

Free! ♦ Big Sur Guide ♦ Free!

Summer 2010 - Spring 2011



Big Sur Coastline and Bixby Bridge ~ Photo by Daniel Bianchetta

“The Greatest Meeting of Land & Sea”

Big Sur is located along Scenic Highway One approximately 150 miles south of San Francisco and 300 miles north of Los Angeles. Historically, the name Big Sur was derived from that unexplored and unmapped wilderness area which lays along the coast south of Monterey. It was simply called el país grande del sur, the Big South Country. Today, Big Sur refers to that 90-mile stretch of rugged and awesomely beautiful coastline between Carmel to the north and San Simeon (Hearst Castle) to the south. Highway One winds along its length and is flanked on one side by the majestic Santa Lucia Mountains and on the other by the rocky Pacific Coast.

Although there were two Mexican land grants awarded in the 1830's, which included most of the area north of the Big Sur Valley, neither grantee settled on the land. It was little more than a century ago when the first permanent settlers arrived in Big Sur. In the following decades other hardy persons followed and staked out their homesteads. The landmarks bear the names of many of those early settlers — Mt. Manuel, Pfeiffer Ridge, Post Summit, Cooper Point, Dani Ridge, Partington Cove and others. Some of their descendants still live in Big Sur.

At the turn of the century Big Sur sustained a larger population than it does today. A vigorous

redwood lumbering industry provided livelihoods for many. The Old Coast Trail, which had been the only link between homesteads, was still little more than a wagon trail. Steamers transported heavy goods and supplies and harbored at Notley's Landing, Partington Cove, and the mouth of the Little Sur River.

Navigation was treacherous, and in 1889, the Point Sur Lighthouse began sending its powerful beam to protect ships from the hazards of the coastline.

In 1937, the present highway was completed after eighteen years of construction at a considerable expense even with the aid of convict labor. The highway has since been declared California's first Scenic Highway, and it provides a driving experience unsurpassed in natural beauty and scenic variety.

Electricity did not arrive in Big Sur until the early 1950's, and it still does not extend the length of the coast or into the more remote mountainous area.

The proximity of the Pacific Ocean provides for a temperate climate. Winters are mild, and rainy days are interspersed with periods of bright sunshine. An average rainfall of over 50

inches fills the many streams that flow down the redwood-lined canyons. Coastal fog cools the summer mornings, but it usually lifts by early afternoon.

It is wise to include both warm and cold weather clothing when packing for Big Sur. A damp, foggy morning can be followed by a warm afternoon. In the interior valleys of the Wilderness Area, the temperatures are more extreme; the fog bank seldom crosses the coast ridge, so the days are likely to be hot and the nights chilly.

The scenic qualities and the natural grandeur of the coast which result from the imposing geography, the rich vegetative compositions, and the dramatic meetings of land and sea are the area's greatest single attraction to the public. Big Sur has attained a worldwide reputation for its spectacular beauty. Hiking, backpacking and scenic driving are major recreational activities.

Highway 1 through Big Sur is a designated American National Scenic Byway and California Scenic Highway, an honor reserved for highways that are so distinctive they are destinations unto themselves. For more information visit www.byways.org.



www.bigsurcalifornia.org

Big Sur Guide

The official, complete and definitive travel guide to California's Big Sur Coast Summer 2010 through Spring 2011

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- Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau

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About the Big Sur Guide

This publication is supported in part by the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Through this guide we hope to answer your questions regarding the Big Sur Coast.

The Big Sur Guide is printed on post consumer waste. Please recycle.

Emergency Information

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911.

Other emergency phone numbers include:

- AAA (800) 400-4222
- Big Sur Health Center (831) 667-2580
- Big Sur Ranger Station, State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Cal-Trans (831) 667-2315
- Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (831) 624-5311

Community Hospital is the nearest hospital to Big Sur. It is located approximately 30 miles north of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Follow Highway 1 to Carmel, taking the Highway 68 exit (west) to the hospital.

Monterey-Salinas Transit

The Route 22 bus runs daily from Monterey to Big Sur
 April - October
 www.mst.org
 1-888-MST-BUS1
 (1-888-678-2871)



Orca breaching in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary - Photo by Daniel Bianchetta



Humpback whales breaching in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary - Photo by Daniel Bianchetta

How to handle Big Sur with care

Big Sur is a special place to many people. To help keep it that way and ensure your own safety, observe some simple rules and follow these basic safety tips.

FIRES — Our biggest concern during the dry season is wildfire. Please extinguish cigarettes in your ashtray. Be extra careful, making sure that your fire is safe and legal. Be sure to extinguish your fire when you leave.

COLLECTING — Plants, animals, rocks and artifacts of Big Sur's cultural and natural history are protected by law and should not be disturbed. Rockhounding and collection of driftwood and firewood may be allowed in certain designated areas. Collectors should contact the nearest ranger station for specific information.

RECYCLE — Most businesses have blue recycling bins. Please treat Big Sur gently and with respect so that it will remain the beautiful place we all love.

PRIVATE PROPERTY — Please be mindful and respectful of the property rights of others. Most of the land adjacent to the highway is posted private property, and trespassing laws are strictly enforced.

ROADSIDE CAMPING — Roadside camping is prohibited along Highway 1 from the Carmel River to the Monterey-San Luis Obispo County line. This does not apply to tired motorists stopping for a temporary rest.

PETS — Pets frighten wildlife and disturb visitors. On U.S. Forest Service lands, pets must be leashed in developed campgrounds and picnic areas only. In the State Parks, they must be on a leash at all times and are not allowed on trails.

POISON OAK — This toxic plant is found in Big Sur in abundance. Exposure to the plant can be spread by hands, clothing, pets, or equipment which has come in contact with the plant or from the smoke generated when burning it. Much of the reactive substance can be removed by immediate washing with cool water and soap. Look for the triple leaf pattern, with prominent veins and a shiny surface. During the Summer and Fall, the leaves take on reddish hues. Try to avoid this plant.

DRIVING TIPS FOR HIGHWAY 1 State Highway 1 through the Big Sur is recognized internationally as one of the world's most beautiful highways. It is also one of the most maintained highways in America. Keep these tips in mind when you travel this route:

- 1) Drive defensively! You never know what hazard may be around a blind curve.
- 2) Buckle up! It's the law.
- 3) Keep your eyes on the road — if you want to enjoy the scenery, please use turn-outs.
- 4) Maintain your speed and abide by posted limits which is 55 MPH unless otherwise posted. Slower traffic should pull over.
- 5) When pulling over, avoid quick stops on the unpaved turn-outs and shoulders.
- 6) Watch for touring bicyclists.



Hummingbird in Big Sur

Photograph by Daniel Bianchetta



Monarch Butterfly winter migration to Big Sur

Photograph by Daniel Bianchetta



Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park and the Big Sur Coast

Photograph by Brock Bradford



Orca in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Photograph by Daniel Bianchetta

Big Sur, California



California Condor in Flight - Photo by Stan Russell

Ventana Wildlife Society California Condor Recovery Program

For over thirty years, the Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS), a community-based private non-profit, has been releasing wildlife in the Ventana Wilderness. In 1997, VWS began reintroducing California condors to the Big Sur coast, and the population has steadily risen each year. The California condor is North America's largest and most endangered land bird, and can frequently be seen along the Big Sur coast. VWS biologists have a few simple requests for travelers in the region who wish to view condors. To help keep California's condors wild:

- Please remain more than 150 feet from the California condor
- It is dangerous and illegal to throw any object at the condors
- Please do not feed condors!
- Litter can harm condors if ingested and it fouls the beautiful Big Sur coastline

Ventana Wildlife Society leads once-in-a-lifetime wildlife tours, including viewing opportunities for condors. Call (831) 455-9514 to find out more. To report your condor sightings call (831) 624-1202 or for more information visit www.ventanaws.org. **While in Big Sur visit the Discovery Center and Bird Banding Lab at Andrew Molera State Park to see interpretive exhibits and ongoing bird conservation.** Sign up for tours and see a bird in the hand. Ventana Wildlife Society is the only non-profit organization restoring the condor to the wild in California. Our address is: Ventana Wildlife Society, 19045 Portola Dr., Suite F-1. Salinas, CA 93908.

Henry Miller In Big Sur

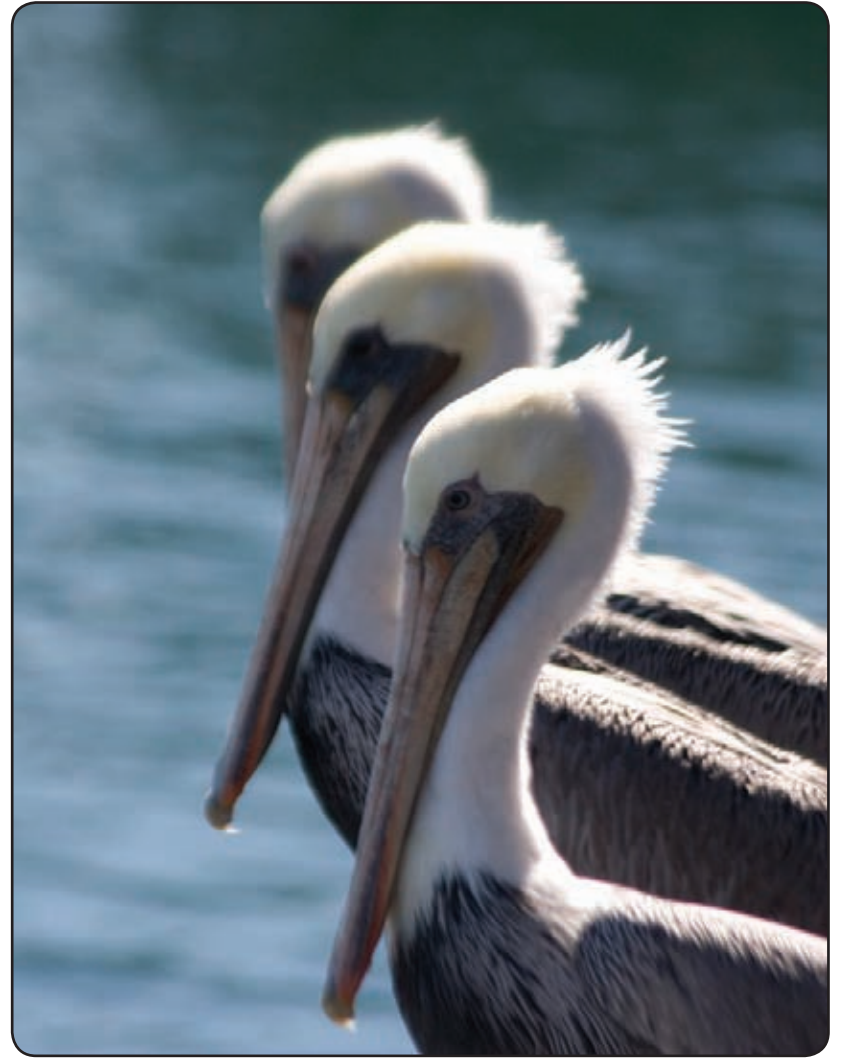
One of America's most famous and controversial authors called Big Sur: "The face of the earth as the Creator intended it to look." From 1944 to 1962, he also called it "home." Nestled in the redwoods on Highway 1, between Nepenthe and Deetjen's you will find the Henry Miller Memorial Library. Like many things in Big Sur it is a place out of place and out of time. Not content to be a library or memorial, it is a place where you can still get free coffee or tea, free Wi-Fi Internet access or just relax among the towering redwoods that is an oasis for the weary traveler or hungry heart. Summer brings Wednesday night Open Mic, Thursday night film screenings, live music, poetry, circus, art and the eclectic with events every week. A sculpture garden to picnic or relax in, a wonderful bookstore, and no less than two free public restroom, makes you want to skip that trip to Hearst Castle. With its extensive archives it also pays homage to the many other great artists and writers who called Big Sur home like Jeffers, Ferlinghetti, Kerouac, Watts, Brautigan and dozens of others.

A 501(c) 3 non profit, HML champions the works of its namesake and also advocates the support of art, the creative life, and freedom of expression everywhere. Simple, unadorned and irreverent, this is the place to get away from what Miller called The Air Conditioned Nightmare, a place where you can still Stand Still Like the Hummingbird or simply Smile at the Foot of the Ladder. www.henrymiller.org ph. 831.667.2574

Do Nothing in Big Sur!

Evenings offer the opportunity to dine in restaurants from fanciful to exquisite. Relax in lodging that ranges from rustic to ultra-luxurious. Camp out in the many well equipped campgrounds. Luxuriate at the health spas. And of course, one of the favorite past-times of Big Sur, is to simply *Do Nothing*.

That's right, relax and take in the magnificent beauty of Big Sur. Once you are here there is no reason to do anything more. Replenish your spirit by simply absorbing the beautiful vistas. *Do Nothing* and leave refreshed and rejuvenated from head to toe. You'll be glad you did.



Pelicans photo; Daniel Bianchetta



California Sea Otter photo; Daniel Bianchetta



Breaching Humpback Whale photo; Daniel Bianchetta



Boronda Trail photo; Stan Russell

Art Galleries & Gift Shops

BIG SUR GARDEN GALLERY Located at Loma Vista. A beautiful combination of fine locally produced art and jewelry with exotic gifts from around the world. Features hand crafted jade jewelry for all price ranges plus one of a kind beaded necklaces, bracelets and earrings. Locally produced herbal products, cards, candles, soaps and clothing. (831) 667-2000 bigsurgardengallery.com

BIG SUR LODGE GIFT SHOP An array of eclectic gifts, State Park souvenirs, jewelry, pottery & the largest selection of T-shirts & sweatshirts in the area. 8:00am - 9:00pm daily. (831) 667-3108 bigsurlodge.com

COAST GALLERY BIG SUR Established in 1958, Coast Gallery was the first gallery in Big Sur and is the one of the largest galleries of American Crafts in the US featuring over 150 Master Craftsmen. Highway 1 30 miles south of Carmel and 60 miles north of Hearst Castle. A historic landmark with distinctive water-tank architecture, the 7,500 sf gallery features prominent local artists and international favorites. (831) 667-2301 coastgalleries.com

COAST RIDGE OUTFITTERS located on Hwy 1 at Fernwood Resort. Providing campground necessities from tents, sleeping bags, lanterns, maps, back country information. (831) 667-2130 coastridgeoutfitters.com

DEL CAMPO GALLERY Featuring original fine art by Big Sur artists including sculpture, painting, photography and sculptured jewelry. Garden. Daily 11:00-6:00 Closed Mondays. By appointment (831) 667-2618 delcampogallery.com

HAWTHORNE GALLERY Representing the work of Gregory Hawthorne and six additional talented members of the Hawthorne family & seven other nationally known artists in contemporary painting, sculpture, blown glass, ceramics and cloissoné. Located across from Nepenthe Open daily 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. (831) 667-3200 hawthornegallery.com

HEARTBEAT GIFT GALLERY An adventure in shopping for the unusual, exotic, and erotic. A great variety, choice, and quality of jewelry, clothing, and collectibles from around the world featuring local Big Sur landscape photography. Next to the Big Sur River Inn. (831) 667-2557 heartbeatbigsur.com

HENRY MILLER LIBRARY a non-profit organization championing the works of Henry Miller. A treasure of fine books, art and history of the area. Rare books. Available for special events. Wi-Fi Internet access. (831) 667-2574. henrymiller.org

LOCAL COLOR Central Coast Artisans Gallery. Featuring fine art as well as handcrafts by local artists. Large variety of Big Sur Jade, redwood bowls, and tie-dyed clothing. Open everyday. Celebrating 10 years. (831) 667-0481 bigsurlocalcolor.com

PHOENIX SHOP is a unique gift shop featuring exceptional merchandise from around the world as well as from local artisans. Handcrafted fine jewelry, home décor and furniture, boutique clothing, books, toys, textiles, ceramics and personal care products are just some of the wide array of creative items for sale. The Phoenix is proud to feature Erin Gafill's plein aire oil paintings & Kaffe Fassett's one-of-a-kind knits and fabric artwork. Open 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. (831) 667-2347 nepenthebigsur.com

POST RANCH MERCANTILE offers fine goods from Post Ranch Inn, featuring collections of all-natural clothing, natural body care products, organic cotton bedding and towels, distinctive pottery and glass, unusual home accessories, hand-made jewelry, painting, sculpture and more. Located at Post Ranch Inn. 9:30am-5:00pm daily. (831) 667-2795 postranchmercantile.com

SOUL RIVER STUDIOS Located by the River Inn upstairs at the Village shops. Beautiful art and performance studio, gallery, lounge & tea terrace. Experience a variety of events from yoga, live music, art openings and workshops to art marts and film showings. (831) 667-2559 soulriverstudios.com

SOFANYA'S DOME GALLERY A Jewel in the forest. Essence Portraits painted by Sofanya. Paintings, sculpture, wearable art. By appointment. (831) 626-2876 sofanya.com

THE GALLERY AT VENTANA offers a unique collection of original works by local artists and craftspeople. Here you'll find painting, sculpture, photography, jewelry, glass, ceramics and fiber art. There is also a selection of books, cards, prints, music, candles and gourmet food items as well as Ventana logo wear. (831) 667-4298 ventanagallerybigsur.com

SURLADY GOLF A Big Sur owned business where you shop online for ladies golf accessories and gifts. Tournament logo services, private trunk shows. Gift certificates. (831) 233-2941 surladygolf.com

Camping

ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK at mouth of Big Sur River. Walk in 1/4 mile to 24 campground sites in open meadow setting. Bicyclist welcome. 4-people/site, non-reservable. 4,800 acres hiking, surfing, and picnic tables. (831) 667-2315 parks.ca.gov

BIG SUR CAMPGROUND & CABINS Year-round family camping among the redwood trees along the Big Sur River. Store, laundry, playground, and basketball court. Inner tubing on the river. Tent camping with hot showers. RV camping w/water & electric hook-ups as well as a dump station. (831) 667-2322 bigsurcamp.com

BOTTCHERS GAP U.S. Forest Service campground featuring 12 sites. Tent sites only. Winter & Summer. Bring water. (805) 434-1996 campone.com

COAST RIDGE OUTFITTERS Located on Hwy 1 at the Fernwood Resort & Campground just 1/2 mile north of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Campground necessities. RV accessories. Trail maps. (831) 667-2130 coastridgeoutfitters.com

FERNWOOD CAMPGROUND Tent and RV camping on both sides of the Big Sur River. Forest cabins with kitchens. Bordering Pfeiffer State Park with towering redwoods and beautiful mountain views. Tent-cabins on the river, access to hiking trails, horse shoes, volley ball, store, DVD rental, restaurant, tavern, and espresso bar. Home of the albino redwood tree. Free Wi-Fi. (831) 667-2422 fernwoodbigsur.com

JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK Two very popular walk-in environmental campsites at this 3,762 acre park. Requires early reservations. Reservations: (800) 444-7275 Info: (831) 667-2315 www.parks.ca.gov

KIRK CREEK CAMPGROUND U.S. Forest Service campground featuring 34 sites. Hike & Bike Camp \$ 5.00 per person (805) 434-1996 campone.com

NACIMIENTO CAMPGROUND, 11 miles from Kirk Creek Campground up Nacimiento Ferguson Road. Open Year Round. Bring Water. No Reservations. 1st come 1st serve. Forest Service Campground, 8 sites. (805) 434-1996 campone.com

PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK This 1,006 acre park offers camping (204 sites, no hook-ups, sanitation station), picnic tables, hiking & swimming. Bicyclist camp. (800) 444-7275 Reservations, (831) 667-2315 for information. www.parks.ca.gov

PLASKETT CREEK CAMPGROUND U.S. Forest Service Campground. 44 Sites. Winter & Summer, Hike & Bike Camp \$5.00 per person. Group site reservations (877) 444-6777, (805) 434-1996 campone.com

PONDEROSA CAMPGROUND 13 Miles east from Kirk Creek campground on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road. Enjoy mountain trout stream located under a canopy of trees. Accessible through Highway 101 or Highway 1. Open year round. Bring water in winter. 1st come 1st serve. (877) 444-6777, (805) 434-1996 campone.com

RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUND & CABINS Our beautiful 16-acre dog friendly property offers RV & tent camping as well as 11 cozy cabins nestled in majestic redwoods along the Big Sur river. Hiking & beach access are just minutes away. Enjoy seasonal catch & release fishing, swimming and inner tubing in the river. Certified massage therapists offer relaxing massage in our on-site massage studio. (831) 667-2414 riversidecampground.com

TREEBONES RESORT features 16 yurts and 5 campsites with breathtaking views of the Pacific ocean at Cape San Martin. Amenities include wood burning stoves, swimming pool, spa, general store and 3,200 square foot Guest Services building with showers, laundry, and a very generous meeting space for group events. (877) 424-4787 treebonesresort.com

Big Sur Events

BIG SUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Complete activities guide. (831) 667-2100 www.bigsurcalifornia.org/events.html

BIG SUR FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL November 5-7, 2010 (831) 667-0800 bigsurfoodandwine.org

BIG SUR INTERNATIONAL MARATHON (831) 625-6226 bsim.org

BIG SUR RIVER RUN (28th Annual) - October 2010 BigSurRiverRun.org or call (831) 624-4112

HENRY MILLER LIBRARY Summer calendar of music, and family entertainment. henrymiller.org (831) 667-2574

JADE FESTIVAL October 8-10, '10 at Pacific Valley School. (831) 659-3857 FREE. bigsurjadefest.com

Wedding Services

A BIG SUR AFFAIR CATERING Full service catering and event planning. (831) 667-1050 abigsuraffair.com

BIG SUR / CARMEL WEDDINGS WITH KEN ROBINS Licensed minister. "I love my work and my work is love!" (831) 624-2030 weddingsinbigsur.com

BIG SUR CEREMONIES BY SOARING STARKEY Interfaith minister performs heartfelt and personalized ceremonies for weddings, commitments, and special life events with a keepsake script of the service. (831) 667-2928 bigsurceremonies.com

BIG SUR COAST FOODS Catering, weddings, craft services, special events. (831) 667-2218 bigsurcoastfoods.com

COLETTE CUCCIA WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN Complete wedding design & planning, officiant services, same day wedding license. (831) 626-0643 colettecuccia.com

CYNTHIA JOHNSON-BIANCHETTA, Romantic & sensitive images created in B&W, color, one of a kind Polaroid transfer. Special events & weddings. (831) 667-2502 sacredearthphotography.net

ELEGANT EVENTS - Specializing in Big Sur weddings and receptions with exclusive sites to choose. (831) 625-3523 bigsurweddings.com

EXPERIENCE MEDIA (Videography) - High definition video production and photo/video slideshow projection. Professional & friendly. (831) 713-6345 ExperienceMediaCa.com

KATE HEALEY FLOWERS Simple, elegant, whimsical and wild. Flowers for all occasions. (831) 667-2649 bigsurflowers.com

LIFE CELEBRATIONS, REV. BRIAN LYKE Officiating and vow renewal ceremonies in Big Sur & Monterey for 36 years. Creating a personal, individualized and heartfelt ceremony. (831) 626-8570 lifecelebrations.org

PEER JOHNSON, PROFESSIONAL WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY (805) 667-2502 peerjohnson.com

RACHAEL SHORT PHOTOGRAPHY Weddings, People & Fine Art Photography. (831) 238-0127 rachaelshort.com

SOFANYA'S DOME GALLERY A Jewel in the forest. Officiant, Essence Portrait, location and more. (831) 626-2876 sofanya.com

Real Estate Services

A BIG SUR HOME Keller Williams Realty Nancy Sanders (800) 779-7967 californiacoastlands.com

BEN HEINRICH, COLDWELL BANKER REAL ESTATE (800) 585-6225 bigsurhomes.com

BIG SUR COAST REAL ESTATE Hillary Lipman (831) 596-4607 bigsurcoastrealestate.com

BIG SUR PROPERTY SERVICES Monique Bourin (831) 667-2209 bigsurpros.com

BIG SUR REAL ESTATE Mike Gilson (831) 915-0903 bigsurrealestate.com

JOHN SAAR PROPERTIES John Saar (831) 622-7227 realestatebigsur.com

More Services

BIG SUR GOODS Online store of locally made goods. (831) 521-1437 bigsurgoods.com

BIG SUR BUILDERS (831) 667-0332 bigsurbuildersinc.com

BLAZE ENGINEERING INC. Construction (831) 667-2697 blazeengineering.com

BIG SUR GUIDES & HIKING Stephen D. Copeland (831) 594-1742 bigsurguides.com

BIG SUR JADE COMPANY est. 1979 creating commissioned pieces from small sculptures on wood bases to jewelry. Largest collection of Big Sur Jade. (831) 241-1154 bigsurjadeco.com

BIG SUR JADE JEWELRY original gem quality, hand crafted jade jewelry made by master craftsman Richard Horan. (805) 927-5995 bigsurjadejewelry.com

BIG SUR LAND TRUST Our mission is to conserve the significant lands and water of California's Central Coast for all generations. (831) 625-5523 bigsurlandtrust.org

BIG SUR PHOTOGRAPHY Daniel Bianchetta. Elegant Big Sur coastal images and Native American rock art in fine art color prints. Studio visit by appointment. bigsurphoto.com (831) 667-2502

BIG SUR TOURS & MORE, Customized tours of Big Sur, Monterey, Pebble Beach and beyond in a luxury automobile. (831) 241-2526 bigsurtoursandmore.com

BIRDWING DESIGNS Full service web design company. (831) 667-2802 birdwingdesigns.com

CARMEL INSURANCE AGENCY (831) 624-1234 carmelinsurance.com

Lodging

BIG SUR CAMPGROUND & CABINS A variety of cabins in a redwood grove along the Big Sur River. Most with fully equipped kitchens and fireplaces. Summer tent cabins along the river. Inner tubing on the river. Store, laundry, playground, and basketball court. Reservations recommended. (831) 667-2322 bigsurcamp.com

BIG SUR LODGE Located within ancient groves of redwoods and oaks in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Gorgeous views of the Santa Lucia Mountains, 61 cottage style units, many with fireplaces and/or kitchens, accommodate up to 6 people. Resort includes scenic Big Sur river and hiking trails, heated pool, gift shop, restaurant & general store. (831) 667-3100 or (800) 424-4787. bigurlodge.com

BIG SUR RIVER INN features 20 cozy guest-rooms, full service restaurant & bar and heated swimming pool on the Big Sur River. Also features a gas station and general store stocked with natural foods and convenience items. High speed wireless internet access is available on the property. (831) 667-2700 or (800) 548-3610. bigsurriverinn.com

DEETJEN'S BIG SUR INN Offering lodging in a quaint Norwegian-style setting. Nestled in the redwoods of Castro Canyon, the inn has 20 rooms. Advanced reservations suggested. (831) 667-2377 deetjens.com

ESALEN INSTITUTE The pioneering Big Sur educational institute dedicated to personal and social transformation. Weekend and 5-day programs are offered year round. Natural hot springs by the ocean. Catalog available on request. (831) 667-3005 esalen.org

FERNWOOD RESORT Twelve unit motel. Forest cabins with kitchens. Bar and the Redwood Grill, tavern atmosphere, outside deck in the redwoods, espresso bar, general store with picnicking and camping supplies. Tent cabins. DVD rental. Free wireless Internet. (831) 667-2422 fernwoodbigsur.com

GLEN OAKS MOTEL An attractive, modern post adobe motel in a gracious garden setting. 17 clean and comfortable single story units are available all year. Moderately priced. (831) 667-2105 glenoaksbigsur.com

GORDA SPRINGS RESORT The gardens and scenic wonders at Gorda are a nature lovers and photographers paradise. Many nearby hiking trails, fishing coves & beaches for surfing and beachcombing. 11 private, modern, uniquely furnished ocean view cottages & rooms. Whale Watcher Cafe, general store, espresso coffee bar & deli. Jade shop featuring local jade and handmade jewelry. (805) 927-3918 gordasprings.com

LUCIA LODGE Coastal cabins with views of the rugged South Coast. Overnight accommodations range from single units with double beds, to the honeymoon cottage's breathtaking view, queensize four poster bed, and sitting room. (831) 667-2391 lucialodge.com

POST RANCH INN Ocean front boutique hotel hideaway with luxurious guest rooms and ocean view villas with private decks, spa tubs, fully stocked complimentary pantries, and select amenities. This award winning romantic retreat is a perfect escape for special occasions and private retreats. The unique architecture fits harmoniously into the Inn's 100 acres of naturalistic landscape and offers hiking trails, swimming pool, two cliff-edge soaking pools, as well as complimentary guest activities such as yoga, guided nature walks, stargazing, and cooking classes. A five star resort that produces a majority of its electricity with a solar array. (See also Sierra Mar Restaurant in restaurant listing) 831.667-2200 or 800.527.2200 postranchinn.com

RAGGED POINT INN & RESORT 30 cozy romantic rooms nestled cliff side between the Pacific Ocean and Los Padres National Forest. Includes friendly staff, gourmet restaurant, convenience store, snack, and espresso bars plus ornamental gardens and gas. Located 15 miles north of Hearst Castle. (805) 927-4502 raggedpointinn.com

RIPPLEWOOD RESORT Cabins situated in the redwoods along the Big Sur River. Also features a convenience store, gas station, & a cafe. (831) 667-2242 ripplewoodresort.com

RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUND & CABINS Our beautiful 16-acre dog friendly property offers RV and tent camping as well as 11 cozy cabins nestled in majestic redwoods along the Big Sur river. Hiking and beach access are just minutes away. Enjoy seasonal catch & release fishing, swimming and inner tubing in the Big Sur river. Our certified massage therapists offer relaxing massage in our on-site massage studio. (831) 667-2414. riversidecampground.com

SAN SIMEON LODGE Three miles south of Hearst Castle. 65 rooms with panoramic ocean view and 1-block from easy beach access. Heated pool, infrared sauna, free wireless Internet. Next to large restaurant and cocktail lounge with entertainment. Market, coffee bar, ATM (866) 990-8990, (805) 927-4601 sansimeonlodge.net

TREEBONES RESORT features 16 yurts and 5 campsites with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean & Cape San Martin. Amenities include gas fireplaces, generous redwood viewing decks, swimming pool, hot tub, massage, restaurant, gift shop and large main lodge. For reservations (877) 4BIG SUR, (877) 424-4787 treebonesresort.com

VENTANA INN & SPA Nestled on a hillside overlooking the dramatic Pacific coastline, Ventana Inn & Spa features 60 guestrooms and suites. Full service restaurant and spa. Two outdoor swimming pools, Japanese Hot baths, dry sauna and fitness center. (831) 667-2331 or (800) 628-6500 ventanainn.com

>>>> More Services Continued

CARVER + SCHICKETANZ ARCHITECTS
(831) 624-2304 carverschicketanz.com

PETER ROSEN HAULING COMPANY (831) 667-0533

PINNEY CONSTRUCTION Building and planning solutions for custom home construction, remodeling, repairs and improvements. (831) 667-2584

Restaurants

BIG SUR BAKERY & RESTAURANT Experience exquisite wood fired cooking and baking at this one of a kind gem. Wedding cakes, desserts & pastries. (831) 667-0520 bigsurbakery.com

BIG SUR DELI & GENERAL STORE Located at the center of Big Sur next to the Post Office. A true general store, serving the local community for over 25 years. Wide selection of groceries, fine wines, and beer, all at the most reasonable prices in the area. Everything you need for a day trip or prolonged stay. Featuring a full deli, a large variety of T-Shirts, Big Sur souvenirs, DVD rentals, ATM machine. Open 7:00 am -9:00 pm seven days a week (831) 667-2225 bigsurdeli.com

BIG SUR LODGE RESTAURANT & ESPRESSO HOUSE Indoor and patio dining on the banks of the Big Sur River. Freshly prepared foods served in a spacious, airy atmosphere with views of the redwoods. Children welcome. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Fresh pastries, speciality coffees and teas. Take out. (831) 667-3111 bigurlodge.com

BIG SUR RIVER INN Breakfast, lunch & dinner are served daily by a huge stone fireplace or on a deck overlooking the Big Sur River. Live entertainment on Sunday afternoons. (831) 667-2700, (800) 548-3610. bigsurriverinn.com

BIG SUR ROADHOUSE Serving fresh Californian-Latin American cuisine at affordable prices in a lively atmosphere. Fireplace dining, outside patio, copper bar. Open for dinner 5:30 - 9 PM. Closed Tuesdays. Call for reservations. (831) 667-2264 bigsurroadhouse.com

CAFE KEVAH offers brunch & light lunch in an outdoor setting. Located on a terrace just below Nepenthe. Open mid-February through December, 9am-4pm. (831) 667-2344. nepenthebigsur.com

DEETJEN'S BIG SUR INN Offers food in a quaint old world setting. Breakfast is served 8 am - Noon. Dinner is served from 6 pm. Reservations recommended. (831) 667-2378 deetjens.com

LUCIA LODGE RESTAURANT Lucia Lodge restaurant offers deck dining, as well as a historic dining room. Our coastal cuisine is recognized for the great quality and generous portions. Noteworthy is our Fish & Chips which were judged as one of the Top 10 in the US by Coastal Living Magazine. Restaurant open for lunch and dinner throughout the season. Summer; lunch is served between 11:00 am & 4:00 pm. Dinner, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Continental breakfast is available to our cabin guests. Off-season hours vary. (831) 667-2391 lucialodge.com

MAIDEN PUBLIC HOUSE, THE Located next to the River Inn in the Village Center Shops, featuring pub grub and extensive American craft and European beer selection. Live music. (831) 667-2355 themaidentpub.com

NEPENTHE One of the most picturesque dining spots in California, this restaurant overlooks 50 miles of coastline. Family-owned since 1949. Open daily, 11:30 am - 10 pm (831) 667-2345 nepenthebigsur.com

RAGGED POINT RESTAURANT Original gourmet cuisine presented in an enchanting garden setting with a 360 degree ocean/mountain view. (805) 927-5708 raggedpointinn.com

REDWOOD GRILL Affordable California comfort cuisine. From our burger bar; black angus, smoked salmon, and vege-burgers. Pizza, salads, daily specials including local fish, lamb, chicken, vege-specials. Featuring Big Sur BBQ; tri-tip, chicken, beef, ribs, smoked salmon. Located at Fernwood Resort on Highway 1. Sit on back deck among redwood trees. Wedding and special event catering. (831) 667-2129 bigsurcoastfoods.com/redwoodgrill/

RIPPLEWOOD CAFE Serving home-style breakfast & lunch & a grocery store with coffee & sandwiches to go. (831) 667-2242 ripplewoodresort.com

ROCKY POINT RESTAURANT open every day for breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and appetizers. 10 miles south of Carmel on Hwy 1. (831) 624-2933 rocky-point.com

SAN SIMEON BEACH BAR & GRILL. 3 miles South of Hearst Castle in Southern Big Sur. Panoramic ocean view. Indoor & outdoor dining (pet ok), exotic decor, stage & sound. From burgers, pizza & sandwiches to steak & lobster. Cocktail lounge w/crystal fireplace, pool table, TV's, live entertainment, Karaoke & open mic. Coffee bar. Take-out, gift shop, mini-market, ATM. Free wireless Internet. Next to San Simeon Lodge. (805) 927-4604 sansimeonrestaurant.com

SIERRA MAR RESTAURANT Located at Post Ranch Inn and overlooking the Pacific Ocean with a spectacular view of the Big Sur coastline, Sierra Mar serves innovative cuisine in an awe inspiring setting. The prix fixe dinner menu changes daily and focuses on organic seasonal fare. Our award winning wine list features one of the most extensive collections in North America. Lunch from 12:15 to 3:00 pm. Reservations suggested. Bar and snack menu from 3:00 - 5:30 pm. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm; reservations required. (831) 667-2800 (800) 527-2200 postranchinn.com

THE GRILL AT TREEBONES RESORT, casual dinners nightly starting at 7 PM. Enjoy grilled specialties from our ocean view dining room. (805) 927-2390 treebonesresort.com

THE RESTAURANT AT VENTANA features a menu created with local, sustainable ingredients from California's Central Coast, for memorable dishes to pair with our award-winning wine list. Located at Ventana Inn & Spa, advance reservations are recommended. Please call 831.667.4242 ventanainn.com

WHALE WATCHER CAFE World renowned for its sixty year traditions of hospitality and gourmet dining in a romantic, nautical, museum-like setting. Casual indoor dining and on the heated garden patio. Live music. (805) 927-1590 gordasprings.com

Ancient Redwoods thrive along the Big Sur Coast

Redwood, also known as Coast Redwood, grows in a very narrow strip along the coast of California from the extreme southwestern corner of Oregon to 150 miles south of San Francisco in the Soda Springs drainage of Big Sur. This area is about 500 miles long and rarely more than 20 or 30 miles wide in a region of frequent thick summer fog, moderate year-round temperature, and considerable winter rainfall. Redwood does not grow naturally beyond the belt affected by this combination.

Redwood is a rapidly growing tree, and some individual trees have been measured at more than 360 feet in height, making it the tallest measured tree species on earth. In favorable situations, trees 20 years old may average 50 feet in height and 8 inches in diameter. Average mature trees are from 200 to 240 feet high with diameters of 10 to 15 feet at 4 feet 8 inches above the ground. Exceptional individuals sometimes reach a height of 350 feet, a diameter of over 20 feet, and an age of approximately 2000 years.

Redwood leaves are green, flat, and sharp-pointed. The brown cones are egg-shaped and only one-half inch in diameter. Their seeds average about 123,000 to a pound.

The soft, reddish-brown bark, six to twelve inches thick, is one of the Coast Redwood's most distinguishing characteristics and, together with the wood, names the species. On older trees the bark has a grayish tinge, and is deeply furrowed, giving the trees a fluted appearance. Although the thick bark of older trees is relatively fire resistant, repeated fires can damage these trees considerably. The large hollows or "goose-pens" frequently found in the base of large trees give evidence of this fact. Fire also either seriously injures the young growth or kills it outright. However, redwood is exceptionally free from fungus diseases, and there are no insects which materially harm it. Human demand for lumber is responsible for most of the destruction of first growth Coast Redwood forests.

Adjacent to the softball field at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park is one of Big Sur's largest redwood trees. The size of this ancient tree, known locally as the "Colonial Tree," is deceiving — due to lightning strikes, this majestic specimen's top has been severed.

Big Sur Beaches — hard to reach, but worth the effort

While Big Sur's beaches hardly resemble the vast stretches of sun-baked sand that dot Southern California's easily-accessible coastline, they offer the visitor a wide variety of recreational possibilities.

Even during the summer, Big Sur's beaches are subject to generally cool weather. Sunny days are sporadic as a blanket of seasonal fog often hugs the coastline, dropping the temperature in the process. To be prepared, bring a change of warm clothes. Also, bring a pair of sturdy shoes — Big Sur's beaches require at least a short hike.

Private property and Big Sur's steep terrain makes most of its coastline inaccessible to the public. Fortunately for the visitor, however, several State Park and U.S. Forest Service beaches are open to the public all year. The following beaches are recommended due to easy access and breath-taking scenery:

ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK — Located 23 miles south of Carmel, Andrew Molera State Park is the largest State Park on the Big Sur Coast. A wide, scenic, mile-long path leads to a sandy beach that is sheltered from the wind by a large bluff to



Hiking trail in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park
Photo: Brock Bradford



1,100 year old Colonial Tree in Pfeiffer Big Sur State State Park
Photo: Stan Russell

The Big Sur Coast — an off-season treat!

The summer months in Big Sur offer the traditional summer treats — warm weather, refreshing dips in the river and general good fun. What many people don't realize, however, is that the months of October through May offer a special experience in Big Sur and chance to enjoy the natural splendor at a more relaxed pace.

The second half of September and the month of October bring reduced crowds, Indian summer weather, fall colors and the Big Sur River Run. The poison oak displays its deep red leaves and the Maple, Sycamore and Cottonwood trees all contribute with their golden yellows and oranges.

Mid-November brings the opening of the fishing season for steelhead rainbow trout. The end of December through the month of March is the time

to watch for migrating Gray whales offshore as they travel to and from the warm lagoons of Baja California.

The spring months are a wonderful time to visit Big Sur if you have a love for greenery and wildflowers. Wildflowers abound in March and April as lupines and poppies brighten the grassy hillsides. April is the month of the Big Sur International Marathon, while May provides a great opportunity to enjoy the off-season peace and solitude before the summer season begins in June.

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park voted "America's Top 100 Campgrounds." Visit Big Sur during the off-season. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the experience!

the north. The path itself is as much a delight as the beach, taking you through a meadow filled with wildflowers and sycamore trees, offering fine views of the coastal mountain range to the east. The path parallels the Big Sur River, which enters the sea adjacent to Molera's beach.

PFEIFFER BEACH — Big Sur's most popular coastal access point, the U.S. Forest Service's Pfeiffer Beach is hard to find if you've never been to it before. The trick is locating unmarked Sycamore Canyon Road. Here's a tip — Sycamore Canyon Road is the only paved, ungated road west of Highway 1 between the Big Sur post office and Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Once you find the turnout, make a very sharp turn. Then follow the road for about two miles until it ends. Drive carefully as this is a narrow and winding road unsuitable for trailer traffic. From a large parking area at the end of the road, a short, well-marked path leads to the beach. Cliffs tower above this breathtaking stretch of sand, and a large arch shaped rock formation just off shore makes for great photo opportunities and some of the most spectacular sunsets. Watch for the purple sand on the beach along the cliffs.

SAND DOLLAR BEACH — Just a mile south of the U.S. Forest Service Station in Pacific Valley and 14 miles north of the San Luis Obispo County line lies Sand Dollar Beach.

From a large parking lot across the Highway One from Plaskett Creek Campground, a well-built stairway leads to a crescent-shaped beach that's protected, like Andrew Molera State Park's beach, from the wind by bluffs. Sand Dollar offers visitors the widest expanse of sand along the Big Sur Coast, and possibly the mildest weather. Standing on the beach and looking northeast, towering 5,155-foot Cone Peak is visible.

For an interesting side trip, visit Jade Cove, which is located two miles south of Sand Dollar Beach. Big Sur's south coast is famous for its jade reserves. Jade Cove is a popular spot for beachcombers and rockhounds.

Other points of public coastal access in Big Sur include Garrapata Beach, Partington Cove, Mill Creek and Willow Creek. Visit us on the web for information about more local beaches.

www.bigsurcalifornia.org