



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE JANUARY 2020

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	OC		First Day Hike: Pismo Dune Preserve	Park Staff
1	Wed	1:00 PM	MB		First Day Hike: White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
1	Wed	2:00 PM	OF	♻️	First Day Hike: Oso Flaco Lake	Park Staff
4	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
6	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	Mind Walk -Emergency Preparedness for SLO Co Hazards	Tracey Vardas
8	Wed	1:30 PM	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
10	Fri	3:00 PM	MdO		Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef	Faylla Chapman
11	Sat	9:00 AM	MB	*	King Tides Explained NEW	Faylla Chapman
11	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
11	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Drawn to Nature NEW	Nancy Dickenson
11	Sat	3:00 PM	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
12	Sun	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
13	Mon	10:00 AM	MdO	♻️	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
13	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	Mind Walk - Envisioning Morro Bay from 1769-1925	Dan Kreiger
18	Sat	10:00 am	MB	♻️	Bird Learn, Make and Take	See Special Events
18	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
18	Sat	10:00 AM	OC		Oceano's Beavers	Dan Green
20	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	Mind Walk - Black Oystercatchers-Monitoring Success	Jodi Isaacs
21	Tue	10:00 AM	LO		Magnificent Coastal Live Oaks	Petrea White
22	Wed	1:30 PM	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
23	Thu	3:00 PM	EB		Estero Bluffs Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
25	Sat	9:00 AM	MB		Quarry Trail to Morro Vistas	Norma Wightman
25	Sat	9:30 AM	OC		Grove to Boardwalk to Beach	Becky Bowen
25	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
25	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
25	Sat	1:00 PM	MdO		The History of the 9 Sisters	Faylla Chapman
27	Mon	9:30 AM	LO		Hike Coon Creek Out and Back - Bardeen, Kirkhart	Reifel, Renshaw
27	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	Mind Walk -Biogeography:Where plants/animals come from?	James Brown
28	Tue	10:00 AM	MdO		Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro	Petrea White
30	Thu	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Birding the Boardwalk	Watts and Freitas
31	Fri	1:00 PM	MB	♻️	Salt Marsh to Mud Flats	Faylla Chapman

WINTER BREAK EVENTS

A series of programs designed to interest and educate students, parents, families on break from school. All will be held at the Museum of Natural History auditorium at 2 pm each day. Museum entrance fee is \$3, under 17 are free

2	Thu	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Birds: What Do You See?	Rouvaishyana
3	Fri	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Elephant Seals and Sharks	Diana Barnhart
4	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Marine Animals Live!	Krenn and Chapman

Adventure Descriptions on reverse side

***LOCation Codes:** AG-Arroyo Grande, CDC-Coastal Discovery Center, EB-Estero Bluffs, GB-Grover Beach, 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monarch Butterfly Grove: The Monarch Butterflies overwinter in the Pismo Monarch Grove. The Monarch Butterfly Grove is staffed Monday through Friday from 11 am - 2 pm, with a talk at noon each day. Weekends and holidays from 10 am - 4 pm, with talks at noon and 2 pm.

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- *Fantastic Feathers: What Plumage Tells us about the Lives of Birds*. More info: call 805-772-2694.

Mind Walk Series: Every Monday morning from January to the end of March, a presentation of local interest is given at the Inn at Morro Bay from 10:15 to approximately 11:30. CCSPA members at Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.

Family Day at the Museum: A series of programs for families in and around the Museum starting at 9 AM, including Bird Learn, Make and Take activities in the auditorium, and reptile presentations in the learning center. Programs are listed in the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival brochure, found at <https://morrobaybirdfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/mbbf-brochure-2020-vv.pdf> or by calling the Museum, 805-772-2694. Bird Festival participants are free, children under 17 are free, all others are \$3.

Oceano Dunes Visitor Center: Open daily, Noon to 4 pm. The exhibits highlight the Oceano Dunes District's natural and cultural resources; 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.

Spoooner 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: What Do You See?: Come look at bird specimens close-up. We'll look at their many features to see how we can tell them apart and how they live in their environment. Then we'll take a stroll around the Museum grounds to apply what we learned and see what birds are around—there are usually quite a few. Suitable for beginners and families with children ages 5 and above. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. 1-1.5 hours

Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro: Hike the Reservoir Flats Trail. Pass through Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral and Riparian Eco Systems. Enjoy ocean views, lush creek side greenery and see an abundance of wildflowers. Bring water, binoculars, bug spray. Wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers. Meet at the Visitor Center Montaña de Oro State Park (Spooner Ranch House). 1.7 mi. 2 – 3 hrs.

Drawn to Nature: Watch a "how to demo" on nature journaling--then try your hand at sketching either indoors or outdoors (weather dependent). Bring a pencil, eraser, sketchbook, and layered clothing. No experience required. Ages 7 and up. Meet at the Museum of Natural History, 20 State Park Rd., Morro Bay. 2 hours.

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. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. 1 hour.

Estero Bluffs Tide Pools: The beach and rocky boulders of the Estero Bluffs are different from those at Montana de Oro sites. The tide pool organisms will differ also. Plants of the grassland and geology will be discussed. No bare feet or loose shoes. Meet at the north end of the Windmill parking lot of Estero Bluffs State Park, 2.5 miles north of Exit 285 to Cayucos on Highway 1. 1 mile. 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. Bring binoculars. Meet at Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, 2 miles, 2 hours.

First Day Hike: Oso Flaco Lake: Join State Park Interpreters for a guided walk at Oso Flaco Lake. All ages welcome. No dogs in this area of the park. Dress in layers and comfortable shoes. Bring binoculars, water, a hat and sunglasses. Oso Flaco Trail and Boardwalk is handicap accessible. 2 miles round trip.

First Day Hike: Pismo Dune Preserve: Join State Park Interpreters for a guided walk at the Pismo Dune Preserve. All ages welcome. No dogs are allowed within the preserve. Dress in layers and comfortable shoes. Bring water, a hat and sunglasses. Sandy terrain is unstable and very steep in some parts. Meet outside of the Pacific Dunes Ranch at 1205 Silver Spur Pl, Oceano, CA 93445. Park in the gravel area outside of the campground. 1 mile, strenuous due to terrain.

Hike Coon Creek Out and Back: Follow the creek to the end of the trail, crossing 6 bridges on the way. Bring water and wear sturdy walking shoes. Meet in Montaña de Oro State Park at the end of Pecho Road in the Coon Creek parking lot. Active hike, 5 miles, 2.5 - 3 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. 2-3 hours.

King Tides Explained: King Tides, or the highest and lowest tides, occur from December through February each year as a result of Earth's closeness to the Moon and in conjunction with the Sun. Come observe a very high tide from the Museum of Natural History, hear the history of the term King Tides, learn how to read a tide calendar and find out what climate change will mean with these tides. Meet at the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay and walk down to Windy Cove to observe the tide. The museum portion is ADA accessible. Dress for the weather. 1 hour.

Life of the Northern Elephant Seal: Winter is the most exciting time of the year to view elephant seals at Piedras Blancas rookery where females give birth and males defend their territory. Learn about the amazing life of the northern elephant seal in an informative 45 minute presentation before visiting the seals at the main rookery with a docent from Friends of the Elephant Seal. **Meet at the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Cove for the following field trips and presentations, free to the public. Call or text 805-801-0773 to reserve a space and leave a call-back number.**

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.

Magnificent Coastal Live Oaks: Hike through coastal sage scrub to a pocket woodland of California Coastal Live Oaks. Experience beautiful vistas of the estuary and back bay while looking for seasonal wildflowers along the way. Chocolate Lilies? Meet at the Chumash Trail on Turri Road about 1/3 mile off South Bay Blvd. 2.5 miles, 2 hours.

Marine Animals Live: See and touch some of the less common marine animals. Learn about them and how they live. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. Family event. 1-2 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 Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, 2 miles, 3 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.

Quarry Trail to Morro Vistas: Walk to the foot of Cerro Cabrillo to view the quarry site and learn about how the 'morros' formed. View the web of estuary waters and learn about human and natural forces that shaped the estuary. Meet at Quarry Trail parking lot off South Bay Blvd. in Morro Bay State Park, 2.6 miles from Los Osos Valley Rd. Moderate hike, 3 miles, 2.5 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.

The History of the 9 Sisters Volcanic Peaks: Morro Rock is the most famous of a chain of volcanic peaks leading into San Luis Obispo. Learn about the Nine Sisters, also called the 7 Sisters or the Morros, and other geologic aspects of the area. Meet at the Los Osos Oaks Reserve parking lot, 0.7 mile east of South Bay Blvd on Los Osos Valley Road. 0.5 mile, 1 hour. Chance of poison oak.

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.

MIND WALKS – At the Inn at Morro Bay at 10:15

Mind Walk – Emergency Preparedness for SLO County Hazards: Hear Tracey Vardas discuss SLO County emergency risks including earthquake, flooding, fires, a Diablo Canyon event and several others. Learn about these risks and what can be done to prepare for them. Inn at Morro Bay, State Park Road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.

Mind Walk – Envisioning Morro Bay from 1769-1925: Over 166 years, Morro Bay's symbolic "rock" was imprinted in the imaginations of writers and artists. Learn about them, from Juan Crespi to E.G. Lewis, as Dan Krieger speaks. Inn at Morro Bay, State Park Road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.

Mind Walk – Black Oystercatchers -How we Monitor Reproductive Success: Black Oystercatchers are an important indicator of rocky intertidal habitat health. Jodi Isaacs discusses the goals and findings of the Black Oystercatcher reproductive monitoring program. Inn at Morro Bay, State Park Road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.

Mind Walk – Biogeography – Where did our Plants and Animals come from?: Join James Brown to learn where animals and plants on the Central Coast originally came from. The question of what is native raises controversial topics about exotic species and human immigration. Inn at Morro Bay, State Park Road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.