



Santa Cruz Walks and Other Attractions

This charming resort town offers miles of magnificent coastline and majestic redwood forests.

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	DIRECTIONS
walks overlooking the ocean			
West Cliff Drive	Begins at Santa Cruz Pier; 10-min walk from TriYoga (TY) Center	Paved walking path that follows coastal cliffs for 2.5 miles from Santa Cruz Pier to Natural Bridges State Park. Excellent opportunity to view ocean wildlife, watch surfers, and see spectacular sunsets.	From TY Center, turn left and walk down Washington St toward the ocean. Cross Laurel St and continue on Washington St until it merges with Center St. Follow Center St until it ends at the Santa Cruz Pier. Turn right on to West Cliff Drive.
walks on the beach			
New Brighton State Beach 831-464-6330	1500 Park Ave, Capitola; 10-min drive from Santa Cruz	See the famous cement ship. Day use fee, unless you walk in; open sunrise to sunset	From Santa Cruz, take Hwy 1 south. Exit at Park Ave. Turn right and follow signs for parking.
Santa Cruz Beach	10-min walk from TY Center	Famous mile-long stretch of beach near the Santa Cruz Boardwalk	From TY Center, turn left and walk down Washington St toward ocean until it merges with Center St. Follow Center St until it ends at the beach.
Seacliff Beach	201 State Park Drive, Aptos; 10-min drive from Santa Cruz	This long stretch of sand on Monterey Bay has picnic areas, an interpretive center, and RV camping. Connects with New Brighton State Beach (see above).	From Santa Cruz, take Hwy 1 south; exit at State Park Drive; turn right and follow signs for parking.
state parks			
Big Basin Redwoods State Park 831-338-8860 www.santacruzstateparks.org/parks/bigbasin/	25 miles from Santa Cruz; 21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek	Home to the largest continuous stand of Ancient Coastal Redwoods south of San Francisco. Over 18,000 acres, and over 80 miles of trails. Numerous waterfalls and birdlife.	From Santa Cruz take Hwy 17 north; exit at Mt Hermon and follow to Graham Hill Rd; turn right, go 1 block to light, turn right onto Hwy 9; follow Hwy 9 north to Boulder Creek. Turn left at Hwy 236; continue for approx 10 miles on a winding road to the park gate.
Castle Rock State Park 408-867-2952 santacruzstateparks.org/parks/castlerock/	Approx. 45 min to 1 hour north of TY Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains	3,600 wooded acres along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Many large rock formations. 30 miles of trails offer spectacular views and access to rock climbing.	From Santa Cruz, drive north on Hwy 9 to Hwy 35 (Skyline Dr). Turn right on Hwy 35; the park is 2.5 miles on the right.
Henry Cowell Redwood State Park 831-438-2396 santacruzstateparks.org/parks/henrycowell/ and santacruzstateparks.org/parks/fallcreek/	10–20 min from TY Center, just outside Felton	Main park contains 15 miles of trails on 1,750 acres of old growth redwood forest, Douglas fir, oak, madrone, and a unique stand of Ponderosa pine. Northern unit (Fall Creek area) is 2,390 acres with 20 miles of trails along a creek rich with waterfalls.	From Santa Cruz, take Hwy 9 north. The highway passes through the park. To reach Fall Creek area, continue on Hwy 9 to Felton. Turn left on Empire Grade Rd. Look for Fall Creek sign on the right.
Natural Bridges State Park 831-423-4609 santacruzstateparks.org/parks/natbridges/	10-min drive from TY Center in Santa Cruz	This beach is an excellent vantage point for viewing shore birds, migrating whales, seals and otters. Tidepools offer a glimpse of life beneath the sea. The park's Monarch Grove provides a temporary home for over 100,000 Monarchs each winter. From mid-October through end of February, the Monarchs form a "city in the trees."	Take Swift Ave west from Hwy 1, or follow West Cliff Drive north along the in-town bluffs until it ends at Natural Bridges.
Wilder Ranch State Park 831-423-9703 santacruzstateparks.org/parks/wilder/	15 min outside of Santa Cruz	Approx. 7,000 acres, with 34 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails winding through coastal terraces and valleys. Many mountain meadows and fields offer spectacular coastal views.	From Santa Cruz, follow Hwy 1 north for 2 miles past Western Drive. Parking is on the left.

Santa Cruz Attractions continued

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	DIRECTIONS
local attractions			
17-Mile Drive	45 min from Santa Cruz off Hwy 1 in Carmel	Enjoy this famous 1-hour drive along the rugged shoreline and atop the high cliffs. The drive passes by beautiful homes overlooking the sea.	Take Hwy 1 south to Monterey. Exit Hwy 68 west; follow signs to Hwy 1 private toll entrance.
Big Sur bigsurcalifornia.org	1.5 hrs from Santa Cruz off Hwy 1	View magnificent coastal scenery and high cliffs descending to the blue Pacific. The redwoods create an enchanted forest leading to the beaches below.	Take Hwy 1 south. The Big Sur area begins about 30 minutes south of Carmel.
Capitola Sea Life Tour 831-462-2208	10 min from TY Center; 1400 Wharf Rd, Capitola; Wed–Sun, May–Sept	Take a boat ride off quaint Capitola and see otters, seals, marine birds and dolphins. Observe the migration of Shearwater birds May through July.	Call for launch times and locations. Message changes weekly with details.
Monterey Bay Aquarium 831-648-4888 mbayaq.org	45 min from Santa Cruz; 886 Cannery Row, Monterey	A world-class aquarium. Highlights include Kelp Forest exhibit, Sea Otter exhibit and million-gallon Outer Bay exhibit.	Take Hwy 1 south to Monterey. Exit at Pacific Grove/Del Monte Ave and follow signs to Cannery Row parking and Aquarium.
Mystery Spot 831-423-8897 mysteryspot.com	20 min from Santa Cruz; 465 Mystery Spot Rd	Experience unique variations in gravity, balance, perception, height and light.	From downtown Santa Cruz, turn right onto Water St. Go over bridge to Market St. Turn left onto Market St. Go 2.5 miles and it is on the left. (Market St turns into Branciforte Drive.)
Pacific Avenue/ Downtown Santa Cruz	5-min walk from TY Center	A delightful and eclectic mix of movie theaters, restaurants, street performers and great shopping. A wonderful place to explore.	From TY Center, turn right on Lincoln St and continue for three blocks to Pacific Ave.
Roaring Camp 831-335-4484 roaringcamp.com	20 min from Santa Cruz in Felton	Enjoy the lush forest of redwoods in an open air rail car pulled by an old narrow gauge steam locomotive. Chug up a steep mountain and over high trestles on the 6-mile, hour-long trip through the wooded wonderland. Or enjoy a 1.5-hour train ride with open cars and an antique wooden coach through the redwoods, past the San Lorenzo River and down to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.	Take Ocean St and turn left by Denny's. Follow signs for Graham Hill Rd. Follow winding road into Felton. On the left is Roaring Camp.
Santa Cruz Boardwalk 831-426-7433 beachboardwalk.com	2 miles from intersection of Hwy 1 and Hwy 17; 10-min walk from TY Center	Swimming, surfing, beach volleyball, shopping, dining and more. All within easy walking distance.	Driving: Take Ocean St and follow signs to the beach. Turn right to Boardwalk. (Walking from TY Center: See directions to Santa Cruz Beach.)
outdoor recreation			
Club Ed Surf School 831-469-6664 club-ed.com	Cowell Beach is on right side of Santa Cruz Wharf in front of West Coast Santa Cruz Hotel	Rentals and lessons available in kayaking, sailboarding, body surfing, surfing and boogie boarding. Rent surfboards, wetsuits, beach chairs, umbrellas and volleyballs.	For Wharf, follow directions to Boardwalk (see above).
Kayak Connection 831-479-1121 (Santa Cruz) 831-724-5692 (Moss Landing) kayakconnection.com	413 Lake Ave #4, Santa Cruz Harbor, and 2370 Hwy 1, Moss Landing	Sea kayaking rental and instruction in Santa Cruz and Moss Landing. Many kayaking tours, including Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Bay and Tomales Bay.	From downtown Santa Cruz, take Laurel St to Riverside Dr; follow Riverside until it turns into Murray; follow Murry over bridge across Harbor; turn right onto Lake Ave.
Venture Quest 831-427-2267 or 831-425-8445 kayaksantacruz.com	Kayak Rental Office: #2 Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf; or, in winter, at Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor	Rent a kayak and enjoy a cruise around the the Wharf and Lighthouse. Visit with sea lions and otters while exploring kelp beds and coastline. Classes, sales, rentals and tours, with beginning level 2.5-hour nature tours.	For Wharf, follow directions to Boardwalk (see above).