

Free! ♦ Big Sur Guide ♦ Free!

Summer 2008-Spring 2009



Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park and McWay Falls ~ Photo by Stan Russell

“The Greatest Meeting of Land & Sea”

Big 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. For more information visit www.byways.org.



www.bigsurcalifornia.org

Big Sur Guide

The official, complete and definitive travel guide to California's Big Sur Coast
Summer 2008 through Spring 2009

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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.

The Big Sur Guide is printed on 40% post consumer waste. Please recycle.

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 Ranger 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 daily from Monterey to Big Sur
April - October
www.mst.org
1-888-MST-BUS1
(1-888-678-2871)



Big Sur coast 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.

FIRE — 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 firewood may be allowed in certain designated areas. Collectors should contact the nearest ranger station for specific information.

RECYCLE — Most businesses have blue recycling bins. 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 — Roadside camping is prohibited 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 nation's most beautiful highways.

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, please use turn-outs.
- 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 turn-outs and shoulders.
- 6) Watch for touring bicyclists.

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.



Photo 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

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 and is part of the Los Padres National Forest. Los Padres National Forest encompasses nearly two million acres in the beautiful coastal mountains of central California. The forest stretches across almost 220 miles from the Big Sur Coast in Monterey County to the western edge of Los Angeles County.

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, 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

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.

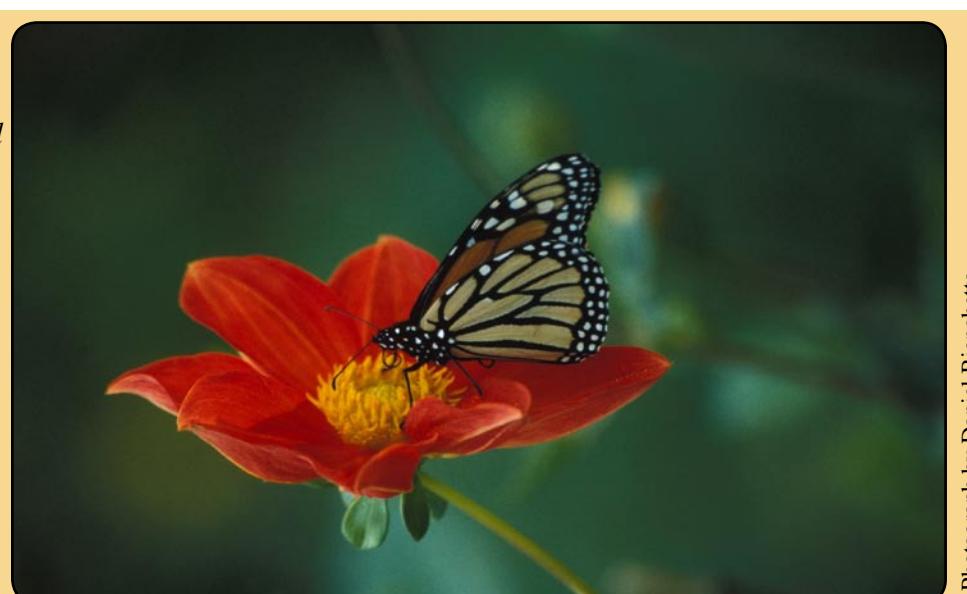
Fishing regulations can change from year to year, so contact the Department of Fish and Game at (831) 649-2870 for specific information. All anglers 16 years of age and older must have a valid California Fishing License in their possession.

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.

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.



Monarch butterfly on annual migration to Big Sur



American Kestral above, Red-tailed Hawk forefront



Tower of Jewels on the Big Sur coast



Orca breaching in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Big Sur, California

Photograph by Daniel Bianchetta

Photograph by Daniel Bianchetta

Photograph by Brock Bradford

Photograph by Daniel Bianchetta



California Condor in Flight - Photo by Daniel Bianchetta

Ventana Wildlife Society California Condor Recovery Program

For over 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

Ventana Wildlife Society leads once-in-a-lifetime wildlife tours, including viewing opportunities for condors. Call (831) 455-9514 to find out more. To report your condor sightings call (831) 624-1202 or for more information visit www.ventanaws.org. Ventana Wildlife Society is the only non-profit organization restoring the condor to the wild in California. Our address is: Ventana Wildlife Society, 19045 Portola Dr., Suite F-1. Salinas, CA 93908.

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 traveler 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, a wonderful bookstore, and no less than two free public restroom, makes you want to skip that trip to Hearst Castle. With its extensive 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.

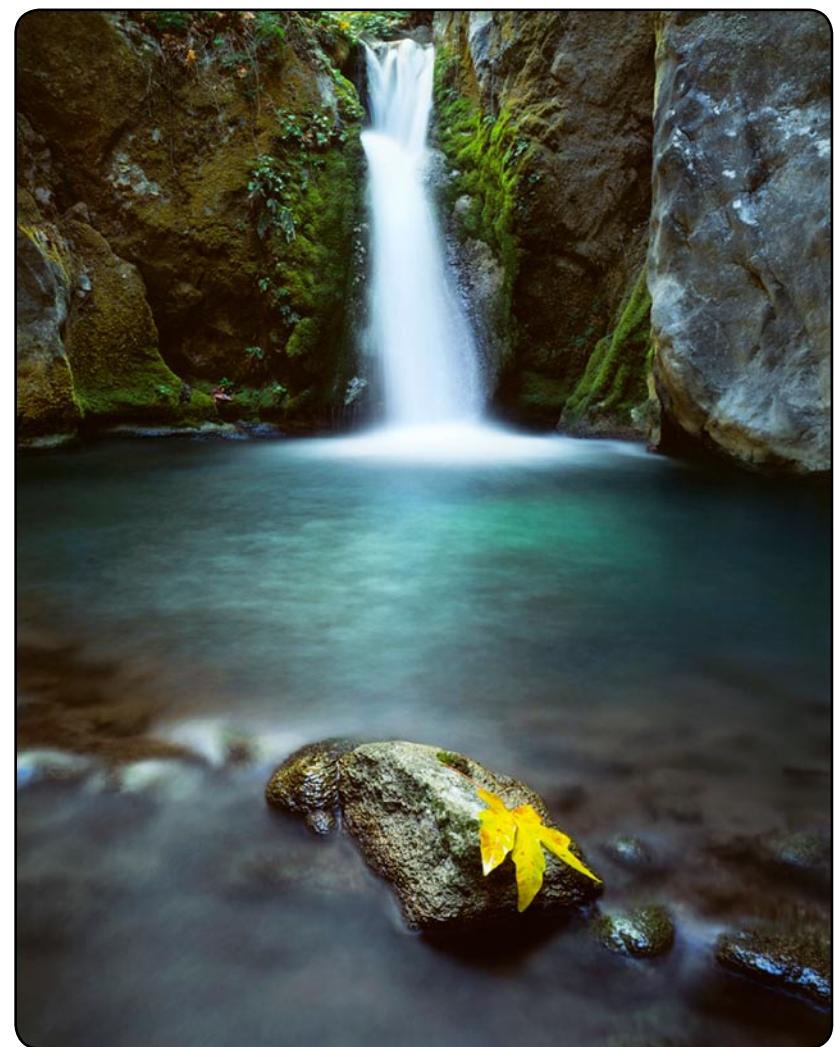
A 501(c) 3 non profit, HML champions the works of its namesake and also advocates the support of art, the creative life, and freedom of expression everywhere. Simple, unadorned and irreverent, this is the place to get away from what Miller called The Air Conditioned Nightmare, a place where you can still Stand Still Like the Hummingbird or simply Smile at the Foot of the Ladder. www.henrymiller.org ph. 831.667.2574

Do Nothing in Big Sur!

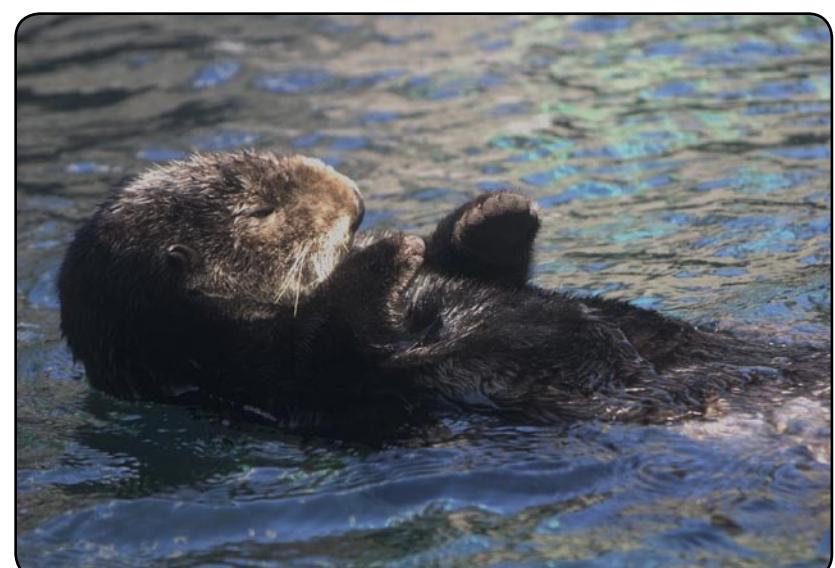
In addition to enjoying the many fruits of Ventana Wildlife Society's labor, and the many other abundant forms of wildlife, while in Big Sur there are a multitude of ways in which to enjoy the area.

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.



A hidden canyon photo; Kodiak Greenwood



California Sea Otter photo; Daniel Bianchetta



Soberanes Sea Arch photo; Kodiak Greenwood



Breaching Humpback whale photo; Daniel Bianchetta

Art Galleries & Gift Shops

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

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

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) 667-1300 bigsurspiritgarden.com

COAST GALLERY BIG SUR Established in 1958, Coast Gallery was the first gallery in Big Sur and is the one of the largest galleries of American Crafts in the United States featuring over 150 Master Craftsmen. On Highway One 30 miles south of Carmel and 60 miles north of Hearst Castle, the gallery is nestled in a Redwood Canyon beside a mountain stream. A historic landmark with distinctive water-tank architecture, the 7,500 sf gallery features prominent local artists, Loet Vanderveen and James Hunolt, and international favorites, Henry Miller and Marc Chagall. Additional locations in Carmel, Pebble Beach and Hana, Maui. (831) 667-2301 coastgalleries.com

DEL CAMPO GALLERY Fine Art. Representing Big Sur artists. Located on Highway 1 at Loma Vista. Open daily from 11:00-6:00 Closed Tuesdays. Also by appointment. (831) 667-2618 delcampogallery.com

HAWTHORNE GALLERY Representing the work of Gregory Hawthorne and six additional talented members of the Hawthorne family, as well as the work of seven other nationally known artists in contemporary painting, sculpture, blown glass, ceramics and cloisonné. Located across from Nepenthe Open daily 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. (831) 667-3200 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

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

LOCAL COLOR 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

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

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

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

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



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

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

BOTTCHERS GAP U.S. FOREST SERVICE CAMPGROUND 12 sites. Tent sites only. Winter & Summer. Bring water. (805) 434-1996 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 tree. Free Wi-Fi. (831) 667-2422 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

KIRK CREEK CAMPGROUND U.S. Forest Service campground featuring 34 sites. Hike & Bike Camp \$ 5.00 per person (805) 434-1996 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

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

PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK This 1,006 acre park offers camping (204 sites, no hook-ups, sanitation station), picnic tables, hiking & swimming. (800) 444-7275 Reservations, (831) 667-2315 for information. 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

MONTEREY CAMPGROUND 13 Miles east from Kirk Creek campground on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road. Enjoy mountain trout stream located under a canopy of trees. Accessible through 101 or Hwy 1. Open Year Round. Bring Water in Winter. 1st come 1st serve. (877) 444-6777, (805) 434-1996 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

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) 444-6777 treebonesresort.com

VENTANA CAMPGROUND is set in a 40-acre redwood grove. Open March - October. Many private sites. RV up to 22'. (831) 667-2712 ventanawildernesscampground.com

Big Sur Events

BIG SUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Complete activities guide. (831) 667-2100 www.bigsurcalifornia.org/events.html

BIG SUR MARATHON (831) 625-6226 bsim.org

BIG SUR RIVER RUN (26th Annual) - October 25, '08 BigSurRiverRun.org or call (831) 624-4112

HENRY MILLER LIBRARY -Summer calendar of music, and family entertainment. henrymiller.org (831) 667-2574

HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR - June 21 '08 Tour of private Big Sur gardens. bigsurarts.org (831) 667-1530

JADE FESTIVAL October 10-12, '08 at Pacific Valley School. (831) 394-8315 FREE. pacificvalleyschool.com/fest.html

Miscellaneous Services

A BIG SUR AFFAIR CATERING Full service catering and event planning. (831) 667-1050 abigsuraffair.com

A BOUNTIFUL FEAST Full service catering & event planning. (831) 241-1066 aboutfulfeast.com

ACE CERTIFIED TREE CARE Tree Service, consulting, tree preservation, I.S.A (805) 474-8013 acecertifiedtreecare.com

BEAUTY & THE BEST An "on location" salon. Make-up, hair and nailcare, wedding and photo shoots. (831) 659-7880 beautyonlocation.com

BEN HEINRICH, COLDWELL BANKER REAL ESTATE (800) 585-6225 bigsurhomes.com

BIG SUR CALIFORNIA COASTLANDS Keller Williams Realty Nancy Sanders (800) 779-7967 californiacoastlands.com

BIG SUR / CARMEL WEDDINGS WITH KEN ROBINS Licensed minister. "I love my work and my work is love!" (831) 624-2030 weddingsinbigsur.com

BIG SUR CEREMONIES BY SOARING STARKEY Interdenominational minister performs heartfelt and personalized weddings with a keepsake script of the ceremony. (831) 667-2928 bigsurceremonies.com

BIG SUR COAST FOODS Catering, weddings, craft services, special events. (831) 667-2218 bigsurcoastfoods.com

BIG SUR COAST REAL ESTATE Hillary Lipman (831) 596-4607 bigsurcoastalestate.com

BIG SUR CUSTOM BUILDING & BIG TIMBER H&D, INC (831) 667-1112 bigsurcustombuilding.com

BIG SUR ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE Non-profit environmental education. (831) 625-3564 bsei.org

BIG SUR GUIDES & HIKING Stephen D. Copeland (831) 594-1742 bigsurguides.com

BIG SUR JADE COMPANY Largest collection of Big Sur Jade. Jewelry and massage stones. (805) 927-5574 bigsurjadeco.com

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

BIG SUR LAND TRUST Big Sur Land Trust protects for public benefit lands in Monterey County. (831) 625-5523 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 (831) 667-2502

BIG SUR REAL ESTATE Mike Gilson (831) 915-0903 bigsurrealestate.com

BLAZE ENGINEERING INC. Construction (831) 667-2697 blazeengineering.com

CARMEL INSURANCE AGENCY (831) 624-1234 carmelinsurance.com

CC DAY TRIPPER, Customized tours of Big Sur & Monterey in a luxury automobile. (831) 241-2526 ccdaytripper.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

ELEGANTEVENTS-Specializing in Big Sur weddings and receptions with exclusive sites to choose. (831) 625-3523 bigsurweddings.com

HEIDI McGURRIN PHOTOGRAPHER Fine art, weddings (831) 393-0777 imagemakers.org/members/heidimcgurrin.html

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Lodging

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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

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

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

ESALEN INSTITUTE The pioneering Big Sur educational institute dedicated to personal and social transformation. Weekend and 5-day programs are offered year round. Natural hot springs by the ocean. Catalog available on request. (831) 667-3005 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. Tent cabins. TV/VCR video & DVD rental. Free wireless Internet. (831) 667-2422 fernwoodbigsur.com

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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

POST RANCH INN Ocean view award-winning small luxury hotel hideaway with a lap pool and two cliff-edge hot pools. This ultra-romantic world class retreat is a perfect escape for special occasions and private celebrations. The unique organic architecture fits seamlessly into the inn's 100 acres of naturalistic landscape. Forty luxurious guest rooms and two ocean view villas with private decks, spa tubs, complimentary wet bars and deluxe amenities. A Mobil 4-Star Resort. 831-667-2200 or 800 527-2200 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

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

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

SAN SIMEON LODGE Three miles south of Hearst Castle. 65 rooms with panoramic ocean view and 1-block from easy beach access. Heated pool, infrared sauna, free wireless Internet. Next to large restaurant and cocktail lounge with entertainment. Market, coffee bar, ATM (866) 990-8990, (805) 927-4601 sansimeonbeachresort.net

TREEBONES RESORT features 16 yurts and 5 campsites with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean & Cape San Martin. Amenities 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

VENTANA INN & SPA A year-round Country Inn that offers elegant but casual accommodations. There are 62 guestrooms whose private terraces overlook mountain or ocean. Heated swimming pools. Hot baths, saunas & private hot tubs. (831) 667-2331 or (800) 628-6500 ventanainn.com



Church Services

NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE A community of Catholic Benedictine monks. Eucharist Monday thru Sat. 11:30 am, Sun 11 am. (831) 667-2456 contemplation.com

SANTA LUCIA CHAPEL An outdoor setting, located on Highway One near the Big Sur Campgrounds & Cabins. (831) 624-3883

Restaurants

BIG SUR BAKERY & RESTAURANT Experience exquisite wood fired cooking and baking at this one of a kind gem. Wedding cakes, desserts & pastries. (831) 667-0520 bigsurbakery.com

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

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

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

CAFE KEVAH offers brunch & light lunch in an outdoor setting. Located on a terrace just below Nepenthe. Open mid-February through December, 9am-4pm. (831) 667-2344. 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

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

MAIDEN PUBLICK HOUSE, THE Located next to the River Inn in the Village Center Shops, featuring pub grub and extensive American craft and European beer selection. Live music. (831) 667-2355 themaidenpub.com

NEPENTHE One of the most picturesque dining spots in California, this restaurant overlooks 50 miles of coastline. Family-owned since 1949. Open daily, 11:30 am - 10 pm (831) 667-2345 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

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 bigsurcoastfoods.com/redwoodgrill/

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

ROCKY POINT RESTAURANT open every day for breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and appetizers. (831) 624-2933 rocky-point.com

SAN SIMEON BEACH BAR & GRILL. 3 miles South of Hearst Castle in Southern Big Sur. Panoramic ocean view. Indoor & outdoor dining (pet ok), exotic decor, stage & sound. From burgers, pizza & sandwiches to steak & lobster. Cocktail lounge w/crystal fireplace, pool table, TV's, live entertainment, Karaoke & open mic. Coffee bar. Take-out, gift shop, mini-market, ATM. Free wireless Internet. Next to San Simeon Lodge. (805) 927-4604 sansimeonrestaurant.com

SIERRA MAR RESTAURANT AT POST RANCH INN Located at the Post Ranch Inn and 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. Chef Craig von Foerster's innovative, four course, prix fixe menu changes daily, utilizes organic, seasonal fare and has won praise from publications including Gourmet Magazine and the Zagat Guide. Sierra Mar offers wine selections from one of the most extensive collections in North America. Lunch from noon to 3:00 p.m., snack menu from 3:00 p.m. to close, dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Reservations required. (831) 667-2800 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

Big Sur Chamber of Commerce

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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 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.

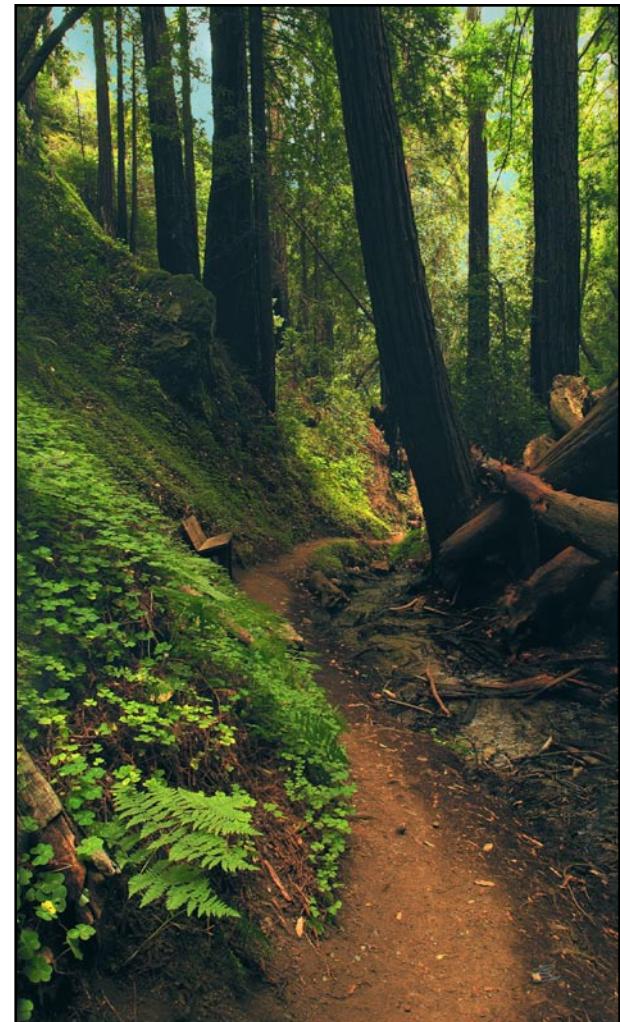
Redwood leaves are green, flat, and sharp-pointed. The brown cones are egg-shaped and only one-half inch in diameter. Their seeds average about 123,000 to a pound.

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.



1,100 year old Colonial Tree in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park Photo: Stan Russell



Hiking trail in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park 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 Maple, Sycamore and Cottonwood trees 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 Gray 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 side trip, 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 more local beaches.

www.bigsurcalifornia.org