

Central California



Central Coast of California The wonders of the Central Coast continue to amaze me. We've lived here 10 years now and I'm still in awe of the beauty and variety in this area. Recently we had my husbands whole family come visit us for a week. Ten guests and it was a vacation had by all. I planned every day filled with new adventures for everyone to enjoy. In case YOU think this is a boring small town.....think again. The North County has some of the most unusual wineries anywhere.....and great wine too. Wine tasting is always a good way to spend a day. And nearby are the sea lions and the Hearst Castle. Doing one or two tours of the castle is a must. There are several small towns in the same area, such as Morro Bay, Cambria, and Cayucos. Each offers a delightful way to pursue a day of pleasure. If you are in Morro Bay, take in a day of kayaking. Rentals are affordable and it's the best for getting close up views of seals, sea otters and birds of all kinds. Also in September there are wine festivals and Opera concerts outdoors where one can listen to the sound of beautiful voices singing "in the vineyards and under the moonlight". Driving south is Solvang. It's a Danish town with fantastic shopping and sights of windmills and flowers everywhere. The bakeries are packed with delicious treats but be warned....most of them have way too many calories! Down in what we call the South County, is the Varian Horse Ranch where tiny blue and pink flags fly when a new filly or colt is born. These Arabians are the best in the country and always ready to come to the fence and show off. The little beach towns of Pismo and Avila each have a pier and offer great beaches, restaurants and fun in the sun. But speaking of fun, the Oceano Dunes are massive and with them comes tourists from all over the country. They camp at the beach and ride ATV's of all sizes up and down the endless mounds of sand. There is even a company that advertises "Doing the Dunes" in a Hummer convertible. This ride literally takes your breath away. Arroyo Grande has an historic main street and charming park. It's a quaint area with a swinging bridge, old school house and gazebo that offers free Sunday performances for the local community. Nearby is Lake Lopez....a beauty in itself it offers hiking and camping along beaches, boating and great water slides. Here alone is a total vacation package for young and old alike. The Madonna Inn is a unique sight to see. Each room is designed to take one into a world of fantasy whether it be pure luxury or maybe even into a rock cave. If you visit during 1-4 when housekeeping is in progress, you might get to see some of the rooms. If you plan to stay there, make your reservation a year in advance. And then there is the Melodrama. If you haven't seen this kind of old fashioned theater....take in a show and be prepared to hiss and cheer as the actors play their part on stage. Of course the whole Central Coast is blessed by clear blue skies, cool breezes and sunshine most of the year. It's landscape has beaches, rugged cliffs and rolling hills filled more and more with vineyards and oak trees. The nights are mild and the famous Farmer's Market shows off a variety of flowers and locally grown fruits and vegetables.....enough to make your mouth water . The butterflies come, the wildlife is abundant and the tourists come back every year for a reason. There's just so much to see and do. And the weather is perfect almost year around. Life is as good as it gets. Life is as good as it gets.

