



The Best of CA Highway 1: Must-See Spots In Cayucos By The Sea

A Beachcomber's Paradise, A Foodie's Nirvana, And A Vacationer's Dream Come True

With a Rich History, Cayucos Features a White Sandy Beach, a Fishing Pier, Tide Pools, Hiking, Biking and Horseback Riding Trails, Plus Enter To Win A Must See Getaway To The Coolest California Beach Town

October 4, 2016, San Luis Obispo County, CA – Roam around the Coolest California Beach Town!

Take the plunge into the classic beach town of Cayucos along the iconic [CA Highway 1 Discovery Route](#) in Coastal San Luis Obispo County midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Enjoy miles of pet-friendly beach, surfing, kayaking, strolling the historic pier and getting up close and personal with sea life (think adorable sea otters). With plenty of family-owned restaurants, wineries and local artisan goods, there's so much for you to enjoy, especially on a fall, mid-week getaway to Cayucos.

Voted "the coolest small town in America" in 2009, Cayucos by the Sea is a surprising gem of a town that appears like magic out of the misty fog. Cayucos is truly an authentic California beach town with a long stretch of white sandy beach, sun more often than fog, a free public fishing pier, an historic saloon, and a [quaint old-fashioned main street](#). Television personality Huell Howser selected Cayucos for an episode of his show, California's Gold, and filmed most of it strolling up the center of Ocean Avenue, marveling at its un-crowded yet ultra-desirable qualities.

Originally inhabited by the Chumash Native American people, Cayucos was officially "settled" in 1867 by Captain James Cass. The Captain, whose impeccably restored home still bears his name, recognized the excellent shipping location and built the pier, a store, and a warehouse that came to be known as Cayucos Landing. Part of an original Mexican land grant, the name Cayucos means kayak or canoe which were used to hunt sea otters along the coast. Now protected from human predators, those fun-loving sea otters are a main attraction here.

[Win a Must-See Cayucos Getaway](#)

Immerse yourself in Cayucos by entering to win the Must-See Getaway Contest. It's easy. Just [fill out this form](#) and you could be selected to win two night [lodging](#) at one of the town's quaint hotels, wine tasting at Cayucos Cellars, dining and a private kayak tour for two.

[Must-See Cayucos by the Sea – As Close To Perfection As You Can Get](#)

Unscathed by the big developers, the population of Cayucos is about 3,000. Despite its small size, Cayucos has an eating establishment to meet everyone's palate, from a chowder house to five-star dining. You'll also find fabulous antique stores, surf shops with handcrafted boards, and locally owned gift stores. For children, there are three play areas designed just for them including, picnic tables, barbecues, and a paid lifeguard during the summer. There's even a fresh water swimming pool in the summer near Hardie Park and two lighted tennis courts, located a short walk away from the pier. Grownups looking for a bit of "spice" will find that "in spades" if you'll forgive the pun, at The Old Cayucos Tavern, a historic bar with card-playing rooms, pool tables, dancing, and some of the best live music around. Check out this [video](#) to see all there is to do in the cool seaside town.

[Wine and Dine](#)

Enjoy a menu featuring selectively sourced ingredients from the bounty of the Central Coast at [The Grill at the Cass House](#). Meantime, Schooners Wharf boasts the best ocean views of any restaurant in the area while embracing a nautical theme reminiscent of the early history of the Central Coast sailors and fishermen. The [Sea Shanty](#) features locals' favorite desserts, Carolini salad and homemade ranch dressing. Featured in the New York Times, The [Brown Butter Cookie Company](#) is nationally known for its signature sea salt cookie: a melt-in-your-mouth shortbread morsel with just a touch of sea salt. Yearning for amazing smoked fish and meats? Don't miss [Ruddells Smokehouse](#), which also serves the best darn fish taco. [Duckies Chowder House](#) features some of the best clam chowder you've ever tasted. Relish authentic Italian cuisine and an extensive wine list at [Café Della Via](#). Savor a true wine tasting adventure and travel along the [Pacific Coast Wine Trail](#) featuring 11 small producers along the scenic coast including [Cayucos Cellars](#) featuring a beautiful seaside tasting room downtown.

[Historic Cass House and Historical Museum](#)

In 1875, Cayucos was composed of Captain Cass' store, warehouse, private dwelling, and wharf, and in the distance stood a lone ranch house. Captain Cass' house was built approximately between the time of his arrival in San Luis Obispo in 1867 and 1875. All of the building materials were transported by ship along the coast from San Francisco. Several fixtures and materials were purchased from Europe and England. Captain Cass, born in England, made California his home in 1849, in Sacramento, as a merchant and miner. Upon his arrival at Cayucos Landing, he was soon engaged in trade and in landing and shipping merchandise. Through his enterprise and exertions the commodious wharf, warehouse and house were built. The house is a two-story wood structure with a jerkin head style roof. The interior was just as impressive with four etched glass doors imported from England and located between the music room and living room. There were beautiful kerosene light fixtures throughout the house. Captain Cass' house was the town's show place and social center at that period. [The Historical Museum](#) (located at the Chamber Visitor Center) has many items along with 1000 images and permanent collection of artifacts of Cayucos' rich history.

[Cayucos Pier](#)

A large variety of fish and shellfish can be caught from varying spots on the pier, with the coveted halibut being plentiful from the end of the 950-foot pier. Though the waves are unpredictable here, surfers love this surf-friendly town, finding some of the best surfboard craftsmen and surf shops in the country located here. This is also a great place to stroll, watch the surfers, and scout for dolphins, otters, seals, and birds.

[Cayucos Tide Pools](#)

This little known town in central California has some great tide pool locations to explore. They may be harder to find but the scenery and location is definitely worth the visit. These tide pools are located at the base of a long stretch of bluffs and the north side of the pier. There are large exposed rocks with high wave action along with lots of calmer water. There are plenty of barnacles, mussels and limpets in the more wave-exposed areas. The calmer waters have lots of algae, sea anemones, hermit crabs and snails.

[Water Sports Abound](#)

Sheltered from the prevailing northerly winds, Cayucos is a bit warmer than other nearby beaches, providing many days of rideable waves for the novice and veteran surfer alike. Cayucos is also an active playground for all levels of kayakers and paddle boarders to gear up, view incredible shoreline scenery, encounter all types of interesting sea life and take pleasure in the natural beauty of this region while paddling around the pier or into the secluded coves nearby! [Good Clean Fun](#) is located with an exclusive waterfront location offers surf lessons, kayak tours, and beach equipment rentals and a collection of comfortable casual quality clothing and footwear.

Whale Rock Reservoir

A trip to Whale Rock Reservoir takes you away from the main roads and back in the rolling hills surrounded by the oak and sycamore trees, along with herds of cattle grazing peacefully. The area surrounding the Reservoir is prime for bird watching, especially around the Santa Rita Creek. Fishing, bicycling, hiking and hang gliding are also popular in this area. Whale Rock Dam was built in 1961, creating a 40,662-acre foot reservoir. The reservoir provides drinking water for the city of San Luis Obispo, the California Men's Colony, Cal Poly and Cayucos. The lake is fed from Old Creek and Cottontail Creek at two northern points. The lake is surrounded by grassy rolling hills. Whale Rock Reservoir is open to the public during the trout-fishing season. The trail alongside the lake is primarily used as a fishing access, but is also a beautiful area for hiking and picnicking. The easy to moderate hike is 3.8 miles out and back, taking about 2 hours.

Cayucos Mural Tour

The Cayucos Mural Society, founded in 1992, supports the painting of quality murals on historical and environmental topics which characterize Cayucos, on walls dedicated by merchants and by private citizens, involving many artists, contributing to the enhancement of our town, and increasing awareness of public art. This tour starts in northern Cayucos at the elementary school. From there you will travel through the town's street visiting all 9 murals, ending at a private residence on the southern tip of Cayucos. For a map and description of each mural and artists, please visit <http://www.cayucos.org/muralsociety/tourmap.html>

CowParade SLO – Happy Cows Cayucos

The internationally renowned public art event selected San Luis Obispo County to hold the first regional CowParade in the country. Happy Cow Cayucos, decorated by local installation artist Natellie Saia, resides at the Pasture at Shoreline Inn, 1 North Ocean Avenue.

Cayucos Cycling

San Luis Obispo County offers endless biking trails. Cycle Central Coast offers a Cayucos bike route. You can find everything from the flattest roads to the most steep, challenging trails. You can bike along much of scenic coastal Highways, Hwy 1 and Hwy 101. Or choose quiet country back roads along the many vineyards throughout the county. Whether you like to race, mountain bike or just cruise and admire the scenery, you'll find a bike path to enjoy! Montaña de Oro has some of the best mountain biking on the Central Coast, with multiple trails ranging from beginner to expert. [Central Coast Outdoors](#) can also provide other recommendations.

Historic Windmill

The historic windmill is located just north of Cayucos on Highway 1. Head north on the highway and look for the landmark just before Estero Point, by San Geronimo Creek. The restored Aeromotor windmill near San Geronimo Creek is a relic of the land's previous dairy days. The land is protected by Cayucos Land Conservancy to preserve the open space.

Cayucos Horseback Riding

Outback Trail Rides offers a premier horseback riding experience on California's Central Coast. Conveniently located in Paso Robles, the area's finest wineries, your ride locations take in some of the most spectacular scenery along Highway 1 and allow an inside glimpse at private working ranches.

An Australian Stockman experienced in horse training and riding instruction, personally guides rides. All levels of riders are invited and each trail is preceded by a brief riding and safety lesson to insure that guests feel comfortable and confident on their mounts. Specializing in small group and private rides, enjoy a true horseback adventure.

[Estero Bluff State Park](#)

Observe the diversity of life within the kelp forest while walking along the Estero Bluffs, north of Cayucos. Watch for sea otters playing in the kelp forest that they keep healthy. Be sure to bring your binoculars along for this self-guided hike. Estero Bluffs State Park is located north of Cayucos and west of Highway One from the intersection of North Ocean Street to Villa Creek. The park is approximately 355 acres consisting of grassland-dominated coastal terrace that slopes from Highway One to the Pacific Ocean. Download the [Estero Bluffs State Park brochure here](#).

[Wildlife Viewing and Stewardship Travel in Cayucos](#)

As you plan your trip to Cayucos along the California Highway 1 Discovery Route, add an hour or two of fun volunteer time to your day, or schedule a travel adventure to a natural, cultural or historic site. Cayucos Stewardship Activities: Cayucos Land Conservancy Bluffs & Nature Walks • Estero Bluffs State Park • Cayucos Estero Bluffs Clean-Up • Cayucos Nature Holiday Bluffs Walk • Cayucos “The Little Town That Could” Estero Bluffs Walk & Talk • Cayucos Beach Free Stewardship Cleanup Kit & Tote Bag Gift • Cayucos Wildlife Kayaking Tours • Cayucos Wildlife Kayaking & Clean-Up Tours. [Download the Wildlife Viewing Tips Here](#).

[Must-see Rural Road Trip Map: Cayucos](#)

There are must-see spots along the way to become immersed in Cayucos, as well as the 9 other quaint towns that make up the CAH1DR. Discovering the hidden gems and local favorites along the route has become so popular by visitors that 10 rural road trip loops are featured on the website, making it easy to navigate by car. [Download the Cayucos Rural Road Trip Map Here](#).

[About Cayucos](#)

Visit the classic California beach town of Cayucos and enjoy miles of uncrowded, pet-friendly beach, surfing, kayaking, a historic pier and plenty of restaurants, wine-tasting and activities. The historic town is bustling with family-owned businesses and local festivals including a fall concert series and [Sea Glass Festival](#) in March. The local murals around town tell the history of Cayucos. Get up close and personal with sea life, including whales, dolphins, birds, hermit crabs and more. Cayucos offers plenty of vacation rentals, B&B's, hotels and motels that offer mid-week, fall and winter lodging specials.

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[About the California Highway 1 Discovery Route – The Best of Highway 1](#)

Midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, approximately a 3-4 hour drive from each, in beautiful coastal San Luis Obispo County, an amazing number of ‘must-see’ and ‘must-do’ destinations can be found along the [California Highway 1 Discovery Route](#). With 10 uncrowded beaches, 12 state parks, the Hearst Castle, three bountiful wine regions, restaurants featuring farm-to-table cuisine, unique wildlife habitats and more, the 101-mile stretch offers the best of Highway 1. Everything you could want for a relaxed and inspiring vacation can be found here including 500 lodging choices. Take an iconic road trip and enjoy breathtaking views through 10 diverse artisan towns and charismatic seaside villages along prime Pacific coastline. These scenic rural road trips are rich in character and history. Leaders in Stewardship Travel, the California Highway 1 Discovery Route offers 70 brief, award-winning experiences that enhance visitor’s immersion in the natural and cultural heritage of California’s central coast. There’s also amazing Wildlife Viewing from bird watching, elephant seals, and sea otters, to seals, whales, monarch butterflies and more.

Experience fun and relaxing rural road trips through the ‘Perfect 10’ CA Highway 1 Discovery Route destinations: [Ragged Point](#) & [San Simeon](#), [Cambria](#), [Cayucos](#), and [Los Osos/Baywood Park](#), to [Avila Beach & Valley](#), [Edna Valley](#), [Arroyo Grande Valley](#), [Oceano](#) and [Nipomo](#). Every January and February, the towns along the California Highway 1 Discovery Route celebrate Coastal Discovery & Stewardship, offering unique lodging

packages, coastal activities, events and entertainment. For the latest news on the best of Highway 1 join us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/Highway1DiscoveryRoute> and follow us on Twitter twitter.com/Hwy1DiscoveryRt and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/highway1discoveryroute/>

For more information on the **California Highway 1 Discovery Route**, visit www.Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com or contact Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Cuming at 805-547-2243, info@Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com

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