

MONTEREY COUNTY outdoors

A sampling of recreational
places in Monterey County



PHOTO BY RICHARD GREEN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

NATIONAL PARKS

Los Padres National Forest: (Ventana Wilderness), located along the coast and inland from south of the Monterey County/San Luis Obispo County border to Carmel Valley with camping and hiking trails throughout.

Pinnacles National Monument: Highway 146, Paicines. Park has two entrances, one from Monterey County northeast of Soledad and one from San Benito County south of Hollister with hiking trails throughout and camping outside the park. 389-4485, www.nps.gov/pinn/.

Salinas River National Refuge: from Sandholdt Road in Moss Landing south to Monterey Dunes Way with gravel and sand trail.

Arroyo Seco Recreation Area: along Arroyo Seco River in southern Monterey County, the campground includes hiking trails and fishing lakes.

STATE PARKS/BEACHES

Andrew Molera State Park: Fishing, hiking, mountain biking and camping. Horse riding available from nearby stables. 667-2315.

Asilomar State Beach: Rocky shore habitat with tide pools. 649-2836.

Carmel River State Beach: Carmelo Street, Carmel. 649-2836.

Fremont Peak State Park: Camping and picnic facilities and astronomical observatory open to the public. Located 11 miles south of San Juan Bautista on San Juan Canyon Road. 649-2836.

Garrapata State Park: Coastal park with hiking. Located seven miles south of Carmel on Highway 1. 649-2836.

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park: Hiking and camping offered at state park in Big Sur. 667-2315.

Marina State Beach:

Not recommended for swimming or wading due to rip currents. 384-7695.

Monterey State Beach: Water recreation. 649-2836.

Moss Landing State Beach: Not recommended for swimming due to rip currents. Located on Jetty Road in Moss Landing. 649-2836.

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park: Hiking, camping and picnicking in park along Big Sur coast. Reservations recommended. Reserve: (800) 444-7275; information, 649-2836.

Point Lobos State Reserve:

Hiking and picnicking. Park located south of Carmel along Highway 1. 624-4909.

Point Sur Lighthouse: Walking tours available. 667-2315.

MONTEREY COUNTY PARKS

Information: 755-4899.

Online:
www.co.monterey.ca.us/parks

Lake San Antonio: Southern Monterey County. Offering picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking, swimming, boating and water-skiing.

Lake Nacimiento: 16 miles northwest of Highway 101 in Paso Robles on Nacimiento Drive.

San Lorenzo Regional Park: 1160 Broadway, King City. Picnic areas, playgrounds, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, softball areas, and a walking trail. Home to the Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum.

Toro County Park: 501 Highway 68, Salinas. Park includes facilities such as equestrian staging area and riding trails, two softball fields, playgrounds, horseshoe pits, mountain biking, volleyball courts, and more than 20 miles of hiking.

Manzanita Park: 17100 Castroville Blvd., Prunedale. Gate for vehicle access is only open during North County Youth Recreation Association scheduled events which vary throughout the year. Information, 663-0859.

Royal Oaks Park: 537 Maher Road, Royal Oaks. Day use facility includes a softball field, playground equipment, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, and miles of hiking trails.

Jacks Peak County Park: 25020 Jacks Peak Park Road, Monterey. Skyline Self-Guided Nature Trail traverses summit.

Laguna Seca Recreation Area: 1025 Highway 68, Salinas. RV and tent camping available. Also rifle and pistol range.

CITY PARKS

Salinas

Central Park, 420 Central Ave., 758-7305.

El Dorado Park, 1655 El Dorado Drive, 758-7217.

Closter Park, 401 Towt St., 758-7304.

Monterey

El Estero Park Complex, Del Monte Avenue and Camino Aguajito, Fremont Avenue and Camino El Estero, 45-acre complex includes Dennis the Menace Park. 646-3866.

Pacific Grove

Jewell Park, 578 Central Ave.

Lovers Point Park, 17th Street and Ocean View Boulevard, 648-5730.

MISC.

Monterey Bay Coastal Bike Path: The path stretches from Pebble Beach north along the coast to Castroville. A short portion of the route in the north and south is on roads, not on recreational path.

Fort Ord Public Lands:

Numerous trails throughout land on former Fort Ord. Unexploded munitions may exist on public lands and there are warnings about mountain lions.