

Monterey Bay Region: Money-Saving Tips And Family Fun



BUDGET-STRETCHING TRAVEL TIPS AROUND SANTA CRUZ

With 29 miles of sun-drenched coastline, Santa Cruz County offers some of California's best beaches, perfect for surfing or volleyball—but the fun only starts at the beach! Explore the majestic redwood forests in Santa Cruz County's 14 state parks. Visit the beach boardwalk or one of the local neighborhoods. There are many fun things to see and do in Santa Cruz County for every budget—here are some money-saving travel tips to extend your stay. www.santacruzcounty.travel

Santa Cruz on a Budget

- Located within the sanctuary waters of northern Monterey Bay, the **Santa Cruz Wharf** is home to restaurants, gift shops, local sea life and a great place to watch the surfers coming in at **Cowell Beach**.
- The **Arboretum at UCSC** is a world famous public garden which features plant collections from Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and California. arboretum.ucsc.edu
- The **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** was voted the "World's Best Seaside Amusement Park." The admission-free Boardwalk is located on a mile of sandy beach, walking distance from downtown. The **Casino Arcade** is ranked as one of the best arcades in the country, with more than 200 video and pinball games, a classic corner, plus laser tag. www.beachboardwalk.com
- **Boardwalk Bowl** family bowling center is fun for the whole family with a restaurant, bar and ocean-view patio. Great for birthday parties, and special evening activities include Atomic Bowling, live music and karaoke. www.boardwalkbowl.com
- **Bookshop Santa Cruz** is an independent community bookstore in downtown Santa Cruz featuring new and used books, appearances by local authors, newsstand, cards, gifts and more.
- The **Capitola Village and Wharf** business district includes over 90 shops, restaurants and lodging on the beach. While **Pleasure Point** is another laid-back neighborhood filled with unique boutiques, sidewalk cafés and close to world-class surfing right down the street.
- The **Downtown Santa Cruz Farmers' Market** provides direct access to sustainable sources of local fresh produce and other unique foods every Wednesday in downtown Santa Cruz.
- The **Seymour Marine Discovery Center at Long Marine Lab** includes exhibits, aquariums, daily tours, the world's largest blue whale skeleton, touch tank, gift shop and unsurpassed vistas of the Pacific coast.
- **Big Basin Redwoods State Park** features 2,000 year-old redwoods, with over 80 miles of trails to explore. Guided walks available. Leashed dogs allowed on paved roads only. www.bigbasin.org
- South of Santa Cruz, the **Elkhorn Slough and Visitor Center** includes five miles of trails through oak woodlands, fresh and saltwater marshes. Look out across the wetlands and observe wildlife among the inner bays or rent a kayak and explore deeper. www.elkhornslough.org