



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE MAY 2019

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	Wed	10:00 AM	MdO	♻️	Montana de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
5	Sun	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
6	Mon	10:00 AM	MdO	♻️	Montana de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
6	Mon	10:00 AM	EB		Hike Estero Bluffs - Bardeen, Kirkhart	Reifel, Renshaw
10	Fri	9:00 AM	MdO		Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef	Faylla Chapman
11	Sat	10:00 AM	OC		Oceano's Beavers	Dan Green
11	Sat	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
11	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
12	Sun	12:00 PM	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
13	Mon	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
17	Fri	10:00 AM	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Bob and Robbie Revel
18	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Saturday Scientists: SCAT	Faylla Chapman
22	Wed	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Birding the Boardwalk	Freitas and Revel
24	Fri	9:00 AM	MB		Songbirds in the Pines	Freitas and Revel
24	Fri	1:00 PM	MB	♻️	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
25	Sat	9:00 AM	MdO	♻️	Plants and Animals along the MdO Bluff Trail	Sally Krenn
25	Sat	9:30 AM	PB		Grove to Boardwalk to Beach	Becky Bowen
25	Sat	9:30 AM	MB		Morro Bay Geology and Plants	Reifel, Renshaw
25	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
26	Sun	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
28	Tue	1:00 PM	MdO	♻️	Plants and Animals along the MdO Bluff Trail	Sally Krenn
30	Thu	11:00 AM	MdO		Living History - The Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
30	Thu	1:00 PM	MdO		Eucalyptus - Beauty or Beast?	Faylla Chapman

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

Adventure Descriptions on reverse side.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Morro Bay Museum of Natural History: 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay 93442. Open every day, 10 am to 5 pm, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. \$3 admission, CCSPA members and under 17 are free. Special exhibit – *Two Worlds Meet: Living Together Along the Shore*.

The California Central Coast Pastel Society presents their 2019 Exhibition, *Two Worlds Meet: Living Together Along the Shore*. April 3-May 31, 10 AM to 5 PM daily. This is an exceptional collection of pastel paintings by talented artists from the California's Central coast. Natural History Museum auditorium. Admission to the Museum is \$3 for adults, CCSPA members and under 17 are free.

Oceano Dunes Visitor Center: Open daily, Noon to 4 pm. The exhibits highlight the Oceano Dunes District's natural and cultural resources as well as our diverse recreational activities. Visitors learn about Chumash culture, the famous Pismo clams, dune habitat, shorebirds, the history of off-highway vehicles and the Dunites. Located at 555 Pier Ave, Oceano 93445 (in the Oceano Campground). For more information, please call 805-474-2664.

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

Coastal Discovery Center: Hours are 11 am to 5 pm, Fri, Sat and Sun. San Simeon State Park, Hwy 1, San Simeon.

ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

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

Birding the Boardwalk: Enjoy a stroll while identifying shorebirds and more. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guide. Park close to east end of Morro Bay State Park Bayside marina parking lot. 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock: Observe cormorants, pelicans, and various species and age classes of gulls. Watch for resident Peregrine falcons over the Rock and sea birds in the channel. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet near the chain link fencing at the base of Morro Rock, in the northwest corner of the large parking lot. 1 mi, 2 hrs.

Eucalyptus-Beauty or Beast?: Love it or hate it? Can't decide? Walk through a grove in Montaña de Oro (MdO) and learn the history, biology, pros and cons, and uses of these trees. Then decide for yourself! Enjoy the drive with the light filtering through the groves, trees and bark, to meet at the Hazard Canyon parking lot, on west side, 1.6 miles from the MdO park entrance. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders: Enjoy a short talk and walk to the rookery in Morro Bay State Park to observe these magnificent birds. Learn about courtship rituals, nesting habits, and in spring, see adults caring for their young. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History in the Learning Center. Easy walk, 0.25 miles, 1.5 hours.

Grove to Boardwalk to Beach: Enjoy an easy stroll through the Monarch Butterfly Grove, the boardwalk and return on the beach. Along the way, we'll discuss the area's history, the monarchs, Pismo clams, sand dollars and shorebirds as we identify area plants and animals. Meet at the benches in the Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, 455 S. Dolliver. Easy walk, 1 mi., 2 hrs.

Hike Estero Bluffs: Hike along the edge of the bluff, stopping to admire the rocky coast, the waves, or distant coastal views. Watch for interesting plants, birds, or sea mammals. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. Meet north of Cayucos at the parking area on the west side of HWY 1, 1.7 miles north of the HWY 1/Cayucos Drive interchange. Easy walk of 2 miles, 1.5 to 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 – The 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.

Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk: Take a pleasant hike along the bluffs for the magnificent views and look for wildlife. Bring binoculars. Meet at Coastal Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro State Park. Moderate paced walk on an ADA Accessible trail, 2 miles, 3 hours. Poison oak present.

Morro Bay Geology and Plants: Walk on the geologic history of Morro Bay State Park as you learn about the rocks, the soils, and the plants that inhabit them. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. Meet at the Quarry Trailhead parking lot, off South Bay Blvd. in Morro Bay State Park, 2.6 miles from Los Osos Valley Road. Moderate walk, 1 mile, 2 hours.

Oceano's Beavers: Discover the beaver's physical adaptations, their role in our country's westward expansion, why they were hunted, and their local history. Search for evidence of their activities during a short walk. Dress for wind/weather with comfortable shoes. Bring insect repellent and water: binoculars a plus. Meet at Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, Guiton Hall meeting room, Oceano Campground, 555 Pier Ave, Oceano. Moderate walk, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Plants and Animals along the MdO Bluff Trail: Walk the bluffs and look for whales, birds, otters and seals. You will be enlightened about some of the medicinal uses of the native plants and learn about the local history on the walk. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers for the coast and bring binoculars and magnifying glass. Meet at Coastal Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yds south of Spooner Ranch House in Montana de Oro State Park. Moderate paced walk on an ADA Accessible trail, 2 miles, 2.0 hours. Poison oak present.

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.

Saturday Scientists-SCAT: Join the Saturday Scientists docents at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History to hear about animal scat: why it is important, who looks at it, how it can be identified (even elephant!). Then look at scat samples under the binocular microscopes to learn how to compare and identify various types. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. Family friendly. 1.5 hours

Songbirds in the Pines: Walk through pine woods and along the edges of Morro Bay State Park, expecting to see woodpeckers, songbirds, and birds of prey. Bring binoculars and your bird guidebook. Meet at the end of Laloma St., off Quintana Blvd. in Morro Bay. Moderate walking at a slow pace, 1.5 miles, 2 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 hours.

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.