

PARK VISITOR WELCOME KIT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Where will the hundreds of California State Parks take you today?™



Inside:
California Escapes®,
California State Parks
Map, Scenic Drives,
Valuable Offers & More!

Also: 30 Free Prints from Shutterfly,
Canon Photo Contest & Tips,
and \$25 Off Your Next Travelocity Trip

Discover the many states of California.™



Your California State Parks
Rangers & Staff

A Note From
Your California State Parks Staff

Welcome to your California State Parks!

We are proud to present the 2007 Park Visitor Welcome Kit, which now includes California Escapes®. This valuable resource offers you essential information about the California State Parks, including:

- * A California State Parks map
- * Park listings detailing activities and services offered by parks
- * Suggested activities in and around the parks such as great trails, beaches, lakes, historic landmarks, museums, OHV locations, and more
- * Scenic California Drives — explore California's unique nature, culture, heritage, and outdoor recreation, as well as added value packages
- * Important contacts, regulations, and park pass information
- * Valuable offers to save you money, thanks to our generous sponsors

We hope you will use these helpful tools to guide you today and on future park visits. Enjoy!

Your Parks Staff

PS: If you enjoy California's unmatched natural and cultural heritage, participating in world-class recreational opportunities, and are hungry for a challenging and rewarding career, we invite you to find out more on the web at www.parks.ca.gov/jobs or by calling (866) Parks-Jobs.

The Park Visitor Welcome Kit was created at no cost to California State Parks or taxpayers.

Funding is generously provided by its sponsors.



We're proud to introduce 20 Percent For Parks. Through this program, 20 percent of the Welcome Kit's net sponsor proceeds are shared with California State Parks to help preserve park lands and programs for future generations.

To learn more, visit www.20ForParks.com

We are committed to preserving parks and the environment.

This Park Visitor Welcome Kit was printed on 100% recycled paper. Every piece can also be reused, passed along to a friend, or recycled.



WWW.PARKS.CA.GOV

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

California escapes

Discover the many states of California™

Southern California Edition

From Monterey to Anza Borrego— get ready to surf, camp, hike, and much more in your California State Parks



Where will the hundreds of California State Parks take you today?™

YOUR PARK ACTIVITIES



WHAT'S NEW

WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS?

Will Rogers State Historic Park: The home that belonged to movie legend Will Rogers is newly renovated and has reopened to the public after a three-year closure. The house shows how Will Rogers and his family lived at the height of his fame in the 1920s and '30s. Equestrian fans will enjoy the Will Rogers Polo Club, which plays every weekend from April to October.

California State Parks e-Store sells annual passes, quality publications, apparel, accessories and more to the public. These items will inspire and educate you on the best of California's outdoor recreation and the magnificent natural and cultural resources

within our state parks. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise directly support California State Parks. Find a memento of your park experience at www.store.parks.ca.gov or call toll-free (866) 417-2757.

WIFI: STAY CONNECTED

Being out-of-doors is a great way to escape, but sometimes staying connected to family, friends or even work is essential. Visitors with wireless Internet (wi-fi) enabled laptops or PDAs can now get online in selected state parks. You can find a complete listing at www.parks.ca.gov/wifi.



Inge Johansson

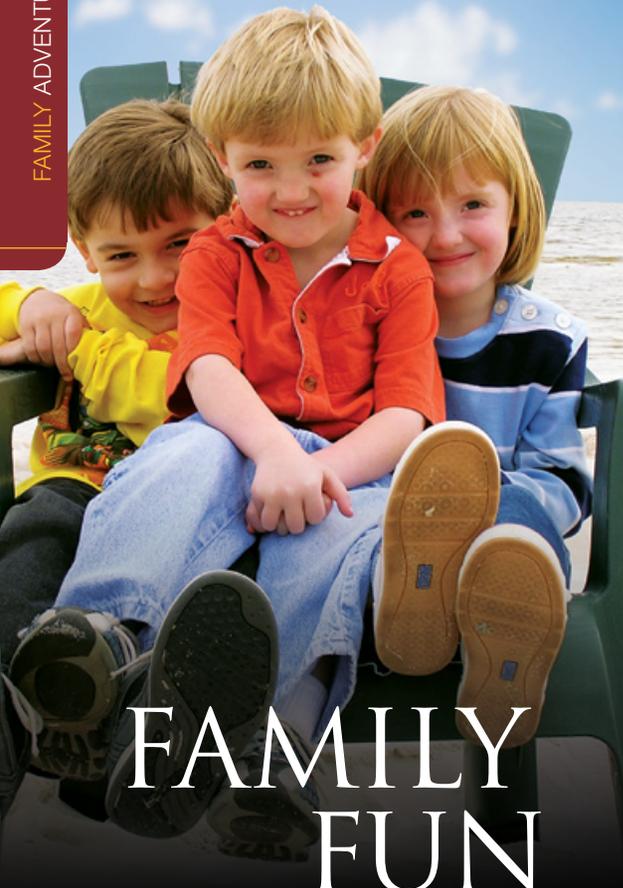
Eric Temple

Canon

Photography in the Parks Photo Contest June 1 – Sept 29, 2007

Canon encourages you to submit your best park photo to the "Canon Photography in the Parks Photo Contest". Enter for a chance to win incredible Canon gear, and a trip to a favorite participating national or state park, and a chance to have your photo in a Canon advertisement!

For further contest information and details, visit the Canon Digital Learning Center at www.usa.canon.com/dlc and to get great photography tips from top industry professionals.



FAMILY FUN

FAMILY ADVENTURE

The best adventure is one that entertains and educates. California's state parks are an outdoor adventure for everyone. Use the following ideas next time you plan your family adventure at a California state park:

- Take the family to the most popular railroad museum in North America (**California State Railroad Museum**) or the best preserved Western ghost town (**Bodie State Historic Park**, California's official State Gold Rush Ghost Town).
- Even if you live in a big city, you are near a state park. **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park** is

a popular eating and shopping area. Angelenos have the new **Los Angeles State Historic Park** to visit, Watts Towers of Simon Rodia, and beaches galore.

- Enjoy a tour of **William Randolph Hearst's** famous castle!
- Don't forget the **Junior Ranger Program**, where kids learn how issues in parks relate to larger global concerns. The **Junior Lifeguard Program** teaches visitors ages 8 to 15 about water safety and physical conditioning.
- Our **Litter-Getter Program** rewards children with a prize for every bag of litter they collect.

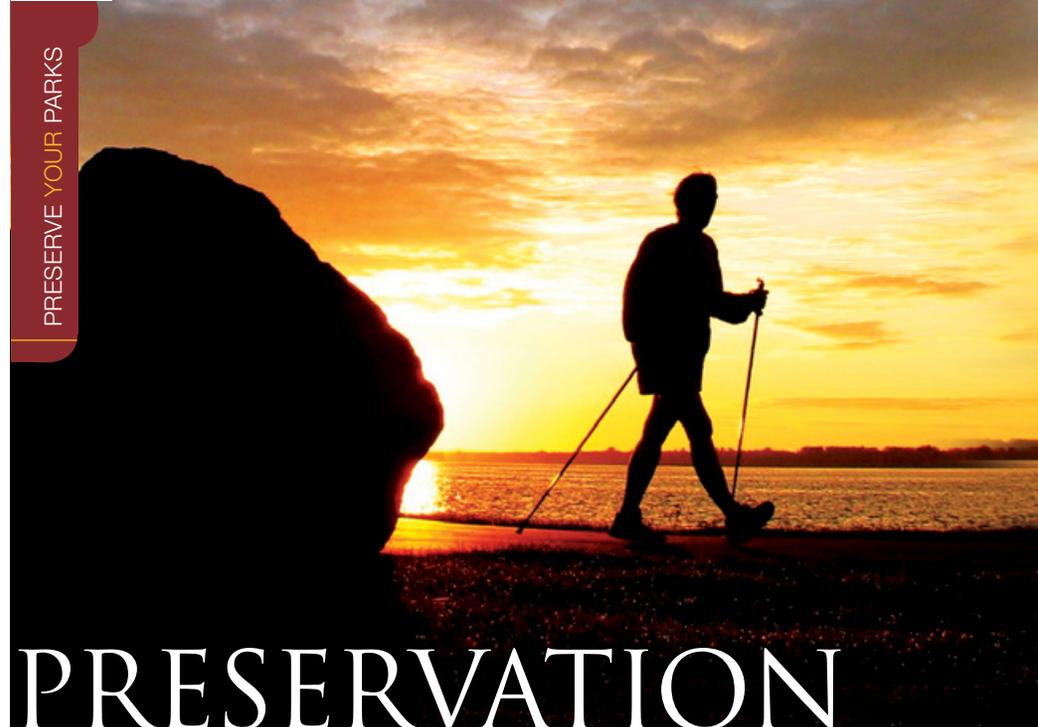
FUN FOR ALL

1 BEACHES California State Parks' beaches are legendary and offer chances to walk, sunbathe, surf, and swim!

2 CAMPING Most campsites for individuals, families, or groups can be reserved up to seven months in advance at www.parks.ca.gov or via ReserveAmerica at **1-800-444-PARK (7275)**.

3 SNO-PARKS California State Parks operates 21 SNO-Park sites that provide snow-cleared parking lots and access to snow play areas, cross-country ski and snowmobile trails. Please call **(916) 324-4442** or visit www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/snoparks.

4 HIKING With more than 300 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails, California's parks offer four seasons of outdoor adventure and natural beauty.



PRESERVATION

STATE PARK PRESERVATION

Preserving public lands for future generations is an inherent part of the mission of California State Parks. When enjoying trails by foot, horse, or motorized vehicle, it is necessary that we take the time to learn how our actions impact the environment around us. By recreating responsibly, we can help protect everyone's right to enjoy California's beautiful parks for years to come.

PRESERVATION TIPS

- Put litter in its place.
- Stay on designated trails (no shortcuts).
- Avoid disturbing tide pool creatures.
- Do not feed the animals.
- Do not dispose of wastewater in lakes and streams.
- Do not disturb historic and archaeological artifacts.

SUCCESS STORIES

Thanks to the preservation efforts of agencies like California State Parks, endangered species like the peregrine falcon and the California gray whale have come back from the brink of extinction. Management of wildlife and habitats has kept species such as the California bighorn sheep, found at **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®**, and the tule elk (for which **Tule Elk State Reserve** is named) from disappearing.

KEEPING YOUR CALIFORNIA GOLDEN



The California State Parks Foundation is the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating

for California's magnificent state parks. To become a member, call **(800) 963-7275** or visit: www.calparks.org.

southern california



Beautiful environment, sites of historical significance, outstanding scenery, exceptional campgrounds, and a plethora of recreation? California's state parks have it all! With so many opportunities, where do you start? Use these state park grids to begin exploring some of your 278 California state parks!

TURNING A NEW LEAF

From the purple sand verbena and yellow bouquets of brittle bush that grace **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®** in early spring to the columbine, lupine, and leopard lily coloring **Emerald Bay State Park** in late spring, California's state parks offer a diversity of floral blooms. Take a hike around **San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area** in the spring when the usually brown hills turn green and are brightened by California poppies, tidytips, larkspur, and bush lupine.

One of the annual rites of spring is a peaceful walk amongst the holyleaf redberry, purple sage, and chamise blossoms of **Leo Carrillo State Park**. The wondrous beavertail cactus lights up **Arthur B. Ripley**

Desert Woodland State Preserve

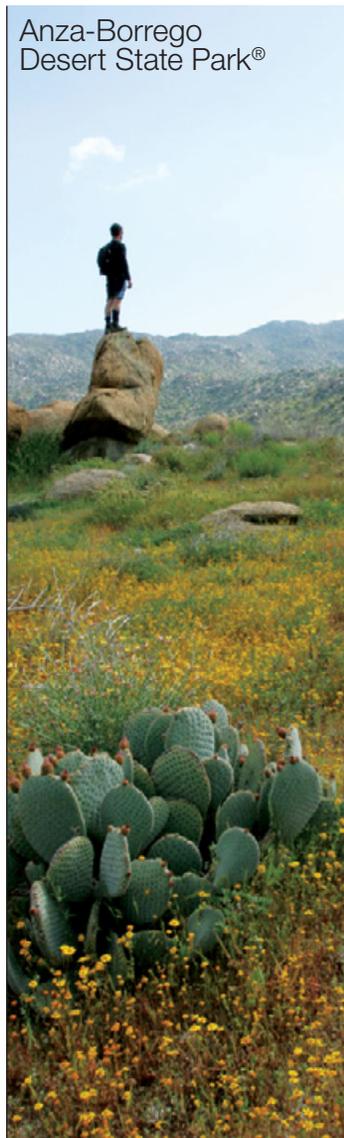
as fiddleneck, scarlet bugler, coreopsis, and goldfields burst forth to perfume the air and delight the eye.

The California golden poppy blooms on many a grassy slope in California, but at the **Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve** the showy flower overtakes whole hillsides — surely the finest concentration of California's state flower. Another poppy hotspot is **Montaña de Oro State Park**, where the seaside bluffs grow fields of mustard and poppies which give the park its Spanish "Mountain of Gold" name.

OFF SEASON FUN

Get away to California's 278 state parks during the off-season (fall and winter) and you'll have more than 3,000 miles of stunning hiking trails

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®



practically to yourself. Talk about solitude! Fall and winter are great times to explore Southern California's deserts: harsh, beautiful life of the desert is on display at **Indio Hills Palms State Park**. Or head to the Inland Empire where you can learn about the importance of California's citrus industry at **California Citrus State Historic Park**.

Spring hiking and mountain biking opportunities abound at **Topanga State Park**. Horseback riders find relief from the heat at **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**. In fall, OHV riders rejoice at 130 miles of trails at **Hungry Valley SVRA**.

SUN, SURF & SAND

When you think of California, one image immediately comes to mind: beaches, of course. For good reason. California's beaches are some of the most popular in the world — last year 39 million people visited the 280 miles of state beaches. From swimming to hiking to bird-watching, there is an endless variety of activities to enjoy at state beaches.

Some of the classic California beaches include **Doheny State Beach** known for beach parties and campfires, **Cardiff State Beach** for surfing, and **Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park** for some of Big Sur's most spectacular coastline.

MORE TO EXPLORE

A complete list of California's state parks is available at www.parks.ca.gov



Cardiff State Beach

ACCESSIBILITY: EVERY VISITOR IS A V.I.P.

California State Parks is proceeding with our vision of universal access to benefit all visitors. Find the parks accessible features at <http://access.parks.ca.gov> or phone the Department's Accessi-

bility Section at **(916) 445-8949**. A large format of this publication has been made available online for visitors with low vision. Visit www.parks.ca.gov and click on the "California Escapes® PDF" link.

1 Southern California

PARKS	FACILITIES										ACTIVITIES															
	Visitor center	Picnic areas	Food/dining nearby	Lodging nearby	Campsites	Boating access	OHV access	RV lookups	Trail/sanitation station	Wi-Fi Access	Bike trails	Boating	Educational exhibits & programs	Family & childrens programs	Canoeroing/kayaking	Canoeing	Guided tours	Fishing	Historic sites	Hiking	Nature viewing	Horse trails	Rafting	Swimming	Windsurfing	
Andrew Molera SP																										
Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve (SR)																										
Antelope Valley Indian Museum SHP																										
Anza-Borrego Desert SP®																										
Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland SP																										
Asilomar SB & Conf. Grnds.®																										
Bolsa Chica SB																										
Border Field SP																										
California Citrus SHP																										
Cardiff SB																										
Carlsbad SB																										
Carmel River SB																										
Carpinteria SB																										
Chino Hills SP																										
Chumash Painted Cave SHP																										
Colonel Allensworth SHP																										
Crystal Cove SP																										
Cuyamaca Rancho SP																										
Doheny SB																										
El Capitan SB																										
El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP																										
Emma Wood SB																										
Estero Bay																										
Fort Tejon SHP																										
Fremont Peak SP																										
Garrapata SP																										
Gaviota SP																										
Hearst Castle ®																										
Henry W. Coe SP																										
Herber Dunes SVRA																										
Hungry Valley SVRA																										
Huntington SB																										
Indio Hills Palms																										
Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP																										
Kenneth Hahn SRA																										
La Purisima Mission SHP																										
Lake Perris SRA																										
Leo Carrillo SP																										
Limekiln SP																										
Los Angeles SHP																										
Los Encinos SHP																										
Los Osos Oaks SR																										
Malibu Creek SP																										
Malibu Lagoon SB/Adamson HSE																										
Marina SB																										
McGrath SB																										
Millerton Lake SRA																										
Montaña de Oro SP																										
Monterey SB																										
Monterey SHP																										
Morro Bay SP																										
Morro Strand SB																										

2 Southern California

PARKS	FACILITIES										ACTIVITIES															
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Moss Landing SB																										
Mount San Jacinto SP																										
Oceano Dunes SVRA																										
Ocotillo Wells SVRA																										
Old Town San Diego SHP																										
Pacheco SP																										
Palomar Mountain SP																										
Pfeiffer Big Sur SP																										
Picacho SRA																										
Pio Pico SHP																										
Pismo SB																										
Point Dume SB																										
Point Lobos SR																										
Point Mugu SP																										
Point Sur SHP																										
Providence Mountains SRA																										
Red Rock Canyon SP																										
Refugio SB																										
Robert H. Meyer Memorial SB																										
Saddleback Butte SP																										
Salinas River SB																										
Salton Sea SRA																										
San Buenaventura SB																										
San Clemente SB																										
San Elijo SB																										
San Juan Bautista SHP																										
San Luis Reservoir SRA																										
San Onofre SB																										
San Pasqual Battlefield SHP																										
San Simeon SP																										
Santa Susana Pass SHP																										
Silver Strand SB																										
Silverwood Lake SRA																										
South Carlsbad SB																										
Tomo-Kahni SHP																										
Topanga SP																										
Torrey Pines SB																										
Torrey Pines SR																										
Tule Elk SR																										
Will Rogers SHP																										
William Randolph Hearst Memorial SB																										
Zmudowski SB																										

For detailed current information about parks, including reservations, fees and accessibility, visit the website www.parks.ca.gov. For general park information, call (800) 777-0369; campsite reservations (800) 444-7275; OHV operations (916) 324-4442. Other parks in this region may be owned by California State Parks but operated by local authorities.

SP = State Park; SHP = State Historic Park; SR = State Reserve; SRA = State Recreation Area; SB = State Beach; SVRA = State Vehicular Recreation Area.

Scenic California DRIVES

7 SCENIC DRIVES EXPLORING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S
CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CALIFORNIA TOURISM

Central Valley Tour

The Central Valley is a feast for the stomach and the senses: Some of the most fertile farmland in the world is here, as well as historical sites.

THE FACTS

Start Location
Yuba City

Distance
400 Miles

Suggested Duration
5-6 Days

Begin in **Yuba City**, a small city about 45 miles north of Sacramento. Yuba City lies just southeast of the Sutter Buttes, often called "the smallest mountain range in the world." Plums are a leading crop in this region, so it's not surprising that Sunsweet prunes are headquartered here.

From Yuba City, head south to the town of **Davis**, accessed via I-80 west of Sacramento. This progressive college town is known for its environmental activism, outdoor festivals, bike paths, and red, British-style double-decker buses. Don't miss stopping into the dozen or so art galleries here, including the nonprofit, mixed-media Pence Gallery (www.pencegallery.org). If you happen to go on a Saturday (or Wednesday evenings from March-October), visit the Farmers Market downtown, where you can sample local fare and listen to music, and even ride a bicycle-powered carousel! (www.davisfarmersmarket.org).

Continue west along I-80 to **Fairfield**. If you have kids, don't miss the Jelly Belly factory tour. Learn why it takes a week to make a single tasty jellybean! (www.jellybelly.com). From Fairfield, head south and east via Hwy 12 for a stop in **Lodi** to taste award-winning wines at one of their 65 wineries. Proceed I-5 to **Stockton**. Visit this city's new waterfront, or stroll down the Miracle Mile, a pedestrian-friendly shopping district where you can also dine on a variety of delights, from ice cream to sushi (www.stocktonmiraclemile.com).

Next, hop on historic Hwy 99 south and make your way

to **Modesto**, a town that is bordered by three rivers (the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin). Be sure to stop by both the McHenry Mansion and Museum, which tell the story of the town's early history, including gold mining artifacts, a recreated blacksmith shop and general store (www.mchenrymuseum.org).

Further south on Hwy 99 is **Merced**, a fresh food paradise. Nearby, you can tour Hilmar Cheese Factory and sample some of the finest aged cheddars on fresh-baked crackers (www.hilmarcheese.com). On Thursday evenings (spring through fall), Merced closes part of Main Street for its Farmers Market Festival. Produce shares the bill with entertainment, food, and crafts. Locals recommend the self-guided tour of Victorian homes (info: 209-384-2791).

Continue south on Hwy 99 to **Fresno**. Fresno's Chaffee Zoological Gardens is a great stop for families, as it offers hands-on educational experiences (don't miss touching and feeding the stingrays! www.chaffeezoo.org).

Hop back on Hwy 99 and continue south to the small town of **Earlimart**. Seven miles west of Earlimart on County Road J22, you'll find **Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park**. Allensworth is the only California town to be founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The small farming community was founded in 1908 by Colonel Allen Allensworth and a group to improve the economic and social status of African Americans (info: 661-849-3433).

Finally, don't miss **Tule Elk State Reserve**, just outside of **Bakersfield**, west of Hwy 99 and I-5. The Tule elk are an endangered herd, but have successfully been protected here. Take a guided nature walk and don't forget your camera! (info: 661-764-6881). Just be sure not to approach the elk or other wildlife.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

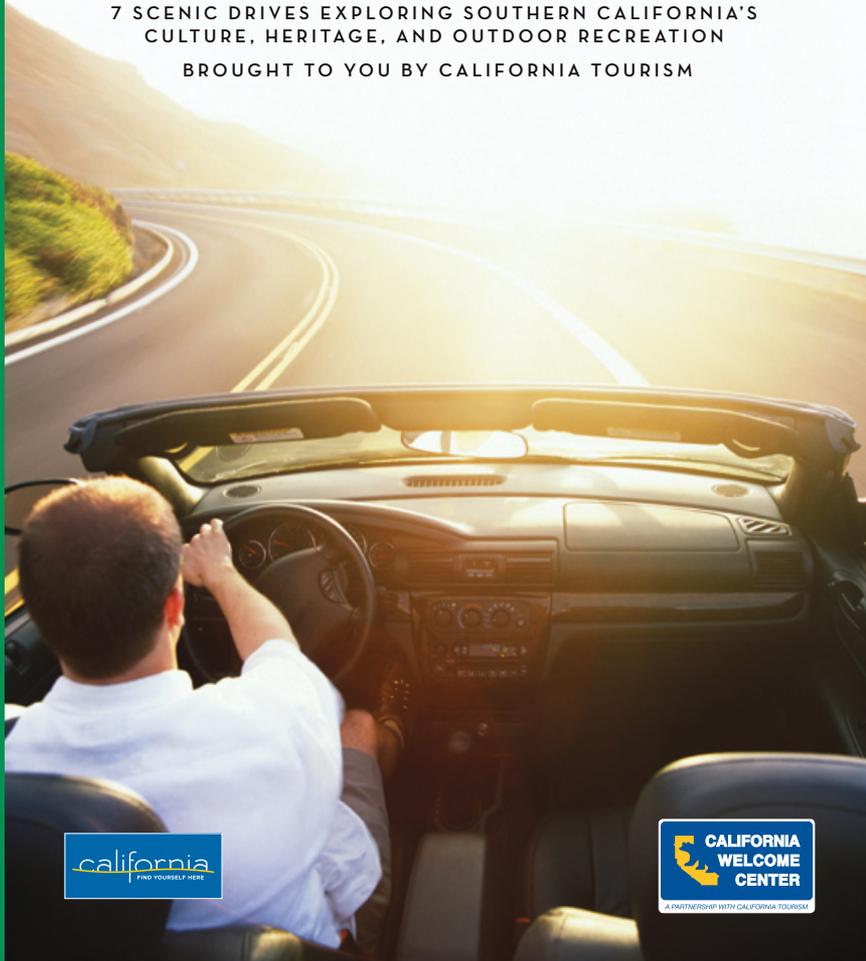
Hungry? In Modesto, head over to St. Stan's Micro-Brewery Restaurant on L Street, offering fancy pub grub and a diverse beer menu that's one of the best in the region (559-524-2337).

Hats, Bags, & Eats Fresno: Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, Kearney Mansion Museum, Victoria Rose Cottage Restaurant, & Fashion Fair. For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:
The California Welcome Center Merced,
710 West 16th St., Ste A, (209) 384-2791



Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park



Inland Empire Tour

With all the mountains, recreation opportunities, and scenic driving of this tour, you'll want to spend your whole vacation exploring!

THE FACTS

Start Location

Temecula

Distance

170 Miles

Suggested Duration

3-7 Days

Just 90 miles southeast of Los Angeles, **Temecula** is famous for its championship golf courses, a steady, sunny climate that's perfect for serene hot-air ballooning adventures, and award-winning wineries nestled in 3,000 picturesque acres of countryside (www.temeculawines.org). Located

in the heart of Temecula, the Old Town district blends historic buildings with more than 640 antique dealers, numerous weekend festivals, and restaurants. Just south of Temecula, the Pechanga Tribe of Native Americans operates the Pechanga Resort and Entertainment Center where visitors can enjoy gaming, boxing, or concerts (www.pechanga.com). Want to stretch your legs? Head up to Lake Skinner, northeast of town where you can boat, fish, swim, hike, or just picnic.

Next, drive north and east to the town of **Idyllwild** (follow I-15 north to Hwy 79 and Hwy 74 east past Hemet to Hwy 243.) There you'll find **Mount San Jacinto State Park**. The rocky summit of Mount San Jacinto towers 10,834 feet above sea level. It makes up the second

highest mountain range in Southern California. The park offers two drive-in campgrounds, or you can stay overnight in Idyllwild, a small mountain town where artists, hikers, bikers, and rock climbers often congregate (info: 951-659-2607). Before heading to the mountain, enjoy a brunch alfresco at The Bread Basket on North Circle Drive (www.thebreadbasket.net). A diverse omelet menu and country specialties such as ham and eggs make this place a local favorite.

From Idyllwild, continue north (Hwy 243 is slower, but more scenic. Hwys 74 and 79 are often faster) and pick up I-10 West toward **Redlands**. Just east of Redlands via Hwy 330/18, you'll find **Big Bear Lake**. (On crowded weekends, Hwy 38, though longer, can be faster.) This mountain retreat is full of Gold Rush and Hollywood history ("Bonanza," "The Parent Trap," and "Dr. Dolittle" are just a few of the films shot here!) Today it's a popular hiking, boating, and ski destination. If you have an extra day, make an excursion to **Lake Arrowhead** off of Hwy 18. Take a guided fishing tour, go boating, or dip your toes in the pristine mountain lake! Enjoy stargazing? Don't miss the Mountain Skies Astronomy Village, where you can engage in tours and public stargazing programs complete with telescopes (www.mountain-skies.org).

Finally, head back south toward Temecula and make a stop in **Riverside**, the largest town in the region. In addition to being one of the top small cities to live in, Riverside is famous for its citrus industry (a different kind of "gold" rush). Nearby, visit **California Citrus State Historic Park**, which preserves the landscape of the citrus industry and tells the story of its history in California (info: 951-780-6222).

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Order the tasting menu at **Restaurant Omakase in Riverside!** Omakase means "chef's choice." Though all the menu choices are exquisite, locals suggest you order the tasting menu paired with the restaurant's boutique wines. www.restaurantomakase.com

Hats, Bags, & Eats Inland Empire Package: Riverside Museum of Art and Lake Elsinore Outlets. For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:

The California Welcome Center San Bernardino, 1955 Hunts Lane, (800) 867-8366

Central Coast Tour

Breathtaking beaches and vibrant beach towns are the highlights of this coastal tour. Give yourself enough time to soak it all in!

THE FACTS

Start Location

Oxnard

Distance

300 Miles

Suggested Duration

2-4 Days

Just 60 miles northwest of LA, off Hwy 1, **Oxnard** welcomes you to the Central Coast. Dubbed the strawberry and lima bean capital of California, this seaside city celebrates its agricultural roots with a bi-weekly Farmers Market along the harbor. Tour historic farmhouses in Heritage Square before taking in whale exhibitions and nautical wonders at the **Maritime Museum** (info: 805-984-6260). From the harbor, pick up supplies to fill your picnic basket at Latitude 34 Deli and catch a boat to one of the five mountainous islands that make up **Channel Islands National Park**, where you can spend days fishing, hiking, snorkeling, and camping (info: 805-658-5730).

Next, go north via Hwy 1 to **Ventura**, a beach town known for its good fortune, a vibrant arts community, and an eclectic mix of architecture. Stroll along picturesque waterfront streets in the downtown district and harbor village while exploring the city's many galleries, studios, murals, art installations and theaters. Plan ahead if you'd like your visit to coincide with one of the city's music or art events, such as the summer concert series "Music Under the Stars" (info: 805-658-4726) or the tri-annual Artwalk (info: 805-658-4760). If you have the desire to stretch your legs, then rent a bike (info: 805-340-BIKE) and get moving on the **Ventura River Trail**. Reward yourself then with sunset views and dinner at **Ventura Pier**, one of the state's longest piers.

Heading north along Hwy 101, the celebrity havens of **Carpinteria**, **Summerland** and **Montecito** are delightful side excursions with posh eateries, local wineries, high-end boutiques and antique shops. The Santa Ynez Mountains come into view as the highway winds along the coastline and delivers you to the stunning, yacht-dotted harbor of **Santa Barbara**, where a mingling of cuisine, wine and culture have earned the city fame as the American Riviera.

Continue on Hwy 101 to **San Luis Obispo**, a university city nestled in the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range. From Mission Plaza, start a walking tour of the city's 18th century Spanish architecture.

From San Luis Obispo, follow Hwy 1 for one of the most scenic drives in the state — pristine rocky coastlines and classic panoramic views await. Look out for sunbathing elephant seals, sea lions and sea otters during winter months. Just north in **San Simeon** is **Hearst Castle**®, a California State Park and Historical Monument since 1958. The regal 90,000-square-foot, 165-room estate towers above the Pacific from its rocky perch on "The Enchanted Hill." Guided tours are offered all year-round (reservations are strongly recommended!) This is an absolute must-see. (info and tour reservations: 800-444-4445 or www.hearstcastle.com).

Farther north on Hwy 1, you'll find the treasure of California's central coast, **Big Sur**. Here, along this rugged section of coastline, redwood-covered mountains rise from the sea to form dramatic cliffs, secluded beaches and beautiful vistas. Relax and explore this majestic valley from one of the region's many lodges or campsites before moving north on Hwy 1 to **Monterey**, where a sensory experience awaits you. Smell the fresh catches at Fisherman's Wharf, taste the fresh produce on a local farm tour, or see haunted visions on the ghost trolley tour. Be sure to stop at Cannery Row, the historic waterfront district immortalized in John Steinbeck's novel of the same name. Dress in layers, as the local weather can be unpredictable.

From Monterey, pick up Hwy 68 to **San Juan Bautista**, a charming town in the heart of the San Juan Valley with a feisty spirit for its Old West heritage. Visit the **Old Mission San Juan Bautista**, an active Catholic parish founded in 1797 and once home for the Breen family, the survivors of the Donner Party tragedy.

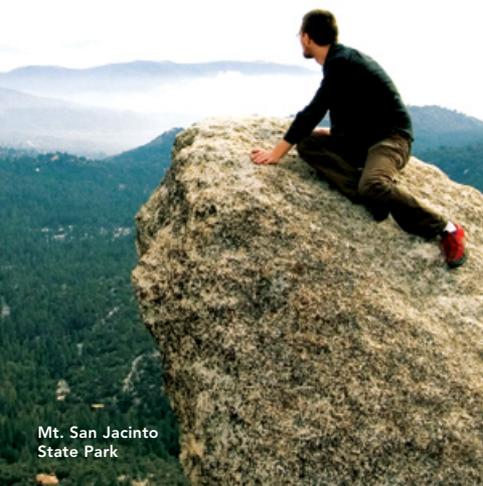
THE INSIDE SCOOP

For a unique dining experience, why not try progressive dining in Oxnard? Relax and enjoy views of the Channel Islands as a water taxi ferries you between harbor restaurants for each course. Appetizers at the Lobster Trap, the main course at the Whale's Tail and maybe dessert at Port Royal (info: www.progressivedining.com).

Hats, Bags, & Eats Central Coast Packages: Prime Outlets, Carmel Walks, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:

The California Welcome Center Pismo Beach 333 Five Cities Drive, (805) 773-7924



Mt. San Jacinto State Park

Desert Tour

One of the wonderful anomalies of Southern California is how close the desert is to the ocean. This tour starts in Palm Springs, and quickly heads east to the desert landscape. Pack plenty of water and sunscreen!

THE FACTS

Start Location
Palm Springs

Distance
475 Miles

Suggested Duration
4-7 Days

Just 110 miles east of Los Angeles, **Palm Springs** is literally an oasis in the desert. Some of the best golfing in the country is here, along with opportunities for swimming, tennis, horseback riding, and hiking in the surrounding hills.

The city is bordered to the west and south by Mt. San Jacinto

and the Santa Rosa Mountains, providing a scenic backdrop. Palm Springs also boasts some of the finest bistros in the region, which offer personal service and mouthwatering dishes. Try Zin American Bistro on the corner of Arenas and Palm Canyon (www.zinamericanbistro.com).

Borrego Springs is a fun side-trip from Palm Springs. (It's located south of Palm Springs via I-10 east and Hwy 86 south.) Don't miss the spectacular views as you descend into the stunning Colorado Desert bowl. Borrego Springs is surrounded by **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**, the largest state park in California. Keep an eye out for roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer, and iguanas around the park's washes, cacti, and palm groves (info: 760-767-5311). Bring binoculars and a camera!

Retrace your route back up to I-10 and continue east to **Joshua Tree National Park**. You can approach the park off of I-10 or Hwy 62, Twentynine Palms Highway. (For a nice detour, head into **Twentynine Palms** and see the Oasis of Murals, www.oasisofmurals.com.) Once in Joshua Tree, you'll be amazed by the vibrant life within this seemingly barren desert landscape. Joshua Tree lies along a migratory flyway and hosts hundreds of species of birds throughout the year. You'll also notice desert wildflowers and abundant reptile life. Don't miss the hiking trails, backcountry camping, and visitor center. Joshua Tree is also home to world-class rock climbing routes that draw visitors from across the globe. (info: www.nps.gov/jotr). Step out of the car at Hidden Valley to see some of the otherworldly rock formations up close. Need a cup of coffee or to check your email? Stop by Joshua Tree Beatnik Café (www.jtbeat.com).



From Joshua Tree, head north to the **Mojave National Preserve**, which is between I-15 and I-40 between LA and Las Vegas. Active sand dunes, Joshua tree forests, and wildflower patches are just a few of the hallmarks of this 1.6-million-acre park. There are canyons, mountains, and mesas to explore as well as abandoned mines, homesteads, and military outposts (info: www.nps.gov/moja).

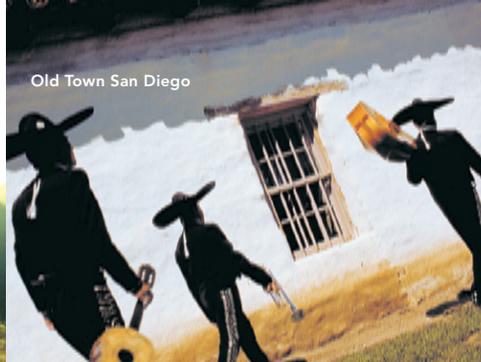
Finally, continue north to **Death Valley National Park**. From the town of **Baker** on the northern boundary of Mojave National Preserve, take State Route 127 north to Shoshone or Death Valley Junction, where signs point you to the park entrances. Death Valley is the lowest spot in North America, as well as one of the driest and hottest. Hiking the park in summer is not recommended, though driving tours are encouraged. In the fall and winter, when the weather is cooler, you can sign up for guided ranger hikes and arrange multi-day camping trips in the park (info: www.nps.gov/deva).

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Twentynine Palms is a great place to detour for good food and other amenities. The Corousel Café is tasty, though some say it's haunted by ghosts (which adds to the charm). Call: (760) 367-3736. For an indoor activity, stop by Bowladium Family Entertainment Center, which has bowling, pool tables, a lounge, and more. Call: (760) 367-9502.

Hats, Bags, & Eats Desert Package: Palm Desert cultural attractions, Desert Hills Premium Outlets, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information: The California Welcome Center Yucca Valley, 56711 Twentynine Palms Highway, (760) 365-5464



San Diego Tour

This loop covers the best of San Diego's coastline, nearby forests and surrounding towns.

THE FACTS

Start Location
San Diego

Distance
230 Miles

Suggested Duration
1-3 Days

Start your journey in **San Diego**, where you'll find dramatic beaches, the world-famous San Diego Zoo, a dynamic downtown, dozens of museums, shopping opportunities, and **Old Town State Historic Park** (info: 619-220-5422). Old Town San Diego is a living portrait of life during the Mexican and early

American periods of 1821-1872. No trip to Old Town is complete without a hearty Mexican meal and margarita. Stop in at Old Town Mexican Café and sample the house-specialty carnitas (www.oldtownmexcafe.com).

Next, don't miss a stop in the **Hillcrest** neighborhood and visit **Balboa Park**, (often referred to as "Smithsonian of the West") where the menu of activities is endless. Kids love the Air & Space Museum, the IMAX theater, and the world-class zoo. Adults enjoy the Japanese Friendship Garden, sports museum, performing arts, and shopping (www.balboapark.org).

From San Diego, drive about an hour east via I-8 and north on CA-79 to the historic mining town of **Julian** (www.julianca.com), known for its incredible apple pies (sample them at Mom's Pie House; www.momspiesjulian.com). Work up an appetite on the way at **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**. The park offers more than 100 miles of trails for hikers, bikers, and equestrians (info: 760-765-0755). Camping is available in the park, or stay at one of Julian's quaint hotels.

Continue on to **Palomar Mountain State Park**, west and north via Hwys 78 and 76. Palomar Mountain State Park

features the famed Palomar Observatory, beautiful views of the Pacific, plus camping, picnicking, hiking, and fishing. (info: 760-742-3462).

Head back toward the coast via CA-76. As you approach San Diego via I-5, make a quick detour to **Del Mar**, home to an active horse racing community and legendary racetrack (www.dmtc.com). Continuing south, don't miss the area's most well known beach and state reserve, **Torrey Pines State Reserve & State Beach**. This wide, sandy beach stretches 4 1/2 miles from Del Mar to the base of sandstone cliffs at Torrey Pines Mesa. Swimming, surfing and fishing are popular. The park also preserves rare pine trees, salt marshes and waterfowl refuges (info: 858-755-2063). Bring your binoculars and camera!

Just a quick drive south of Torrey Pines is **La Jolla** (www.lajollabythesea.com), a town that marries a European resort atmosphere with classic SoCal vibes. Beaches, cultural landmarks and fine dining await! Sunset on the beaches in La Jolla are a sight to be seen. For a romantic evening, head to Girard Gourmet first and pick up some European-style deli sandwiches and sides for a beach picnic (www.girardgourmet.com).

Finally, before you head back to downtown, make a detour across the San Diego-Coronado Bridge and see **Coronado**. The island's Central, North and Silver Strand beaches are ideal for whatever water-related activity you can think of (surf, swim, kayak, fish, and more!) There's even Dog Beach, where your pet can frolic with you. (Be sure to pick up any waste.) Afterward, head to The Ferry Landing, a bayside marketplace complex of shops and restaurants.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Have kids? (or maybe you're a big kid at heart?) Don't miss LEGOLAND California in Carlsbad. This theme park features 50 rides, shows, and other attractions centered on America's favorite interlocking blocks. www.legoland.com/california

Hats, Bags, & Eats San Diego Package: Balboa Park & Macys, or Lavender Fields & Carlsbad Premium Outlets. For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information: The California Welcome Center Oceanside, 928 North Coast Highway, (760) 721-1101

San Diego International Visitor Information Center (619) 236-1212

Los Angeles Coastal Tour

Long Beach's sun-soaked, palm-tree lined strip marks the start of this tour and your arrival to the Los Angeles coastline.

THE FACTS

Start Location
Los Angeles

Distance
275 Miles

Suggested Duration
2-3 Days

Since first settled by Europeans in 1784, **Long Beach** has grown into the country's second largest seaport. Today, this seaside city retains its historic charms as the permanent dock of the legendary Queen Mary, the luxury ocean liner turned World War II troopship (info: 562-435-3511). For something special,

book an overnight stay in one of the original staterooms and do some ghost hunting on the Ghosts & Legends tour. After, find high adrenaline thrills at across the harbor at **The Pike**, where a giant Ferris wheel and roller coaster light up the night sky. Next, satisfy your craving for fresh seafood at one of the cozy eateries in Shoreline Village, a waterfront district designed with the look and feel of a 19th century fishing village (info: 562-435-2668). Take advantage of the idyllic sailing conditions and close proximity to **Catalina Island**, a classic getaway for dining, shopping and countless outdoor activities. Hire a sailboat at the marina or hop on one of Catalina Express' high-speed ferries, which leave regularly from the Queen Mary or downtown landings (info: 800-481-3470).

From Long Beach, take State Route 47 (also known as Sea-side Highway) north over the Vincent Thomas Bridge to the shores of **San Pedro**, where you'll find Cabrillo Marine Aquarium on **Cabrillo Beach** (info: 310-548-7562). Within walking distance of Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge and a fishing pier, this seaside aquarium is the ideal spot for learning about Southern California's marine life.

Let Highway 110 wrap you around Point Fermin, Point Vin-cent and Palos Verdes Point until you connect with the



Santa Monica Pier

Pacific Coast Highway (Hwy 1) in **Redondo Beach**, the quintessential community that won a place in the lyrics of the Beach Boys' iconic song "Surfin' USA." Here, professional volleyball matches draw big crowds, surfers speckle the shores, and bikini-clad rollerbladers cruise along "The Strand," a pedestrian pathway that runs north to Santa Monica. Peruse the shops, grab a bite to eat and watch the sunset at Redondo Pier before continuing north on Hwy 1 (info: 310-318-0631).

A few miles up the coast from the people-watching haven of **Venice Beach Boardwalk** is **Santa Monica**. While wandering the streets, you'll see it all, from artists and performers on **Third Street Promenade** to celebrities dining at one of the posh cafés. Stay on Hwy 1 through downtown **Santa Monica** until you see the amusements rising from **Santa Monica Pier** (info: 310-458-8900). Take a spin on the carousel, a national landmark operating since 1922, and then relax on the expansive sands at nearby **Santa Monica State Beach** (info: 818-880-0350).

Further up the highway, you'll reach **Will Rogers State Historic Park** in Pacific Palisades. The park includes the 1930s movie star's ranch overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Take a tour of the historic ranch house or hike one of the stunning trails (info: 310-454-8212).

Go about 20 miles north to **Malibu** and visit **Malibu Creek State Park**. The filming site of TV shows like M*A*S*H, Malibu Creek is popular today with bird watchers, hikers, anglers, and equestrians (info: 818-880-0367). Finish this tour with a drive up Latigo Canyon Road for a picnic and relaxation at the secluded, enchanting wooded retreat at **Peter Strauss Ranch**, located off Mulholland Highway in the recreation area (info: 805-370-2301).

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Do as the locals do: Get out and about by bike. Rent your wheels of choice at Marina Bike Rentals, just off "The Strand" in Redondo Beach. Cruise all the way to Santa Monica and enjoy panoramic views and people-watching galore. (info: 310-318-BIKE).

Hats, Bags, & Eats Los Angeles Package:

The Huntington & Glendale Galleria Tea and Tour, Getty Center, LA Fashion District, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:

The California Welcome Center Santa Ana, Westfield MainPlace, 2800 N. Main St., (714) 667-0400

Orange County Tour

For Orange County residents and visitors, a world of beaches and recreation opportunities lies just out your backdoor! Whether you like to surf, wine & dine, bird watch, hike, or sample local arts and performances, you've come to the right place. Enjoy it all on this short driving tour.

THE FACTS

Start Location
Los Angeles

Distance
75 Miles

Suggested Duration
1-2 Days

Only miles from downtown Los Angeles, off the Pacific Coast Highway (Hwy 1), you'll stumble upon a 1,200-acre birder's paradise at the **Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve** (info: 714-846-1114). Hike the restored Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

Nearly 600 acres of precious wetlands—home to juvenile fish and flocks of shorebirds, seabirds, and migratory birds—have been restored. Trails cross the Inner Bolsa Bay to the bluffs and wander the coastal dune system. The best place to observe wildlife is from the trail just off Pacific Coast Highway. The parking lot is across from the main entrance to **Bolsa Chica State Beach**. Pack your sunscreen, camera, and binoculars!

Farther south along the highway, turn your attention from birds to long boards in **Huntington Beach**, home to the US Open of Surfing & Beach Games. This high-octane surfing playground also boasts the state's longest recreational pier—the perfect spot for eyeing the next epic barrel on the horizon. (Plenty of area sports shops offer surfing lessons as well.) Take a break from wave watching and play Frisbee golf at one of the nation's first courses in **Huntington Central Park** (info: 714-425-9931). The course takes you on a nice stroll through the grounds.

Down the highway is **Huntington State Beach**, which offers biking, surfing, skating and surf fishing (info: www.parks.ca.gov). Though bustling with people, Huntington is the site of a nesting sanctuary for the California least tern, a rare and endangered species. From there, head to **Newport Beach** and stock up on the latest trendy gear at Newport Beach's Fashion Island. If biking or hiking is more your speed, then check out **Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve** (info: 949-923-2290).

From **Newport Beach**, continue south along Hwy 1 and follow signs for **Crystal Cove State Park**. The park offers 3.5 miles of beach and undeveloped woodland, per-

fect for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. The beach is popular with swimmers, surfers, and beachcombers who explore the tide pools and coves. Nestled around the mouth of Los Trancos Creek, the park also includes a renowned Historic District with a settlement of 46 rustic cottages originally built in the 1920s (info: 949-494-3539).

Crystal Cove resides within **Irvine Ranch Land Reserve**, a 50,000-acre collection of regional parks, wilderness areas and wildlife sanctuaries that offers ample recreational opportunities (info: 714-832-7478). Among the reserve's must-see highlights is the dramatic, mini Grand Canyon formation in **Limestone Canyon Wilderness Area**. Make the detour to the canyon via Hwy 133 and Hwy 241 to Santiago Canyon Road, or stay on course to **Laguna Beach**, where a bevy of boutiques, galleries, bistros and seaside activities await. If you have time, head inland to **Irvine**. Irvine is one of America's largest planned urban communities. Looking for arts, or shopping opportunities? Be sure to visit the Irvine Spectrum Center for eclectic entertainment, food and shops that will keep you totally occupied (www.shopirvinespectrumcenter.com).

From Laguna, you're only a short drive from several state parks. Continue south of Laguna Beach to **Doheny State Beach**, which provides camping in the southern area (with some campsites only steps away from the beach) and day use in the northern area, where there is a five-acre lawn with picnic facilities and volleyball courts. Surfing is popular, but is restricted to the north end of the beach. A little further inland, you can also explore portions of **Cleveland National Forest**, the southernmost national forest in California. Picnic and camping spots make the forest an ideal retreat from the warm sun of the beaches.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Swing north to Costa Mesa, where you will discover Orange County's cultural beacon. Five venues, including the Orange County Performing Arts Center, host internationally acclaimed performing arts. Galleries and art installations display the talents of world-renowned artists and regional newcomers.

Hats, Bags, & Eats Orange County Package:

Seegerstrom Center for Performing Arts & South Coast Plaza. For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:

The California Welcome Center Santa Ana, Westfield MainPlace, 2800 N. Main St., (714) 667-0400



California State Parks Pass & Fee Info

A full list of California State Parks camping and day use fees can be found online at www.parks.ca.gov.

Day Use: Many parks charge a daily parking fee.

Camping: Reservation information is available at www.parks.ca.gov or (800) 444-PARK (7275).

Historic Sites and Museums: Tour and entry fees vary from park to park.

SNO-Parks: Daily fees apply; seasonal passes available. Contact (916) 324-4442 or www.ohv.parks.ca.gov.

Boating: Launch and overnight mooring fees vary from park to park.

Annual Passes: The Annual Day Use Parking Pass (\$125) provides access to most state-operated parks that charge parking fees. The Golden Poppy Annual Day Use Parking Pass (\$90) provides access to many state-operated parks and all reservoirs.

An annual boat use pass (\$75) may be purchased for each vessel.

Please call (866) 41-PARKS (866-417-2757) or purchase at www.store.parks.ca.gov. Passes can also be purchased at most State Park District and Sector offices, and at many park offices. For a list of District offices, visit www.parks.ca.gov

Discount Passes: For eligibility requirements, applications, terms and fees, call (800) 777-0369, ext.3 or visit www.parks.ca.gov; select (Reservations and Fees.)

Your Opinion May Score You A Free Canon Digital SLR Camera!

As a state park visitor, your feedback is crucial. Go online to

www.parkvisitor.com

to tell us what you think of your Park Visitor Welcome Kit. Complete a short survey, and you'll be entered to win a free Canon Camera Kit (retail value \$899), perfect for helping you record your outdoor adventures!

While online, you can also share your travel stories, outdoor tips, recipes, and more. And, read what other visitors have to say about their favorite state parks!

No purchase is necessary. Just go online and provide your feedback today!

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Southern California State Parks Contacts

A complete list of state park descriptions and contact numbers can be found at www.parks.ca.gov

Andrew Molera SP (831) 667-2315
 Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve (SR) (661) 724-1180
 Antelope Valley Indian Museum SHP (951) 946-3055
 Anza-Borrego Desert SP® (760) 767-5311
 Arthur B. Ripley Desert Woodland SP (861) 942-2662
 Asilomar SB & Cont. Grnds.® (831) 646-6440
 Bolsa Chica SB (714) 846-3460
 Border Field SP (619) 575-3613
 California Citrus SHP (951) 780-6222
 Cardiff SB (760) 753-5091
 Carlsbad SB (760) 438-3143
 Carmel River SB (831) 649-2836
 Carpinteria SB (805) 968-1033
 Chino Hills SP (951) 780-6222
 Chumash Painted Cave SHP (805) 733-3713
 Colonel Allensworth SHP (661) 943-3433
 Crystal Cove SP (949) 494-3539
 Cuyamaca Rancho SP (760) 766-0755
 Doheny SB (949) 496-6172
 El Capitán SB (805) 968-1033
 El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP (805) 965-0093
 Emma Wood SB (805) 968-1033
 Estero Bay (805) 772-7434
 Fort Tejon SHP (861) 249-6692
 Fremont Peak SP (831) 623-4255
 Garrapata SP (831) 624-4909
 Gaviota SP (805) 968-1033
 Hearst Castle ® (800) 444-4445
 Henry W. Coe SP (408) 779-2728
 Herber Dunes SVRA (760) 767-5391
 Hungry Valley SVRA (661) 248-7007
 Huntington SB (714) 536-1454
 Indio Hills Palms (760) 393-3059
 Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP (831) 667-2315
 Kenneth Hahn SRA (323) 298-3660
 La Purísima Mission SHP (805) 733-3713
 Lake Perris SRA (951) 657-0676
 Leo Carrillo SP (818) 880-0350
 Limekiln SP (831) 667-2403
 Los Angeles SHP (818) 880-0350
 Los Encinos SHP (818) 784-4849
 Los Osos Oaks SR (818) 784-4849
 Malibu Creek SP (818) 880-0367
 Malibu Lagoon SB/Adamson HSE (818) 880-0350
 Marina SB (311) 384-7695
 McGrath SB (805) 968-1033
 Millerton Lake SRA (559) 822-2332
 Montaña de Oro SP (805) 528-0513

Monterey SB (831) 649-2836
 Monterey SHP (831) 649-7118
 Morro Bay SP (805) 772-2560
 Morro Strand SB (805) 772-2560
 Moss Landing SB (831) 649-2836
 Mount San Jacinto SP (951) 659-2607
 Oceano Dunes SVRA (805) 473-7220
 Reservations (800) 444-7275
 Ocotillo Wells SVRA (760) 767-5391
 Old Town San Diego SHP (619) 220-5422
 Pacheco SP (209) 826-6283
 Palomar Mountain SP (760) 742-3462
 Pfeiffer Big Sur SP (831) 667-2315
 Picacho SRA (760) 393-3052
 Pio Pico SHP (562) 695-1217
 Pismo SB (805) 473-7220
 Reservations (800) 444-7275
 Point Dume SB (805) 488-182
 Point Lobos SR (831) 624-4909
 Point Mugu SP (818) 880-0350
 Point Sur SHP (831) 625-4419
 Providence Mountains SRA (760) 928-2586
 Red Rock Canyon SP (651) 942-3652
 Refugio SB (805) 968-1033
 Robert H. Meyer Memorial SB (818) 880-0350
 Saddleback Butte SP (651) 942-3652
 Salinas River SB (831) 649-2836
 Salton Sea SRA (760) 393-3052
 San Buenaventura SB (805) 968-1033
 San Clemente SB (949) 492-3156
 San Elijo SB (760) 753-5091
 San Juan Bautista SHP (831) 623-4526
 San Luis Reservoir SRA (209) 826-1197
 San Onofre SB (949) 492-4872
 San Pasqual Battlefield SHP (760) 737-2201
 San Simeon SP (805) 927-2020
 Santa Susana Pass SHP (310) 455-2465
 Silver Strand SB (619) 435-5184
 Silverwood Lake SRA (760) 389-2281
 South Carlsbad SB (760) 438-3143
 Toms-Kahn SHP (861) 942-3662
 Topanga SP (310) 455-2465
 Torrey Pines SB (858) 755-2063
 Torrey Pines SR (858) 755-2063
 Tule Elk SR (651) 764-8881
 Will Rogers SHP (310) 305-9503
 William Randolph Hearst Memorial SB (805) 927-2020
 Zmudowski SB (831) 649-2836

Off Road Adventure!

For more than 35 years, California State Parks has managed off-highway recreation in California through its Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division.

The division uses innovative management techniques to protect the land and provide sustainable recreation for future generations. OHMVR operates eight recreation areas and supports other off-highway activities by providing supplemental funding to federal agencies, counties, cities and nonprofit groups. Activities include: the operation of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, SUVs, and dune buggies.

For more information, visit www.ohv.parks.ca.gov or call (916) 324-4442.

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