



Welcome to Central County

*Inside this guide you will
find information on:*

- *Events Calendars*
- *Things to Do*
- *Transportation*
- *Recreation*
- *Restaurants*
- *Towns of the Santa
Ynez Valley*



Events Calendars

Check out these events calendars and bookmark your favorites.

Lompoc

Lompoc Chamber of Commerce

<http://lompoc.chambermaster.com/events>

Lompoc Record

<http://lompocrecord.com/calendar/>

Solvang

Solvangusa.com

<http://www.solvangusa.com/explore-solvang/calendar-of-events/>

Big City Buzz

<http://bigcitybuzz.com/events.php?cty=Solvang&sta=CA>

Solvang Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.solvangcc.com/calendar>

Buellton

Chamber of Commerce

http://www.visitbuellton.com/calendar/?utm_source=Madden&utm_medium=GoogleCPC&utm_campaign=Events

Santa Ynez Valley

Santa Ynez Valley News

<http://syvnews.com/calendar/>

Santa Ynez Valley Marriott

<http://syvmarriott.com/santa-ynez-valley-event-calendar>

Activities in Lompoc

(from cityoflompoc.com)

La Purisima Concepcion de Maria Santisima

Visit the original site of the mission which was destroyed when disaster struck in 1812, "El Año de los Temblores." A series of earthquakes brought down the adobe walls, tiled roofs, while heavy rains caused mud slides and the swollen river flooded fields. A large cross which was constructed in 1912, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of La Purisima Mission & 100th anniversary of its destruction, by members of the community can be observed on the top of the hill behind the Veterans Memorial Building. To get to the ruins pick up a map from the Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. The ruins are located at the south end of F Street.

Lompoc Flower Fields

As you drive through the "Valley of Flowers" during the summer months, you will see many patches of colors which will be varieties of cut flowers and those grown for seed. They include Sweet Peas, Larkspur, Stock, Marigolds, Sunflowers, Queen Anne's Lace, Bachelor Buttons, Delphinium and others. Also notice the vegetables such as asparagus, broccoli, lettuce, artichokes, cabbage, celery, spinach and the famous Central Coast Pinquito Bean.

The Murals of Lompoc

"City of Murals in the Valley of Flowers" - Like beautiful flowers blossoming along a vine, Lompoc's mural surprise and delight residents and visitors alike as they stroll the peaceful and friendly downtown area. Lompoc has over 32 major commissioned murals painted by noted artists, as well as an additional 40 murals, all located in Lompoc's historic old town area. Pick up a mural map at the Chamber when you come to visit, or [download one here](#) in PDF format. You may also call or email us to receive a copy by mail: (805) 736-4567 - chamber@lompoc.com,

Old Town Lompoc Heritage Walk

An approximately 1 mile walk - allow yourself at least an hour. This walk takes you on a scenic tour of Old Town Lompoc with 18 different stops. [Click here to download](#) an Old Town Heritage Walk brochure.

Vandenberg Air Force Base

Located just seven miles west of Lompoc, it is among the nation's most important military and aerospace installation. The base coordinates operations in areas of training and testing of crews, advanced tracking systems reliability, and research and development. Contact VAFB Public Affairs (805) 606-3595 for details and requirements for tours.

Fabing-McKay-Spanne Historical House

1875 Victorian Home fully renovated and furnished by the Lompoc Valley Historical Society. Grounds also include a Blacksmith Shop, Carriage House, Museum Room, Sales Area and a

Research/Reference Room. Open Monday and Thursday mornings 9 am to 11 am (except holidays) and the fourth Saturday of each month from 10 am to 1 pm.

Address: 207 North L Street

Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: (805) 735-4626

Website: www.lompochistory.org

Italian Stone Pines

Classified as the largest grove of Italian Stone Pines outside of the Mediterranean. These trees were planted in 1940 by mistake, and now are valued at over 3 million dollars! They create a lovely canopy over South "H" Street. Our trees have been featured in a European book on famous trees of the world because of their health and beauty.

Lompoc Museum

The museum was built in 1911 as a Carnegie Library and served the community as a library until 1968. The Lompoc Museum exhibits document the archeology and history of the Lompoc Valley and Santa Barbara County. [Click here to download](#) a Lompoc Museum brochure.

Address: 200 South H Street

Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: (805) 736-3888

Website: www.lompocmuseum.org

Return to Freedom Wild Horse Sanctuary

Return to Freedom is a 300 acre wild horse sanctuary located in the beautiful Jalama Valley of Lompoc. Home to more than 200 wild horses and burros, the organization is working to protect America's remaining wild horse herds through sanctuary, education and conservation. You can visit the sanctuary May-October when they host a variety of tours and clinics for the public. The sanctuary also welcomes volunteers and offers a family volunteer work weekend each year in August. Visitors will get to observe wild horses living in their natural family bands and herd groups – just as they do in the wild. They will also meet "Spirit," the Kiger Mustang stallion that served as inspiration for the DreamWorks animated movie "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron."

Phone: (805) 737-9246

Website: www.returntofreedom.org

Farmers Market

The Lompoc Farmers Market is every Friday on the corner of Ocean Avenue & I Street, from 1:30 pm - Dusk. During the summer months, it joins the Olde Towne Market in the 100 block of South H Street in downtown Lompoc. There is also a farmers market in Vandenberg Village every Sunday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on Burton Mesa Blvd.

Olde Town Market

During the summer months (July - August), this Friday night event features local entertainment, arts and crafts, commercial vendors and wonderful food. This event is the perfect Friday night activity for the entire family. Located in the 100 block of South H Street.

Cypress Art Gallery

Founded in 1994 by the Lompoc Valley Art Association, the Cypress Gallery showcases the art of over 60 well known local artists. Art lovers will find a variety of fine art in the Gallery: watercolors, oils, acrylics, pastels, mixed media, photography, ceramics, jewelry, souvenirs, and great gift ideas. Prices are very reasonable and one of the artists is always available to assist you. Each month brings a new exhibit to the Cypress Gallery, often with a new "Featured Artist" show in the South room.

Address: 119 East Cypress Avenue

Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: (805) 737-1129

Website: www.lompocvalleyartassociation.com

Artesia School House

The Artesia School Museum is a fully restored and furnished one-room country schoolhouse. Built in 1876, Artesia was the first country school in the Lompoc Valley, named after Artesian wells found nearby. It remained in constant use until 1961. It was originally built 4 miles west of Lompoc on Central Avenue facing west. Brisk west winds kept blowing the doors open, so it was turned around to face east. Later it was moved to the corner of Central and Artesia Avenue. In 1972 it was moved to its present location in the 100 block of West Chestnut Avenue and restored by the Lompoc Unified School District. A City and County Landmark, Artesia is open to the public the fourth Saturday of every month from 2 - 4 pm.

Address: 100 block of West Chestnut Avenue

Lompoc, CA 93436

Website: <http://www.lompocmuseum.org/artesia.php>

Birding

Lompoc Valley is strategically located on the Pacific Flyway and provides habitat to a wide variety of migratory and resident species. Bird watch at sanctuaries. We have one of the highest annual counts in the nations. Check out the La Purisima Audubon Society's (LPAS) website for a birding checklist and more information about the group. LPAS serves Northern Santa Barbara County.

Mailing Address: PO Box 2045

Lompoc, CA 93438

Phone: (805) 733-5501

Website: www.lapurisimaaudubon.org

Bicycling

The Lompoc Valley is considered a premier bike riding area in the state with rides ranging from difficult to pleasant. The Lompoc Valley Bicycle Club (LVBC) is a non-profit, family oriented, recreational organization dedicated to the sport of cycling. We are a club that serves both novice and experienced riders, road and mountain, as well as those who are considering the sport of cycling. For more information, visit the Lompoc Bicycle Club

website: www.bikelompoc.com

For a map of the City of Lompoc's Bikeway Network, [click here](#)

Famous Lompoc BBQ

On most Saturdays along "H" Street, you can find a Famous Lompoc BBQ!

Skydive Santa Barbara

The Drop Zone with an Ocean View! Feel the rush of flying through the air at 120 mph. They are the only dropzone in California to feature 270 degree panoramic ocean views on every jump.

Address: 1801 N H St Suite G

Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: (877) 652-5867

Website: www.skydivesantabarbara.com

Lompoc's State-of-the-Art Aquatic Center

Lompoc's new state-of-the-art indoor aquatic center boasts 3 pools under one roof: a competition/lap swim pool, zero entry childrens play pool with water slides and a 91 degree therapy pool with a wheelchair ramp and wet wheelchairs for disabled access.

For more detailed information, please call the City of Lompoc Parks, Recreation and Urban Forestry Department at (805) 875-8100. You may also find information about the City of Lompoc Aquatic Center's current programs on the City's website below.

Address: 207 West College Avenue

Lompoc, CA 93436

Phone: (805) 875-8100

Website: http://www.cityoflompoc.com/parks_rec/AquaticCenter.htm

Lompoc Transportation

Public Bus Service

- [COLT](#) provides public transit service within the City of Lompoc, Mission Hills, Vandenberg Village, Buellton and Solvang. Service is available from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Curb-to-curb service is available for seniors and persons with disabilities. Children under six years of age may travel free when accompanied by a fare-paying passenger 14 years and older. Escorts for persons with disabilities travel free. COLT now operates one round trip to Santa Barbara each Tuesday and Thursday. Contact: 736-7666 or cityoflompoc.com.
- [The Breeze Bus](#) provides weekday com-muter bus service linking Lompoc, Vandenberg Air Force Base and Santa Maria. Contact: 800-417-2137 or breezebus.com.
- [Clean Air Express](#) provides round-trip motor coach commuter service from Lompoc to Santa Barbara and Goleta five days a week. Contact: 963-SAVE or cleanairexpress.com.

Tired of high gas prices? Traffic Solutions offers rideshare and alternative transportation information and programs for commuters throughout Santa Barbara County. Use their website to find a carpool partner, vanpool or bus, register for the free Emergency Ride Home program, win prizes in their team competitions such as the Bike Challenge and Commuter Challenge, and use a personal calendar to track your commute trips and calculate cash savings and pollution reductions. Visit www.TrafficSolutions.info or contact (805) 963-SAVE or info@TrafficSolutions.info for more information.

[AMTRAK](#) Pacific Surfliner service at Surf/Lompoc station. Contact: 800-usa-rail or amtrak.com.

Airports

- [City of Lompoc Airport](#) (general aviation)
 - Contact: 875-8268 or cityoflompoc.com
- [Santa Maria Airport](#) (commercial and general aviation)
 - Contact: 922-1726 or santamariaairport.com
- [Santa Barbara Airport](#) (commercial and general aviation)
 - Contact: 681-4803 or flysba.com

Top 10 Lompoc Restaurants

(from Yelp.com)

1. Floriano's Mexican Food

\$ Mexican, Meat Shops

319 E Ocean Ave

Lompoc, CA 93436

(805) 737-9396

2. Eddies Grill

1325 N H St

Lompoc, CA 93436

(805) 735-4488

3. Sissy's Uptown Cafe

\$\$ American (Traditional)

112 S I St

Lompoc, CA 93436

(805) 735-4877

4. D'Vine Wine Bar and Bistro

\$\$ Wine Bars, Tapas/Small Plates

107 W Ocean Ave

Lompoc, CA 93436

(805) 430-8356

5. La Botte Italian Restaurant

\$\$ Italian

812 N H St

Lompoc, CA 93436

(805) 736-8525

6. Samantha's Filipino & American Diner

\$\$ Filipino, American (Traditional)

910 N H St

Lompoc, CA 93436

(805) 736-3663

7. Herb Home Thai Restaurant

\$\$ Thai
426 N H St
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 735-3237

8. Tom's

\$ Burgers, Breakfast & Brunch, Sandwiches
115 E College Ave
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 736-9996

9. Bravo Pizza

\$\$ Pizza
129 W Central Ave
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-6181

10. Thai Cuisine

\$\$ Thai
920 N I St
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 736-7450

Top 10 Solvang Restaurants

(from Yelp.com)

1. Actor's Corner Cafe

\$\$ Modern European, Italian, Wine Bars
443 2nd St
Solvang, CA 93463
(805) 686-2409

2. Succulent Cafe Wine Charcuterie

\$\$ Cafes, American (New), Sandwiches
1555 Mission Dr
Solvang, CA 93463
(805) 691-9444

3. Bacon & Brine

\$\$ American (New)

453 Atterdag Sq

Solvang, CA 93463

(805) 688-8809

4. Mirabelle Inn Restaurant

\$\$\$ Diners

409 1st St

Solvang, CA 93463

(805) 688-1703

5. Fresco Valley Cafe

\$\$ American (New), Cafes, Desserts

442 Atterdag Rd

Solvang, CA 93463

(805) 688-8857

6. Paula's Pancake House

\$\$ Breakfast & Brunch

1531 Mission Dr

Solvang, CA 93463

(805) 688-2867

7. Hadsten House Restaurant

\$\$\$ American (New)

1450 Mission Dr

Solvang, CA 93463

Phone number(800) 457-5373

8. Solvang Brewing Company

\$\$ Breweries, American (Traditional), Pubs

1547 Mission Dr

Solvang, CA 93463

(805) 688-2337

9. Fitzpatrick's Tavern

\$\$ Irish, Pubs

490 1st St

Solvang, CA 93463

(805) 688-5500

10. Viking Garden Cellars

\$\$ Wine Bars, Scandinavian, Lounges

448 Alisal Rd
Solvang, CA 93463
Phone number(805) 688-2670

The Towns of the Santa Ynez Valley

(From: <http://syvmarriott.com/santa-ynez-valley-attractions>)

Solvang

Approximately four blocks by four blocks in size, Solvang is truly pedestrian-friendly with wide sidewalks and benches for restful viewing of the colorful village scene. There are more than a dozen wine tasting rooms in town, all within steps of each other. The Academy Award-winning movie "Sideways" was filmed here and highlights the region's wines. Download your Sideways map here or visit the Solvang Visitor Center for a free map with complete listings of local tasting rooms. With more than a dozen wine tasting rooms in town, all within steps of each other, Solvang is a wine lovers paradise.

Ballard

Charming rural Ballard, located between Santa Ynez and Los Olivos on Baseline Road, is home to a little red schoolhouse holding classes since 1883, as well as churches, studios and an award-winning inn, restaurant and wine-tasting room.

Buellton

Thousands of travelers have come to know Buellton as "The Home of the Original Split Pea Soup" thanks to the worldwide fame of Andersen's Pea Soup Restaurant. However, there is much more to Buellton than just this simple dish. More recently Buellton gained fame through the Academy Award winning film "Sideways", that featured many scenes from the popular wine region of the Santa Ynez Valley and the outstanding food at the Hitching Post Restaurant.

Los Alamos

Los Alamos (Spanish for "the cottonwoods") is located at the northern entry to the Santa Ynez Valley at the junction of US Highway 101 and State Highway 135, surrounded by vineyards and ranches; the town has an old-time rustic sensibility. The seven-block-long main thoroughfare has a large antique mall in the historic train depot, quaint shops, a cafe, an art gallery, several restaurants and wine tasting, a 1880s hotel, Victorian bed & breakfast and two motels. Each September, Los Alamos Old Days honors the town's 1876 founding with a weekend-long celebration.

Los Olivos

This charming historic town of 1,000 residents is located in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley. Recognized for its expansive views in the center of Santa Barbara's 50 wineries and horse ranches, it is a rewarding and relaxing village to visit.

Santa Ynez

The township of Santa Ynez, situated just a mile from the intersection of State Highways 154 and 246, celebrates its western heritage with Old Santa Ynez Day each June including a street fair, a parade and country-western entertainment. Santa Ynez's turn-of-the-20th-century architectural facades still boast plenty of conveniences for modern trail riders including a historic saloon, a variety of restaurants from gourmet to Italian to steakhouse, and a charming bed & breakfast.

Activities in Solvang

(from [solvangusa.com](http://www.solvangusa.com))

Shopping

Solvang offers more than 150 one-of-a-kind shops to create memorable retail experiences in the “Danish Capital of America.” With year-round temperate weather, this charming, truly pedestrian-friendly village boasts a bevy of boutiques with elegant antiques and collectibles, beautifully crafted Danish imports, vibrant arts & crafts, colorful furnishings, gourmet gifts, wines and toys for kids of all ages. - See more at: <http://www.solvangusa.com/explore-solvang/what-to-do/shopping/#sthash.2hQaMJvj.dpuf>

Museums and Missions

In an area that has multiple ethnic and cultural background you can find interesting museums scattered throughout the Santa Ynez Valley. From motorcycles to oil memorabilia to fine art, western and antique art museums, to western heritage and California missions you are sure to find attention-grabbing places to visit. - See more at: <http://www.solvangusa.com/explore-solvang/heritage-arts-culture/museums/#sthash.GUwj2D5e.dpuf>

Cycling

Three-time host to Amgen Tour of California Solvang Time Trials. Beautiful scenic routes over hills and through valleys - See more at: <http://www.solvangusa.com/explore-solvang/what-to-do/#sthash.G58ki5j2.dpuf>

Julefest Celebration

Christmas celebration. Details: <http://www.solvangusa.com/explore-solvang/what-to-do/julefest/>

Sports and Recreation in and Around Buellton

(from: <http://www.visitbuellton.com/sports-recreation/>)

Biking: One of the most beautiful and healthy ways to take in the Valley is by bike. Home to the AMGEN, Tour of California Time Trials for 3 consecutive years, as well as many other

biking events, the Santa Ynez Valley offers a wide selection of bike trails for every riding level. Please visit: trafficsolutions.info for more information and bike maps.

Trikke: If you've never heard of Trikke, let us be the first to introduce you. Distributed right here in Buellton, Trikke is one of the most exciting ways to get around. This 3 wheeled cambering vehicle is available for all ages and skill levels. So fun, you won't even realize that you're getting a workout. For more information visit www.trikke.com, phone (805)693-0800 or stop by and visit at 597 Avenue of Flags #103, Buellton.

Hiking: Explore the Valley by foot. You'll find a wide range of hiking trails throughout the Santa Ynez Valley and the greater Santa Barbara County. Get out with nature and enjoy the beauty that surrounds us. Visit: SantaBarbaraHikes.com for more hiking information and maps. Plan ahead and travel safely. For current conditions visit the [Los Padres National Forest](#) or call them at (805) 968-6640 for more information.

Glider Rides: Feeling adventurous? Soar silently above the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley and get a bird's eye view of this magnificent land. Santa Barbara Soarings is located at the Santa Ynez Airport just minutes from Buellton. (805) 688-2517, Santa Ynez, CA 93460. Visit SantaBarbaraSoaring.com

Hot Air Ballooning: What better way to experience the scenic Santa Ynez Valley than soaring in a Hot Air Balloon? This adventure lasts from 45 min – 1 hour and takes you up over the rolling hills of vineyards and beautiful ranches. Truly a romantic and adventurous way to experience the Valley. [Visit SantaBarbaraBalloonRides.com](http://VisitSantaBarbaraBalloonRides.com)

Horseback riding: Don your boots, saddle-up, and hit the trail! There's nothing more breathtaking than riding atop a beautiful horse as you venture out on the trail and take in the majestic views of the Santa Ynez Valley. [Vino Vaqueros](#) offers a ride into beautiful ranches and vineyards located in the Valley and end the ride with a glass of wine and the option for lunch. No experience necessary. Go ahead what are you waiting for? Please visit the following riding stables for more information [Vino Vaqueros](#), [Rancho Oso](#) and [Circle Bar B](#).

Golf: Remember to pack your clubs on your visit to Buellton. We have courses for every budget and every level, even beginners. If you're looking for a challenge, you may be up for [La Purisima](#), or [Rancho San Marcos](#). For the moderate golfer, try [The Alisal Rivercourse in Solvang](#). If you just like to get out there and swing or you only have time for 9, head over to Zaca Creek Golf Course in Buellton. Good Luck and hit 'em straight.

Lake Cachuma: Located north of Santa Barbara off Hwy 154, Lake Cachuma offers narrated nature tours where you'll be able to see waterfowl, osprey, hawks, bald eagles, and

various other birds and wildlife. For reservations weekdays call: (805) 688-5050 and for weekends call: (805)686-5055.

The Buellton Rec. Center - The Buellton Rec. Center offers many programs, trips, classes, along with a work-out facility and gymnasium. If you're looking for a place to stay fit while you're on vacation, contact the Buellton Rec. Center. [Buellton Rec. Center Website](#)

PARKS & PICNIC AREAS

Riverview Park: Do the kids need to run off some energy? Do you need a little R&R? Head down to the River View Park located in Buellton to unwind, relax, and take in the beautiful view of the Santa Rita Hills. Located at the base of Sycamore Drive in Buellton. Open to the public, free access.

[Riverview Park Reservation Map](#)

[Riverview Park Reservation Application](#)

Oak Park: This beautiful park is located on the North side of Sycamore Drive in Buellton and includes a lush grass area complete with picnic tables and Barbeque pits, along with a fun play structure and public restrooms. This may be reserved through the City of Buellton at, (805) 686-7433. 401 Sycamore Drive, Open to the public, free access.

Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden: The Botanic Garden is located at the west end of River View Park in Buellton and displays a variety of native plants. The garden serves as an educational venue for children and adults alike to learn about our native culture and plants. Beautiful displays of local art offer a surprise element to the park. Enjoy a stroll through the Botanic Gardens or take a picnic lunch and take in the tranquility of nature at its finest.

Nojoqui Falls County Park: Located south of Buellton this large park features a vast array of birds, wildlife, beautiful oak trees, and the famous Nojoqui Falls, which flows thru winter and spring. The park is free to the public and is open 8am to sunset. (805) 934-6123.

Dog Park: Your four-legged friends will love you when you visit Buellton's PAWS Dog Park located at 568 Dawn Drive.

DESTINATION FARMS

Ostrich Land USA, INC.

610 E. Hwy. 246 Solvang, CA 93463

(805) 686-9696

ostrichlandusa.com

Restoration Oaks Ranch (Blueberry Farm)

1980 Highway 101

Buellton, CA 93427

(805) 686-5718

(805) 845-4949

santabarbarablueberries.com

Other Local Farms:

Alpacas de Los Olivos – (805) 698-4540

Andre Organic Lavender - (805) 350-0593 / (805) 350-1945

Chaotic Exotics Orchid Ranch – (805) 736-0040

Clairmont Farms – (805)688-7505

Classic Organic - 2330 Old Coast Hwy off 101 near Nojoqui Park sign

Morrell Nut & Berry Farm – (805) 688-8969

OstrichLand – (805) 686-9696

Quicksilver Ranch - (805) 686-4002

Rancho Olivos – (805) 686-9653

Seein' Spots Farm - (805) 688-2275

Summerset Farms – (805) 682-7800

History of Lompoc

From: <http://www.cityoflompoc.com/government/history.htm>

The first settlers in the Lompoc Valley were the Chumash Indians. The Chumash and their predecessors lived in the Lompoc Valley for nearly 10,000 years prior to European contact. The establishment of La Purisima Mission in 1787 marked the earliest European settlement in the Lompoc Valley. The original mission, located at what is now the foot of F Street in downtown Lompoc, was destroyed by an earthquake in 1812. Remnants of the mission can be seen at this site which has been preserved as a **State Historical Landmark**. The mission was rebuilt over several years beginning in 1813 at its current location on the north side of the Valley. The Mission, the most authentically restored in the mission system, is now a State park.

The Lompoc Land Company was formed and incorporated in August of 1874 for the purpose of purchasing almost 43,000 acres to establish a temperance colony. The City of Lompoc was incorporated on August 13, 1888. A number of wharves were constructed during this period serving as shipping points for incoming supplies and outgoing agricultural produce until the turn of the century when the railroad replaced shipping as the primary means of commercial transportation.

The completion of the coastal railroad between San Francisco and Los Angeles in 1901, and the subsequent extension of a spur into Lompoc, provided the impetus for growth in the Valley. Fields were cleared and leveled for agricultural production of specialized crops including flower seeds. The flower seed industry so dominated agricultural production that the area was dubbed the "Valley of Flowers." The Johns-Manville Corporation and others began the mining of diatomaceous earth in the southern hills. The mining industry continues to be a major employer.

In 1941, Camp Cooke was established as an Army training base which was renamed Vandenberg Air Force Base in 1958. The Base was the first missile base of the United States Air Force. The Space Shuttle program was slated to begin launches in the late 1980's. However, when the Challenger exploded during take-off in 1986, the West Coast Shuttle Program was terminated, leaving Lompoc in a severe recession.

The Lompoc Valley responded to the Shuttle disaster by focusing on tourism as a means of fighting its way through the recession. By focusing on the natural beauty of the Valley, its flower industry, the pristine Central Coast, and by developing a successful downtown mural program, the City of Lompoc has built an excellent tourism industry that is to this day a primary component of the Lompoc economy. Today, the City of Lompoc is dubbed "The City of Arts and Flowers."

HISTORY OF THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

GENERAL HISTORY

The Santa Ynez Valley has a unique history, particularly because over a period of centuries it has been home to a variety of cultures...all of which have made a lasting impact on the Valley's rich heritage.

The earliest inhabitants of the Santa Ynez Valley were the Chumash Indians. The Chumash Indians are the longest known inhabitants of the area. The first Europeans to live in the Valley were the Spaniards during the era when Spain owned California. After Spain turned California over to the Mexican government Mexicans moved into the Valley. Americans followed shortly and finally the Danish-American settlers who founded Solvang arrived.

Chumash Indians

During the pre-Columbian era, there were nearly 10,000 Chumash Indians living in Central and Southern California. The Chumash have been in the Santa Ynez Valley for a longer period than can be dated, but it is documented that when the Spanish explorers arrived in the Valley in 1769, the Chumash were there to greet them.

Today, just below the township of Santa Ynez lies the Santa Ynez (Sanja de Cota) Band of Chumash Indians reservation, thought to be the smallest reservation in the United States. The reservation is currently occupied by nearly 150 Chumash descendants of mixed blood. No full-blooded Chumash Indians remain.

Agriculture and Ranching

A few farmers and ranchers from various parts of the U.S. began to venture into the Santa Ynez Valley as early as the 1850's. Then during the decade of the 1870's, many more settlers began occupying the area as the subdivision of vast ranchlands took place. Cattle were numerous, and for a time, sheep. Farmers grew such crops as olives, peaches, walnuts, prunes, apples, cherries and quinces. In the 1930's through the 1960's dairying was a large venture in the Valley but today no dairies remain.

Today Valley ranches are based largely on the sale of cattle and horses. A number of the horse ranches are nationally recognized specializing in Arabian, and thoroughbred breeds. Crops grown in the Valley include walnuts, tomatoes, beans, corn and wine grapes. In the past 20 years wine making has become a robust industry in the Valley. There are now over 50 wineries producing award-winning wines located throughout the Santa Ynez Valley.

Transportation and Growth

The stagecoach was deeply involved in the history of the Santa Ynez Valley. The stagecoach ran from San Francisco to Yuma, Arizona, passing through the Valley as early as 1858. In 1860, a stage station was established near what is now the town of Ballard.

In the 1860's and 1870's folks desiring to travel up the coast from Los Angeles or Santa Barbara were required to take a stagecoach over the San Marcos Pass or through Gaviota Pass on the coast. For a short time, in 1883-84, a stagecoach stop was located on the Buell ranch, south and adjacent to what is now Buellton. And for a time starting in 1880, a stage line was routed through Lompoc.

In 1886, an Italian Swiss immigrant named Felix Mattei built a hotel and restaurant in Los Olivos. Originally called the New Central Hotel it became a famous stagecoach stop. Later known as Hotel Los Olivos, the original building is still in existence today as a restaurant. This well-known restaurant is called "Mattei's Tavern".

In 1887, with the advent of the Pacific Coast narrow-gauge railroad coming into Los Olivos from cities like San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria to the north, Mattei's Tavern became the end of the stagecoach route from Santa Barbara to the south. In 1901 that service came to an end with the expansion of the Southern Pacific Railroad that took northbound passengers from Santa Barbara along the coast, completely bypassing the Santa Ynez Valley.

In the early days, a county wagon road connected the Valley and the port of Gaviota on the coast. Wagons regularly carried farm products to the Gaviota pier to be loaded onto ships that would travel on to San Francisco and other points. The completion of the narrow-gauge railroad provided a much easier and less expensive method of transportation both in and out of the Valley, and the wagon-hauling era ended, just as the coming of automobiles and truck transportation brought an end to the narrow-gauge railroad after nearly 50 years of service, from 1887 to 1934.

FIVE TOWNS DEVELOP

Over the years, five towns were established in the Santa Ynez Valley: Ballard (1881), Santa Ynez (1882), Los Olivos (1887), Solvang (1911), and Buellton (1920).

Today, the Santa Ynez Valley is a growing, thriving area. Its beauty, climate and attractions like its many wineries and the Danish town of Solvang draw thousands of visitors each year.