artworks, fountain, creek walks, cafes and shops. The Plaza is also home to:

The Art Center

Tree public galleries of fine art and crafts by California artists, a gift shop

features works by local artists. Open 8-5 everyday except Tuesday.

Historical Society Museum

A private non-profit organization with displays of county History. Open 10a.m. to 4p.m. everyday except Monday and Tuesday.

Children's Museum

Families explore and experience over 25 "hands-on" interactive exhibits that challenge children to learn while having fun.

A coach parking space is located on Monterey Street at Broad across from the Art Center.

Jack House & Gardens

The Jack Family lived in this 1880's two story Victorian home for over 90 years and much of the family's original furnishings are on display for visitors. The surrounding grounds offer one of the most beautiful old-fashioned garden settings in San Luis Obispo with trees over 100 years old.

Call for information about hours and costumed docents.

Dallidet Adobe

the 1850's adobe home and gardens are owned by the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society. The Mediterranean garden includes original trees and shrubs, large redwood trees (grown from seedlings), and a memorial rose garden.

Farmer's Market

On Thursday nights year-round 6 blocks of downtown are transformed into a Farmer's market and Street Fair where local farmers offer produce, fruits and flowers. The air is filled with smoke from the numerous oak BBQs offering ribs and tri-tip sandwiches. Be entertained by musicians, puppet shows, dancers, and family fun.