



Fulfill Your Bucket List in The Quaint Town Of Cayucos Along the Central Coast of California

Go Antique Shopping Like You're In Europe and Catch a Wave Like the Ones Found Along Hawaii's North Shore Without Boarding A Plane By Visiting Cayucos Along the CA Highway 1 Discovery Route

November 1, 2017, San Luis Obispo County, CA – It's not a small seaside village in Spain. You don't have to travel to Europe to shop in this antique mecca or need to board a plane headed for the north shore of Hawaii to catch one of the legendary waves. You just need to visit the town of [Cayucos](#) along the [CA Highway 1 Discovery Route](#) midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. It's The best of Highway 1 and it's open to roam.

Cayucos is an iconic seaside town where the old west meets the Pacific Ocean. Head to the shore to watch surfers, kayak, explore tide pools, fish off the 950-foot historic pier, or view sea life just off shore. Stretch your legs by promenading down the small-town streets discovering historic buildings with local antique stores, seaside restaurants and mom and pop shops that have been around for decades.

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, a historic saloon, and a [quaint old-fashioned main street](#).

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. Check out this [video](#) to see all there is to do in the cool seaside town.

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.

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 Warf](#) 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 best damn fish taco. [Duckies Chowder House](#) is a features some of the best clam chowder you've ever tasted. Relish authentic Italian cuisine and extensive wine list at [Café Della Via](#). Savor a true wine tasting adventure and travel along the [Pacific Coast Wine Trail](#) featuring 10 small producers along the scenic coast including [Cayucos Cellars](#) featuring a beautiful seaside tasting room downtown.

[Lodging](#)

Cayucos lodging offers vacations for every budget and every traveler. We offer an array of lodging accommodations – Hotels, B&Bs and Vacation Rentals. Discover Cayucos along the best of Highway 1 for yourself!

[Harmony Headlands State Park](#)

The 784-acre Harmony Headlands State Park is located just north of Cayucos. The park preserves and protects grasslands and a coastal marine terrace overlooking a beautiful section of the Central Coast. From the terrace, one can observe steep hillsides sloping toward a rugged coastline unfurling to the south as far as Montaña del Oro State Park south of Morro Bay. This easy 4.2 mile trail offers access to the rocky coastline after passing through a brief riparian zone and through rolling grasslands that come alive with wildflowers and vivid hues of green during wet winters. This property used to be cattle pasture that was later slated for development until the American Land Conservancy purchased the land and deeded it to the state for protection. The Park is open for day use hiking from 6am to sunset.

[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. It was painted a light buff with brown trim, surrounding the house were very-well-kept imposing lawns and gardens. There was an elaborate picket fence and hedge located approximately one hundred feet around the house. 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 from Captain Cass along with 1000 images and permanent collection of artifacts of Cayucos' rich history.

[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](#).

[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 headlands just to the north of the town of Cayucos. 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.

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>

Cayucos Cycling

San Luis Obispo County offers endless biking trails. 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.

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.

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About the California Highway 1 Discovery Route

Breathtaking natural beauty, preeminent wine regions, monthly events, amazing outdoor adventures and delicious restaurants boasting culinary excellence dot the [California Highway 1 Discovery Route](#) along Coastal San Luis Obispo County (SLO CAL). With 10 amazing destinations featuring over 800 extraordinary accommodations, including hotels, motels, B&Bs and vacation rentals with unique specials and packages, the California Highway 1 Discovery Route offers the best of Highway 1, and a fantastic vacation anytime of the year. The iconic 101 mile road trip through prime Pacific coastline is conveniently located midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and offers diverse artisan towns, charismatic seaside villages, scenic rural road trips rich in character and history and two world-class wine regions. Leaders in [Stewardship Travel](#), the CA Highway 1 Discovery Route offers 50 brief, award-winning experiences that enhance visitor's immersion in the natural and cultural heritage of California's central coast.

Highway 1 Road Alerts

If you're heading to the Central Coast, be sure to be mindful of the stretch of Highway 1, located 21 miles north of Cambria. Caltrans is busy with a major construction project to make traveling along the stunning Pacific Coast Highway a safer journey. Cambria is easily accessible from Highway 101 and Highway 46. **Please note that Highway 1 is still [open from Morro Bay to Ragged Point](#). For those traveling past Ragged Point, check out these [Sights to See Along the Detour](#).**

Find enriching multi-day tours and discover a plethora of fun and relaxing itinerary ideas in these 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 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 region join us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/Highway1DiscoveryRoute> and follow us on Twitter twitter.com/Hwy1DiscoveryRt. For more information on the **California Highway 1 Discovery Route**, visit www.Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com or contact Chief Administrative Officer Cheryl Cuming at 805-547-CBID (2243), admin@SLOcountyBID.com.

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