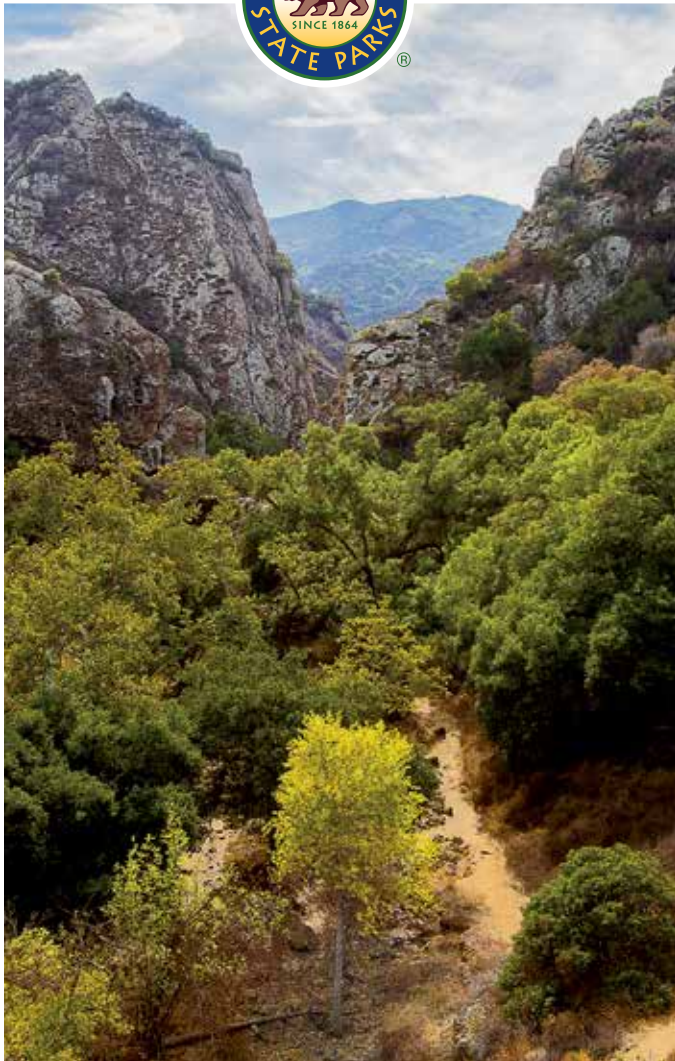


# Malibu Creek State Park



## Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at **(818) 880-0367**. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact [interp@parks.ca.gov](mailto:interp@parks.ca.gov).

### CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

P.O. Box 942896

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

For information call: (800) 777-0369

(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.

711, TTY relay service

[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

### Malibu Creek State Park

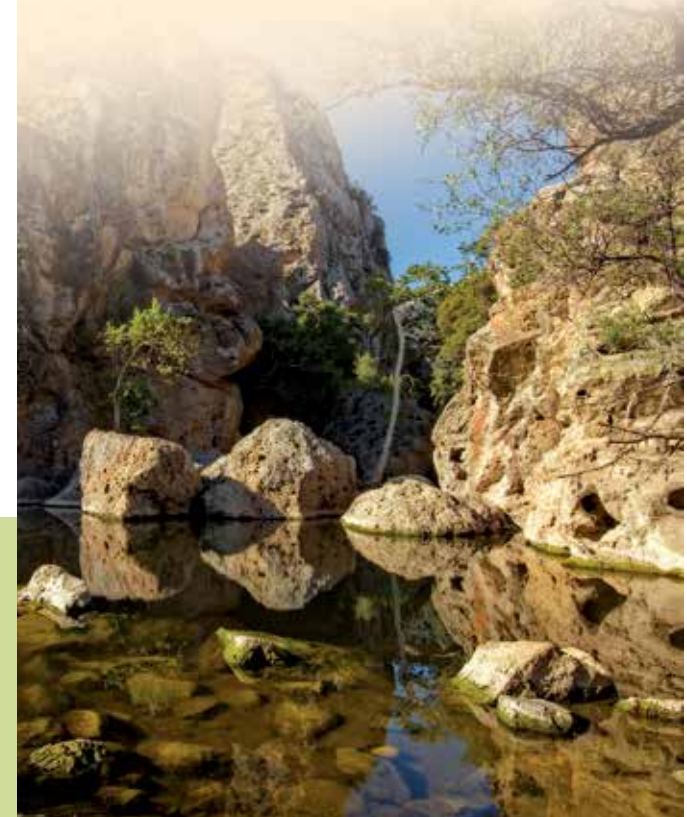
1925 Las Virgenes Road

Calabasas, CA 91302

(818) 880-0367

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*Famed as a movie  
and TV filming site,  
exclusive club retreat, and  
home to Chumash and  
Tongva peoples,  
this scenic haven  
has been called the  
"Yosemite of Los Angeles."*



**M**alibu Creek State Park extends across the crest of the Santa Monica Mountains, encompassing thousands of scenic acres filled with craggy canyons, gorges, and meadows. Divided by a section of 14-mile-long Malibu Creek, the park has been a popular recreation and relaxation venue for visitors since it opened in 1976.

## PARK HISTORY

### Native People

Archaeological evidence indicates that humans have lived in these mountains for at least 7,000 years. Malibu Canyon acted as both a natural and cultural boundary for people speaking the eastern Chumash (Ventureño) and the western Tongva (Fernandeño) languages. People were identified by their home village, and villages maintained political and personal relationships through trade.

Interior Santa Monica Mountains villages, such as the community of *Ta'lopop* (Talepop) found within what is now today's park, were often nestled at the junction of streams and springs surrounded by grasslands and oak woodlands. Surrounding the main village were temporary hunting and gathering camps as well as places for ceremony.

After Gaspar de Portolá's 1769 expedition and the subsequent establishment of missions at San Fernando and San Buenaventura, Spanish settlers began taking over native lands. The Chumash and Tongva were forced to relocate and work at the missions and later, ranches; however, some native communities, such as Talepop, persisted into the "American era."

## PLEASE REMEMBER

- All park natural and cultural features are protected by law and must not be disturbed or removed.
- Except for service animals, dogs are not allowed on any trails. Pets are allowed only in registered campsites and must be kept in a tent or vehicle at night.
- Watch carefully for poison oak, ticks, and rattlesnakes.
- Diving and jumping from rocks is prohibited. Swimming in Rock Pool is unhealthy due to high bacteria levels.
- Pack out your trash and litter.
- Observe the fire regulations posted at the park entrance.

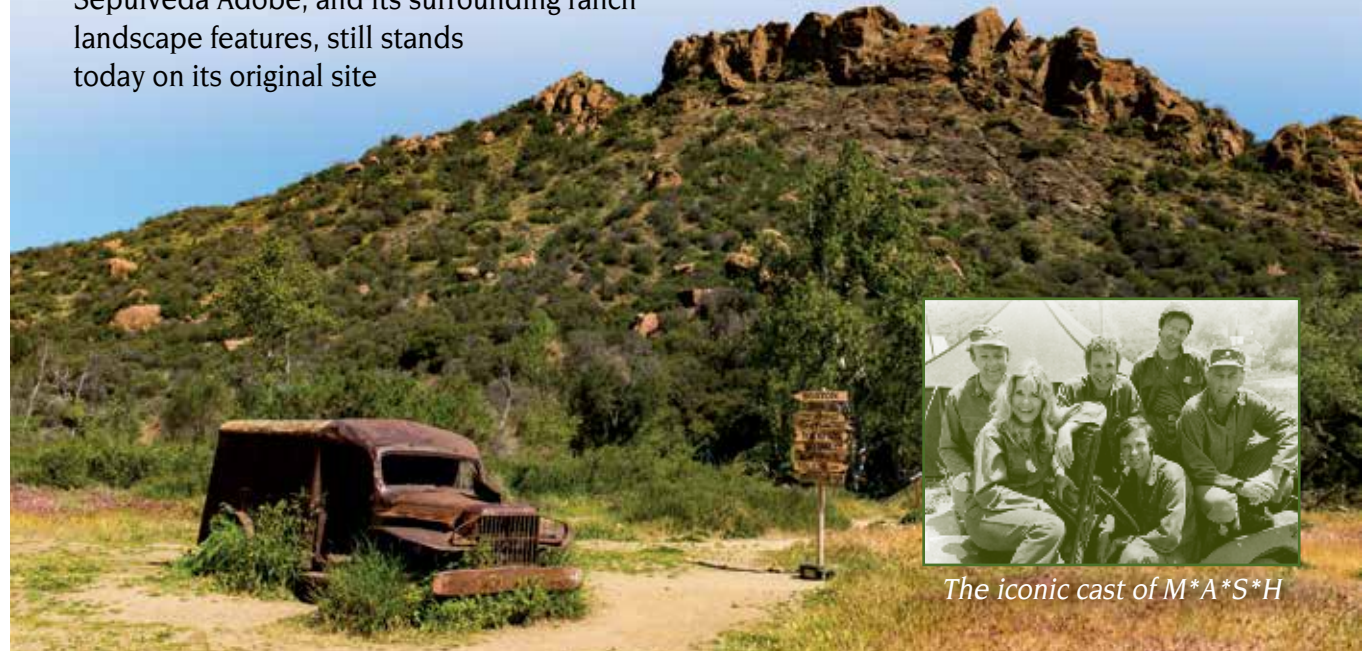
### From Spanish Settlers to Movie Stars

In 1863, settler Pedro Sepulveda built an adobe home from local mud bricks. The Sepulveda Adobe, and its surrounding ranch landscape features, still stands today on its original site

near the corner of Las Virgenes Road and Mulholland Highway. This historic structure is open to the public on select days.

As metropolitan Los Angeles continued to grow, Craggs Country Club was established in 1910 on former homestead lands for wealthy businessmen as a place to recreate with their families. Hollywood soon discovered the beautiful scenery, and with club membership declining, 20th Century Fox Studios purchased the property in 1946. The rocks and trees at what became known as "Century Ranch" formed a dramatic backdrop for many Westerns and other film and television shows including *Planet of the Apes*, *Roots*, and *M\*A\*S\*H*.

California State Parks bought Century Ranch in the early 1970s, adding acreage that included the historic White Oak Farm and Ronald Reagan's Yearling Row ranch. The park was classified and opened in 1976.



*The iconic cast of M\*A\*S\*H*

## NATURAL HISTORY

### Geology

The park's terrain of meadows, woodlands, crags, buttes, and canyons testifies to the varying geological processes occurring here over millions of years.

Uplifted beds of sandstone and siltstone from the middle Miocene era form this portion of the Santa Monica Mountains. Between 13 and 15 million years ago, molten volcanic lava, along with mudflows and ash (the Conejo Volcanics Formation) flowed over the sedimentary rock of the Topanga Canyon Formation. As the volcanic activity slowed, marine sediments were laid down again, creating the Calabasas Formation.

The Malibu Creek watershed and subwatershed drain to the ocean through Malibu Lagoon; the year-round streams are Malibu Creek and Las Virgenes Creek. Century Lake and the Rock Pool on Malibu Creek have poor water quality due to urban runoff from surrounding communities.

### Natural Preserves

Three subunits within the park—nearly 3,000 of the park's 8,000+ acres, have been classified as natural preserves. These areas safeguard significant plant and animal species and natural processes.



**Kaslow Natural Preserve** provides 1,900 acres of habitat for golden eagles and other raptors, mountain lions, and the rare Santa Susana tarplant—among other species—near the center of the park. *Ka slo'w* means “place of the eagle” in the Chumash language.

**Liberty Canyon Natural Preserve** protects 730 acres of valley oak woodland/savannah in the park's northeast section.

**Udell Gorge Natural Preserve** is named for the steep, narrow valley carved by Udell Creek during the Conejo Volcanics era. This 300-acre preserve north of Goat Buttes hosts such plants as the rare Santa Monica Mountains dudleya and Lyon's pentachaeta.

### Other Plants and Wildlife

The parklands have several types of plant communities: oak woodland and valley oak savannah; riparian woodland; chaparral and coastal sage scrub; grasslands, and freshwater marsh.

Wildlife includes a number of sensitive mammal, reptile, bird, and fish species, including the southwestern pond turtle and southern steelhead. Bird watching is popular.

## RECREATION

**Camping**—More than 55 RV and tent sites and one 60-person group tent site may be reserved in advance. Visit [www.parks.ca.gov/malibucreek](http://www.parks.ca.gov/malibucreek) or call (800) 444-7275.

**Picnics**—Shaded picnic ramadas with barbecues are available near the main park entrance.

**Trails**—Hikers, cyclists, and equestrians may enjoy 35 miles of fire roads and trails.

Climbing and bouldering at the “Apes Wall” near rock pool is allowed. Use caution and please do not place pitons or anchors in the rocks.



Observe designated trail uses; yield the right of way to horses and hikers.

**Fishing**—Anglers aged 16 and older must carry a valid license. No fishing is permitted in lower Malibu Creek or Malibu Lagoon. For full regulations, see [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov).

Find thorough information about the park with a schedule of volunteer-led hikes and events at [www.malibucreekstatepark.org](http://www.malibucreekstatepark.org).

## ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

The Hunt House Visitor Center, the administrative building, restrooms, four campsites, the campfire center, picnic areas, and the Ann Skager Trail with Braille signage are all accessible.

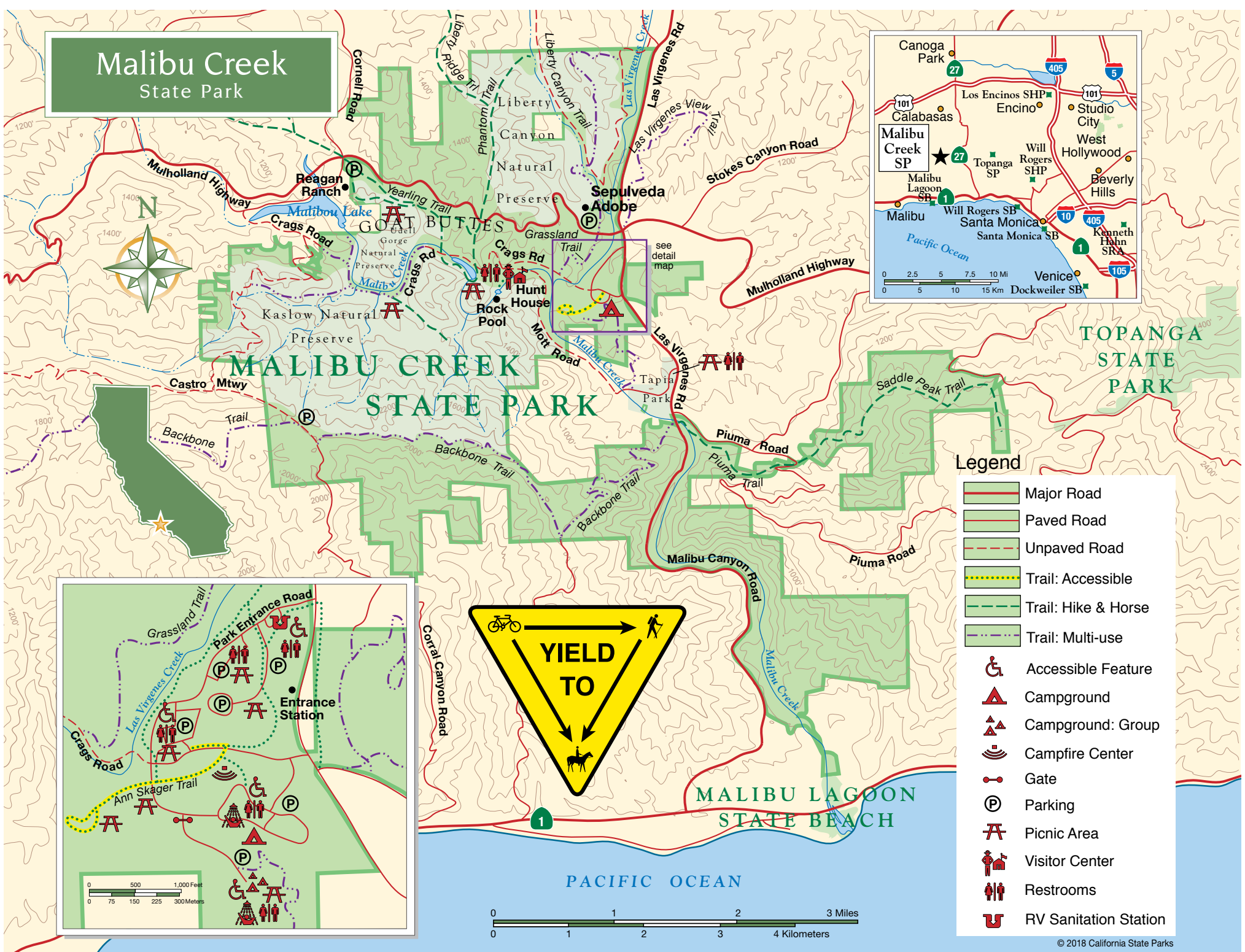
Accessibility is continually improving. For updates, visit <http://access.parks.ca.gov>.

## NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Malibu Lagoon State Beach  
23200 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu 90265 (310) 457-8432
- Topanga State Park, 20828 Entrada Road  
Topanga 90290 (310) 455-4197

This park receives support in part from the nonprofit Malibu Creek Docents.  
[www.malibucreekstatepark.org](http://www.malibucreekstatepark.org)

# Malibu Creek State Park



## Legend

- Major Road
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Trail: Accessible
- Trail: Hike & Horse
- Trail: Multi-use
- Accessible Feature
- Campground
- Campground: Group
- Campfire Center
- Gate
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Visitor Center
- Restrooms
- RV Sanitation Station

