



Welcome To North County

- *Family Activities*
- *Recreation*
- *Restaurants*
- *Museums*
- *Event Calendars*
- *Arts and Culture*



EVENTS CALENDARS

Check out these calendars and bookmark your favorite.

<http://santamariavisitor.com/events/>

<http://www.santamariasun.com/calendar.php>

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

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

<http://www.ksby.com/category/296758/events-calendar#/93405-san-luis-obispo/all/today>

Best Restaurants

(Source: Yelp.com)

1. [Sizzlin Gogi](#)

\$\$ [Korean, Bars](#)

1841 S Broadway

Santa Maria, CA 93454

(805) 287-9760

2. [Papa Napoli Italian Deli](#)

\$ [Delis](#)

325 E Betteravia Rd

Santa Maria, CA 93454

(805) 928-7272

3 [Vaqueras](#)

\$ [Mexican](#)

908 N Broadway

Santa Maria, CA 93454

805) 406-4096

4. [Cuginis](#)

\$ [Italian](#)

230 E Betteravia Rd

Santa Maria, CA 93454

(805) 346-1777

5. [Zoe's Hawaiian BBQ](#)

\$ [Hawaiian](#)

2880 Santa Maria Way

Santa Maria, CA 93455

(805) 357-7635

6. [Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co.](#)

\$ [Bars, American \(New\)](#)

560 E Betteravia Rd

Santa Maria, CA 93454

(805) 694-2252

7. Moxie Cafe

\$\$ Cafes

1317 W McCoy Ln
Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805) 361-2900

8. La Picosita

\$ Mexican

923 N Broadway
Santa Maria, CA 93458
(805) 347-3333

9. Las Comadres

\$ Mexican, Latin American

202 W Main St
Santa Maria, CA 93458
(805) 928-856

10. The Swiss Restaurant and Bar

\$\$ Bars, Barbeque, Sandwiches

516 N Broadway
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 347-7800

Things to Do in Santa Maria

From Santamariavisitor.com

Beaches and Outdoors

Start your Santa Maria adventure at **Los Flores Ranch Park!**

<http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/recreation-and-parks/get-active/los-flores-ranch-park>

This is the first of its kind regional open space park in the Santa Maria Valley. At 1,778 acres (nearly 2.8 square miles), the property lies about eight miles south of Santa Maria in the Solomon Hills. The park offers the public a rare mix of environmental education, land preservation and recreation, with about eight miles of hiking/equestrian/mountain biking trails. Guided docent tours are available.

Within minutes, you can find yourself in the town of Guadalupe, home to the highest beach dunes in the Western states – at **Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve**. <http://dunescenter.org/>

A little further up the road on Highway 1 in Guadalupe, take a lefthand turn to reach the scenic serenity of Oso Flaco Lake – a birder’s paradise.

Continuing north, you’ll find Lopez Lake in the town of **Arroyo Grande**, where fishing, camping and boating opportunities abound. <http://www.slocountyparks.com/activities/lopez.htm>

Following Highway 101 north, you will reach **Pismo State Beach**, Shell Beach and Avila Beach. Amazing wildlife watching adventures await. <http://www.classicalifornia.com/>

To the south, discover wildlife tours aboard pontoon boats at **Cachuma Lake!**

<http://cosb.countyofsb.org/parks/parks05.aspx?id=13440>

Theater and Culture

MUSEUMS

Santa Maria Museum of Flight

<http://smmof.org/>

Wander through this large museum featuring World War II and present-day displays of aircraft and artifacts. Group tours available, call to schedule. 3015 Airpark Drive, Santa Maria. (805) 922-8758.

The Natural History Museum

<http://www.naturalhistorysantamaria.com/>

Families and kids of all ages will enjoy the Natural History Museum in Santa Maria “Where natural history comes to life”! See interesting displays of natural history artifacts from our area. Watch a short video on the geologic history of the Santa Maria Valley from Prehistoric times to modern times. Work with the interactive plate tectonics kiosk which demonstrates global sea levels and temperatures through time as well. Admission is free. 412 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria. (805) 614-0806.

Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum

For a glimpse into the history of Santa Maria and the people who settled here, visit the Santa Maria Valley Historical Museum. The museum preserves the history and nostalgia of the city with pictures, artifacts, and valley memorabilia. Admission is free. 616 South Broadway, Santa Maria. (805) 922-3130.

Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum

<http://www.smvdiscoverymuseum.org/>

Families will take pleasure in this newly built museum that offers hands-on exhibits for children to learn while they play. This hands-on museum offers a chance for children to learn while they play. 705 S. McClelland, Santa Maria. (805) 928-8414.

Dunes Center

<http://dunescenter.org/>

Start your visit to the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex off on the right foot by visiting the Center in Guadalupe. Pick up visitor information, get directions, and learn about upcoming guided walks, exhibits, and events. 1065 Guadalupe St. (Hwy. 1), Guadalupe. (805) 343-2455.

Guadalupe Cultural Arts and Education Center

<http://www.guadalupeculturalcenter.com/>

The Guadalupe Cultural Arts and Education Center supports educational cultural awareness of diverse community groups and ethnic ties through art presentations, ethnic arts gallery and

educational classes. We also provide assistance and counseling to veterans of military wars and other family-oriented services. 1055 Guadalupe St. (Highway 1), Guadalupe. (805) 343-2939.

Santa Maria Valley Railway Historical Museum

Twice per month, on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, come out to the Santa Maria Transit Center, located at the corner of South Miller and East Boone Street. Three train pieces from the Santa Maria Valley Railroad are on permanent display. Visitors can see the engine up close and board the box car and caboose to take a look around and see other exhibits inside. Special tours are available by arrangement. (805) 714-4927.

MILITARY LANDMARKS AND MEMORIALS

The Veteran's Memorial Cultural Center is a registered historical landmark located at 313 West Tunnell Street in Santa Maria. The center has been home for more than 80 years to the American Legion Post 56, whose members were the driving force behind the establishment of the center. Other veterans organizations housed here include the Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, VFW, Fleet Reserve, WWI Association, American Veterans United and Amvets.

The Freedom Monument Veterans Memorial is located in front of the Abel Maldonado Youth Center, 615 South McClelland Street in Santa Maria. It was dedicated in 2001 to not only remember those Santa Maria veterans who have given their lives during times of war, but also to honor all veterans and military members still serving on active duty.

The memorial area features six marble monoliths, each holding a plaque representing the various branches of service. It also includes a fountain and tile mural of a bald eagle. Each year on or around Pearl Harbor Day, a new plaque is dedicated. Past plaques have honored veterans who have died in the War on Terrorism, Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II. Recent additions have included plaques honoring women in the armed forces, Vandenberg Air Force Base, the Order of the Purple Heart, American MIA-POW, and others.

Since its inception, the Freedom Monument has placed the names of 100 Santa Maria Valley Veterans who have given the last full measure of devotion, in defending our country.

The Santa Maria Valley Military Wall of Honor is the latest tribute, officially dedicated in November 2013. The idea for the creation of this monument came from Marine Corps Veteran Hugh Rafferty, along with the full support of the Santa Maria Public Airport District Manager

and the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, to honor all past, present and future military personnel. The Wall of Honor displays flags from every branch of the military. Congresswoman Lois Caps presented an American Flag which has flown over Capitol Hill to be encased and added to the memorial. The Military Wall of Honor is a fitting backdrop to the many military welcome home celebrations held at the airport, located at 3217 Terminal Drive in Santa Maria.

ART GALLERIES

Frame Gallery

<http://framegallery93455.com/>

A local fine art gallery and custom picture framing company. 1157-J East Clark Avenue, Santa Maria. (805) 287-9402.

Allan Hancock College Art Gallery

<http://www.hancockcollege.edu/gallery/exhibitions.php>

Enjoy monthly exhibits by local and national artists, as well as annual shows by the college's fine arts faculty and students. The exhibits reflect many types of art, including photography, painting (oil, acrylic, watercolor), drawing, sculpture, pottery, and more. 800 South College Drive, Building L, Santa Maria. (805) 922-6966 ext. 3252.

Town Center Gallery

<http://www.thetowncentergallery.jigsy.com/>

The Santa Maria Town Center Gallery has art in public places.

The Betteravia Gallery, Joseph Centeno Government Center, 511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria.

Shepard Hall Gallery, Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland Street, Santa Maria.

Art is displayed for sale at the following venues:

Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 E. Park Avenue, Santa Maria.

Community West Bank, 2615 S. Miller Street, Santa Maria

Santa Maria Airport Terminal, 3249 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria

Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, 614 S. Broadway, Santa Maria

For more information regarding the Town Center Gallery shows and future venues, email thetowncentergallery@gmail.com

PERFORMING ARTS

PCPA Theaterfest

The nationally acclaimed Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts has been staging the finest classic and contemporary plays in a professional environment since 1964. World-class performances year-round. 800 South College, Santa Maria. (805) 922-8313

The Great American Melodrama Santa Maria Civic Theater

<http://www.smct.org/>

Live performances staged by the oldest theater group in the region. 1660 North McClelland, Santa Maria. (805) 922-4442.

The Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville is one of the country's most illustrious theaters, staging authentic turn-of-the-century style melodramas, comedies, musicals and thrillers. Included in all shows are wonderful vaudeville revues with dazzling song, dance and comedy. Located 18 miles north on Highway 1 in Oceano. (805) 489-2499.

Coastal Voices

<http://coastalvoices.info/>

Community choir offering two beautiful concerts throughout the year. (805) 934-3024 or CoastalVoices@gmail.com

Santa Maria Philharmonic Society

<http://www.santamariaphilharmonic.org/>

The Philharmonic brings beautiful classical music concerts quarterly in the Santa Maria Valley to enthusiastic audiences. They also offer special programs for our area's schoolchildren.

The Clark Center

<http://clarkcenter.org/>

Since opening in 2002, the Clark Center has become the Central Coast's premier venue for world-class, professional performing arts in an intimate setting. The Center is a state-of-the-art hub for cultural events serving all the people of our community and their families, as well as an institution for vocational and educational opportunity.

FAMILY FRIENDLY EATS & ENTERTAINMENT

Chuck E. Cheese offers a safe, clean, child-appropriate playscape where the games are fun to play and fun to watch! Food is made fresh to order. Perhaps the best part of all is their promise to have different games for different ages...but if a grownup wants to have a turn, they promise not to make fun of you! <http://www.chuckecheese.com/>

Make sure you save room for special hand-crafted treats featuring local ingredients at **Doc Burnstein's** ice cream parlor in Orcutt. Mark your calendars for All You Can Eat Tuesdays! One of the few remaining drive-in theaters, the **Hi-Way Drive In** on Santa Maria Way shows a double feature nightly and hosts a swap meet on Sunday mornings. <http://docburnsteins.com/>

There's something for everyone at the newly built **Edwards Santa Maria Stadium 14 & RPX Movie Theatre** in the Santa Maria Town Center! The Regal Premium Experience: ultimate sound/viewing quality and an Imax size screen. Each theater features stadium seating. <http://www.regmovies.com/Theatres/Theatre-Folder/Edwards-Santa-Maria-Stadium-14-RPX-9571>

PARKS

Los Flores Ranch Park <http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/recreation-and-parks/get-active/los-flores-ranch-park>

Los Flores Ranch Park is the first of its kind regional open space park in the Santa Maria Valley. At 1,778 acres (nearly 2.8 square miles), the property lies about eight miles south of Santa Maria in the Solomon Hills.

Waller Park

Shaded by towering pines surrounding a tranquil lake, this park is a children's paradise with a playground, pony rides, barbecue and picnic areas, disk golf, a gazebo and plenty of room to roam and play. 300 Goodwin Road, Santa Maria. (805) 934-6211.

<http://cosb.countyofsb.org/parks/parks02.aspx?id=7654>

Preisker Park

Enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the city's largest park. Children will delight in playing on the ship that sits inside the miniature lake. This park also includes barbecue and picnic areas, gazebo, playground areas, a baseball diamond, and a horseshoe pit. Summer concerts during the summer. 2301 Preisker Lane, Santa Maria. (805) 925-0951 ext. 260 or ext.410.

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/preisker-park-santa-maria>

Nojoqui Park

<http://cosb.countyofsb.org/parks/parks02.aspx?id=8068>

A great place for a family picnic and hike. A short 10 minute walk leads to a meandering stream which delivers a cascading 160-foot waterfall. 10 minutes from Solvang on Alisal Road. (805) 688-4217.

PLAYSCAPES

One Way Board Shop has got you dialed in for all things skate/snowboard/surf/skateboard related! Their in-store skateboard park is rad! Just check out the videos on their website and you'll see what we mean! <http://www.onewayboardshop.com/>

Boomer's

Miniature golf, raceway go-karts, bumper boats, video games, and deluxe batting range for total family fun. 2250 Preisker Lane. Open daily. (805) 928-4942. <http://www.boomersparks.com/>

YMCA Skateboard Park

Located adjacent to the YMCA facility, this 15,000 square foot park contains numerous ramps including quarter pipes, half pipes, boxes, rails, jumps, hills and a vertical ramp. A special area for beginners is also available. 3400 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, (805) 937-8521.

<http://www.smvymca.org/html/programschedules.html>

Paul Nelson Aquatic Center

Enjoy year-round swimming for children of all ages. Special children's wading pool with frog slide and mushroom shower. 516 McClelland Street. (805) 925-0951 ext. 352.

<http://www.cityofsantamaria.org/city-government/departments/recreation-and-parks/get-active/paul-nelson-aquatics-center>

Rancho Bowl

Enjoy 32 lanes (bumper lanes available) for striking fun for the whole family! The bowling alley also includes a video arcade, coffee shop, bar, pool tables and pro shop. 128 East Donovan Rd., Santa Maria. (805) 925-2405.

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/rancho-bowl-santa-maria>

Santa Maria Speedway

Take to the track for stock car races each Saturday night in Nipomo. April through October.

Central Coast Sports Arena

Kids of all ages will enjoy roller skating and roller hockey at the Central Coast Sports Arena. Public skating sessions and birthday parties are available on weekends and holidays. Call for skate session dates and times. 937 S. Thornburg, Gate 7, Santa Maria. (805) 739-0920.

<http://www.centralcoastsportsarena.com/>

Farmers Markets

Fresh picked seasonal produce and colorful blossoms! Come out to the Central City Farmer's Market Tuesdays at Oak Knoll South on the corner of Bradley Road and Clark Ave. from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Wednesdays at the Town Center West at Broadway and Main St. from 12:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On Thursdays, visit the Farm Stand at **Growing Grounds** from 12 pm-6 pm. Info: (805) 305-9829. <http://growinggroundsfarmsm.blogspot.com/>

YMCA

Enjoy swimming and recreation activities any time of the year. 3400 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria. (805) 937-8521. <http://www.smvymca.org/>

MISSIONS

La Purisima Mission Historic State Park

Of the 21 Franciscan Missions in California, this is one of the three preserved within the State Park system. Indeed, all the major buildings have been rebuilt and furnished as they were at the mission's zenith in 1820. Located near Lompoc on Highway 246, 23 miles southwest of Santa Maria. There is an entry fee of \$2.00 per private vehicle; buses are \$20. Tour information: (805) 735-2174. Park information: (805) 733-3713.

<http://www.lapurisimamission.org/>

Mission Santa Inez

Established in 1804 as the 19th California Mission, Santa Ines sits in splendor with handpainted murals by Indian artists as well as priceless works of European art and sculptures. Enjoy the beautiful garden or visit the resting place of Indians and early California settlers of Spanish, German, Irish, and Portuguese descent. Located 38 miles south of Santa Maria. Admission \$3. Children 12 & under are free. (805) 688-4815. <http://missionsantaines.org/>

Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa

Visit the Old Padre Quarter or see such artifacts such as Chumash Indian vessels, religious

vestments and the original mission altar. Located 34 miles north of Santa Maria in San Luis Obispo. Admission is free. (805) 546-6850. <http://www.missionsanluisobispo.org/>

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Hearst Castle

The enchanting hilltop retreat of William Randolph Hearst is one of California's top tourist attractions. Don't miss the large format films playing daily at the new National Geographic Theater. Off Highway 1 in San Simeon. (800) 444-4445. <http://hearstcastle.org/>

Chumash Casino Resort

Las Vegas style thrills including card room, video game lounge or high stakes bingo tables. 35 miles south on Highway 101 to Highway 246 east, Buellton. (800) 728-9997.

<http://www.chumashcasino.com/>

Quicksilver Miniature Horse Ranch

Quicksilver Ranch is located in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley, just 30 miles north of Santa Barbara. Tours are available by appointment only, for 20 people or more. 1555 Alamo Pintado Road, Santa Ynez. (800) 370-4002. <http://qsminis.com/>

Ostrich Land

Home of hundreds of the biggest birds in the world. 610 E. Highway. 246 in Buellton. (805) 686-9696. <http://www.ostrichlandusa.com/>

History of Santa Maria

From: wikipedia.com

The Santa Maria Valley, stretching from the Santa Lucia Mountains toward the Pacific Ocean, was the homeland of the Chumash people for several thousand years. The Native Americans made their homes on the slopes of the surrounding hills among the oaks, on the banks of the Santa Maria River among the sycamores, and along the coast. They had unique plank-built boats, called Tomol, which they used for ocean fishing.

In 1769, the Portolà Expedition passed through the Santa Maria Valley during the first Spanish land exploration up the coast of Las Californias Province. Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa was established just north of the valley in 1772, and Mission La Purísima Concepción was established near present day Lompoc in 1787. Rather than rich soil, white settlers were attracted here by the possibility of free land. In 1821, after the Mexican War of Independence, the mission lands in Santa Maria Valley were made available for private ownership under a Mexican land grant called Rancho Punta de Laguna. At the end of the Mexican War in 1848, California was ceded to the United States.

In the late 19th century, after California gained statehood in 1850, the area's rich soil attracted farmers and other settlers. By the end of the century, the Santa Maria River Valley had become one of the most productive agricultural areas in the state. Agriculture is still a key component of the economy for the city and the entire region.^[10]

Between 1869 and 1874, four of the valley's settlers, Rudolph Cook, John Thornburg, Isaac Fesler (for whom Fesler Jr. High School is named), and Isaac Miller, built their homes near each other at the present corners on Broadway and Main Street. The townsite was recorded in Santa Barbara in 1875. The new town was named Grangerville, then changed to Central City. It became Santa Maria on February 18, 1885, since mail was often being sent by mistake to Central City, Colorado. Santa Maria was chosen from the name Juan Pacifico Ontiveros had given to his property 25 years earlier.

Oil exploration began in 1888, leading to large-scale discoveries at the turn of the 20th century. In 1902, Union Oil discovered the large Orcutt Oil Field in the Solomon Hills south of town, and a number of smaller companies also began pumping oil. Two years later, Union Oil had 22 wells in production. Other significant discoveries followed, including the Lompoc Oil Field in 1903 and the Cat Canyon field in 1908. Over the next 80 years more large oil fields were found, and thousands of oil wells drilled and put into production. Oil development intensified in 1930s, with the discovery of the Santa Maria Valley Oil Field in 1934, right underneath the southern and western parts of the city of Santa Maria, which spurred the City's growth even further. By 1957 there were 1,775 oil wells in operation in the Santa Maria Valley, producing more than \$640 million worth of oil.