



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE JANUARY 2018

Sponsored by the S. L. O. Coast & Oceano Dunes State Park Districts
Supported by the Central Coast State Parks Association



This schedule can be found at www.centralcoastparks.org

Date	Day	Time	*LOC	*SC	Adventure	Presenter
1	Mon	10:30 am	OC		First Day Hike -- Lagoon to the Beach	Jim Avila
1	Mon	2:00 pm	MdO		Treasuring Tide Pools	Sally Krenn
1	Mon	3:00 pm	MB		First Day Walk--Morro Strand Beach	Docents
2	Tue	11:00 am	MdO		Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919.....	Kathy Flock
2	Tue	3:00 pm	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
6	Sat	9:00 am	EB		Estero Bluff Rocks	Norma Wightman and Nancy Dickenson
8	Mon	10:15 am	MB	♿	Mind Walks - Culture, Civic Boosterism, and Recreation, Morro Bay 1920-1960.....	Dan Krieger
9	Tue	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Robbie & Bob Revel
10	Wed	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
13	Sat	9:00 am	MB		Winter Bird Festival: Family Day	
13	Sat	1:00 pm	MdO		Treasuring Tide Pools	Sally Krenn
15	Mon	10:00 am	MdO		Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro - Reservoir Flats, Part 2	Petrea White
15	Mon	10:15 am	MB	♿	Mind Walks - California Condors at Pinnacles National Park	Richard Neidhardt
15	Mon	3:00 pm	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
16	Tue	3:00 pm	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
21	Sun	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
22	Mon	10:00 am	MdO		Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro - Reservoir Flats, Part 2	Petrea White
22	Mon	10:00 am	LO		Hike Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
22	Mon	10:15 am	MB	♿	Mind Walks - Marine Mammals on the Central Coast	Rouvaishyana
25	Thu	1:00 pm	MdO		Eucalyptus- Beauty or Beast?	Faylla Chapman
27	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
28	Sun	1:30 pm	MdO		Hike the Sand Spit	Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
29	Mon	10:00 am	MdO		Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro - Reservoir Flats, Part 2	Petrea White
29	Mon	10:15 am	MB	♿	Mind Walks - The Geological Diversity of San Luis Obispo County	John McCabe
29	Mon	1:30 pm	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
30	Tue	3:00 pm	MdO		Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef	Faylla Chapman

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

2	Tue	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Elephant Seals and Sharks	Diana Barnhart
3	Wed	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Life Cycle of a Butterfly	Freddy Howell
4	Thu	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Native American Indian art	Sherri Barmazel
5	Fri	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Birding for Beginners, Part 1	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel

* **LOCation Codes:** EB - Estero Bluffs, HH - Harmony Headlands, LO - Los Osos, MB - Morro Bay, MdO - Montaña de Oro, MS - Morro Strand
NC - North Coast, OC - Oceano, OF - Oso Flaco, PB - Pismo Beach, SLO - San Luis Obispo

* **SC - Special Codes:** ♿ - Adventure accessible by wheelchair ; **New!** - New event added to the AWN calendar
(Adventure Descriptions on the Reverse Side)

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove: The Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove is open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM and docent-led talks are given each day at 11 AM and 2 PM. Free family fun. Handicap accessible.

Holidays at the Museum: Special programs offered during the school winter break time. Events are at 2 pm in the Museum auditorium. Please check the descriptions on the reverse for more information

Mind Walks: Weekly lecture series offers weekly programs on topics of interest to residents of the Central Coast, including cultural history, natural history, and current issues. Events at 10:15am every Monday, January - March, at The Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Admission for CCSPA members & docents free; others pay \$3 per lecture.

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival : Annual bird festival in Morro Bay, Jan. 12 - 15. For details, go to: morrobaybirdfestival.org

Family Day - Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival : Part of the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, Family Day at the Museum hosts events in and around the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay.

Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center: Thurs-Sun, Noon to 4 pm. Displays of the Pismo State Park and other State Parks areas, information on Dunites, Off-road vehicles and areas, Butterflies and a small nature store. Located on Pier Avenue, in the Oceano Campground. For more information call 805-474-2667.

Spoooner Ranch House: Open daily, 11am - 2pm, bad weather will cancel. In Montaña de Oro State Park, above Spoooner's Cove. Historical ranch house, Spoooner history, nature displays.

Coastal Discovery Center: Winter Hours will remain 11a-5p, Fri, Sat and Sun. San Simeon State Park, Hwy 1, San Simeon.

For additional information, call the Museum of Natural History, Morro Bay State Park, (805) 772-2694

ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

Everyone is welcome, but no dogs, please. All times are approximate. Rain cancels outdoor activities

Birding for Beginners

Learn about the skills needed to master birding as a hobby. Practice making observations, learn to use binoculars and spotting scopes, and learn about resources available for ongoing skill building. A iris

Birding the Boardwalk

Enjoy a stroll while identifying shorebirds and more. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guide. Dress for wind/weather. Park close to east end of Morro Bay State Park Bayside marina parking lot. 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro - Reservoir Flats, Part 2

Pass through a variety of coastal ecosystems and enjoy ocean views and lush creek-side greenery, looking for wildflowers. Dress for wind/weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 1.7 miles, 2 hours

Estero Bluff Rocks

See the mix of tortured rocks (sedimentary, metamorphic and volcanic) that tectonic forces spewed up along this scenic section of coastline. Bring binoculars and water; wear sturdy beach shoes and layered clothing. Meet in dirt parking lot one mile north of the end of divided section of Hwy 1, north of Cayucos. Moderate hike but short, steep path to beach. 2 miles. 2 hrs.

Eucalyptus- Beauty or Beast?

Love it or hate it? Can't decide? Walk through a grove in Montaña de Oro and learn the history, biology, pros and cons, and uses of these trees. Then decide for yourself! Dress for wind/weather and bring binoculars. Enjoy the drive with the light filtering through the groves, trees, and bark as you drive to meet at the Hazard Canyon parking lot, on west side, 1.6 miles from the Montaña de Oro park entrance. Easy walk, chance of poison oak, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove

Learn some local history while walking the bluffs looking for sea birds, whales, seals and otters. Explore the tide pools of Corallina Cove at low tide. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for wind/weather, and bring binoculars. Meet at Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 2 miles, 2 hours.

First Day Hike -- Lagoon to the Beach

Meet at Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, 555 Pier Ave., Oceano, CA, free parking is available. Hike by lagoon (good birding) and native plant gardens to the dunes and the beach. We'll see dune vegetation; seabirds likely; sea mammals, possibly. Bring water, proper shoes, dress in layers, check expected temperature. Rain or strong winds cancels. No pets allowed; minimum age is 9 yr. Easy <2.0 mile hike but we'll be walking on sand and dunes half of the way.

First Day Walk--Morro Strand Beach

Take a walk along the beach at low tide to celebrate the New Year and to see what ocean curiosities show up. Meet at the Morro Rock parking lot restrooms, dress for the weather. Strollers and wheelchairs encouraged, but should have big tires for sand. No dogs, please. Family, Easy, 1-2 hours.

Hike Los Osos Oaks Reserve

Take a leisurely hike in the shade of the oaks and then into the dune scrub. Wear long pants to protect against plentiful poison oak. Meet at Los Osos Oaks Reserve entrance, 0.7 miles east of South Bay Blvd. on Los Osos Valley Road. Easy walk. Poison oak. 1.5 miles, 1.5 hr.

Hike the Sand Spit

Walk through the dune scrub to the beach on the Sand Spit Trail. Then walk north along the shore. Wear sturdy shoes. Dress in layers, and bring water. Meet at the Sand Spit Parking Lot, Montaña de Oro State Park (turn right on paved road 7/10 mile past the entrance sign). 3 miles, 2 hours.

Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef

Learn some geology while walking through coastal scrub and sand dunes to see seaweeds and marine animals. Dress in layers and wear non-skid shoes that can get wet. Meet in Hazard Canyon parking lot, on West side of road, 1.6 miles south of Montaña de Oro park entrance. Look for announcement board. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 1 mile, 3 hours.

Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919

Visit the Spooner Ranch House in 1919 with Katie Spooner leading the tour. Katie will talk about the making of The Pecho Ranch and Spooner family history. Meet in the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Easy, with chairs available for sitting. 1 hour.

Los Osos Oaks Reserve

Enjoy a shaded stroll through ancient forest. See native plants and evidence of Chumash habitation. Learn colorful historical background. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at Reserve entrance, 0.7 miles east of South Bay Blvd. on Los Osos Valley Road. Easy walk, chance of poison oak, 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

Salt Marsh to Mudflats

Walk the State Park Marina Peninsula boardwalk to learn the history of the salt marsh and the plants and animals living in this specialized environment. Dress for wind/weather and mud. Bring binoculars. Park close to east end of Bayside marina parking lot or across the street at MB campground restrooms. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Treasuring Tide Pools

Gaze into a tide pool and view an entire working ecosystem while learning the rules of tide pool etiquette. Also learn about the coastal sage scrub community and geology of the area. Wear closed-toed shoes that one can get wet. Meet at the Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro State Park. Chance of poison oak. 2-2.5 hours.

White's Point Vistas

Enjoy a short, steep walk to view the estuary, home to hundreds of marine and terrestrial animals. Learn about the forces creating and changing this watery world. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Moderate walk, 0.5 miles, 0.75 hrs.

Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools

Walk to Windy Cove below the Museum learning about the plants, the mud and the organisms that inhabit the mud and the rocks around the cove. Dress for the weather and wear shoes that can get muddy; no bare feet. Meet at the "Nature Walk" sign in front of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Easy family walk, 1-2 hour.

Winter Bird Festival: Family Day

Part of the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, Family Day at the Museum hosts events in and around the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay. There is no charge for outside events, but a \$3.00 charge for adults entering the Museum and a craft charge for activities in the auditorium. Check the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival site for times and titles of events. No reservations required, first come, first served.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

Birding for Beginners, Part 1

Learn about the skills needed to master birding as a hobby. Practice making observations, learn to use binoculars and spotting scopes and learn about resources available for ongoing skill building. Binoculars helpful but not necessary. An outdoor walk will follow a discussion in the Museum Learning Center.

Life Cycle of a Butterfly

Learn about the intriguing life cycle and adaptations of butterflies. Watch a puppet show about a caterpillar and a grasshopper who both start out as eggs, but grow into adults very differently. Create a magic trick showing the life cycle of a butterfly! Museum auditorium.

Native American Indian Art

Visitors will learn about designs and art of the local Native Americans and have a chance to do an art project inspired by these designs. Museum auditorium.

Elephant Seals and Sharks

There are many 5000-pound elephant seals putting on a great show on beaches near San Simeon all year long. Come and learn about these amazing creatures and their relationship with sharks. Museum auditorium.

MIND WALKS

The Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, MB

California Condors at Pinnacles National Park

Richard Neidhardt will outline the history and goals of the California Condor Recovery Program and discuss the volunteer's role in assisting in managing the Central California condor flock.



Culture, Civic Boosterism, and Recreation, Morro Bay 1920-1960

Dan Krieger will discuss some of the personalities and events leading to the creation of Morro Bay State Park and the Natural History Museum. He will also focus on the impact of the Hearst/San Simeon State Historic Monument since 1957.

Marine Mammals on the Central Coast

Rouvaishyana will describe the whales and marine mammals seen off the San Luis Obispo County coastline during the course of a year. Learn about whale migration patterns, dolphin movements, and their connections with fish and seabird populations, as well as the conservation status of coastal marine mammals.

The Geological Diversity of San Luis Obispo County

John McCabe will explore the geological diversity of San Luis Obispo County by looking at the geologic factors that formed the Morros, and the plant and animal life that exists within them.