

Alternate Choices for Getting Married in a California State Park

California State Parks offers a variety of unique and beautiful wedding sites - from historic adobes to stately mansions to ancient redwood forests to stretches of sandy beaches.

Your best bet is to check with the park that interests you. Fees and requirements vary from location to location.

Here's a sample of California State Parks wedding sites:

The Adamson House in Malibu is a popular site for beachside weddings in southern California. Leo Carrillo State Park in Malibu is also a popular beach wedding site. For more information, contact Marie McHarg at (310) 457-8185.

For weddings at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds, contact Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts toll-free at (888) 733-9005 or via their website at www.visitasilomar.com Click on "Weddings and Social Events."

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park in Chico features a gazebo where many weddings have taken place. For more information, contact Supervising State Park Ranger Michael Fehling at (530) 895-6144.

Crystal Cove State Park in Laguna Beach has bluff top wedding sites and allows beach weddings. For more information, call (949) 494-3539.

Sugar Pine Point State Park offers a beautiful location at Lake Tahoe. For more information, contact Thomas Fritschi at (530) 525-5060.

For Big Sur-area weddings at Andrew Molera State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, or Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, contact Wedding Special Event Coordinator at (831) 667-2315.

La Purisima Mission State Historic Park near Lompoc features a rustic setting for an outdoor wedding. Guests are limited to 100 people, including the bride and groom. For more information, contact Nikki Combs at (805) 733-2254.

For Monterey-area weddings in Garrapata State Park, and Monterey State Historic Park, please call (831) 649-7118.

San Buenaventura State Beach in Ventura features a sandy beach with a shady picnic area that can be used as a reception area. For more information, contact Anne Dominguez at (805) 648-4059.

San Clemente State Beach has an historic cottage with a patio and catering kitchen. For more information, call (949) 366-8589.

For weddings in the San Diego area at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park or Torrey Pines State Reserve, contact Debbie Valdez at (619) 688-3385.

Sonoma Coast State Beach offers vistas of the rugged northern coastline and majestic Pacific Ocean. There are a number of spectacular and picturesque sites for weddings and other special events along the panoramic Sonoma County coastline from Bodega Head, south of Bodega Bay, to the far reaches of Salt Point in the north, The Department's Russian River Sector office can help find the ideal location for your special occasion. For more information call Elizabeth Beale at (707) 865-2391.

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, in the heart of Coloma, features 2 beautiful historic churches and 3 shady picnic areas perfect for an outdoor ceremony or reception. For more information, contact Starr Boren at (530) 622-3069.

For information on the following Wine Country wedding sites call Silverado Special Events at (707) 939-6188.

Sonoma State Historic Park near downtown Sonoma can accommodate 200 guests (standing) in the Mission Chapel. The adjacent Mission courtyard provides space for 300 for a reception. The Barracks Courtyard is similar venue available for outdoor functions. The Vallejo Home and Gardens a half mile west of the Mission provides a lovely garden location for up to 200 guests.

Surrounded by hills and vineyards, Jack London State Historic Park offers a dramatic setting for up to 300 guests at its Winery Ruins. The site was originally part of the Kohler Frohling Winery; the buildings were later adapted by Jack London as a carriage barn and bunkhouse.

In the Napa Valley, the Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park has an outdoor site, next to a fully restored flour mill. It can accommodate 75 guests.

Travel along old brick pathways to a location cradled among Victorian era structures and become immersed in a small-town early California setting. Tucked behind the historic Fischer-Hanlon home is the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park's intimate special event site. This venue in Solano County may accommodate 40 guests.

For more ideas, take a look at California Escapes magazine, a free publication that includes information about all state parks and beaches by region. Copies can be requested by writing:

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