

California State Parks kicks off the New Year with the 4th Annual First Day Hikes, being held across the state on New Year's Day. This year there are forty-one (41) parks planning fifty-six (56) different hikes, one paddle event and several off-highway vehicle rides. Visitors can enjoy hikes in the redwoods, oak woodlands, deserts and coastal bluffs and beaches. It's an event for the whole family that connects people to their parks through outdoor recreation, and encourages a healthy lifestyle. Hikers can take in natural wonders, scenic views and learn about California history. Below is a list of California State Parks' First Day Hikes:

California State Parks First Day Hikes List

In alphabetical order by County

(Updated December 29, 2015)

Butte County

[Sutter Buttes State Park](#) – This hike is a rare opportunity to visit one of the world's smallest mountain ranges. This park is not yet open to the public, except for guided special event tours. This will be a trip back into time to view the unique history of this landscape. You will discover volcanic geological features, scattered Native American acorn milling sites, pioneer rock walls, an old home site, and a natural ecology of flora and fauna that reveal what California was like hundreds of years ago.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Lake Oroville Visitor Center, 917 Kelly Ridge Road, Oroville, 95953 to carpool deep into the new park.

This hike of 3-4 miles is for ages 6 and up. Bring water, lunch, day pack, camera, and rain wear if a light rain is predicted. Predictions for severe weather will cancel the outing. There is no infrastructure in place to accommodate individuals with limited mobility. Pets, smoking, or firearms are prohibited. For more information call the visitor center at (530) 538-2219.

Calaveras County

[Calaveras Big Trees State Park](#): **North Grove Trail:** This hike is through the North Grove of Giant Sequoias. Winter conditions change the park into a beautiful winter wonderland with vibrant contrasting colors. This is an easy to moderate 1.5 mile hike depending on snow depth. The hike is limited to first 25 people on a first come, first serve basis. Meet at the Visitor Center Plaza at 11:00 a.m. There is no ADA accessible in snow conditions. Children are welcome. Dress for cold windy conditions with warm boots, hats, gloves, snacks and or food, camera and water. Prepare for snow conditions and have chains for your vehicle. Weather conditions change rapidly in the Sierras and you should be prepared for rain and or snow. Pets are not allowed. This is an all-weather hike. For information call (209) 795-2334.

Humboldt County

Humboldt Lagoons State Park: Visitors can choose their mode of transportation for this First Day event - guided hike or paddle. Be ready to launch or hike at 11:00 a.m.

Paddle: Meet at the Stone Lagoon Visitor Center at 115336 Highway 101, Trinidad with your kayak, stand-up-paddleboard or canoe and gear. You also have the option of renting a sit-on-top kayak from Kayak Zak's at half price for this event. Wetsuits and gear will be available at regular prices. Please call in advance for rental reservations. All participants must wear a properly fitted life jacket. Join this easy ranger-guided paddle trip or enjoy Stone Lagoon on your own. This paddle is approximately 4-miles round-trip. Wear clothing and shoes that can get wet. All ages are encouraged.

Hike: Meet at the Dry Lagoon Parking Lot. This guided interpretative walk will begin along the beach and then head inland following the trail around the back of Sharp Point to Stone Lagoon. Hikers can meet up with the paddling party for lunch and to enjoy Ryan's Cove Campground before heading back to Dry Lagoon. This hike is a moderate approximately 5-mile round-trip and includes some gradient. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. The trail may be damp.

Heavy wind or rain will cancel. All participants should bring layered clothing, lunch and drinking water. Bonus: All participants are eligible to win one of ten new life jackets in a free raffle drawing. For more information call ranger Keven Harder at (707) 845-6171 or keven.harder@parks.ca.gov. For kayak or gear rentals contact Kayak Zak's at (707) 498-1130 or info@kayakzak.com.

Kern County

Red Rock Canyon State Park: Nightmare Gulch Trail: Take an all-day 9-mile moderate to strenuous hike into Nightmare Gulch with a side trip into the well hidden "Secret Silent City"; participants will be back by approximately 4:00 pm. The strenuous route option begins with a scramble over three ridges to enjoy the fabulous views, with an elevation gain/loss of approximately 3000'. An alternate moderately strenuous route along dirt roads below the ridges is offered, with gain/loss of 1000 ft. The hike then evens out and is easy to moderate, with mostly cross country, rocky and sandy terrain.

Please bring LOTS of water, sun protection; snack and lunch, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing. No dogs allowed on hike. Young children are not recommended. No dogs are allowed. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at dirt lot on east side of Highway 14, 3/4 mile north of Abbot Road in Red Rock Canyon State Park. For cancellation information we will post on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/RedRockCanyonStatePark.

Lake County

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park : This park will offer two options this year the McVicar Trail and the Cache Creek, Marsh and Ridge Trail Loop. Hikers will experience grasslands, oak woodlands, willow and cottonwood riparian habitats and the tule marsh habitat of the Anderson Marsh Natural Preserve. Participants on both hikes are welcome to walk part way and make an early return at their own pace. Both hikes begin at 12:00 noon at the park off Hwy 53, between Lower Lake and Clearlake. Children of all ages are welcome. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Bring water, snacks, and binoculars if they have them.

McVicar Trail: A leisurely walk along the McVicar Trail and back, which leads from the parking lot to the shores of Clear Lake, across from Indian Island. The entire walk is a little over 7½ miles of mainly flat terrain and should take between 3 and 4 hours, depending on how many times we stop to admire what we see along the way.

Bring water, snacks and binoculars if you have them and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. This hike is suitable for all ages. Rain will cancel the walk.

Cache Creek, Marsh and Ridge Trail Loop: A 3½-mile loop that will include parts of these trails, passing by a vernal pool near the end. This shorter hike will take between 2 and 2 ½ hrs. Steady rain will cancel – to confirm, call (707) 995-2658 or email info@andersonmarsh.org

Clear Lake State Park: Old Kelsey Creek Trail: The one-hour, 1-mile walk is on an ADA accessible trail that meanders along old Kelsey Creek through the cottonwood and willow trees. The slow pace will give you the opportunity to experience the parks flora and fauna as if you were actually one of the park's wildlife residents. Meet at 10:00 a.m. with meet with Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association (CLSPIA) and State Park Volunteers Rich and Oleta Simpson and Brad Barnwell at the visitor center parking lot to start the walk down the Old Kelsey Creek Trail. Entry into the park for walk participants will be free. The winter weather could be brisk and participants should dress appropriately and wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars, and water. Rain will cancel the walk. Clear Lake State Park is located at 5300 Soda Bay Rd, Kelseyville, CA. Anyone having special needs should contact the Clear Lake State Park Sector Office Tuesday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (707) 279-2267.

Los Angeles County

Hungry Valley State Vehicle Recreation Area: Off-Road Vehicle Tour: This is an easy 5-mile ride tour of the Native Grasslands and Condor Mesa. Meet at the parking lot at the North Entrance at 10 a.m. Bring water and your OHV. Winter weather could cancel this event. For cancellation information call (661) 248-7007.

Oak Woodland Preserve Trail: Learn about Native American plant uses and visit a granary tree. This is an easy 1-mile hike, but you will need an OHV to ride to the trailhead. Meet at the trailhead off Maxey road at 1:00 p.m. Bring water. Winter could cancel this event. For cancellation information call (661) 248-7007.

Saddleback Butte State Park: Saddleback Peak Trail: This 5-mile, moderate to strenuous hike will offer incredible views across Mojave Desert. Layered clothing highly recommended; it can be very windy at the top, because 1,000 foot of elevation gain. We will meet at Saddleback Butte State Park Day-Use Area, 17102 East Avenue J, Lancaster (corner of 170th St E and East Avenue J, 19 miles east of Hwy 14, near Lake Los Angeles) at 9:00 a.m. Please bring water, sun protection, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing, snack, and optional lunch to enjoy in the park's picnic area after returning from the hikes. No dogs on California State Park trails. For cancellation Information check www.Facebook.com/SaddlebackButte.

Little Butte Trail to Equestrian Trail: This 4.3 mile, 1 3/4 hour easy to moderate hike will offer beautiful high desert views over the Antelope Valley. This is a great winter's hike. We will meet at Saddleback Butte State Park Day-Use Area, 17102 East Avenue J, Lancaster (corner of 170th St E and East Avenue J, 19 miles east of Hwy 14, near Lake Los Angeles) at 10:00 a.m. Please bring water, sun protection, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing, snack, and optional lunch to enjoy in the park's picnic area after returning from the hikes. No dogs on California State Park trails. For cancellation Information check www.Facebook.com/SaddlebackButte.

Downen Nature Trail: This ½ mile, ranger-lead interpretive tour along the nature trail, is an easy hike and will offer a chance to learn about the unique natural and cultural history of the local area. We will meet at Saddleback Butte State Park Day-Use Area, 17102 East Avenue J, Lancaster (corner of 170th St E and East Avenue J, 19 miles east of Highway 14, near Lake Los Angeles) at 11:00 a.m. Please bring: water, sun protection, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing, snack, and optional lunch to enjoy in the park's Picnic Area after returning from the hikes. No dogs are allowed on California State Park trails (with the exception of service animals). The tour is paved for wheel chair/stroller accessible. For cancellation Information please check www.Facebook.com/SaddlebackButte

Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park: Welcome Walk (Miranda Loop): On this moderate hike you can see soaring sandstone formations form what we affectionately refer to as stone cathedrals. The park's otherworldly terrain has been compared to the planet Mars. The SSPSHP hike meets at the park's Andora entrance at 9955 Andora Street just south of Lassen Street at 11:00 a.m. California State arks Volunteers will lead a moderate 2.5-mile hike. Allow 2-3 hours. We will stay in the lower part of the park. Bring water and wear good shoes and long pants (flip flops and shorts not a good idea in this terrain.) Hats and sunscreen are always a good idea. Well-behaved dogs with owners on leash are welcome. Rain cancels the hike. Call the hike leader if you have any questions shortly before the walk at (818) 326-1533.

Marin County

Angel Island State Park: Perimeter Road to Battery Ledyard Overlook: Hikers will get to see some of the best views of San Francisco, Golden Gate and Bay Bridges as

well as Alcatraz and the Marin Headlands from Angel Island in this easy 2-mile hike (steep climb out of cove for five minutes, then basically level.) Hikers will learn about the island's natural and cultural history and a few of the island's secrets will be revealed. Stroller friendly and bikes welcome. We will meet at Ayala Cove Dock at 10:30 a.m. Access is only from Tiburon Ferry – See Angel Island-Tiburon Ferry for times at (415) 435-2131 or their website www.angelislandferry.com. Please bring camera, binoculars, water and sense of exploration. The hike is rain or shine unless a major storm strikes. If event is cancelled, we will post on website <http://www.angelisland.com/> or hikers can call (415) 435-5390.

Mount Tamalpais State Park: Old Mine Trail: This strenuous 10-mile hike takes you up to the East Peak on the old railroads grade. Meet at the Rock Springs parking lot at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Wear hiking boots and bring water and a light lunch. This hike is for children age 10 and older. No pets please. If rain, call (415) 388-3653 for cancellation information. This hike is made possible through a collaboration with Friends of Mount Tam.

Mendocino County

MacKerricher State Park: Laguna Point Boardwalk: Meet naturalist Fred Andrews at the visitor center at 11:00 a.m. Drive about three-miles north of Fort Bragg on Highway 1 and turn left at the MacKerricher State Park sign. Learn about the annual gray whale migration and about other marine mammals seen along the Mendocino coast. Binoculars will be available to help visitors study whales and other fascinating wildlife found near MacKerricher's shores. This is a wheelchair accessible hike. Wear layered clothing and rain gear light rain is not a problem. After meeting at the MacKerricher visitor center, the group drives to Laguna Point, where you walk out to look for whales. Young children are welcome on this program. Heavy rain will cancel this hike. For more information please call (707) 961-0471.

Mendocino Headlands State Park: Headlands Trail: Meet the docent at the Ford House Visitor Center in Mendocino at 1:00 p.m. Walk out to the Mendocino Headlands to look for gray whales. Learn about the annual migration of gray whales. This is an easy 1-mile. Age 3 years old is the minimum age for children on this walk. Rain will cancel this event. Wear layered clothing. Bring binoculars, water and a camera. For more information call (707) 937-5397.

Russian Gulch State Park: Fern Canyon to Falls Loop trails:

Meet naturalist Dave Jensen in front of the recreation hall at 12:00 p.m. The park entrance road is located on the west side of Highway 1, three miles north of Mendocino, California. This will be a moderate to strenuous 5.5-mile out and back hike (2.75 miles each way) to the beautiful waterfall. You will learn about the park's natural history from Dave Jensen, renowned birder and naturalist. This hike is suggested for children 10 years and older, and adults. Bring water, snacks, hat and binoculars with you. No dogs allowed on the trail for this hike. For more information call (707) 961-0471.

Van Damme State Park/Spring Ranch Unit: Spring Ranch Bluff trails:

Meet the docent at Highway 1 and Gordon Lane at 10:00 a.m. The parking lot is about two miles north of Little River, California, on Highway 1. This hike goes downhill through the Spring Ranch property to bluffs overlooking the ocean to look for migrating gray whales. Learn about the annual migration of gray whales between Alaska and Baja. After looking for whales, you will retrace your path uphill to the dirt parking lot. One section of the dirt path is very steep. Bring binoculars, water and a snack. Wear layered clothing. Heavy rain could cancel this hike. For more information call (707) 961-0471.

Orange County

Crystal Cove State Park: Loop Trail: This three-mile moderate hike is suitable for adults and children, but the trail is steep in some places and may be challenging for little legs. Meet at Berns Amphitheater (School-State Park entrance, follow signs to the campground) at 9:00 a.m. There is a \$15 day use fee. Please bring Water, sun protection, hat, comfortable hiking shoes, layered clothing and snack. Rain will cancel. Park closed the day after rain so if in doubt call (949) 494 3539 or check www.crystalcovestatepark.com.

Riverside County

California Citrus State Historic Park: Citrus Knolls Trail: Walk through the orange groves including majestic views of surrounding landscapes, mountain ranges and the City of Riverside. The hike will be led by experienced volunteers who will teach participants about the history of citrus in California on this easy 1-2 mile hike. Visitors may join volunteers for a citrus tasting after the walk at the Visitor Center. Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. Children should be age 5 or older. Bring water, comfortable shoes, hat, sunblock, snacks. Dogs are allowed on leash. Inclement weather could cancel. For information, contact ryan.gill@parks.ca.gov.

Lake Perris State Recreation Area: Russell Peak Trail: This approximately 2-mile moderate hike starts simple with rolling fire road, goes into rocky trail with some steep elevation gain, little to no shade. Expect to see small animals and possible deer or coyote. Red tailed hawk is also around the area. Meet at the Hunter's Lot at 10 a.m. for this 2 ½ hour hike. Bring water, appropriate footwear, hat and sunscreen and your camera for an awesome way to start the year. This hike is recommend for children 5 years and older. No pets please. If you have any questions please call (951) 940-5647.

Mount San Jacinto State Park: Desert View Trail: This 1.5-mile hike will allow visitors to enjoy the high mountain environment in winter, with five different spectacular view points of the desert floor. This hike is easy to moderate in difficulty and takes place at altitudes over 8,500 feet. Wear warm cold weather clothing and bring water, and snacks. This hike is recommend for children 5 years and older and does not have stroller or wheel chair accessibility. Hikers will meet at the Long Valley Ranger Station located near the top of the Palm Springs Ariel Tramway at 11:00 a.m. For information about taking the tram [click here](#). If you have any questions please call (760) 327-0222.

Salton Sea State Recreation Area: Salton Sea Bird Walk: Meet Volunteer Karen Nelson at the Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m., for the first Bird Walk of 2016. The hike will take approximately one and a half hours and be sure to wear comfortable shoes, a brimmed hat, and bring binoculars and water. The Salton Sea Visitor Center is located at 100-225 State Park Rd, Mecca, CA 92254. There is a \$5 day use fee per vehicle to enter the park, and Seniors age 62 and older are \$4.

Sacramento County

Folsom Lake State Recreation Area: Skunk Hallow Trail: Registration for this strenuous 5-mile hike is at 8:45 a.m. This trail starts off with a strenuous switchback climb in the chaparral community. It provides opportunities to view the upper south fork of the American River. There will be many opportunities to view hawks and possible eagles. Hikers will return following the same trail. Meet at Skunk Hallow River Access at 9:00 a.m. Please bring sturdy shoes that support ankles, water, snacks, layered clothing. This hike is for participants 10-years-old and up or 9-years-old if they have hiked hills before.

Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park: Historic Water Canal Trail: This easy 1.5-mile accessible trail hike will provide the visitors an opportunity to learn about the historic water system that brought water to the Folsom Powerhouse. Following the hike the visitors will have an opportunity to tour the exhibits and displays in the visitor center and the Powerhouse museum. Meet at the Folsom Powerhouse SHP Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. This hike is for participants of eight years old and up. Things to bring include good sturdy walking shoes, layered clothing based on weather, water and snack.

San Diego County

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: Panoramic Overlook: Come experience in this 2 mile moderate hike, across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail (steep, but short) for good views of Borrego Valley and Font's Point. Meet at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. Children welcome must be able to hike 2 miles. Also bring water, hat, and snacks and wear hiking boots. For cancellation Information call 760-767-4205

Bill Kenyon Overlook Trail: Come and experience this 1.5 mile moderate hike, over uneven, rocky ground to a beautiful desert overlook. Meet at Yaqui Pass Primitive Camp at 1:30 p.m., on Highway S-3. Children welcome, but must be able to hike 1.5 miles. Also bring water, hat, and snacks and wear hiking boots. For cancellation information call 760-767-4205.

Ocotillo Wells State Vehicle Recreation Area: Explore the park and take part in a number of activities scheduled to welcome the New Year. Among the activities for visitors to enjoy are hot chocolate and apple cider from 8-10:00 a.m., Map your OHV Ride, OHV Safety Carnival Games and craft activities from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and an OHV Show from 11:00 a.m. to 1 :00 p.m. Riders of all ages can chose a trail and distance to ride. Bring Water, OHV safety gear, your OHV. Meet at Ocotillo Wells Discovery Center, 5172 Highway 78, Borrego Springs, CA , 92004. For information call (760) 767-5391.

South Carlsbad State Beach: South Ponto Beach Sandy Beach and Bluff Overlook Trail: Join California State Parks for the annual “Land and See” First Day Hike at South Ponto State Beach. Gather at 9:00 a.m. at the South Ponto Day Use Lot Restrooms. Hikers will stroll along the shore to learn about the animals that live and feed on our sandy beach. Then climb to the top of the bluff overlook to look for dolphins, sea lions and hone your skills for the upcoming whale season. This is an easy hike of about a mile. Children are welcome. Bring comfortable walking shoes, binoculars, and sun protection. Pets are not allowed. Stormy weather could cancel. Call (760) 438-3143 for information.

Torrey Pines State Natural Preserve: Beach Trail/Razor Point: This a moderate 2.5-mile guided hike through the natural preserve with ocean views. Children must be 2 years of age or older. Bring water, a hat and sunscreen. Please stay on the trail. No food or pets are allowed. Meet at the Lodge and Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. Rain cancels. For information call (858) 755-2063.

Yucca Point/Razor Point: This a moderate 2.5-mile guided hike through the natural preserve with ocean views. Children must be 2 years of age or older. Bring water, a hat and sunscreen. Please stay on the trail. No food or pets are allowed. Meet at the Lodge and Visitor Center at 12:00 p.m. Rain cancels. For information call (858) 755-2063.

Guy Fleming Trail: This a moderate 2-mile guided hike through the natural preserve with ocean views. Children should be 2 years of age or older. Bring water, a hat and sunscreen. Please stay on the trail. No food or pets are allowed. Meet at the Lodge and Visitor Center at 2:00 p.m. Rain cancels. For information call (858) 755-2063.

San Luis Obispo County

Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area: Dune Dwellers Hike: Everyone age 12 and older come experience a 4-mile moderate hike in the Oceano Dunes where people once lived. Wear comfortable shoes, because we will be hiking in the sand dunes. Water and snacks are recommended as well as a windbreaker. Meet at the Kiosk, Pier Ave. entrance to the Oceano dunes at 10:30 a.m. Dogs are permitted, but must be on leash.

San Mateo County

[Año Nuevo State Park: Geology Guided Walk:](#) Año Nuevo means “new year;” what better way to start 2016 than with an easy 1-mile hike through scenic coastal views, walking along active fault and viewing ancient fossil beds. Please meet at 12:00 p.m. at the Marine Education Center and bring walking shoes and water. The walk will happen, rain or shine—hopefully rain! The hike is recommended for all ages, children must be accompanied by parent. For more information, please call (650) 879-2025 or email Ano.EqualAccess@parks.ca.gov.

[Guided Elephant Seal Walks:](#) Año Nuevo means “new year.” What better way to start 2016 than with a moderate 3-mile hike. Tours are from 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Purchasing reservations in advance are strongly recommended at Reserve America (800) 444-4445 or anonuevo.reserveamerica.com. Cost is \$7 per person. Visit large colony of Northern elephant seals and watch the bulls defend their territory, while pregnant females ready to birth their pups. Please meet at the Marine Education Center. Layers, sturdy shoes, and rain gear is strongly advised, no pets, no umbrellas or strollers. The walk will happen, rain or shine—hopefully rain! The hike is recommended for all ages children must be accompanied by parent. For more information, please call (650) 879-2025 or email Ano.EqualAccess@parks.ca.gov.

[Equal Access Seal Tours:](#) Año Nuevo means “new year.” What better way to start 2016 than with an easy 1.5 mile (wheelchair-accessible boardwalk) hike. Tours begin at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Purchasing reservations in advance is strongly recommended at Reserve America (800) 444-4445 or anonuevo.reserveamerica.com. Cost is \$7 per person. Visit large colony of Northern elephant seals and watch the bulls defend their territory, while pregnant females ready to birth their pups. Please meet at the Marine Education Center. Layers, sturdy shoes, and rain gear is strongly advised, no pets (Service dogs admitted with previous notice. Due to limited space, each person with mobility needs can bring up to two guests/assistants,) no umbrellas or strollers. The walk will happen, rain or shine—hopefully not rain. The hike is recommended for all ages children must be accompanied by parent. For more information, please call (650) 879-2025 or email Ano.EqualAccess@parks.ca.gov.

[Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park Property: Mills Creek Trail:](#) Take a journey back in time along Mills Creek at Burleigh Murray Ranch State Park. This easy walk will be a two-mile. Along the way you will learn about the lives of early pioneers. Please meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Burleigh Murray parking lot located on Higgins-Purisima Road 1.5 miles east of Highway 1. Bring water, close toed shoes, snacks, layer clothing, and binoculars (recommended.) Recommended for children age 7 and older accompanied by parent and all pets must be on leash. Rain Cancels. For information call (650) 726-8819 or HMBparksvolunteer@parks.ca.gov.

[Gray Whale Cove State Beach: Gray Whale Cove Trail:](#) Please meet at Gray Whale Cove State Beach Parking Lot at 10:00 a.m. on Highway 1 just south of Devil’s Slide. Enjoy an easy 2-mile hike along the California coast where from the trail you will be able to see stunning views into the landscape by the long-gone Ocean Shore Railroad and

spot the remnant bunkers left over from the World War II era. Bring water, close toed shoes, snacks, layer clothing, binoculars recommended. Children age 7 and older are welcomed, accompanied by parent and all pets must be on leash. Rain cancels. For information call (650) 726-8819 or HMBparksvolunteer@parks.ca.gov.

Pescadero State Beach: Sequoia Audubon Trail: Meet at the Pescadero State Beach central parking lot at 10:00 a.m. on Highway 1, one quarter mile north of Pescadero Creek Road in Pescadero. Enjoy an easy 1-mile along the California coast with popular spots for good bird watching. Bring water, close toed shoes, snacks, layer clothing, sunscreen and binoculars (recommended). Children age 7 and older are welcomed, accompanied by parent and all pets must be on leash. Rain cancels. For information call (650) 726-8819 or HMBparksvolunteer@parks.ca.gov.

Santa Barbara County

Carpinteria State Park: Beach and Bluff Walk to the Rincon: Join us for an approximately 6-7 mile first day moderate hike along the beach and bluffs of Carpinteria to Rincon Point. We will meet at Carpinteria State Beach Kiosk (Entrance Station). Please bring water, sturdy shoes good for both water & sand, also Sun protection and a camera if desired. There will be two walks leaving at the same time – 10:00 a.m., a faster walk and a slower walk spending more time on interpretation at the tar pits. Children 12 and older are welcome. No pets or strollers please. For cancellation information call (805) 684-2811.

Santa Cruz County

Big Basin Redwoods State Park: Shadowbrook Trail: Join Docent Tom Batley as he guides you on a moderate 4-mile hike through old-growth redwoods and a beautiful creek. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. This moderate hike is suitable for adults, and youth 8 years old and older accompanied by parent. Meet at Park Headquarters at 12:00 p.m., 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, CA, 95006. Heavy rain cancels. For cancellation information call (831) 338-8861.

Meteor Trail: This is a moderate 6-mile hike through old-growth redwoods with stunning views. This moderate hike is suitable for adults, and youth 8-years-old and older accompanied by parent. Bring sturdy walking shoes, water and trail snacks. Meet at Park Headquarters at 10:30 a.m., 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, CA, 95006. Rain cancels. For cancellation information call (831) 338-8861.

Redwood Loop Walk: How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join us for this fun and informative easy guided half-mile stroll through a magnificent old-growth redwood forest. This easy hike is suitable for all ages. Bring walking shoes and water. Meet at park headquarters, 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek, CA, 95006 at 1:00 p.m. Heavy rain cancels. For cancellation information call (831) 338-8861.

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park: Old-Growth Redwood Loop to Cable Car

Beach: On this two-mile, easy hike we'll venture to old-growth redwoods and San Lorenzo river. This easy hike is suitable for adults, and youth six years old accompanied by parent. Bring walking shoes and water. Please leave pets at home. Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:30 a.m., enter park from Highway 9 just south of downtown Felton, CA. Heavy rain will cancel. Call 831-335-4598 entrance kiosk or 831-335-8418 visitor center docent desk.

“A River Wild”; River Trail: On this moderate 5-mile hike, we will travel through old growth redwoods, and the San Lorenzo River canyon in maple, bay and alder riparian forest. Maximum elevation change is 500 ft. This moderate hike is suitable for adults, and youth 13 years and older. Bring layers, walking shoes, trail lunch and water. Please leave pets at home. Meet Nature Store at 11:00 a.m. at edge of parking lot, enter park from Highway 9 just south of downtown Felton, CA. Heavy rain cancels. Call 831-335-4598 entrance kiosk or 831-335-8418 visitor center docent desk for cancellation information.

“Critter Safari”: On this easy 1-mile hike, we will be looking for tracks and other signs that animals leave behind. This easy hike is suitable for adults, and youth 6-six-years old accompanied by parent. Bring layers, walking shoes and water. Please leave pets at home. Meet at 1:00 p.m. the Nature Store at edge of parking lot, enter park from Highway 9 just south of downtown Felton, CA. Heavy rain cancels. Call 831-335-4598 entrance kiosk or 831-335-8418 visitor center docent desk for information.

Wilder Ranch State Park: Coast Nature Walk: Step into 2016 with a moderate 2.5-mile hike while exploring plants, animals, geology and great views of coastal bugs. Meet at the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center for guided hike for ages 6 and up. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and wear good walking shoes. Rain cancels. Wilder Ranch is located at the northern end of Santa Cruz off Highway 1 at 1401 Coast Rd. Call (831) 426-0505 for cancellation information.

Tour of the Grey Whale Ranch Area: Step into 2016 with a strenuous 12-mile hike while exploring the upper hills of the park; history, nature, scenic views. Meet at the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center at 9:00 a.m. for guided hike for ages 12 and up. Bring a lunch, snack, water, and binoculars. Wear layers and good walking shoes. Rain cancels. Wilder Ranch is located at the northern end of Santa Cruz off Highway 1 at 1401 Coast Rd. Call (831) 426-0505 for cancellation information.

Sonoma County

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve: Pioneer Trail: Ring in the New Year outside. This hike is brought to you by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and California State Parks. This family-friendly hike will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the visitor's center and go until 12:00 p.m. Guests will be treated to a fun and easy walk under the magnificent old growth redwood trees with stops to view the rushing waters of Fife

Creek. The hike will be led by experienced docents from Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle and snacks. All ages welcome. The event is free. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, please contact the Stewards office, at 707-869-9177 or stewards@stewardscr.org.

Fort Ross State Historic Park: Cemetery Trail Walk/Talk - Beach/Reef Trail: This is a beautiful walk along the Fort Ross creek ending at the cemetery. A 20-minute talk on the cemetery will be offered once there. We will then walk back out to the beach and over to the Reef Campground where we will have our packed lunches. Along the trail we might see some early spring wild flowers, as well as vistas of the ocean view and possibly Whale spouts. At the beginning of the hike Kashaya Elder Lorin Smith will greet us, offering a blessing to start our new year. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the upper parking area. For this moderate 3-mile hike children are welcome. No pets please. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and good hiking shoes. Shoes might get wet if the creek has water in it. To check on cancellation, contact the park at robinjoy.wellman@parks.ca.gov or call 707-847-4777 for latest updates.

Jack London Park: Mountain Trail: Take a moderately strenuous hike to the summit of the park, where you will be rewarded by beautiful views of the valley floor. Expect a fun and friendly eight-mile round trip hike to start off the New Year. This hike is suitable for adults and youth 12 years old and up. We will meet in the Ranch parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes will be hiking on uneven terrain; bring water, hiking poles and lunch. Rain will cancel, no pets please. For additional information contact Deborah Large at large@sonic.net.

Salt Point State Park: Grace Rock Trail: After meeting at the north end of the Fisk Mill Cove parking lot at 10:30 a.m. (with chemical toilets and Sentinel Rock Viewing Platform nearby), we'll hike a easy to moderate three mile hike for ages 10 and above to the oceanside Grace Rock Trail, exploring the less visited northern reaches of Salt Point State Park. Hike highlights will include unique, other-worldly rock formations, wide open ocean vistas, seabirds and possible marine mammals, and good company. Please bring hiking (or rain?) boots, rain gear, layered clothing, hat, binoculars, water & sack lunch. Sorry, no pets permitted. Call (707) 847-3437 that morning for updates or email info@fortross.org.

Sonoma Coast State Park: Kortum Trail: Start the year out right and bring your family on a hike out at the coast. This hike is brought to you by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and California State Parks. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Shell Beach parking lot and go until 3:00 p.m. On this easy walk, the group will meander through rare coastal prairie habitat on the Kortum Trail. Views of the ocean and the nearby boulders make this a magical experience. The hike will be led by experienced Stewards docents. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle and snacks. All ages welcome. The event is free. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, please contact the Stewards office, at 707-869-9177 or stewards@stewardscr.org.

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park: Bald Mountain Loop: Celebrate the New Year with a hike to Bald Mountain. This 6.5 to 7.4-mile hike (final route will be determined by trail conditions) will include a climb of 1,500 feet, featuring fantastic views of Sonoma Valley, Napa Valley, and San Francisco. The hike is suitable for adults and youth 11-years-old and up. Be prepared for inclement weather. Pack a lunch/snacks and water. We will meet in the main day use parking lot at 10:00 a.m. (parking fee applies). No Pets on trails and for cancellation Information contact John Roney, (707) 833-5712 or john@sonomaecologycenter.org although no RSVP is required.

Tulare County

Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park: Community Walk Trail: Take an easy 1-mile hike around the historic town of Allensworth, tour of several buildings, shop at the gift shop (cash only), and learn how wildlife and town residents interacted. Meet at the park visitor center at 11:00 a.m. Children are welcome. Bring water, layered clothing, umbrella, good walking shoes, camera, and a lunch or snacks. Pets are permitted but not allowed in the buildings. This hike is scheduled rain or shine. For cancellation information call (661) 849-3433.