

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS ACTIVITIES GUIDE



CALIFORNIA  
STATE PARKS  
FOUNDATION



TOP 5

# FAMILY-FRIENDLY PARKS

## 1 Calaveras Big Trees State Park

This park has a little bit of everything – massive sequoia trees, Gold Country history, kid-friendly trails and campsites, children’s programs, and even guided weekend hikes for the whole family!



© RYAN SWIFT VIA FLICKR

1

## 2 California Citrus State Historic Park

Enjoy the free guided Tours and Taste program that will take you through historic citrus groves where you can sample sweet California citrus right off the tree.



© JASPERDO VIA FLICKR

2

## 3 Caswell Memorial State Park

Make the most of a day out for the kids when you swim or fish in the Stanislaus River, and enjoy the campfire and Junior Ranger programs! Or take one of the nature walks on seemingly endless trails that are given every weekend throughout summer.



3

## 4 Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

Soak up some astronomy education in the Robert Ferguson Observatory, open year round with telescopes for public viewing.



4

## 5 Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Step back in time with a Gold Discovery Tour, offered year round, or visit a special event like Second Saturday Living History Days or Coloma Gold Rush Live.



5

TOP 5

# ACCESSIBLE DESTINATIONS

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Explore the beauty of this park on various trails that are fully ADA compliant. On some, you can get a closer look at wildlife with the help of guides equipped with scopes and binoculars.

1



## Año Nuevo State Park

Get magnificent views of the coast, and don't miss the Equal Access Guided Walk Program during elephant seal breeding season from December to March. Transportation is arranged for visitors to access a boardwalk and see the seals.

2



© PATRICK URBCH

## Doheny State Beach

Enjoy an amazing sunset and watch surfers catch waves from one of the accessible picnic areas at this beach. Or stop by the visitor center and check out the largest public aquarium in the CA state park system!

3



## Humboldt Redwoods State Park

Visit California's largest redwood state park and gaze up at trees that are thousands of years old. The park has accessible trails and multiple campgrounds with accessible sites.

4



© RAY BOUKNIGHT VIA FLICKR

## Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

This 18,000-acre lake has accessible opportunities for camping, picnicking, boating and more. Rent a free beach wheelchair to take full advantage of the beautiful shore.

5



TOP 5

CAN'T MISS VIEWS

### Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

When you visit the largest state park in California with 12 wilderness areas, be sure to take in this expansive desert view from Font's Point.

1



© BEAU ROGERS VIA FLICKR

### Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve

This park is great for picnics and spotting wildlife year round, but it offers especially amazing views when wildflowers bloom throughout Spring into early Fall.

2



© ANITA BTENCOUR VIA FLICKR

### Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park

The Waterfall Overlook Trail will take you to the remains of a historic residence, or you can wander across the street to hike through towering redwoods.

3

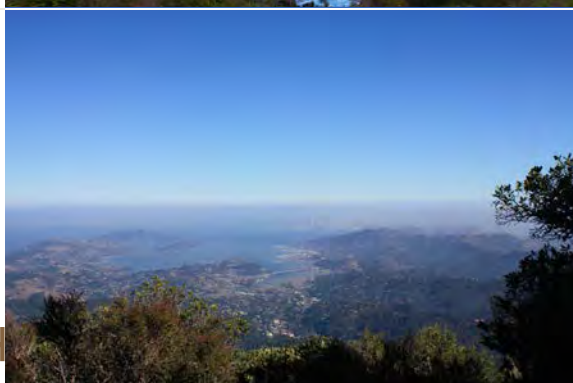


© JOE PARKS VIA FLICKR

### Mount Tamalpais State Park

Hike through redwoods and oak groves, past waterfalls and sweeping hillsides, to the summit to see views of the Farallon Islands, Marin County and San Francisco.

4



© RAY BOUKNIGHT VIA FLICKR

### Emerald Bay State Park

On Lake Tahoe's west shore, Emerald Bay offers a breathtaking view of brilliant blue-green due to its shallower depth. Fannett Island, the only islet in Lake Tahoe, is the crown jewel of this spectacular view.

5



© RAY BOUKNIGHT VIA FLICKR

TOP 5

# CAPTIVATING BEACHES

## Torrey Pines State Beach

Swim, surf and fish on this wide stretch of sandy beach, or take a scenic hike through the striking red-hued bluffs surrounding the beach.

1



© CHUCK HOLLAND VIA FLICKR

## Crystal Cove State Park

Crystal Cove offers 3.2 miles of beach and 2,400 acres of wilderness. Not only that, just offshore is an 1,100-acre underwater park! You'll find diverse habitat and incredible places to scuba dive and snorkel.

2



## Morro Bay State Park

This park is home to a beautiful bay habitat featuring a saltwater marsh and a colorful marina. Visit the park's museum to learn about local Native American history and snap a pic with the park's most notable landmark: Morro Rock.

3



## Half Moon Bay State Beach

Here you'll find four sandy, picturesque miles of beach ideal for sunbathing, picnicking and fishing, plus a campground for those who wish to extend their visit!

4



## Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve

The unique landscape around this salty, million-year-old lake is an untraditional "beachfront" location. Freshwater springs and alkaline lake water have interacted to form these unusual "tufa towers" of calcium carbonate!

5



# TOP 5

## UNIQUE CAMPING SPOTS

### D.L. Bliss State Park

Camp near the crystal-clear deep blue waters of Lake Tahoe. Visitors come to swim and sunbathe at Lester Beach, marvel at Balancing Rock, or admire the famously blue lake waters.

1



### Leo Carrillo State Park

Enjoy camping under the sycamores or on a gorgeous beach with access to tide pools and incredible coastal views. Relax, fish, birdwatch and explore nature at its finest!

2

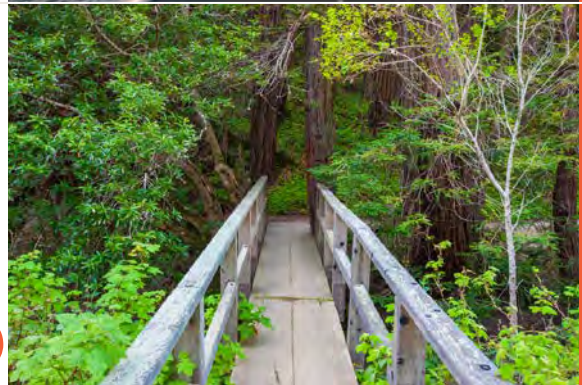


© JIM BREKKE VIA FLICKR

### Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

Camp in the Santa Lucia Mountains in this "little Yosemite" with its towering redwoods and animals from black-tail deer to water ouzels.

3



### Angel Island State Park

For a truly unique camping experience, camp on this island north of Alcatraz and escape downtown San Francisco without ever leaving the bay.

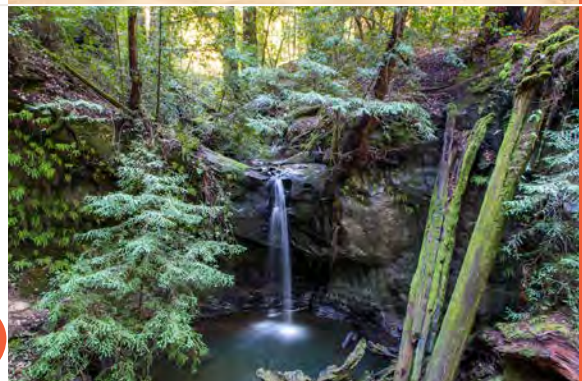
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### Big Basin Redwoods State Park

From your campsite, hike the trails beneath huge old-growth trees in the Santa Cruz Mountains and you'll find your pick of four waterfalls to enjoy.

5



TOP 5

HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES

**Old Town San Diego State Historic Park**  
Experience the history of San Diego through museums, a working blacksmith shop, music, burros, and special activities representing early San Diego.

1



**Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument**  
High above the ocean at San Simeon you'll find the famous 115-room Hearst Castle, as well as an impressive collection of European antiques, art and cultivated gardens.

2



**Columbia State Historic Park**  
Step back in time to the Gold Rush era of the 1850s and watch proprietors in period clothing conduct business, or ride a 100-year-old stagecoach and pan for gold yourself!

3



**Railtown 1897 State Historic Park**  
Perfect for the railroad enthusiast, Railtown boasts excursion train rides and a railroad specialty gift shop. This one-of-a-kind attraction combines railroad history with Hollywood's intriguing past.

4



**Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park**  
Visit the town funded, financed and governed by visionary African Americans in 1908. See the early-twentieth-century buildings while learning about this unique town and inspiring story!

5



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© ARTURO YEE VIA FLICKR

© CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS



# GET OUT TO ENJOY CALIFORNIA'S STATE PARKS!

## HOW MANY ACTIVITIES AND ADVENTURES WILL YOU EXPERIENCE?



Hiking



Whitewater Rafting



Surfing



Swimming



Biking



History



Boating



Paddle Boarding



Camping



Wildlife Watching



Fishing



Beachcombing



Stargazing



Horseback Riding



Scuba Diving



Bird Watching



Marine Life Watching



Kids Programs



Kayaking or Canoeing



CALIFORNIA  
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California State Parks Foundation  
33 New Montgomery Street, Suite 250, San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 262-4400 [www.calparks.org](http://www.calparks.org)



# BECOME A MEMBER

## YOU CAN MAKE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN FOR STATE PARKS!

As any California State Parks Foundation member will tell you, the greatest benefit of membership is the sense of satisfaction that comes from helping to protect and maintain the precious state parks we all love.

When you join with a contribution of \$25 or more, you will receive all of the benefits of membership.

- ▶ One-year subscription to *Sunset* magazine (a \$16 value)
- ▶ "I Love My State Parks" tote bag and decal
- ▶ *Parklands* newsletter and E-News
- ▶ 10% discount on state park camping reservations made online for most parks

Enroll by mail or visit our website: [calparks.org/join](http://calparks.org/join)

## YES! I AM BECOMING A MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION TO HELP PROTECT STATE PARKS.

**DONATION AMOUNT**     \$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     Other

### 1. MEMBER DETAILS

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. COMMUNICATION

- YES! Please keep me updated on news about state parks, action alerts, events, and special promotions.

### 3. BENEFITS

- Thanks, but I'll decline all the benefits so I can maximize my support for all your important work.
- Thanks! I would like all the benefits, but don't send *Sunset* magazine.
- Yes! Please send me all of the benefits, including *Sunset* magazine.

### 4. PAYMENT

- My check to California State Parks Foundation is enclosed.
- Please charge my gift to my credit card:  
 Visa     MasterCard     Discover     American Express

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

CVV \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: California State Parks Foundation Attn. Member Services  
33 New Montgomery Street, Suite 520, San Francisco, CA 94105