

Explore Art, History and Nature Museums in Santa Cruz County!

The Santa Cruz County Museums Partnership, a collaborative association of non-profits, promotes local art, natural and cultural history organizations to both visiting tourists and residents.

History Museums

1 Agricultural History Project

Discover the history of agriculture in this area of the country – including the crops, people, artifacts and farming practices that have made the Central Coast what it is today. View our exhibits & explore our gift shop, "Country Corner". Families welcome.

Agricultural History Project
2601 East Lake Ave • Watsonville, CA 95076
831-724-5898

Thurs – Sun, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm or by appointment. Call for holiday hours. Groups by appointment. Free Admission – Donations appreciated.

www.aghistoryproject.org



2 Aptos History Museum

Aptos evolved from an Indian village to a Mexican cattle rancho, Claus Spreckels' thoroughbred horse ranch (the millionaire sugar grower), a lumber town, an apple processing center, and ultimately a resort. The first public aeroplane flights took place here and it was the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake epicenter.

Aptos History Museum
7605-B Old Dominion Court • Aptos, CA 95003
831-688-1467

Mon – Fri, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and by appointment. Free Admission – Donations appreciated.

www.aptoshistory.org



3 Capitola Historical Museum

Capitola, the oldest resort on the Pacific Coast, is celebrated with stories and photographs in the changing exhibits of Capitola Historical Museum. Research materials may be viewed by appointment. Community walking tours for groups of 25 persons or more can be arranged on weekdays from May through September with advance notice.

Capitola Historical Museum
410 Capitola Avenue • Capitola, CA 95010
831-464-0322

Wed, Fri, Sat & Sun, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. Free Admission – Donations Appreciated.

www.capitolamuseum.org



4 Cowell Lime Works Historic District

The Cowell Lime Works Historic District, UC Santa Cruz, offers a glimpse into the workings of a 19th century rural industry. Local limestone was heated in larger redwood fired kilns to produce lime for making mortar and plaster. See the lime kilns, cofferage (barrel factory), worker cabins, cookhouse, and massive timber-framed barns. Self-guided walking tour brochure at <http://limeworks.ucsc.edu>.

Cowell Lime Works Historic District
UC Santa Cruz, 1156 High St., MS PP&C Santa Cruz, CA 95064
831-459-1254

Admission/Parking Fee: Daily parking permit, \$6.00; free on weekends
<http://limeworks.ucsc.edu>



5 Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks - History

5a-Pacific Migrations Visitor Center, New Brighton State Beach
1500 Park Ave, Capitola, CA 95014
831-464-5620 or 831-685-6444

5b-Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park Visitor Center
144 School Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-425-5899

5c-Wilder Ranch State Park Visitor Center
1401 Old Coast Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-426-0505
www.ThatsMyPark.org for open days and hours



6 The Museum of Art & History

Explore Santa Cruz County history in an interactive, family-friendly setting. The MAH offers hands-on exhibitions and educational programs on everything from early settlers to the 1989 earthquake.

The Museum of Art & History @ the McPherson Center
705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-429-1964

Tues – Sun 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
Admission fees: Adult – \$5, Seniors & Students over 18 – \$3, Students between 12-17 – \$2, and under 12 is free – Free First Friday of each month with extended hours to 9:00 pm.
www.santacruzmah.org



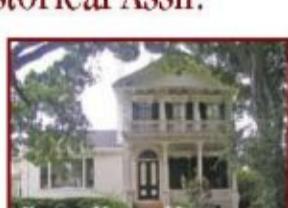
7 Pajaro Valley Historical Assn.

Pajaro Valley Historical Association manages the Boddie-Crr house and garden, the Snyder Archive and the Volk Museum. We gather, research, preserve and display items relating to the history of the Pajaro Valley. Individual and group tours maybe arranged. Facilities can be rented for events.

Pajaro Valley Historical Association
332 East Beach Street • Watsonville, CA 95076
831-723-0305

Tues, Wed and Thurs 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Free admission – donations appreciated

www.pajarovalleyhistory.com



8 Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

See this 1950s historic ranch house through the eyes of the Lane family – former owners of Sunset Magazine. Learn about the historic horse ranch, peruse old issues of Sunset, and see a 1950s renovated floor plan. Check out some of the natural history displays before going on a hike or enjoying a picnic.

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
800 Quail Hollow Road • Felton, CA 95018
831-335-9348

Saturdays (Nov-Mar) & Sundays (year round) 9 am – 4 pm
Admission/Parking Fee: Some activities require a fee and/or advance registration; parking is free.

www.scparks.com



www.SantaCruzCountyMuseums.org

9 Rodgers House

The James and Mahina Rodgers home, at the entrance to the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, is a beautifully designed residence from the 19th century. The house is filled with period furniture left by their descendants, one of whom was related to author, John Steinbeck. The house is open during the county fair and other events, and it is possible to call for tours and rentals.

Rodgers House, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds,
2601 East Lake Ave • Watsonville, CA 95076
831-724-5671

Mon – Fri, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Tours (10+ people) Mon – Sun by app.
Free admission – donations appreciated

www.santacruzcountypark.com



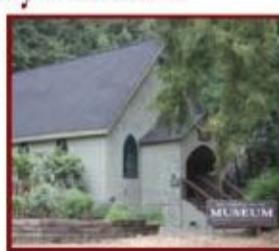
10 San Lorenzo Valley Museum

Explore San Lorenzo Valley history in a 1905 redwood church. Exhibits including logging & mill camps, use of flume & then narrow gauge, local early schools, vignettes of Victorian life, local pioneer biographies, & rotating exhibits. Visit our bookstore for local history, exploring, & nature books.

San Lorenzo Valley Museum
12547 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, CA 95006
831-338-8382

Wed, Fri – Sun 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Free Admission – Donations appreciated

www.slv museum.com



11 Santa Cruz Boardwalk Historium

The Boardwalk's rich history has been lovingly preserved inside the Boardwalk's Historium, located on the 2nd floor of Neptune's Kingdom. This unique exhibit details the Boardwalk's first 100 years of amazing memories with an array of images and photographs. Whether you are visiting the Boardwalk for the first time or the 100th time, the Historium shares the Boardwalk's amazing story during the last century of thrills and screams.

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Historium
400 Beach Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-423-5590

Hours vary – Call (831) 423-5590 and ask for hours of Neptune's Kingdom

Admission/Parking Fee: Free admission daily. Parking rates vary depending on time of year

www.beachboardwalk.com



12 Santa Cruz Surfing

This unique little museum's exhibit chronicles over 125 years of local surfing history beginning when 3 Hawaiian princes surfed the waves off of Santa Cruz on July 5, 1885, becoming the first persons to introduce board surfing to the United States mainland. Administered by the Santa Cruz Surfing Club Preservation Society.

Santa Cruz Surfing Museum
Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse
701 W Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-420-6289

Winter Hours: Thur – Mon 12:00 – 4:00 pm

Summer Hours: Wed – Mon 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Free Admission – Donations appreciated

www.santacrusurfingmuseum.org



13 Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association

The Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association has partnered with the Porter Memorial Library where we have our historical displays, artifacts, books and history room. The Historical Association is a community organization dedicated to preserving Soquel history and its role in the development of Santa Cruz County. Come visit and explore our museum in the 1913 historical building located in downtown Soquel.

Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association
3050 Porter Street, Soquel, CA 95073
831-475-3326

Days/Hours Opened: Mon – Fri 12:00 – 4:00 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Admission/Parking Free. Free Admission – Donations appreciated

www.SquelPioneers.com



14 Watsonville Fire

Our museum offers an up close and personal view of the apparatus and equipment used during the history of the Watsonville Fire Department. Our building was in use by the fire department from 1924 until 1982 when the new building adjacent to the museum was opened. The two buildings together offer a glimpse of the past as well as the present. The museum is operated by the Watsonville Firefighters' Association, a registered non-profit organization.

Watsonville Fire Department Chief Gene Friend Museum
105 Second Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
831-768-3202

Thurs – Sat, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Visits are available by appointment.

Free admission – Donations appreciated. Free parking available behind the fire station.



Natural History

15 Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Sempervere Room exhibits at Park Headquarters display the history of Big Basin, the oldest California State Park. Exhibits in the Nature Lodge show the natural environment of the park. Mountain Parks Foundation partners receive 15% discount in Nature Store.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Sempervere Room and Nature Lodge
21600 Big Basin Way • Boulder Creek, CA 95006
9 miles from Boulder Creek, CA on Hwy 236
831-338-8861

Daily with seasonal hours, \$10 vehicle fee

Donations appreciated

www.mountainparks.org



Natural History (Continued)

16 City of Watsonville Nature Center

Discover one of the largest remaining freshwater wetlands along the Central Coast of California. The center offers bilingual activities for the whole family with exhibits on wetlands animals, plants, habitats and cultural history. Join us for nature walks to learn about the amazing bird species that depend on the wetlands and the plants that make this habitat special. Over 6 miles of trails open to the public 7 days a week.

City of Watsonville Nature Center
30 Hopkins Slough Rd. • Watsonville, CA 95076
831-768-1622

Sat-Sun 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Nature Walks on Sun at 1:30 pm (bilingual) and Weekdays by app. Call for a list of special events and programs. Free admission - Donations appreciated

www.wetlandsawatsonville.org



17 Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks - Natural History

17a-Natural Bridges State Beach Visitor Center
2531 West Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-423-4609

17b-Seaside State Beach Visitor Center (pictured at right)
201 State Park Drive, Aptos, CA, 95003
831-685-6444

www.ThatsMyPark.org for open days and hours



18 Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Interpretive Center

Interactive exhibits of the four diverse habitats of the park, which include many unique and endangered plants and wildlife. The Visitor Center is at the beginning of the 8 mile walk in the grove of 270 ft. tall redwood trees where you may see these bright yellow banana slugs. Mountain Parks Foundation partners receive 15% discount in Nature Store.

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
1/2 mile from Felton on Hwy 9
525 N. Big Tree Park Road • Felton, CA 95018
831-335-9418

Open daily 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, \$10 vehicle fee

www.mountainparks.org



19 Rancho Del Oso

Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center, 17 miles N of Santa Cruz in the coastal portion of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The newly remodeled Nature and History Center features both cultural and natural exhibits. There are trails through seven different ecological zones, from the redwoods to the ocean, including the popular Skyline-to-the-Sea trail. Nature programs are held year-long.

Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center
3600 Highway 1 • Avenport, CA 95017
831-427-2288

Sat and Sun, 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Also by appointment between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm. No charge for school field trips – donations appreciated. Private groups: Check with State Parks for fees

www.ranchodeloso.org



Art Galleries

www.SantaCruzCountyMuseums.org

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

24

Cabrillo College Gallery



One of the largest college galleries in the Monterey Bay Area hosting 6 exhibitions annually. With a focus on national and international artists the gallery also hosts a very popular annual student exhibition. Cabrillo College Gallery
6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, 95003 (Library Blvd. #1002)
831-479-6308
Mon - Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Mon and Tues 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Free admission
www.cabrillo.edu/services/artgallery

25

Eloise Pickard Smith Art Gallery



This first gallery on the UCSC campus was named after the wife of the first Provost of Cowell College, Page Smith. Eloise was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to head the California Arts Council and a proponent of the arts. The gallery's main focus has been art of the Monterey Bay region. Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery Cowell College, UCSC University of California Santa Cruz, 95064 831-459-2933
Tues - Sun 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Closed June, July, Aug.
Reopening Sept 27, 2011. Free admission. Parking: meters or \$2-weekdays / No charge-weekends. Wheelchair accessible.
http://cowell.ucsc.edu/smith_gallery

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Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery



The Sesnon Gallery encourages interdisciplinary discourse through the lens of the arts. On the UC Santa Cruz campus, the gallery brings contemporary art to a broad cross-section of the public, representing a range of methods, media and cultures. The gallery is wheelchair accessible. Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery
Porter College, UC Santa Cruz, 95064
831-459-3606
Tues - Sat 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Wed 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
<http://arts.ucsc.edu/sendon>

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The Museum of Art & History



Explore three floors of contemporary art in an interactive, family-friendly setting. The MAH features rotating exhibitions of local, national, and international artwork and craft. The Museum also offers creative events on Friday nights that invite you to dive into art-making. The Museum of Art & History @ the McPherson Center
705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, 95060
831-429-1964
Tues - Sun 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. Free admission to members. Admission fees: Adult - \$5, Seniors & Students over 18 - \$3, Students between 12-17 - \$2, and under 12 is free. Free First Friday of each month with extended hours to 9:00 pm
www.santacruzmah.org

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Pajaro Valley Arts Council Gallery



The Pajaro Valley Arts Council Gallery presents six to seven rotating contemporary visual art exhibitions showcasing the talent of regional artists. Please also visit our outdoor sculpture garden, "Sculpture Is", at Sierra Azul Nursery (see #22 listing). Pajaro Valley Arts Council Gallery
37 Sudden Street • Watsonville, CA 95076
831-722-3062
Thur - Fri 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat - Sun 12:00 - 4:00 pm
Free admission - Donations appreciated
www.pvarts.org

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Santa Cruz Art League



The Santa Cruz Art League creates an environment for the creative path; to network, find inspiration and support. SCAL provides exhibits, performances and educational programs for all ages. We have about fourteen art exhibitions a year. Santa Cruz Art League
526 Broadway • Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-426-5787
Wed - Sat 12:00 - 5:00 pm, Sun 12:00 - 4:00 pm
Free admission
www.scal.org

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Santa Cruz County Arts Commission



Works by local artists are exhibited year-round on the 1st & 5th floors of the Government Center, 701 Ocean Street. The County permanent collection, including pieces from the Visual Chronicle, is displayed on floors 1-5 of the Government Center. Santa Cruz County Parks Department - Public Art Program
831-454-7901 or 831-454-2000
Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, except for Holidays and Pur-lough days. Free Admission
www.sparks.com

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Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center



Our Gallery features a wide variety of fine arts and crafts all handmade by local artists. Paintings (oils, acrylics, watercolors, digital), Jewelry, Ceramics, Textiles, Glass, Wood, Basketry and more! Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center
9341 Mill Street, Ben Lomond, CA 95005
831-336-3513
Gallery Hours: Wed - Sun 12:00 - 6:00 pm
Free admission & parking
www.bmountainartcenter.org

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Scotts Valley Artisans



Scotts Valley Artisans is a 5600 sq. ft. non-profit display and sales venue featuring the work of almost 150 Santa Cruz County fine artists and craftspeople. Scotts Valley Artisans
230 D Mt. Hermon Rd. • Scotts Valley CA 95066
831-439-9094
Mon - Sat 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, Sun 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Free admission.
www.scottsvalleyartisans.com

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Tannery Arts Center



This 8.2-acre campus that works in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz and Artspace to build affordable homes for the arts at the historic Santa Cruz Tannery. 28 working studios are home to 55 artists, and 8 art cooperatives. Exhibitions, classes, dance, music, drama, workshops, visual, literary, and performing arts. Tannery Arts Center
1050 River Street • Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-621-6226
Open to the public • Studios Open 1st Friday each month, 6 - 9 p.m. • Free
www.tanneryartscenter.org

ART • HISTORY • NATURE MUSEUMS

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Participate

 Scan this code to see our website
www.santacruzcountymuseums.org

Legend
Art Museums
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