A fault-directed stream course and visibly different rock types mark the San Andreas fault as it passes out to sea.

In 1906 the old Russian church at Fort Ross, one of California's iconic structures, was flattened by the same great earthquake that devastated San Francisco.

One autumn evening in 1989, a Bay Area ballpark hosted not just the World Series but an even more historic event: the first major league baseball game to be cancelled on account of an earthquake.

The epicenter of the destructive Loma Prieta earthquake was located in a remote part of this state park. Today broken ground and strangely bent tree trunks testify to changes in slope that resulted from the violent shaking.

The 1857 Fort Tejon earthquake was the strongest to strike southern California in recorded history. Producing a 200-mile-long ground rupture, the quake badly damaged the army post.

Here, as at many other oases in desert country, faulting has created a subterranean "dam" that impounds ground water, allowing palm groves to thrive.

Just below San Juan Bautista's historic mission runs a prominent linear slope or scarp that, to a geologist's eye, is a topographic "signature" of the San Andreas fault.

As a result of vertical earth-shifting in this part of the San Andreas fault zone, the highest and lowest elevations in the entire State Park System—a 10,384-foot peak and a shoreline 227 feet below sea level—are found within a fifty-mile distance.