

# San Luis Obispo County: Adventures in Atascadero



## LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGHTSEEING AROUND ATASCADERO

Atascadero is the vision of E.G. Lewis and the essence of small-town America. Enjoy rolling hills, majestic oaks, historic buildings, a quaint lake park and zoo, and colorful artists, exciting festivals, talented musicians and writers. Located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on Highway 101 — Atascadero is just minutes from the coast, Hearst Castle and hundreds of premium wineries. There is golfing, biking, hiking, as well as horseback riding along trails that range from rustic to famous. [www.atascadero.org](http://www.atascadero.org)

### **Parks**

- **Atascadero Lake Park:** This park is the destination of residents and visitors year-round. Atascadero's charm is accentuated by the beautiful lake. Visitors can enjoy the walking trail that takes you around the lake for a leisurely stroll as well as many other amenities such as:
  - Sand volleyball courts
  - Playground
  - Horseshoe pits
  - Picnic tables and small BBQ pits
  - Wading pool (seasonal)
  - Boat and kayak rentals
  - Available for reservation is a bandstand and large BBQ areas
- **Charles Paddock Zoo:** Our zoo was established in 1955 by Charles Paddock, a county park ranger who nursed wild animals back to health. His reputation for rehabilitating animals soon spread throughout the area and Mr. Paddock's animal menagerie increased to over 125 wild birds and mammals by 1959. [www.charlespaddockzoo.org](http://www.charlespaddockzoo.org)
  - Over the years, the Charles Paddock Zoo has grown and improved into a fully accredited zoo, exhibiting over 100 animals on 5 park-like acres within beautiful Atascadero Lake Park.
  - The zoo is currently renovating and upgrading the animal exhibits into more naturalistic habitats to assure the best care and well being for our animals. Involved in several conservation and education programs, the zoo has a commitment to wild animal propagation and management within the zoo and in the wild, and remains committed to being "Your Central Coast Conservation Center."
- Also be sure to visit our new **Faces of Freedom Veterans Memorial** honoring veterans who lost their lives, from throughout San Luis Obispo County.

### **Hiking**

- **De Anza Trail:** The de Anza trail is named after a Spanish explorer, Juan Bautista de Anza — who helped open California's rich valleys to European influences. Many of the state's mission settlements were successful due largely to de Anza's efforts. At one point during his lengthy journey, de Anza made camp along the Salinas River near what is now present-day Atascadero.
- In 1990, Congress acknowledged the significance of the de Anza expeditions by establishing the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**. This historic trail passes through Atascadero in close proximity to the Salinas River. In May of 1998, the Atascadero Mutual Water Company and the City of Atascadero opened segments of the trail for public use.

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- **Jim Green Hiking Trail:** The Jim Green trail begins at the end of Cortez Ave. winding around the north side of **Chalk Mountain Golf Course**, which is part of the county's 230 acre regional park. Open to hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, and dogs, the trail is an excellent spot for those who want a quick walk (about 40 minutes) that is neither too strenuous nor too easy.
- **Rocky Canyon Hiking Trail:** An ideal trail for hikers, cyclists and equestrians. The **La Paloma Creek Park** located on Viejo Camino serves as an excellent trailhead.
- The historic town of **Creston** offers several watering spots and cool shade before your return trip to Atascadero.
- **Lake Park Hiking Trail:** Atascadero Lake Park is open to walkers and joggers. A lovely park nestled in Atascadero with a road and pathway surrounding a beautiful lake. Walk or jog around the lake and through the park to complete about a one mile loop.

## *Horseback Riding*

- Located in the heart of horse country, Atascadero has become home to many breeding and training ranches that have relocated to the area because of the available acreage and ideal climate.
- Western & English shows, Cutting Horse performances, Team Ropings, Team Pennings Endurance Rides, you name it, there is always something going on for the horse enthusiast.
- One of the largest covered arenas in the state is located just 10 miles north at the **California Mid State Fairgrounds**. Riding trails are abundant throughout the county, from beautiful white sand dunes against a blue Pacific ocean to the lookout trail in **Los Padres National Forest** along the top of Cuesta Grade, San Luis Obispo County offers the finest riding trails one could imagine.
- Atascadero is home to the **Wranglerettes**, an all girls youth group that was formed in 1955 to promote horsemanship and camaraderie. Well known throughout the state, they have participated in many parades showing off their well groomed horses and beautiful costumes. You can see the Atascadero Wranglerettes perform intricate drills on horseback every year at the California Mid State Fair PRCA rodeo. [www.prorodeo.com](http://www.prorodeo.com)

## *Bicycling*

- The hundreds of miles of back roads that meander throughout the rural countryside make Atascadero and surrounding area an ideal destination for bicycle enthusiasts.
- **Creston:** Located thirteen miles east of Atascadero on Highway 229 (one mile from Highway 41), Creston was originally founded by local ranchers. It is fast becoming a popular destination for tourists and bicyclists hosting the western states' annual wildflower bike ride each spring.
  - The beautiful vineyards, rolling hills, horse ranches and hundreds of miles of back roads make an ideal setting for cyclists. A post office, grocery store, school and two saloons complete the town. Creston has been discovered by families looking for a rural lifestyle with room to roam.
- **Pozo:** Located 18 miles southeast of Santa Margarita—Pozo has a rich history as a ranching and farming area dating back to the mid 1800s. For the bicycle enthusiast there are miles of country roads that meander throughout the area. Pozo offers a chance for the adventurer to take a step back in time.
  - The **Pozo Post Office** was established in 1878 and remained operative until 1942. The small town of Pozo consisted of one main street, a general store, post office, school, blacksmith shop, two-story hotel, dance hall, barber shop and last but not

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- least, the still standing **Pozo Saloon**. [www.pozosaloon.com](http://www.pozosaloon.com)
- The Pozo Saloon is still a unique historic gathering spot for locals looking for a good meal and refreshing drink. It is also host to the annual **Scottish Highland Games** each spring in addition to many concerts throughout the year.

## **Golfing**

- **Chalk Mountain Golf Course:** A public 18-hole course, Chalk Mountain Golf Course offers a great day of golf. Located in the 220 acre **Heilmann Regional Park**, this 18-hole championship golf course challenges the most serious golfer.
  - Just fifteen minutes north of San Luis Obispo, Chalk Mountain Golf Course is situated among lush ancient oak groves overlooking the southern Salinas valley. A meandering creek, rolling hills, and undulating greens add to the charm and character of this challenging golf course.
  - The **Pro Shop** is stocked with an impressive inventory of equipment and apparel as well as rental clubs, and is staffed by PGA professionals who can set up appointments for golf lessons and help you meet all of your golfing needs.
  - The **Chalk Mountain Clubhouse** provides friendly counter service and a sumptuous breakfast, lunch or snack during a quick stop at the turn, or a leisurely business engagement. A scenic patio provides a relaxing atmosphere for a cool refreshing beverage.
  - Open daily to the public from 6am to 8pm, Chalk Mountain includes beautifully maintained greens, a driving range, and a practice putting green. In addition, golf cart rentals and senior, junior, and twilight discounts make Chalk Mountain a most desirable course year-round. [www.chalkmountaingolf.com](http://www.chalkmountaingolf.com)

## **Wineries**

- Centrally located, Atascadero offers many prestigious wineries for your wine touring convenience. Discover small family-owned wineries located along uncrowded rural country roads. Chat with the winemakers, and enjoy a picnic on the winery grounds while sampling their finely crafted award-winning wines. Here are a few wineries within 10 minutes of Atascadero.
  - **Ancient Peaks Winery** [www.ancientpeaks.com](http://www.ancientpeaks.com)
  - **Castoro Cellars** [www.castorocellars.com](http://www.castorocellars.com)
  - **Frolicking Frog Winery** [www.frolickingfrogwine.com](http://www.frolickingfrogwine.com)
  - **Jankris Winery** [www.jankriswinery.com](http://www.jankriswinery.com)
  - **Wild Horse Winery** [www.wildhorsewinery.com](http://www.wildhorsewinery.com)