

# Free! ♦ Big Sur Guide ♦ Free!

Summer 2006-Spring 2007



Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park and McWay Falls ~ Photo by Brock Bradford

## “The Greatest Meeting of Land & Sea”

**B**ig Sur is located along Scenic Highway One approximately 150 miles south of San Francisco and 300 miles north of Los Angeles. Historically, the name Big Sur was derived from that unexplored and unmapped wilderness area which lays along the coast south of Monterey. It was simply called el país grande del sur, the Big South Country. Today, Big Sur refers to that 90-mile stretch of rugged and awesomely beautiful coastline between Carmel to the north and San Simeon (Hearst Castle) to the south. Highway One winds along its length and is flanked on one side by the majestic Santa Lucia Mountains and on the other by the rocky Pacific Coast.

Although there were two Mexican land grants awarded in the 1830's, which included most of the area north of the Big Sur Valley, neither grantee settled on the land. It was little more than a century ago when the first permanent settlers arrived in Big Sur. In the following decades other hardy persons followed and staked out their homesteads. The landmarks bear the names of many of those early settlers — Mt. Manuel, Pfeiffer Ridge, Post Summit, Cooper Point, Dani Ridge, Partington Cove and others. Some of their descendants still live in Big Sur.

At the turn of the century Big Sur sustained a larger population than it does today. A vigorous

redwood lumbering industry provided livelihoods for many. The Old Coast Trail, which had been the only link between homesteads, was still little more than a wagon trail. Steamers transported heavy goods and supplies and harbored at Notley's Landing, Partington Cove, and the mouth of the Little Sur River.

Navigation was treacherous, and in 1889, the Point Sur Lighthouse began sending its powerful beam to protect ships from the hazards of the coastline.

In 1937, the present highway was completed after eighteen years of construction at a considerable expense even with the aid of convict labor. The highway has since been declared California's first Scenic Highway, and it provides a driving experience unsurpassed in natural beauty and scenic variety.

Electricity did not arrive in Big Sur until the early 1950's, and it still does not extend the length of the coast or into the more remote mountainous area.

The proximity of the Pacific Ocean provides for a temperate climate. Winters are mild, and rainy days are interspersed with periods of bright sunshine. An average rainfall of over 50

inches fills the many streams that flow down the redwood-lined canyons. Coastal fog cools the summer mornings, but it usually lifts by early afternoon.

It is wise to include both warm and cold weather clothing when packing for Big Sur. A damp, foggy morning can be followed by a warm afternoon. In the interior valleys of the Wilderness Area, the temperatures are more extreme; the fog bank seldom crosses the coast ridge, so the days are likely to be hot and the nights chilly.

The scenic qualities and the natural grandeur of the coast which result from the imposing geography, the rich vegetative compositions, and the dramatic meetings of land and sea are the area's greatest single attraction to the public. Big Sur has attained a worldwide reputation for its spectacular beauty. Hiking, backpacking and scenic driving are major recreational activities.

Highway 1 through Big Sur is a designated American National Scenic Byway and California Scenic Highway, an honor reserved for highways that are so distinctive they are destinations unto themselves.



[www.bigsurcalifornia.org](http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org)

# Big Sur Guide

Your Official Resource Guide  
to the Big Sur Coast  
2006-2007

## Table of Contents

- Handling Big Sur with Care ... page 2
- Point Sur Lighthouse ..... page 3
- Hunting & Fishing ..... page 3
- Ventana Wilderness ..... page 3
- Map..... page 4-5
- Big Sur Visitor Resources ..... pages 6-7
- Reservations ..... pages 6-7
- Where’s the Beach? ..... page 8
- Redwoods ..... page 8

## Acknowledgements

Big Sur Guide is a publication provided as a public service by :

- **Big Sur Chamber of Commerce**
- Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Big Sur Chamber of Commerce Editorial Committee – Chris Counts, Rick Aldinger, Dan Priano, Stan Russell. If you have any questions about the articles, information or revisions of this publication, please send them to:

**Big Sur Chamber of Commerce**  
**P.O. Box 87**  
**Big Sur, CA 93920**  
**Call (831) 667-2100**  
**[www.bigsurcalifornia.org](http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org)**  
**[info@bigsurcalifornia.org](mailto:info@bigsurcalifornia.org)**

**Photography:**  
Stan Russell - [www.bigsurinternet.com](http://www.bigsurinternet.com)  
Brock Bradford - [www.heartbeatbigsur.com](http://www.heartbeatbigsur.com)  
Daniel Bianchetta - [www.bigsurphoto.com](http://www.bigsurphoto.com)

## About the Big Sur Guide

This publication is supported in part by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors through a grant from the Monterey County Travel & Tourism Alliance. Through this guide we hope to answer your questions regarding the Big Sur Coast

## Emergency Information

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911.

- Other emergency phone numbers include:
- AAA (800) 400-4222
  - Big Sur Health Center (831) 667-2580
  - Big Sur Station, State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Cal-Trans (831) 667-2315
  - Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (831) 624-5311

Community Hospital is the nearest hospital to Big Sur. It is located approximately 30 miles north of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Follow Highway One to Carmel, taking the Highway 68 exit (west) to the hospital.

### Monterey-Salinas Transit

The Route 22 bus runs from  
Monterey to Big Sur  
April - October  
[www.mst.org](http://www.mst.org)  
1-888-MST-BUS1  
(1-888-678-2871)



Point Sur (above), View north from Hurrican Point (below) Photos by Brock Bradford

# How to handle Big Sur with care

Big Sur is a special place to many people. To help keep it that way and ensure your own safety, observe some simple rules and follow these basic safety tips.

**FIRES** — Our biggest concern during the dry season is wildfire. Please extinguish cigarettes in your ashtray. Be extra careful, making sure that your fire is safe and legal. Be sure to extinguish your fire when you leave.

**COLLECTING** — Plants, animals, rocks and artifacts of Big Sur’s cultural and natural history are protected by law and should not be disturbed. Rockhounding and collection of driftwood and fire-wood may be allowed in certain designated areas. Collectors should contact the nearest ranger station for specific information.

**LITTER** — Please don’t litter! Please treat Big Sur gently and with respect so that it will remain the beautiful place we all love.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** — Please be mindful and respectful of the property rights of others. Most of the land adjacent to the highway is posted private property, and trespassing laws are strictly enforced.

**ROADSIDE CAMPING** — Monterey County prohibits camping along Highway 1 from the Carmel River to the Monterey-San Luis Obispo County line. This does not apply to tired motorists stopping for a temporary rest.

**PETS** — Pets frighten wildlife and disturb visitors. On U.S. Forest Service lands, pets must be leashed in developed campgrounds and picnic areas only. In the State Parks, they must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed on trails.

**POISON OAK** — This toxic plant is found in Big Sur in abundance. Exposure to the plant can be spread by hands, clothing, pets, or equipment which has come in contact with the plant or from the smoke generated when burning it. Much of the reactive substance can be removed by immediate washing with cool water and soap. Look for the triple leaf pattern, with prominent veins and a shiny surface. During the Summer and Fall, the leaves take on reddish hues. Try to avoid this plant.

**DRIVING TIPS FOR HIGHWAY 1** — State Highway One through the Big Sur is recognized as one of the state’s most beautiful highways and also is very dangerous.

Keep these tips in mind when you travel this route:

- 1) Drive defensively! You never know what hazard may be behind that next blind corner. Watch for bicycles.
- 2) Buckle up! It’s the law.
- 3) Keep your eyes on the road — if you want to enjoy the scenery, pull over.
- 4) Maintain your speed and abide by posted limits which is 55 MPH unless otherwise posted. Slower traffic should pull over.
- 5) When pulling over, avoid quick stops on the unpaved pull outs and shoulders.
- 6) Don’t pass on the double yellow lines.

# Tours Available at Historic Point Sur Light Station

The Point Sur Light Station, located on the Big Sur coast 19 miles south of Carmel, sits 361 feet above the surf on the seaward brow of a large block of volcanic rock. This rugged promontory has long been regarded as a navigational hazard. Prior to construction of the lighthouse (1887-1889), the area was the site of several disastrous shipwrecks.

Designated as a State Historic Landmark in 1980, Point Sur contains all the buildings necessary to maintain a self-sufficient 19th-Century lighthouse facility. It is the only intact light station along the California coast open to the public. As a part of the Big Sur coast for the past 100 years, the picturesque buildings inspire an aura of mystery and haunting beauty, continuing to be an important landmark to modern day mariners as well as travelers along Highway 1.

Construction of the light station began in 1887 and was completed two years later. At that time Point Sur was one of the more remote light stations. In place of Highway 1 there was a horse trail—the Old Coast Road—which made trips to Monterey long and infrequent.

The light station ceased operations in 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior gifted the majority of the light station to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1984. The lighthouse itself and remaining parcels were gifted to State Parks in 2004. Restoration work began in 1985, and today, classified as a State Historic Park, weekend tours are scheduled during most of the year.

For information regarding guided tours, check the interpretive notices posted in the state parks, or call (831) 625-4419 for more information. Trained volunteer docents provide an informative and pleasurable tour to the visiting public, and provide access to the Point Sur Lightstation.



Photos by Stan Russell

**HISTORIC LIGHTSTATION** — A landmark along the Big Sur Coast for over 100 years, the Point Sur Light Station is now a State Historic Park. Tours are available to the public.

Visitors will hear tales of service and heroism by generations of lighthouse keepers and their families, as well as the important role of the U.S. Lighthouse Service, which was the creator and administrator of the facility from 1889 to 1937.

## POINT SUR LIGHTSTATION TOURS:

**WHEN:** Docent-led guided tours are given every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (weather permitting). Moonlight tours available April through October. Visitors wishing to go on the tour should arrive one-half hour before the scheduled times.

**WHERE:** Meet along the west side of Highway 1 at the locked entrance gate one-quarter-mile

north of the former Point Sur Naval Facility. Due to parking limitations only 15 vehicles will be admitted per tour. No motrhomes, trailers or busses. There is no public beach access. Please respect the right of private property owners.

**ADMISSION:** \$8 for adults, \$4 for ages 6 to 17. 5 and under are free. A video featuring the Pt. Sur tour can be viewed at the Big Sur Station. Tours are not recommended for small children. Dogs, food, drink and smoking are prohibited.

**TOURS:** Each tour takes about 2-3 hours, and involves a steep one-half mile hike each way, with a 300-foot climb in elevation. Always be prepared for cold, windy weather even in the summer. [www.pointsur.org](http://www.pointsur.org)

# Big Sur Backcountry Offers a Bounty of Hiking Trails

The Ventana Wilderness owes its name to a dramatic mountain peak known as Ventana Double Cone. Legends relate that at one time the unique notch at the mountain's top was roofed over by a rock bridge. Because of this legend, the early Spanish inhabitants named the outcrop "Ventana," which means window in Spanish.

The Ventana Wilderness contains 167,323 acres straddling the Santa Lucia Mountains south of the Monterey Peninsula. A unique area of rugged coastal mountains, the Ventana Wilderness is managed by the United States Forest Service.

Topography in the Wilderness is characterized by steep-sided, sharp-crested ridges separating V-shaped valleys. Elevations range from 600 feet, where the Big Sur River leaves the wilderness, to about 5,750 feet at the wilderness boundary circumventing Junipero Serra Peak. Most streams fall rapidly through narrow vertical-walled canyons flowing on bedrock or a veneer of boulders. Waterfalls, deep pools and thermal springs are found along major streams.

The climate is mild. Precipitation falls primarily as rain from November to April and ranges widely from more than 100 inches annually along the Coast Ridge to less than 30 inches only a few miles inland. The cool marine influence does not extend past the coastal ridges, thus most areas east of the divide are hot and dry during the Summer and early Fall.

Much of the wilderness is covered by chaparral. Contrasting annual grass meadows and open pine stands may be found throughout the Wilderness. The deep canyons cut by the Big Sur and Little Sur rivers support virgin stands of coastal redwoods.

Scattered stands of the endemic Santa Lucia Fir are found in rocky outcrops and rugged slopes at higher elevations. This rare spire-like tree is only found in the Santa Lucia Mountains.

Hikers and backpackers can find solitude while enjoying the diverse natural features of the Santa Lucia Mountains. The 237 miles of trails provide access to the 55 designated trail camps.

The Pine Ridge Trail provides visitors to the Big Sur Valley with one of the most popular portals into the Ventana Wilderness. The trailhead at the Big Sur Station has excellent parking, plenty of water, and clean restrooms. The Nature Station Store, which is located at the Big Sur Station,

## Hunting and Fishing Guidelines in Big Sur

Hunting on public lands is limited to U.S. Forest Service property. For specific information in the Big Sur area, contact the California Department of Fish and Game at (831) 649-2870.

Remember that firearms are prohibited in all Big Sur State Parks and within the California Sea Otter Refuge which covers all areas west of Highway One along the Big Sur Coast.

Fishing regulations can change from year to year, so contact the Department of Fish and Game at (831) 649-2870 for specific information. All anglers 16 years of age and older must have a valid California Fishing License in their possession.

Specific seasons, bag limits, size restrictions, and gear restrictions cover the take of most species. Specific regulations are contained in California Sportfishing Regulations available wherever you purchase your fishing license.

provides hikers with maps and other literature associated with the natural history of the Big Sur region.

When hiking the trail please refrain from entering the campground section of the park. Try to keep your impact to a minimum. Pack out your trash and protect natural water sources. Water should always be boiled.

For local Big Sur trail information and for getting your backcountry permits and where to pick them up in Big Sur, call (831) 667-2315

**Visit us on the web for more trail information. [www.bigsurcalifornia.org](http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org)**

Shellfish can be toxic during certain seasons. If quarantine notices are posted, please heed the warnings.

Seasonal openings and closures of coastal streams are governed by Fish and Game regulations. The major coastal streams east of Highway One bridges offer trout fishing from the last Saturday in April through November 15. Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park is closed to fishing on the east side of the Highway One bridge.

From November 16 through the last day in February activity shifts to the west side of the Highway One bridges when steelhead trout are heading up the river to spawn. Fishing is allowed on Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, Wednesdays, and the first and last day of the season.



Photograph by Brock Bradford



Photograph by Stan Russell



Photograph by Brock Bradford



Photograph by Brock Bradford

# *Big Sur, California*



California Condor in Flight - Photo by Daniel Bianchetta

**Ventana Wildlife Society California Condor Recovery Program**

For almost thirty years, the Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS), a community-based private non-profit, has been releasing wildlife in the Ventana Wilderness. In 1997, VWS began reintroducing California condors to the Big Sur coast, and the population has steadily risen each year. The California condor is North America’s largest and most endangered land bird, and can frequently be seen along the Big Sur coast. VWS biologists have a few simple requests for travelers in the region who wish to view condors. To help keep California’s condors wild:

- **Please remain more than 150 feet from the California condor**
- **It is dangerous and illegal to throw any object at the condors**
- **Please do not feed condors!**
- **Litter can harm condors if ingested and it fouls the beautiful Big Sur coastline**

Through community and public support and involvement VWS will continue to attain its conservation goals. Ventana Wildlife Society is supported by contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and trusts. VWS is the only non-profit organization restoring the condor to the wild in California. To report your condor sightings or for more information visit [www.ventanaws.org](http://www.ventanaws.org), Our address: Ventana Wildlife Society, 19045 Portola Dr., Suite F-1. Salinas, CA 93908. Phone 831.624.1202.

**Henry Miller In Big Sur**

One of America’s most famous and controversial authors called Big Sur, *The face of the earth as the Creator intended it to look*. From 1944 to 1962, he also called it “home.” Nestled in the redwoods on Highway One, between Nepenthe and Deetjen’s you will find the Henry Miller Memorial Library. Like many things in Big Sur it is a place out of place and out of time. Not content to be a library or memorial, it is a place where you can still get free coffee or tea, free Wi-Fi Internet access or just relax among the towering redwoods that is an oasis for the weary traveller or hungry heart. Summer brings live music, poetry, circus, art and the eclectic with an event nearly every week. A sculpture garden to picnic or relax in, an eclectic bookstore and a free public restroom that defies description makes you want to skip that trip to Hearst Castle. As the Big Sur archives it also pays homage to the many other great artists and writers who called Big Sur *home* like Jeffers, Ferlinghetti, Kerouac, Watts, Brautigan and dozens of others. A 501(c) 3 non profit, HML champions the works of its namesake and also advocates the support of art, freedom, and all expression everywhere with its extensive archives, outreach and programs. Simple, unadorned and irreverent, this is the place to get away from what Miller called *The Air Conditioned Nightmare*, a place where you can still *Stand Still Like the Hummingbird* or simply *Smile at the Foot of the Ladder*. [henrymiller.org](http://henrymiller.org) ph. 831.667.2574

**Do Nothing in Big Sur!**

In addition to enjoying the many fruits of Ventana Wildlife Society’s labor, and the many other abundant forms of wildlife, while in Big Sur there are a multitude of ways in which to enjoy the area.

Evenings offer the opportunity to dine in restaurants from fanciful to exquisite. Relax in lodging that ranges from rustic to ultra-luxurious. Camp out in the many well equipped campgrounds. Luxuriate at the health spas. And of course, one of the favorite past-times of Big Sur, is to simply *Do Nothing!*

That’s right. Relax and take in the magnificent beauty of Big Sur. Once you are here there is no reason to do anything more. Replenish your spirit by simply absorbing the weepingly beautiful vistas of Big Sur. *Do Nothing* in Big Sur and leave refreshed and rejuvenated from head to toe. You’ll be glad you did.



McWay Falls, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park photo; Stan Russell



Big Sur Coastline photo; Stan Russell



Monarch butterflies winter roost at Andrew Molera State Park



Historic Rocky Creek Bridge photo; Brock Bradford

## Art Galleries & Gift Shops

**ARS STUDIO & GALLERY** featuring local artists. Paintings, sculpture, exhibits, workshops. Located at Loma Vista (831) 667-2618 [bigsurars.com](http://bigsurars.com)

**BIG SUR ARTS CENTER** Home to Big Sur Arts Initiative, a local nonprofit arts enrichment organization. Located in the Village Shops adjacent to the Big Sur River Inn. Home to the Hidden Gardens Tour. (831) 667-1530. [bigsurarts.org](http://bigsurarts.org)

**BIG SUR GARDEN GALLERY** Located at Loma Vista. A beautiful combination of fine locally produced art and jewelry with exotic gifts from around the world. Features hand crafted jade jewelry for all price ranges plus one of a kind beaded necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Locally produced herbal products, cards, candles, soaps and clothing. (831) 667-2000

**BIG SUR LODGE GIFT SHOP** An array of eclectic gifts, State Park souvenirs, jewelry, pottery & the largest selection of T-shirts & sweatshirts in the area. 8 am - 9pm daily (831) 667-3108 [bigsurlodge.com](http://bigsurlodge.com)

**BIG SUR SPIRIT GARDEN** is a unique botanical garden devoted to awaken creativity and inspiration through cultural, musical, artistic and educational programs and classes. Offers exotic succulents and plants. Visit us at Loma Vista between the Big Sur Bakery and the Big Sur Garden Gallery. (831) 667-2000

**CHAPPELLET STUDIOS** on Rancho Rico. Gallery by appointment. Also weddings & special events. (831) 238-6943 [chappelletstudios.com](http://chappelletstudios.com)

**HAWTHORNE GALLERY** Representing the work of Gregory Hawthorne and five additional talented members of the Hawthorne family, and six other internationally known artists in contemporary painting, sculpture, blown glass, ceramics, and cloissone. Located across from Nepenthe. Exhibits Albert Paley’s forged steel masterpieces, Max DeMoss’ bronze works, Frederick Gregory’s granite sculptures and renowned Big Sur artist Barbara Spring’s creations in wood. Open daily, 10:30 am - 6:30 pm. (831) 667-3200 [hawthornegallery.com](http://hawthornegallery.com)

**HEARTBEAT GIFT GALLERY** An adventure in shopping for the unusual, exotic, and erotic. A great variety, choice, and quality of jewelry, clothing , and collectibles from around the world featuring local Big Sur landscape photography by Brock Bradford. Next to the Big Sur River Inn. (831) 667-2557 [heartbeatbigsur.com](http://heartbeatbigsur.com)

**HENRY MILLER LIBRARY** a non-profit organization championing the works of the American author, artist & Big Sur resident, Henry Miller. A treasure of fine books, art and history of the area. Rare books. Available for special events. Wi-Fi Internet access. (831) 667-2574. [henrymiller.org](http://henrymiller.org)

**LOCALCOLOR** Central Coast Artisans Gallery. Featuring fine art as well as handcrafts by local artists. Large variety of Big Sur Jade, redwood bowls, and tie-dyed clothing. Open everyday. (831) 667-0481 [bigsurlocalcolor.com](http://bigsurlocalcolor.com)

**LOVELY JONES** featuring handmade, new & recycled apparel, band-dyed yarn, essential oils, Big Sur balms, cool stuff from recycled materials and more. Open everyday except Tuesday and Thursday. At the Village Shops at the River Inn between the Chiropractor and the Pub. (831) 667-2211 [lovelyjones.com](http://lovelyjones.com)

**NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE** Offering cards, books, prints, paintings, incense, fruitcake & datenut cake. (831) 667-2456 [contemplation.com](http://contemplation.com)

**PHOENIX SHOP, THE** is located at Nepenthe, offering a unique collection of gifts, books, jewelry, toys & clothing. Open 10:30 am-7 pm (831) 667-2347 [nepenthebigsur.com](http://nepenthebigsur.com)

**POST RANCH MERCANTILE** Presents fine goods from Post Ranch Inn, including beautiful tableware, home accessories, natural clothing and bedding, natural bodycare products. Open 9:30 am-5pm daily. (831) 667-2795 [postranchmercantile.com](http://postranchmercantile.com)

**SOFANYA’S ART GALLERY** Essence Portraits painted by Sofanya... a unique, personal, and colorful experience that you can take home with you. Paintings, sculpture, wearable art. At Fernwood Resort (831) 667-2130 [sofanya.com](http://sofanya.com)

**STORE AT VENTANA, THE** features jewelry, pottery, gifts, clothing & more. The adjacent Gallery at Ventana showcases fine art by local artists. Open 9 am-10 pm daily. (831) 667-2787 [ventanagallerybigsur.com](http://ventanagallerybigsur.com)



## Campgrounds

**ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK** at mouth of Big Sur River. Walk in 1/4 mile to 24 campground sites in open meadow setting. 4-people/site, non-reservable. 4,800 acres hiking, surfing, and picnic tables. (831) 667-2315 [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**BIG SUR CAMPGROUND & CABINS** Year-round family camping among the redwood trees along the Big Sur River. Store, laundry, playground, and basketball court. Inner tubing on the river. Tent camping with hot showers. RV camping w/water & electric hook-ups as well as a dump station. (831) 667-2322 [bigsurcamp.com](http://bigsurcamp.com)

**BOTTCHERS GAP** U.S. Forest Service campground featuring 12 sites. Tent sites only. Winter & Summer. Bring water. (805) 434-1996 [campone.com](http://campone.com)

**FERNWOOD CAMPGROUND** Tent and RV camping on both sides of the Big Sur River. Bordering Pfeiffer State Park with towering redwoods and beautiful mountain views. Featuring tent-cabins on the river, direct access to hiking trails, horse shoes, volley ball, store, video & DVD rental, restaurant, tavern, and espresso bar. Home of the albino redwood. (831) 667-2422 [fernwoodbigsur.com](http://fernwoodbigsur.com)

**JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK** Two very popular walk-in environmental campsites at this 3,762 acre park. Requires early reservations. Reservations: (800) 444-7275 Info: (831) 667-2315 [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

**KIRK CREEK CAMPGROUND** U.S. Forest Service campground featuring 34 sites. Hike & Bike Camp \$ 5.00 per person (805) 434-1996 [campone.com](http://campone.com)

**LIMEKILN STATE PARK CAMPGROUND** Enjoy 660 acres, camping on beach and in redwoods, hot showers. Adjoining the National Forest, hiking trails, surf & fishing. Visit the historic lime kiln. (831) 667-2403 [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

**NACIMIENTO CAMPGROUND**, 11 miles from Kirk Creek Campground up Nacimiento Ferguson Road. Open Year Round. Bring Water. No Reservations. 1st come 1st serve. Forest Service Campground, 8 sites. (805) 434-1996 [campone.com](http://campone.com)

**PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK** This 1,006 acre park offers camping (218 sites, no hook-ups, sanitation station), picnic tables, hiking & swimming. (800) 444-7275 Reservations, (831) 667-2315 for information. [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

**PLASKETT CREEK CAMPGROUND** U.S. Forest Service Campground. 44 Sites. Winter & Summer, Hike & Bike Camp \$ 5.00 per person. Group site reservations (877) 444-6777, (805) 434-1996 [campone.com](http://campone.com)

**PONDEROSA CAMPGROUND** 13 Miles east from Kirk Creek campground on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road. Enjoy Family Campsites, along a mountain trout stream located under a canopy of trees. Accessible through 101 or Hwy 1. Great Hiking. Open Year Round. Bring Water in Winter. No Reservations necessary. 1st come 1st serve. U.S. Forest Service Campground 23 sites. (877) 444-6777, (805) 434-1996 [campone.com](http://campone.com)

**RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUND & CABINS** offering beautiful campsites and cabins among the redwoods on the Big Sur river. Hot showers and laundry facilities. (831) 667-2414 [riversidecampground.com](http://riversidecampground.com)

**TREEBONES RESORT** features 16 yurts and 5 campsites with breathtaking views of the Pacific ocean at Cape San Martin. Amenities include wood burning stoves, swimming pool, spa, general store and 3,200 square foot Guest Services building with showers, laundry, and a very generous meeting space for group events. (877) 424-4787 [treebonesresort.com](http://treebonesresort.com)

**VENTANA CAMPGROUND** is set in a 40-acre redwood grove. March - October. Many private sites. RV. (831) 667-2712 [ventanawildernesscampground.com](http://ventanawildernesscampground.com)

## Big Sur Events

**BIG SUR MARATHON** (831) 625-6226 [bsim.org](http://bsim.org)

**BIG SUR RIVER RUN** (25th Annual) - October 22, ‘06 [BigSurRiverRun.org](http://BigSurRiverRun.org) or call (831) 624-4112

**HENRY MILLER LIBRARY** -Summer calendar of music, and family entertainment. [henrymiller.org](http://henrymiller.org) (831) 667-2574

**HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR** - June ‘07 Tour of private Big Sur gardens. [bigsurarts.org](http://bigsurarts.org) (831) 667-1530

**JADE FESTIVAL** October 7,8,9, ‘06 Jade, gems, wood, stone, raffle, BBQ, Live Music at Pacific Valley School. (831) 394-8315 FREE. [surcoast.com/jfest.html](http://surcoast.com/jfest.html)

## Miscellaneous Services

**A BIG SUR AFFAIR CATERING** Full service catering and event planning. California cuisine, freshest seasonal ingredients, organic foods, professional staff. (831) 667-1050 [abigsuraffair.com](http://abigsuraffair.com)

**A BIG SUR WEDDING** An ordained U.U. minister specializing in outdoor wedding celebrations. (831) 625-0588 [sun-ink.com](http://sun-ink.com)

**BEN HEINRICH, COLDWELL BANKER REAL ESTATE** (800) 585-6225 [bigsurhomes.com](http://bigsurhomes.com)

**BIG SUR CALIFORNIA COASTLANDS** Keller Williams real estate. (800) 779-7967 [californiacoastlands.com](http://californiacoastlands.com)

**BIG SUR COAST REAL ESTATE**, The only real estate office on Hwy 1 in Big Sur. (831) 596-4607 [bigsurcoastrealestate.com](http://bigsurcoastrealestate.com)

**BIG SUR CHIROPRACTER** located at Village Shops. (831) 667-2211 [bigsurhealing.com](http://bigsurhealing.com)

**BIG SUR ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE** Non-profit environmental education organization. (831) 625-3564 [brazilranch.org](http://brazilranch.org)

**BIG SUR GUIDED HIKES** Complete Big Sur Guide Services. (831) 622-7777 [tourbigsur.com](http://tourbigsur.com)

**BIG SUR REAL ESTATE & PROPERTIES** (831) 622-7227 [realestatebigsur.com](http://realestatebigsur.com) John Saar Property

**BIG SUR CEREMONIES** - Nondenominational officiant performs personalized weddings. (831) 667-2928 [bigsurceremonies.com](http://bigsurceremonies.com)

**BIG SUR COAST FOODS** Catering and event planning with contemporary presentation. Weddings, craft services, special events. (831) 667-2218 [bigsurcoastfoods.com](http://bigsurcoastfoods.com)

**BIG SUR FLOWERS** Simple, elegant, whimsical & wild. Weddings a specialty. Contemporary designs. Small elopements & events to large lavish affairs. (831) 667-2649 [bigsurflowers.com](http://bigsurflowers.com)

**BIG SUR JADE COMPANY** featuring local jade. (805) 927-5574 [bigsurjadeco.com](http://bigsurjadeco.com)

**BIG SUR JADE JEWELRY** original gem quality, hand crafted jade jewelry made by master craftsman Richard Horan. (805) 927-5995 [bigsurjadejewelry.com](http://bigsurjadejewelry.com)

**BIG SUR LAND TRUST** Big Sur Land Trust protects for public benefit lands in Monterey Cnty. 831.625.5523 [bigsurlandtrust.org](http://bigsurlandtrust.org)

**BIG SUR PHOTOGRAPHY** Daniel Bianchetta. Elegant Big Sur coastal images and Native American rock art in fine art color prints. Studio visit by appointment. [bigsurphoto.com](http://bigsurphoto.com) (831) 667-2502

**BIG SUR PROPERTIES** Full time resident agent specialists. (831) 667-2222 Fax (831) 667-2226 [bigsurproperties.com](http://bigsurproperties.com)

**BIG SUR & CARMEL WEDDINGS WITH KEN ROBINS** Licensed minister. “I love my work and my work is love!” (831) 667-8217 [weddingsinbigsur.com](http://weddingsinbigsur.com)

**BLAZE ENGINEERING INC.** Construction (831) 667-2697 [blazeengineering.com](http://blazeengineering.com)

**CANYON BUILDERS** Construction (831) 667-4336

**CENTRAL COAST DAY TRIPPER**, guided tours of Big Sur by luxury automobile. (831) 657-9442 [ccdaytripper.com](http://ccdaytripper.com)

**COLDWELL BANKER DEL MONTE REALTY** The Heinrich Team (800) 585-6225 [bigsurhomes.com](http://bigsurhomes.com)

**CYNTHIA JOHNSON-BIANCHETTA**, Romantic & sensitive images created in B&W, color, one of a kind Polaroid transfer. Special events & weddings. (831) 667-2502 [sacredearthphotography.net](http://sacredearthphotography.net)

**ELEGANT EVENTS** - Specializing in Big Sur weddings and receptions with exclusive sites to choose from. Wide variety of services and styles. (831) 625-3523 [bigsurweddings.com](http://bigsurweddings.com)

**HEIDI MCGURRIN PHOTOGRAPHER** Fine art, weddings (831) 393-0777 [imagemakers.org/members/heidimcgurrin.html](http://imagemakers.org/members/heidimcgurrin.html)

**INTERNATIONAL ESTATES REALTY** (831) 667-0562 [bigsur-realestate.net](http://bigsur-realestate.net) Contact Lisa Poe

**MASSAGE BIG SUR** Massage in the comfort of your own hotel room, campsite or residence. (831) 917-0976 [msmbigsur.com](http://msmbigsur.com)

**MURRAY OUTFITTERS** Scenic horse trail rides in southern Big Sur. Half-day to three days. Photography and backpacking. Wilderness adventures. (805) 546-2801 [murrayoutfitters.com](http://murrayoutfitters.com)

**PINNEY CONSTRUCTION** Building and planning solutions for custom home construction, remodeling, repairs and improvements. (831) 667-2641

**SEA FOR YOURSELF KAYAK OUTFITTERS** kayak tours. Located near Cambria. [kayakcambria.com](http://kayakcambria.com) (888) 717-5225

**STUDIO ONE** Photographic services by Tom Birmingham. Portraits, special events, photojournalism. Big Sur stock photography. [bigsurarts.com](http://bigsurarts.com) (831) 667-2066

## Lodging

**BIG SUR CAMPGROUND & CABINS** A variety of cabins in a redwood grove along the Big Sur River. Most with fully equipped kitchens and fireplaces. Summer tent cabins along the river. Inner tubing on the river. Store, laundry, playground, and basketball court. Reservations recommended. (831) 667-2322 [bigsurcamp.com](http://bigsurcamp.com)

**BIG SUR LODGE** Lies within ancient groves of redwoods and oaks in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Gorgeous views of the Santa Lucia Mountains, 61 cottage style units, many with fireplaces and/or kitchens, accommodate up to 6 people. Resort includes scenic Big Sur river and hiking trails, heated pool, gift shop, restaurant & general store. (831) 667-3100 or (800) 424-4787. [bigsurlodge.com](http://bigsurlodge.com)

**BIG SUR RIVER INN** features 20 cozy guest-rooms, full service restaurant & bar and heated swimming pool on the Big Sur River. Also features a gas station and general store stocked with natural foods and convenience items. High speed wireless internet access is available on the property. (831) 667-2700 or (800) 548-3610. [bigsurriverinn.com](http://bigsurriverinn.com)

**DEETJEN’S BIG SUR INN** Offering lodging in a quaint Norwegian-style setting. Nestled in the redwoods of Castro Canyon, the inn has 20 rooms. Advanced reservations suggested. (831) 667-2377 [deetjens.com](http://deetjens.com)

**ESALENINSTITUTE** conducts residential workshops which emphasize potentialities and values of human existence. Weekend and 5-day programs are offered year round. Natural hot springs by the ocean. Catalog available on request. (831) 667-3005 [esalen.org](http://esalen.org)

**FERNWOOD RESORT** Twelve unit motel. Bar and the Redwood Grill, tavern atmosphere, outside deck in the redwoods, espresso bar, general store with picnicking and camping supplies. TV/VCR video & DVD rental. (831) 667-2422 [fernwoodbigsur.com](http://fernwoodbigsur.com)

**GLEN OAKS MOTEL** An attractive, modern post adobe motel in a gracious garden setting. 17 clean and comfortable single story units are available all year. Moderately priced. (831) 667-2105 [glenoaksbigsur.com](http://glenoaksbigsur.com)

**GORDASPRINGSCOTTAGES** Private, romantic cottages with stunning ocean views. Each cottage has its own private patio overlooking the ocean, some with fireplaces and Jacuzzis. Available on a nightly or weekly basis. (805) 927-4600 or (805) 927-3918 [bigsurgordasprings.com](http://bigsurgordasprings.com)

**HIGHLANDS INN, PARK HYATT CARMEL** At the gateway to Big Sur, this award winning, historic Inn offers breathtaking panoramas of the Pacific Ocean and Point Lobos. Featuring spacious renovated guestrooms, wood burning fireplaces, private balconies with stunning ocean views, hot tubs, and swimming pool. For reservations call (831) 620-1234 [highlandsinn.hyatt.com](http://highlandsinn.hyatt.com)

**LUCIA LODGE** Coastal cabins with views of the rugged South Coast. Overnight accommodations range from single units with double beds, to the honeymoon cottage’s breathtaking view, queensize four poster bed, and sitting room. (831) 667-2391 [lucialodge.com](http://lucialodge.com)

**NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE** is a community of Catholic Benedictine monks. Book Store, Gift Shop and Chapel. Retreat accommodations are available by reservation. (831) 667-2456 [contemplation.com](http://contemplation.com)

**POST RANCH INN** 30 luxurious guest rooms with unique architecture located 1200 feet directly above the Pacific Ocean. This award winning Inn is situated on 100 acres with two pools, private decks, spa tubs, and wood burning fireplaces. Complimentary breakfast, resort and room amenities. 831-667-2200 or 800 527-2200 [www.postranchinn.com](http://www.postranchinn.com)

**RAGGED POINT INN & RESORT** 30 cozy romantic rooms nestled cliff side between the Pacific Ocean and Los Padres National Forest. Includes friendly staff, gourmet restaurant, convenience store, snack, and espresso bars plus ornamental gardens and gas. Located 15 miles north of Hearst Castle. (805) 927-4502 [raggedpointinn.com](http://raggedpointinn.com)

**RIPPLEWOOD RESORT** Cabins situated in the redwoods along the Big Sur River. Also features a convenience store, gas station, & a cafe. (831) 667-2242 [ripplewoodresort.com](http://ripplewoodresort.com)

**RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUND & CABINS** offers cabins in the redwoods next to the Big Sur River. Features a playground and laundry facilities. (831) 667-2414. [riversidecampground.com](http://riversidecampground.com)

**SAN SIMEON LODGE** Closest to Hearst Castle, just 2 miles south, features 65 rooms, panoramic ocean view, heated pool, beautiful grounds, a large restaurant and cocktail lounge with entertainment, market, bicycle rental, coffee bar, ATM. One block to Pico Beach (866) 990-8990, (805) 927-4601 [sansimeonbeachresort.net](http://sansimeonbeachresort.net)

**TREEBONES RESORT** features 16 yurts and 5 campsites with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean & Cape San Martin. Ammenities include gas fireplaces, generous redwood viewing decks, swimming pool, hot tub, massage, restaurant, gift shop and large main lodge. For reservations ( 877) 4BIG SUR, (877) 424-4787 [treebonesresort.com](http://treebonesresort.com)

## Church Services

**NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE** A community of Catholic Benedictine monks. Eucharist Monday thru Saturday 11:30 am, Sunday 11 am. Please call for other times. (831) 667-2456 [contemplation.com](http://contemplation.com)  
**SANTA LUCIA CHAPEL** An outdoor setting, located on Highway One near the Big Sur Campgrounds & Cabins. (831) 624-3883  
**ST. FRANCIS OF THE REDWOODS** Catholic chapel. Mass 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Located just south of Glen Oaks. (831) 624-1271

## Restaurants

**BIG SUR LODGE RESTAURANT & ESPRESSO HOUSE** Indoor and patio dining on the banks of the Big Sur River. Freshly prepared foods served in a spacious, airy atmosphere with views of the redwoods. Children welcome. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Fresh pastries, speciality coffees and teas. We are happy to prepare take out meals. (831) 667-3111 [bigsurlodge.com](http://bigsurlodge.com)

**BIG SUR RIVER INN** Breakfast, lunch & dinner are served daily by a huge stone fireplace or on a deck overlooking the Big Sur River. Live entertainment on Sunday afternoons. (831) 667-2700, (800) 548-3610. [bigsurriverinn.com](http://bigsurriverinn.com)

**BIG SUR ROADHOUSE** Serving fresh Californian-Latin American cuisine at affordable prices in a lively atmosphere. Fireplace dining, outside patio, copper bar. Open for dinner 5:30 - 9 PM. Closed Tuesdays. Call for reservations. (831) 667-2264 [bigsurroadhouse.com](http://bigsurroadhouse.com)

**CAFE KEVAH** offers brunch & light lunch in an outdoor setting. Located on a terrace just below Nepenthe. Open March through December, 9am-4pm. (831) 667-2344. [nepenthebigsur.com](http://nepenthebigsur.com)

**CIELO** With 50-mile vistas from its outdoor terrace, Cielo offers simple, innovative menus featuring seasonal ingredients. Open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week, bar open noon to midnight. Located at Ventana Inn (831) 667-2331 [ventantainn.com](http://ventantainn.com)

**DEETJEN’S BIG SUR INN** Offers food in a quaint old world setting. Breakfast is served 8 am - Noon. Dinner is served from 6pm. Reservations recommended. (831) 667-2378 [deetjens.com](http://deetjens.com)

**HIGHLANDS INN, PARK HYATT CARMEL:**  
• **California Market** offers gorgeous ocean views, California Bistro cuisine, sit indoors near the pot-bellied stove, or outdoors on the heated deck. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. (831) 622-5450 [highlandsinn.hyatt.com](http://highlandsinn.hyatt.com)  
• **Pacific’s Edge** sits on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and offers exquisite Contemporary American Cuisine with French influence, impeccable service and an incredible wine list of 33,000 bottles. Dinner nightly. (831) 622-5445 [highlandsinn.hyatt.com](http://highlandsinn.hyatt.com)

**MAIDEN PUBLIC HOUSE, THE.** Located in the Village Shops, the pub features specialty beers & pub style menu. (831) 667-2355 [themaidenpub.com](http://themaidenpub.com)

**NEPENTHE** One of the most picturesque dining spots in California, this restaurant overlooks 40 miles of coastline. Family-owned since 1949. Open daily, 11:30 am - 10 pm (831) 667-2345 [nepenthebigsur.com](http://nepenthebigsur.com)

**RAGGED POINT RESTAURANT** Original gourmet cuisine presented in an enchanting garden setting with a 360 degree ocean/mountain view. (805) 927-5708 [raggedpointinn.com](http://raggedpointinn.com)

**REDWOOD GRILL** Affordable California comfort cuisine. From our burger bar; black angus, buffalo, ostrich, smoked salmon, and vege-burgers. Pizza, salads, daily specials including local fish, lamb, chicken, vege-specials. Located at Fernwood Resort on Hwy One. Sit on back deck among redwood trees. Wedding and special event catering. (831) 667-2129 [www.bigsurcoastfoods.com/redwoodgrill/](http://www.bigsurcoastfoods.com/redwoodgrill/)

**RIPPLEWOOD CAFE** Serving home-style breakfast & lunch & a grocery store with coffee & sandwiches to go. (831) 667-2242 [ripplewoodresort.com](http://ripplewoodresort.com)

**SAN SIMEON BEACH BAR & GRILL.** 3 miles South of Hearst Castle in Southern Big Sur. Panoramic ocean view. Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner. 7 days/week. Indoor & outdoor dining (pet okay), exotic decor, stage. Seafood and Steaks, oysters, burgers, pizzas, fish & chips, etc. Cocktail loung w/fireplace, pool table, jukebox, entertainment. Take-out, gift shop, arcade, ATM. Groups welcome. Next to San Simeon Lodge & other hotels. (805) 927-4604 [sansimeonrestaurant.com](http://sansimeonrestaurant.com)

**SIERRA MAR RESTAURANT AT POST RANCH INN** Overlooking the Pacific Ocean with a spectacular view of the California coast, the award winning Sierra Mar Restaurant serves world-class cuisine in an awe-inspiring setting. The restaurant features an innovative, lunch and four course, prix fixe menu, which changes daily and utilizes organic, seasonal fare. Winner of the Grand Award from Wine Spectator since the restaurant’s inception, Sierra Mar offers wine selections from one of the most extensive cellars in North America. (831) 667-2800 [postranchinn.com](http://postranchinn.com)

**THE GRILL AT TREEBONES RESORT,** casual dinners nightly starting at 7 PM. Enjoy grilled specialties from ocean view dining room. (805) 927-2390 [treebonesresort.com](http://treebonesresort.com)

**WHALEWATCHER CAFE** Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner for indoor or patio seaside dining. Featuring creative California cuisine and irresistible home-made desserts, beer & wine. Available for special events and weddings. Located at Gorda Springs. (805) 927-1590 [bigsurgordasprings.com](http://bigsurgordasprings.com)

**Big Sur Chamber of Commerce**  
**Visit us on the web at**  
**<http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org>**  
**Telephone (831) 667-2100**

# Ancient Redwoods thrive along the Big Sur Coast

Redwood, also known as Coast Redwood, grows in a very narrow strip along the coast of California from the extreme southwestern corner of Oregon to 150 miles south of San Francisco in the Soda Springs drainage of Big Sur. This area is about 500 miles long and rarely more than 20 or 30 miles wide in a region of frequent thick summer fog, moderate year-round temperature, and considerable winter rainfall. Redwood does not grow naturally beyond the belt affected by this combination.

Redwood is a rapidly growing tree, and some individual trees have been measured at more than 360 feet in height, making it the tallest measured tree species on the earth. In favorable situations, trees 20 years old may average 50 feet in height and 8 inches in diameter. Average mature trees are from 200 to 240 feet high with diameters of 10 to 15 feet at 4 feet 8 inches above the ground. Exceptional individuals sometimes reach a height of 350 feet, a diameter of over 20 feet, and an age of approximately 2000 years.

Redwood leaves are green, flat, and sharp-pointed. The brown cones are egg-shaped and only one-half inch in diameter. Their seeds average about 123,000 to a pound.

The soft, reddish-brown bark, six to twelve inches thick, is one of the Coast Redwood's most distinguishing characteristic and, together with the wood, names the species. On older trees the bark has a grayish tinge, and is deeply furrowed, giving the trees a fluted appearance. Although the thick bark of older trees is relatively fire resistant, repeated fires can damage these trees considerably. The large hollows or "goose-pens" frequently found in the base of large trees give evidence of this fact. Fire also either seriously injures the young growth or kills it outright. However, redwood is exceptionally free from fungus diseases, and there are no insects which materially harm it. Human demand for lumber is responsible for most of the destruction of first growth Coast Redwood forests.

Adjacent to the softball field at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park is one of Big Sur's largest redwood trees. The size of this ancient tree, known locally as the "Colonial Tree," is deceiving — due to lightning strikes, this majestic specimen's top has been severed.



On left, Colonial Tree in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. On right, trail in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park  
Photo: Stan Russell



Photo: Brock Bradford

## The Big Sur Coast — an off-season treat!

The summer months in Big Sur offer the traditional summer treats — warm weather, refreshing dips in the river and general good fun. What many people don't realize, however, is that the months of October through May offer a special experience in Big Sur and chance to enjoy the natural splendor at a more relaxed pace.

The second half of September and the month of October bring reduced crowds, Indian summer weather, fall colors and the Big Sur River Run. The poison oak displays its deep red leaves and the Maples, Sycamores and Cottonwoods all contribute with their golden yellows and oranges.

Mid-November brings the opening of the fishing season for steelhead rainbow trout. The end of December through the month of March is the

time to watch for migrating grey whales offshore as they travel to and from the warm lagoons of Baja California.

The spring months are a wonderful time to visit Big Sur if you have a love for greenery and wildflowers. Wildflowers abound in March and April as lupines and poppies brighten the grassy hillsides. April is the month of the Big Sur International Marathon, while May provides a great opportunity to enjoy the off-season peace and solitude before the summer season begins in June.

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park voted "America's Top 100 Campgrounds." Visit Big Sur during the off-season. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the experience!

## Big Sur Beaches — hard to reach, but worth the effort

While Big Sur's beaches hardly resemble the vast stretches of sun-baked sand that dot Southern California's easily-accessible coastline, they offer the visitor a wide variety of recreational possibilities.

Even during the summer, Big Sur's beaches are subject to generally cool weather. Sunny days are sporadic as a blanket of seasonal fog often hugs the coastline, dropping the temperature in the process. To be prepared, bring a change of warm clothes. Also, bring a pair of sturdy shoes — Big Sur's beaches require at least a short hike.

Private property and Big Sur's steep terrain makes most of its coastline inaccessible to the public. Fortunately for the visitor, however, several State Park and U.S. Forest Service beaches are open to the public all year. The following beaches are recommended due to easy access and breath-taking scenery:

**ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK** — Located 23 miles south of Carmel, Andrew Molera State Park is the largest State Park on the Big Sur Coast. A wide, scenic, mile-long path leads to a sandy beach that is sheltered from the wind by a large bluff to

the north. The path itself is as much a delight as the beach, taking you through a meadow filled with wildflowers and sycamore trees, offering fine views of the coastal mountain range to the east. The path parallels the Big Sur River, which enters the sea adjacent to Molera's beach.

**PFEIFFER BEACH** — Big Sur's most popular coastal access point, the U.S. Forest Service's Pfeiffer Beach is hard to find if you've never been to it before. The trick is locating unmarked Sycamore Canyon Road. Here's a tip — Sycamore Canyon Road is the only paved, ungated road west of Highway One between the Big Sur post office and Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Once you find the turnout, make a very sharp turn. Then follow the road for about two miles until it ends. Drive carefully — this is narrow and winding road. It is unsuitable for trailer traffic. From a large parking area at the end of the road, a short, well-marked path leads to the beach. Cliffs tower above this breathtaking stretch of sand, and a large arch-shaped rock formation just off-shore makes for some dazzling sunsets.

**SAND DOLLAR BEACH** — Just a mile south of the U.S. Forest Service Station in Pacific Valley and 14 miles north of the San Luis Obispo County line lies Sand Dollar Beach.

From a large parking lot across the Highway One from Plaskett Creek Campground, a well-built stairway leads to a crescent-shaped beach that's protected, like Andrew Molera State Park's beach, from the wind by bluffs. Sand Dollar offers visitors the widest expanse of sand along the Big Sur Coast, and possibly the mildest weather. Standing on the beach and looking northeast, towering 5,155-foot Cone Peak is visible.

For an interesting sidetrip, visit Jade Cove, which is located two miles south of Sand Dollar Beach. Big Sur's south coast is famous for its jade reserves, and Jade Cove is a popular spot for beachcombers and rockhounds.

Other points of public coastal access in Big Sur include Garrapata Beach, Partington Cove, Mill Creek and Willow Creek. Visit us on the web for information about local beaches.

[www.bigsurcalifornia.org](http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org)