



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*State Parks in San Luis Obispo County*

## Central Coast California State Parks Are Full of Surprises

California's central coast has always been a draw for visitors. With sandy beaches and a castle on a hill, who can resist? But there's more than meets the eye in State Parks in the area:

**Cayucos State Beach**, five miles north of Morro Bay in Cayucos, has a sandy beach popular with surfers and swimmers. Visitors who enjoy fishing might be surprised to know that the park features a pier that is lighted for night fishing. Fishing off the pier does not require a fishing license. Many historical buildings near the park still stand, including restaurants and antique stores. The park is administered by San Luis Obispo County Parks. Their phone number is (805) 781-5930. The park webpage is [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=596](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=596)

Visitors from all over the world come to **Hearst Castle®**, officially known as Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, located on California Highway One about halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Driving time from either city is four to six hours, depending on traffic and road conditions. The castle on a hill has always been a popular tour destination, but some visitors may not know that the park also has an iWERKS big screen theater, special seasonal / evening tours and special events, like living history days with volunteers in costume. For more information call the park at (805) 927-2000 or go on line to [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=591](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=591) For tour reservations call (800) 444-4445 or online at [www.hearstcastle.com](http://www.hearstcastle.com)

**Los Osos Oaks State Reserve** is eight miles west of San Luis Obispo just outside the town of Los Osos. The park is known for its ancient sand dunes covered with centuries-old coast live oak trees. Observant visitors can find giant coast live oak trees with massive trunks and gnarled branches twisted into all sorts of fantastic shapes. Feel the solitude of this 90-acre park while walking the trails. For more information, call the park at (805) 772-7434 or go on line to [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=597](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=597)

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**Montana de Oro State Park** is six miles southwest of Morro bay and seven miles south of Los Osos on Pecho Valley Road. It's known for its rugged cliffs and secluded sandy beaches and trails. Visitors in the spring, when the golden wildflowers are blooming, can see first hand why the park was named "Mountain of Gold". For more information, call the park at (805) 528-0513 or go on line to [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=592](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=592)

**Morro Bay State Park** in Morro Bay is known for its estuary, bay habitat and the view of Morro Rock. But visitors, and especially kids, shouldn't miss the park's Museum of Natural History which covers the area's natural and cultural history. This 2,700-acre park offers myriad recreational activities, including golf with views of Morro Bay, camping, hiking and mountain bike trails. Birdwatchers can enjoy the park's saltwater marsh which supports a thriving bird population. For more information call the park at (805) 772-7434. or go on line to [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=594](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=594)

Visitors to **Morro Strand State Beach**, two miles south of Cayucos on Highway One, should take advantage of the outstanding picnic spots at the park. A three-mile stretch of sand connects the southern and northern entrances to the beach. The park is also popular with fishing enthusiasts, windsurfers, joggers and kite fliers. For more information call the park at (805) 772-7434 or go on line at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=593](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=593)

**Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area**, three miles south of Pismo Beach on Highway One, is a popular destination for off-highway enthusiasts from all over the United States. But the park also is a great place to swim, surf, fish, camp, hike and birdwatch. And, of course, the park is best known for the most extensive coastal dunes remaining in California. For more information call the park at (805) 473-7223 or go on line at [http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=406](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=406)

**Pismo State Beach**, two miles south of Pismo on Highway One, is a popular destination for beach activities. The park is also known as home to the largest over-wintering colony of monarch butterflies in the U.S. Adjacent to the park's Oceano campground is the Pismo Nature Center with interactive exhibits on birds, animals, monarch butterflies, the fresh water lagoon, native plants, and Chumash culture. For more information call the park at (805) 489-1869. For more information on the Nature Center call (805) 489-8115 or go on line at [http://www.ccnha.org/pismo\\_nature\\_center.html](http://www.ccnha.org/pismo_nature_center.html)

Visit California State Parks on-line at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

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