

FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Association of Pacific Coast Geographers
Annual Meeting, September 8-11, 2004
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo

Hearst Castle Tour, San Simeon, Coastal Open Spaces

Cost: \$45

Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Limit: 52

The Hearst Castle is located in San Simeon on scenic Highway 1 about an hour north of San Luis Obispo. Julia Morgan designed the Castle in the 1920s and 1930s for William Randolph Hearst. Situated on 127 acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Castle is known for its architecture and art collection. A tour of the Hearst Castle is a must for any visitor to the Central Coast. The tour starts in the National Geographic Theater (IMAX-type) where you will see *The Hearst Castle: Building a Dream*. Then you board a bus for the climb up the Santa Lucia Range to the Castle site. Tour 1 includes the Casa Grande, Casa del Sol guesthouse, and the Neptune and Roman pools. After the tour, you will visit San Simeon, the elephant seal colony, and Ragged Point. The drive up the coast takes you through portions of the 82,000 acre Hearst Ranch, which will soon be protected under a conservation agreement. Trip includes Transportation, Movie, Castle Tour, Box Lunch, Snacks, and Drinks.

Mission San Antonio, Hearst Hunting Lodge, Southern Big Sur Coast

Cost: \$35

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Limit: 25

Mission San Antonio de Padua is located on Fort Hunter Liggett in southern Monterey County (about 1_ hours north of San Luis Obispo off Highway 101). It is the most authentically restored of all the missions and known for its archeological sites and collection, and undeveloped setting. After visiting the mission, you will buy lunch at the Hacienda Restaurant, formerly the Hearst Ranch hunting lodge, which was designed by Julia Morgan in 1930 for the Hearst family. After lunch, you will travel 14 miles over the Santa Lucia Range on the narrow and precipitous Nacimiento Road to Highway 1. The trip provides a transect through five of California's principal vegetation zones (grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, coastland redwoods, coastal sage). The return trip down Highway 1 includes 20 miles of the spectacular Big Sur coastline, as well as stops at Ragged Point and the elephant seal colony. Trip includes Transportation, Snacks, and Drinks.

Morro Bay National Estuary, Watershed Management, Montaña de Oro State Park

Cost: \$30

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Limit: 25

Morro Bay National Estuary Program staff will give you a tour of the lands around the bay and the watershed. The trip starts with a quarter-mile hike up Black Hill for a spectacular panorama of the bay, rock, urbanized areas, the Morros (a series of ancient volcanoes), and the Chorro and Los Osos valleys. Next you will visit the Chorro Flats sediment trap and wetlands restoration area. Then you will buy lunch in Morro Bay. After lunch, you will visit Montaña de Oro State Park for an easy walk to view coastal vegetation and geomorphology. A stop to view watershed enhancement projects on Cal Poly lands within the watershed might also be added. Trip includes Transportation, Snacks, and Drinks.

Pismo Dunes, Oso Flaco Preserve, the town of Guadalupe

Cost: \$30

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Limit: 25

This trip is a fascinating mix of physical and cultural geography. Participants will travel south on Highway 1 through the Arroyo Grande Valley, over the Nipomo Mesa, and into the Santa Maria Valley. The first stop will be the Oso Flaco Preserve and Pismo Dunes. You will walk about half a mile through the wetland reserve and dunes to the ocean. A staff member of the Land Conservancy of S.L.O. Country will discuss vegetation restoration projects and land management issues. Next, you will visit the farmworker town of Guadalupe, which looks like a throw-back to the 1950s. (The chain stores missed this place!) In Guadalupe you will purchase lunch, visit the Dunes Center, and tour the cemetery, which reveals the diverse ethnic history of the California. Trip includes Transportation, Snacks, and Drinks.

Paso Robles Wine Tour, Landscapes of Old California and the New Grapescape

Cost: \$40

Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Limit: 25

This tour starts with a bit of history by examining the Spanish imprint on California. The first stop is Mission San Miguel, about 35 minutes north of San Luis Obispo on Highway 101. Then, you will head east into the hinterlands to examine land use change patterns. Cattle ranching and dry farmed grains are giving way to vineyards and the 90 wineries of the Paso Robles region. Wine tasting at three wineries will highlight the reds of the east side and the whites of the west side. Lunch will be served in the cavern room at Eberle. A tour of a vineyard and/or production facility might be added. Trip includes Transportation, Lunch, Snacks, and Drinks.