

# California State Park Beaches in Southern California

Some of California's most beautiful - and popular - beaches are California State Parks. Offering every kind of water recreation, some of the parks offer the unique opportunity to experience camping near - and sometimes even *on* - the beach. Visitors are advised to always check with lifeguards on duty regarding current conditions, such as riptides or undertows.

The California State Lifeguard Association provides the following safety tips:

- Learn to swim. It's FUN!
- Always swim near a staffed lifeguard tower. Never swim alone.
- Never dive into unknown waters or into shallow breaking waves.
- While boating, always wear a USCG approved personal floatation device (PFD)
- Protect yourself from the sun. Use sunscreen and wear a hat.
- Please keep the beach and water clean. Don't litter.

It's always a good idea to call the parks to confirm operating hours and current conditions.

Advanced camping reservations can be made by calling (800) 444-7275. Visitors should be advised that beach camping, where available, is popular year-round and many campsites may be booked months in advance.

It's always a good idea to call the beach in advance to check on current conditions and hours of operation. Visitors are advised that weather can be changeable throughout the year, so layered clothing is recommended.

## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**LEO CARRILLO STATE PARK** is located 28 miles northwest of Santa Monica on the Pacific Coast Highway (Highway One). The beach was named after Leo Carrillo, a popular radio and TV performer who also served on the California State Park and Recreation Commission. The park has 1.5 miles of beach, including tidepools, coastal caves, and reefs. Nature walks, campfire programs, and summer children's programs are offered.

The nearest city is Malibu.

For more information, call (818) 880-0350.

Activities include: windsurfing, **scuba diving**, swimming, fishing, body boarding, and backcountry hiking.

Accessibility: **sand wheelchairs** and **accessible bathrooms and showers** are available.

**Dogs** on leashes are permitted in the parks, conditions permitting, south of Tower One and north of Tower three.

Camping: The **campground** is open year-round. The maximum length for trailers and motor homes is 31 feet. Giant sycamore trees shade the main campground. For reservations, call 800-444-7275.

## **SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

**CARLSBAD STATE BEACH** is located on Carlsbad Boulevard at Tamarack in the town of Carlsbad. The small 14-acre beach is located at the foot of coastal bluffs.

For more information, call (760) 438-3143.

Activities include swimming, surfing, **scuba diving**, fishing and beachcombing.

Ground fires are prohibited on the beach.

No alcohol or glass are allowed on the beach.

Camping: There is no overnight camping or parking.

**LEUCADIA STATE BEACH** is located north of San Diego, west of I-5, at Neptune at Fulvia in Encinitas. This small rocky beach includes 11 acres on the San Diego Coast.

For more information, call (858) 642-4200.

Activities include swimming, surfing, fishing and picnicking.

Ground fires are prohibited on the beach.

No alcohol or glass are allowed on the beach.

Camping: There is no overnight camping or parking.

**SOUTH CARLSBAD STATE BEACH** is located three miles south of Carlsbad on Carlsbad Boulevard. Stairs lead to the beach. The large blufftop campground is popular.

For more information, call (760) 438-3143.

Activities include: swimming, surfing, **skin diving**, fishing and picnicking.

**Dogs** must be on a leash less than 6 feet long at all times and are prohibited on the beach or outside at night.

Alcohol is prohibited outside campsites or on the beach.

Camping: The parks' two campgrounds are open year-round. There is a premium campground with campsites on a bluff overlooking the beach. The maximum length for trailers and motor homes is 35 feet. Generators must be off between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. For reservations, call 800-444-7275.

## **VENTURA COUNTY**

**POINT MUGU STATE PARK** is located 15 miles south of Oxnard off Highway One in the Santa Monica Mountains. The park contains five miles of ocean shoreline with rocky bluffs, sandy beaches, sand dunes, rugged hills, and 70 miles of hiking trails. The 15,000 acre park includes the jagged pinnacles of the Boney Mountain State Wilderness Area.

Nearest cities are Camarillo and Oxnard.

For more information, call (818) 880-0350.

Activities include: fishing, hiking, and body boarding.

Accessibility: **accessible bathrooms and showers** are available in the Seamier Canyon campsites. Accessible bathrooms and **sand wheelchairs** are available in the day use area.

**Dogs** on leashes are permitted in the park, conditions permitting.

Camping: Thornhill Broome Beach campsite in the park offers **RV beach-front camping** and tent camping.

There are two **campgrounds**, Big Sycamore Canyon and Thornhill Broome Beach, which are open year-round. Giant sycamore trees shade the campground at Big Sycamore Canyon. For reservations, call 800-444-7275.

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