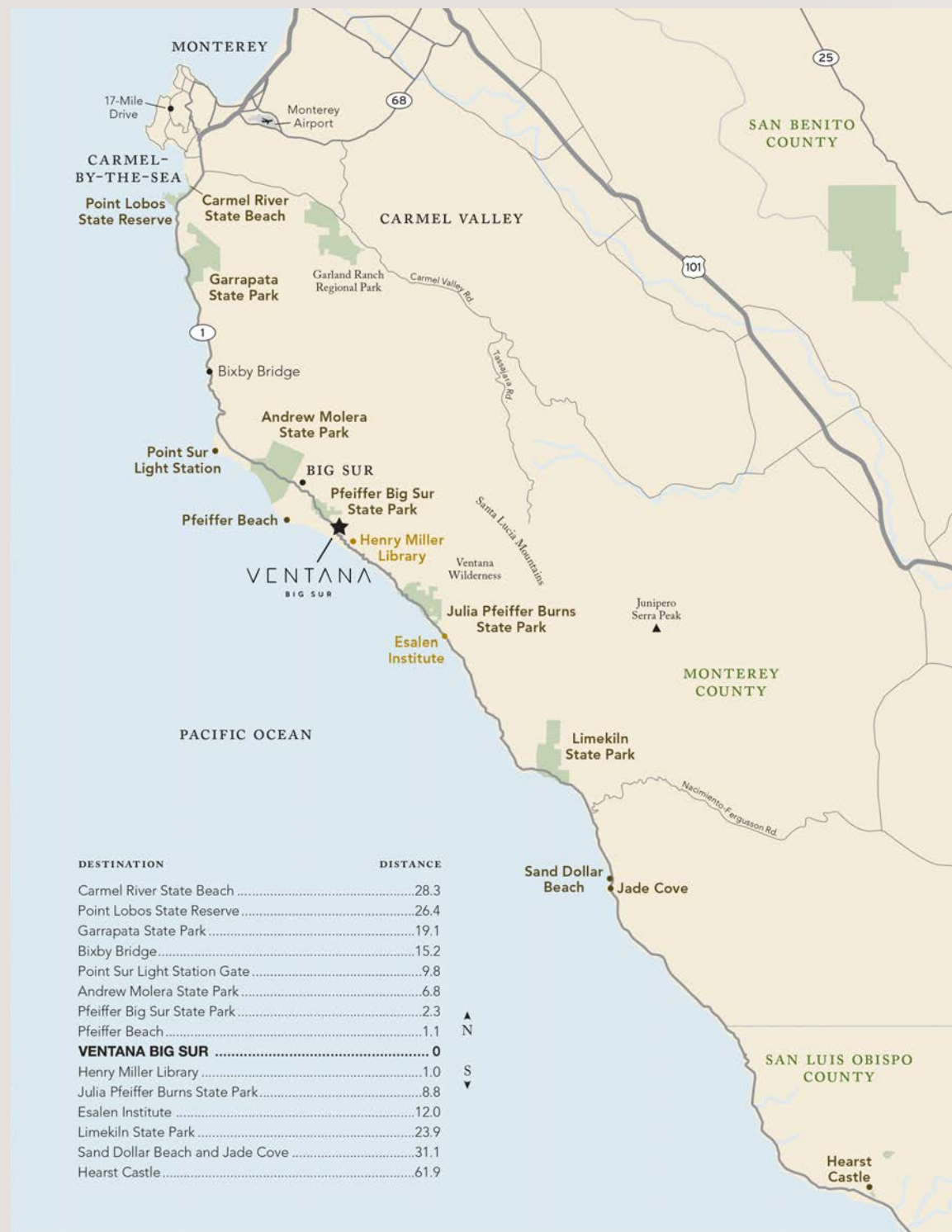


WINDOWS

THE VIEW
FROM VENTANA

Ventana Big Sur, An Alila Resort
48123 Highway 1
Big Sur, CA 93920
/
www.ventanabigsur.com
831.667.2331

VENTANA
BIG SUR
AN ALILA RESORT



FIND THE FUEL
THAT FEEDS
YOUR SOUL

VENTANA BIG SUR

Slip away from the world in a place of extraordinary beauty: Ventana Big Sur, an idyllic getaway in one of the world's most iconic and dramatic regions. Tucked away among 160 acres of ancient redwood forests and rolling meadows, perched on the edge of the continent, Ventana will make you see the world—and even yourself—a little differently.

Accommodations: Our 59 luxurious, rustic and inviting guestrooms and suites are arranged around our property in secluded groupings, offering the utmost in privacy and serenity. Here, you can relax and recharge the way you want to.

Spa Alila: With treatments rooted in both traditional and modern methods, as well as products that meld the healing properties of

both earth and sea, a visit to Spa Alila will leave you with a profound sense of well-being that takes hold deep in your soul.

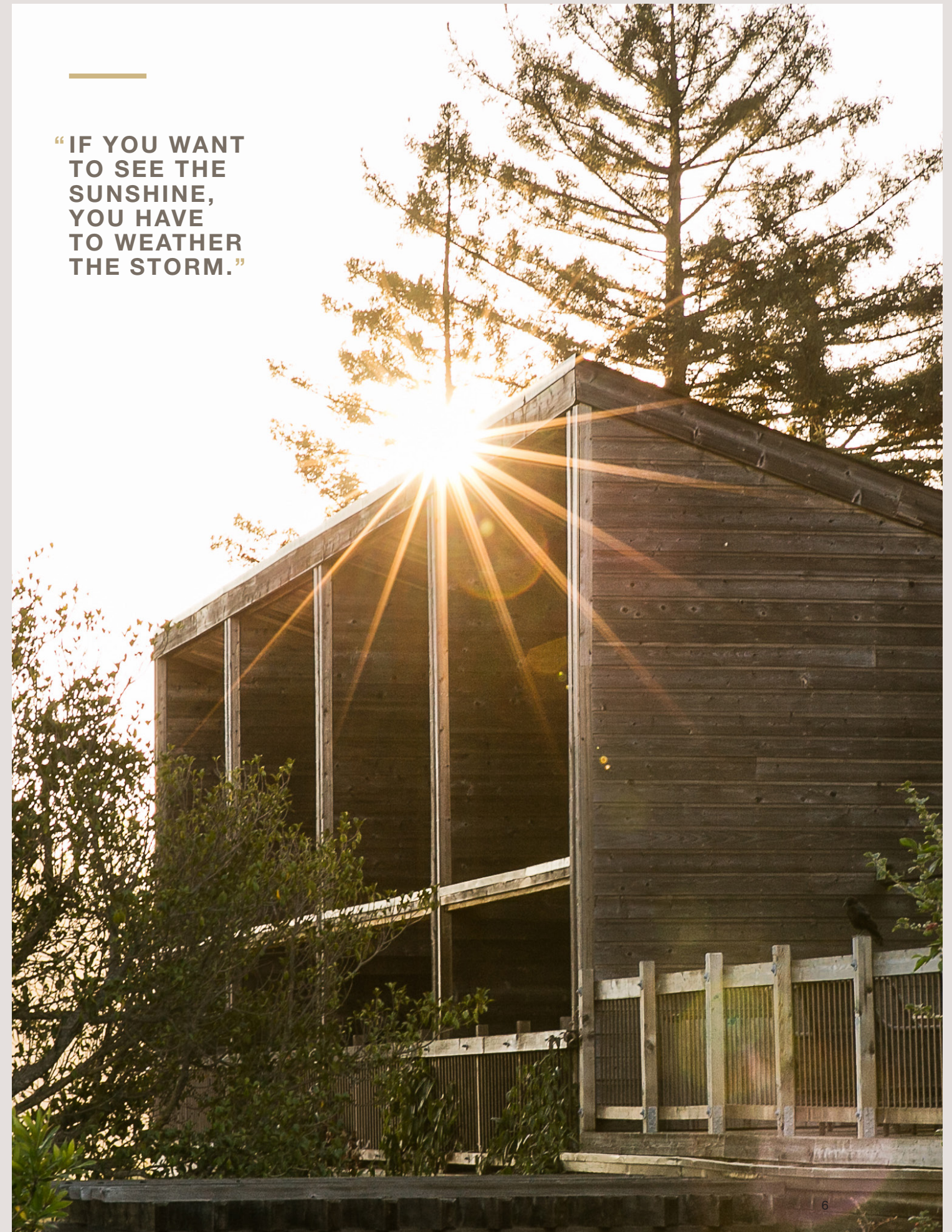
The Sur House: Our signature restaurant offers world-class cuisine and a world-class view, high above the Pacific. With sustainable, local ingredients, a carefully curated 10,000-bottle wine cellar and a patio overlooking the ocean, The Sur House is fine dining the Big Sur way.

Alila Experiences: For centuries, Big Sur has drawn those who seek creative inspiration and personal transformation. Our Alila Experience Program extends a similar invitation to you, with activities designed to help you connect with yourself, your partner and the natural world.

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**“IF YOU WANT
TO SEE THE
SUNSHINE,
YOU HAVE
TO WEATHER
THE STORM.”**



ALILA HOTELS & RESORTS

The opening of Ventana Big Sur marked the North American launch of Alila Hotels & Resorts, a luxury boutique hotel brand voted the No. 4 hotel brand in Travel + Leisure's 2017 World's Best Awards. Named after the Sanskrit word for "surprise," the hallmark of Alila is the combination of innovative design and crafted luxury in unique locations, set apart by an unprecedented level of personalized hospitality, private spaces and bespoke learning journeys.

In addition to Ventana, Alila's portfolio features eco-friendly properties across Asia and the Middle East that blend beautiful design with immersive experiences. Each Alila resort integrates the natural, physical and cultural elements of its setting.

ALILA HOTELS & RESORTS PROPERTIES

UNITED STATES

Ventana Big Sur

INDIA

Alila Diwa Goa

The Diwa Club by Alila

Alila Fort Bishangarh

OMAN

Alila Jabal Akhdar

CHINA

Alila Anji

Alila Yangshuo

INDONESIA

Alila Jakarta

Alila Manggis

Alila Purnama

Alila Seminyak

Studios at Alila Seminyak

Alila Solo

Alila Ubud

Alila Villas Uluwatu

Alila also is dedicated to being responsible members of its host communities and treading lightly on the environment. The company's green efforts extend beyond the operational aspects of resorts to create a positive impact on the community—economically, socially and culturally. This includes employing local people who live in the surrounding areas, developing the local workforce through skills training, using products and services from local suppliers, as well as educating guests on local culture and traditions.



Executive Chef Paul Corsentino honed his craft in kitchens across the country before bringing his talents to Ventana Big Sur.

CHEF PAUL CORSENTINO

A JOURNEY FROM CULINARY CAPITALS TO BIG SUR

Ventana Big Sur Executive Chef Paul Corsentino leads the resort's culinary efforts, creating inventive and unique coastal cuisine using sustainable local ingredients. He takes pride in working closely with Big Sur's fishermen, foragers and farmers to craft dishes that showcase the vibrant, seasonal bounty of California's Central Coast.

Chef Corsentino's wide-ranging background includes stops in some of America's culinary capitals. The sophistication of New York, the farm-to-fork freshness of San Francisco, the spicy

Cajun flavors of New Orleans and the neighborhood feel of Chicago—all of it blends perfectly at The Sur House, Ventana Big Sur's signature restaurant.

Before coming to Big Sur, Corsentino served as executive chef of The National at The Benjamin Hotel in New York. There, celebrated chef and restaurateur Geoffrey Zakarian mentored him in the philosophies and techniques behind his timeless, upscale cuisine. Corsentino appeared with Zakarian on Food Network's "Iron Chef America" and "The Next Iron Chef, Super Chefs."

A native of Illinois and graduate of the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, Corsentino's impressive resume also includes work at nationally acclaimed restaurants such as MK in Chicago and Bouley, Rouge Tomate and Dumont in New York.

COASTAL CUISINE

FRESH, LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE



You hear the phrase “coastal cuisine” a lot around this region—but what does it really mean? One might think it’s heavily reliant on seafood, or that it only applies to dishes with ingredients from the sea. In reality, however, it’s a style that features fresh, local ingredients from both the ocean and land. It’s typically light, with bright flavors, and never complicated just for the sake of being complicated.

According to Wikipedia, Helen Evans Brown was one of the first California proponents of using fresh, local ingredients, such as fruits and spices that could be found nearby instead of inferior substitutes from the store. Locally caught seafood was a staple in her dishes as well, and her 1952 book, “Helen Brown’s West Coast Cook Book,” was an instant classic, attracting acclaim from James Beard and other world-renowned chefs.

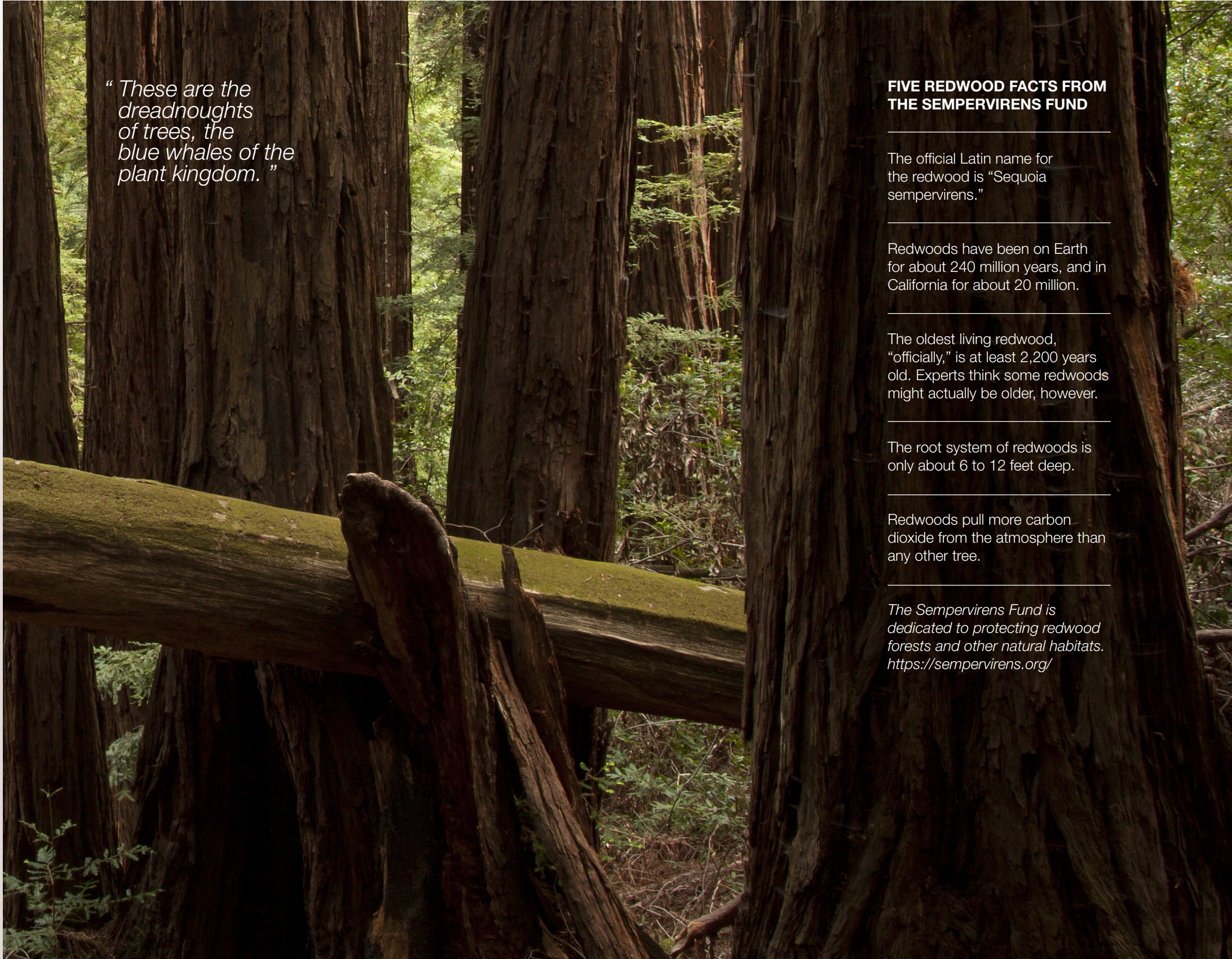
Of course, the abundance of the California coast makes high-quality local ingredients much more accessible here than in some other locations. As Ventana Big Sur Executive Chef Paul Corsentino put it in a 2014 interview, “It’s any chef’s dream to work in California—to really cook in the seasons as much as possible, truly locally and sustainably.”

THE MAJESTIC REDWOOD

A TALL, STRONG SURVIVOR

Redwoods—a species featuring the largest, tallest trees in the world—grow only in a very narrow stretch of land, about 500 miles from the southwestern corner of Oregon all the way down through Big Sur.

These incredible creations can reach more than 350 feet in height, and live for 2,000 years. They grow quickly, as much as 100 feet in their first 50 years, and they live so long because they are naturally resistant to fire, rot and insects. Quite simply, they're a testament to the power and beauty of nature.



*“These are the
dreadnoughts
of trees, the
blue whales of the
plant kingdom.”*

FIVE REDWOOD FACTS FROM THE SEMPERVIRENS FUND

The official Latin name for the redwood is “*Sequoia sempervirens*.”

Redwoods have been on Earth for about 240 million years, and in California for about 20 million.

The oldest living redwood, “officially,” is at least 2,200 years old. Experts think some redwoods might actually be older, however.

The root system of redwoods is only about 6 to 12 feet deep.

Redwoods pull more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than any other tree.

The Sempervirens Fund is dedicated to protecting redwood forests and other natural habitats. <https://sempervirens.org/>

FINE DINING NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

“Awe-inspiring” is a phrase often used even when it isn’t deserved.

As you can see, this is not one of those instances.

The Sur House Terrace is one of the most stunning settings to enjoy a meal—or even just a drink and the sunset—in all of California (and perhaps even the world). With panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Big Sur’s rugged coastline and the surrounding redwood forests,

it’s a place that can quite accurately be described as “jaw-dropping.”

Imagine a romantic dinner for two under the stars, with the waves crashing below. Beginning your day with breakfast in the cool ocean breeze. Or enjoying a mid-day break under the warming sun.

When you combine a view this incredible with the delightful, inventive coastal cuisine of The Sur House, whatever you decide becomes the perfect choice.

Social House is the “heart” of Ventana Big Sur, a place for guests to relax and connect.

SOCIAL HOUSE — VENTANA BIG SUR’S ‘LIVING ROOM’

Every home has a heart, a place for people to gather and connect. At Ventana Big Sur, our “living room,” so to speak, is Social House—a hub for our guests to mingle with fellow travelers, meet our artisans, schedule activities, and above all, feel like part of the Ventana family.

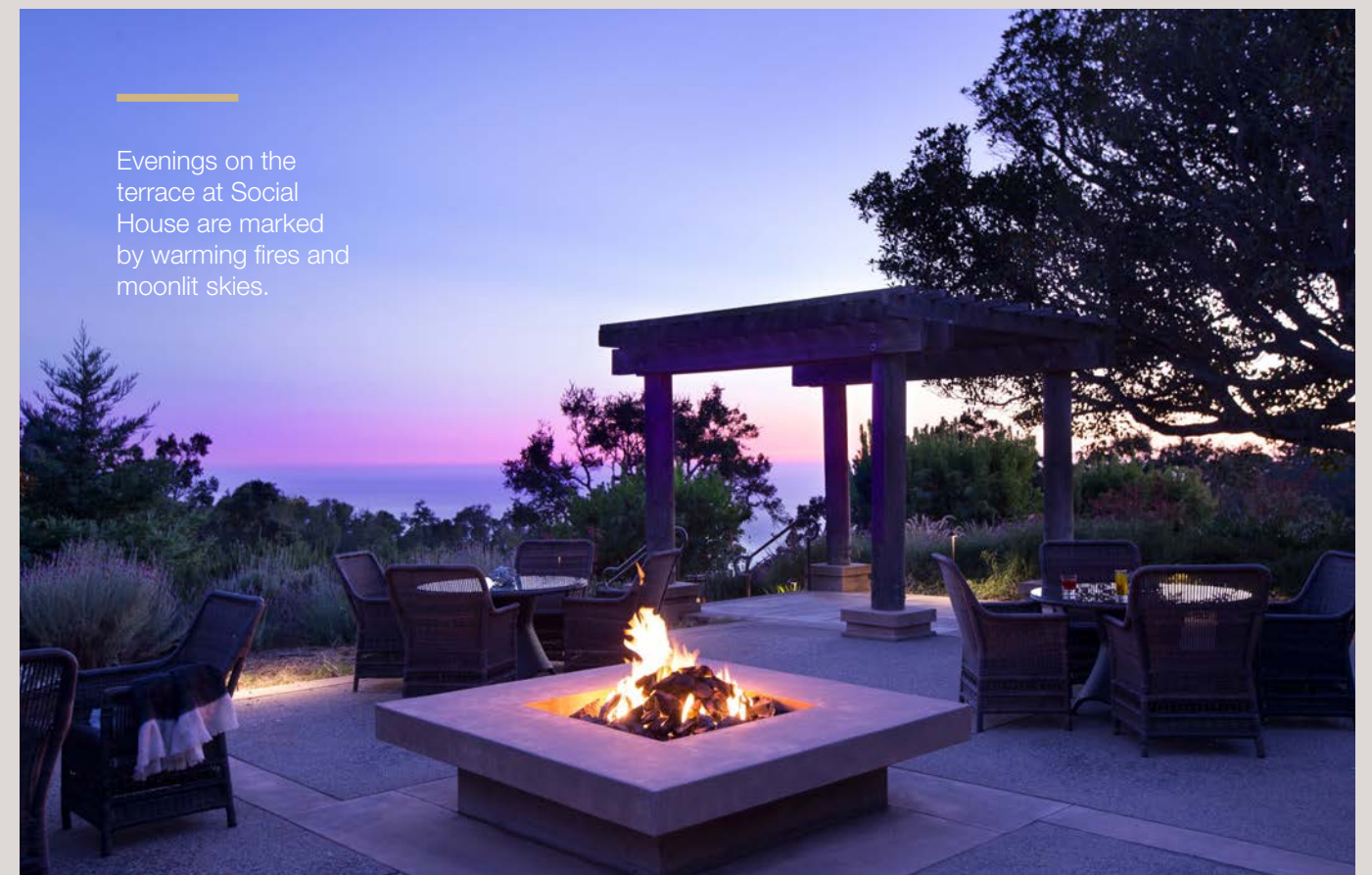
With three distinct lifestyle spaces, there’s always something interesting happening at Social House. The Library & Music Room features plush leather chairs for you to sit back, sip a beverage and relax with a

book—or flip through our vintage record collection. You can shoot pool and play classic board games in the adjacent Game Room, or take a seat at the communal table in the Bar Room to enjoy coffee and juice in the mornings, and complimentary wine tastings later in the day.

While you’re here, be sure to let our Guest Services team know how we can make your stay better. You can learn more about workshops and activities, have us make reservations for you, even help plan an



exciting itinerary for your stay. Simply walk on over from your guestroom, email ventanaconciierge@ventanabigsur.com or call 831.667.2331, extension 422.



WORKING TO PRESERVE BIG SUR'S ICONIC LANDSCAPE

At Ventana Big Sur, we understand that we are but a small part of this incredible setting, and that we have a responsibility—to both Big Sur and the world—to minimize our environmental impact. That's why sustainability is inherent in everything we do, from our property-wide recycling programs to our use of native landscaping.

Here are just a few of our green-friendly initiatives and policies:

- ◆ Electric-vehicle charging stations
- ◆ Membership in the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program, which provides guidelines on buying and serving seafood from sustainable sources
- ◆ Use of local, sustainably sourced organic vegetables, fruit and meat whenever possible
- ◆ Drought-tolerant and/or native landscaping
- ◆ 100% recycled water used for irrigation
- ◆ On-property housing provided for more than 40 employees, helping to reduce traffic and vehicle emissions
- ◆ Non-toxic and environmentally friendly cleaning products
- ◆ Select furniture made from reclaimed wood from the Ventana property and surrounding area
- ◆ Waste water recycling through a geo-flow subterranean drip system
- ◆ LED lighting and exit signs



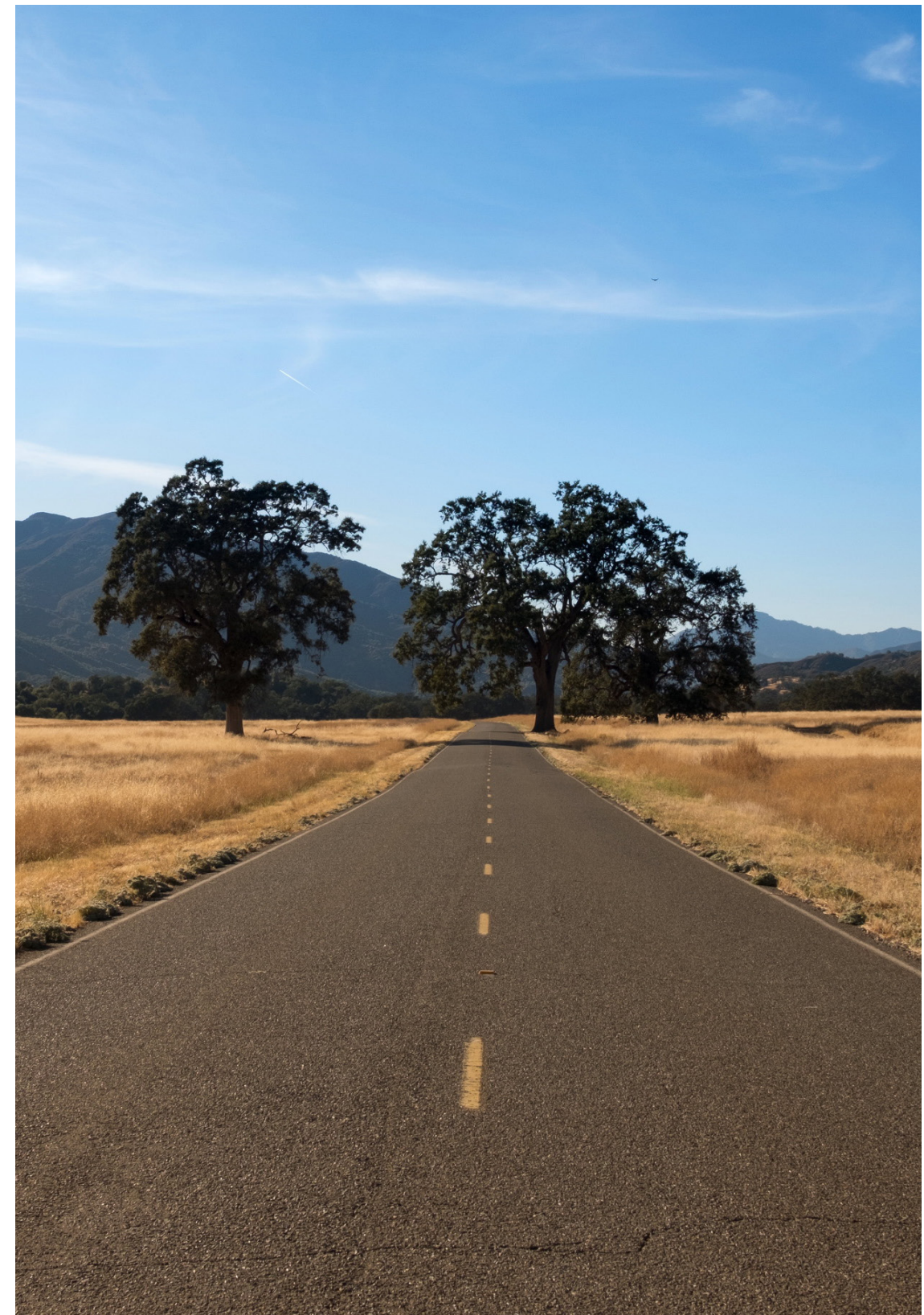
BOUNCING BACK AFTER A MASSIVE LANDSLIDE

Between October 2016 and April 2017, Big Sur had one of its rainiest seasons ever, and all that moisture led to a series of landslides—including the Mud Creek Slide in May, which covered Highway 1 with more than a million tons of rock and dirt.

How much is that? Well, the Mud Creek Slide created 13 acres of new coastline, according to experts.

Thanks to this Highway 1 blockage, along with the earlier failure of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, getting around Big Sur in spots has been a bit of a challenge. We're used to this kind of thing, though. Smaller slides are common in Big Sur, and in 1983, another slide buried the highway near Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

On the bright side, while Ventana was inaccessible to guests, we used that time to complete our multimillion-dollar re-imagination and transformation to Ventana Big Sur. We're back, and better than ever!



**A RICH AND
STORIED REGION**

BIG SUR HISTORY

Geographically speaking, “Big Sur” denotes a 90-mile stretch between Carmel to the north and San Simeon to the south. There is no downtown—only miles of staggeringly beautiful coastline, ocean cliffs, steep ridges, jagged peaks, deep gorges, flowing rivers and a population of approximately 1,000 residents.

From its beginnings as an unmapped expanse to its more recent history as a hippie hideaway, Big Sur

has embodied the American experience: wild, free and unrestrained.

EARLY INHABITANTS

Once called “el pais grande del sur” by Spanish settlers, “the Big Country of the South” referred to the unexplored wilderness along the coast south of Monterey. Thousands of Native Americans lived in the Big Sur region prior to the arrival of Spanish explorers in the 16th and 17th centuries. They belonged to three separate

coastal tribes, each with different languages, religious beliefs and cultures.

The Ohlone, also known as the Costanoans, spanned from San Francisco to Point Sur. The Esselen occupied the area between Point Sur and Big Creek and inland to the upper Carmel River and Arroyo Seco watersheds. The Salinan lived from Big Creek to San Carpoforo Creek. The three tribes were mainly hunter-gatherers, relying on a

diet of acorns as well as fish from the ocean and nearby rivers.

SPANISH ROOTS

Even though Spanish expeditions of California started with Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, and continued with Sebastian Vizcaino’s visits to Carmel and Monterey in 1602, Big Sur remained protected from the Spanish until Gaspar de Portola’s second expedition in 1770. It was then that Father Junipero Serra established

Mission San Carlos at present-day Carmel River State Beach, along with two other missions east of the Santa Lucia range, Mission San Antonio in the San Antonio Valley and Soledad in the Salinas Valley. The Spanish brought Ohlones, Esselens and Salinans into the missions, and drastically altered native life in the region.

When Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, California became a

Mexican state, with Monterey remaining the state capital. The vast mission lands were secularized and divided into livestock “ranchos.” Any law-abiding Mexican Catholic was now eligible to receive land grants. These ranchos still shape land-use patterns around Big Sur: Andrew Molera, Garrapata and Point Lobos State Parks, and the lands of San Antonio and Nacimiento Reservoirs, were carved out from larger ranchos.



After years of tension between Mexican ranch owners (or “Californios,” as they called themselves) and American pioneers migrating west through the Sierra Nevada, conflict erupted at the outset of the Mexican War. In 1846, the United States seized California. In 1849, gold was discovered at the foothills of the Sierra. On September 9, 1850, California statehood was declared, making it the 31st state in the nation.

Two land grants spanned Big Sur—the 8,984-acre Rancho El Sur, owned by Juan Bautista Alvarado, and the 8,876-acre Rancho San Jose y Sur Chiquito. The 1862 Homestead Act successfully enticed settlers to the Arroyo Seco and Big Sur valleys. Early Homesteaders were self-sufficient; they ran cattle and horses, hunted, made cheese, kept bees, planted orchards and raised poultry, hay and vegetables. They married into already-existing Indian and Spanish coastal families, thus mixing the heritage of the old settlers. Their names and legacies are still present down the coast: Soberanes, Molera, Cooper, Pfeiffer, Castro, Burns and Gamboa.

THE POST LEGACY

Among Big Sur’s early pioneers, one of the most remarkable is William Post. In 1848, 13-year-old Bill Post arrived in Monterey. A native of Connecticut, he was the son of a retired sea captain, and was himself in love with the sea. Bill had sailed the Atlantic as a cabin boy on The Brooklyn before he

came ashore at Magdalena Bay with a friend. The next morning, the two lads found their vessel gone, so they walked barefoot to La Paz, where they got onto The Mizzen Top, a government ship heading to Yerba Buena (San Francisco). The boys disembarked at Monterey. Penniless, Bill fished in the bay with an old fisherman, trading his fish in town for a dollar. In 1849, the gold rush started and Bill followed everyone to Sacramento. However, when he returned to Monterey, Post was just as poor as when he had left.

In 1858, he married Anselmo Onesimo, a Rumsen Indian girl from the Carmel Valley. Together, they found a piece of land at Soberanes Creek and decided to head to Big Sur. On March 1, 1859, Charles Francis Post was born in the cabin his father had just finished building. The Posts then had Joseph W. Post in 1862, and later two daughters, Mary and Ellen. Today, the Post legacy is integral to Big Sur. The Post House, located at the highway turnoff to Ventana, still remains. The Post Ranch Inn, across on Highway 1, is built on Post land.

BEATNIKS AND HIPPIES

In the early 1900s, the region more formally adopted its current identity when residents petitioned the government to officially name the post office “Big Sur.” Then, in 1937, Highway 1 brought the 20th century to the region.

Built by convict laborers, the highway paved the way for

Big Sur’s modern culture of artists, beats, hippies, tourists and the wealthy. Henry Miller moved to Big Sur in 1944, and his 1958 “Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch” inspired a generation of Beat writers to follow in his footsteps. The Hippies followed the Beatniks in the 1960s, thus contributing to Big Sur’s bohemian counterculture. While the 1960s are no longer, the culture of New Age Mysticism and experimental psychotherapy still thrives to make Big Sur an all-American haven of modern eclectic nature-attuned spirituality.

BIG SUR TODAY

It wasn’t until the early 1950s that electricity arrived in Big Sur, and it still doesn’t extend to some of the more remote areas. Big Sur’s 300 square miles are predominantly comprised of state parks, national forests and unincorporated public land. The region is sparsely populated with about 1,000 inhabitants who are an eclectic mix of descendants of the original settler and rancher families, visitors who never left, wealthy homeowners, artists looking for inspiration and writers seeking tranquility.

The mountainous terrain, limited property available for development and environmentally conscious residents have kept the “Big River to the South” predominantly unspoiled—allowing it to remain a romantic, frontier mystique.

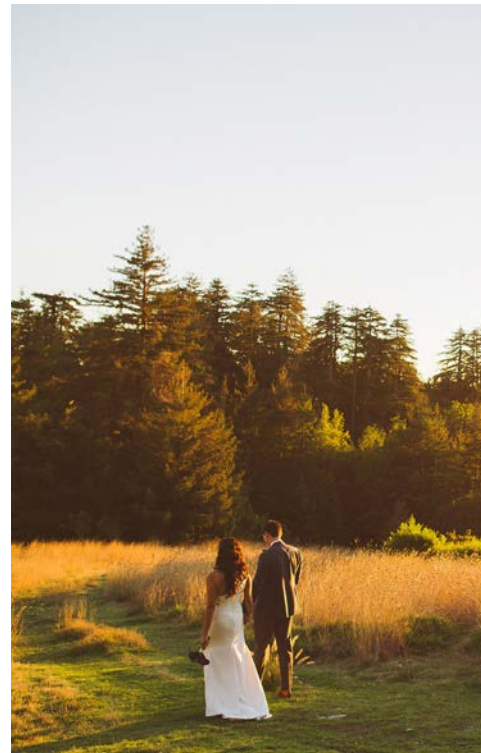
What will you do at Social House?
Flip through the record collection?
Shoot pool with a fellow traveler?
Enjoy a glass of wine? ("All of the
above" is an acceptable answer.)

WEDDINGS AT VENTANA

An occasion as momentous as a wedding deserves a spectacular setting—one where you can exchange your vows while overlooking the canyons and forest, or encircled by majestic redwoods. Where you can enjoy a sunset reception or dinner beneath a canopied arbor, with waves crashing below. And then dance the night away under the stars to celebrate your new adventure together.

Ventana Big Sur is the ultimate place to say “I do.” With 12,000 square feet of unique indoor and outdoor spaces, you’re sure to find the perfect backdrop for your dream wedding—whether you’re expecting 20 or 200 guests. From the intimate Redwood Cathedral to the expansive Ocean Meadow Lawn, the splendor of Big Sur will be on full display.

After the ceremony, the inventive coastal cuisine of Executive Chef Paul Corsentino awaits. And with our expert planning assistance, you’ll be free to focus on what matters most—you, your partner and the journey ahead.



THE ALILA EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

For many, Big Sur is more than a place to relax and enjoy the scenery—it’s a place for exploration and personal discovery. The Alila Experience Program, a collection of unique creative activities, was created for those seeking inspiration, transformation and inner well-being.

Each workshop in the program, from painting and drawing to meditation and hypnotherapy, is designed to help you develop a deeper connection to yourself, your partner and the natural world. Workshops are focused on couples, but can be adapted to group and/or single participants. Options include:

Photography Hike Workshop

Falconry Experience

Flora & Fauna of Big Sur

Sip Like a Sommelier

Coastal Cuisine with Chef Paul

Slip Into Sleep Wellness

To see the full menu of experiences, and find the one that resonates most with you, please visit www.ventanabigsur.com/activities/alila-experiences. For reservations or more information, please contact The Glass House Gallery at Ventana Big Sur at 800.628.6500, or email activities@ventanabigsur.com.

THE HEALING POWER OF EARTH AND SEA

People have been visiting Big Sur for centuries, both for its majestic setting and the notion that it is a sacred, curative site. Spa Alila at Ventana Big Sur provides a sensory experience designed to enhance that feeling of inner peace and connection.

With treatments rooted in both traditional and modern methods from around the world, along with products that meld the healing properties of earth and sea, a visit to Spa Alila will leave you with a profound sense of well-being.

Our menu includes skin care, body treatments and massage and energy work. Couples can opt for special treatments in our new outdoor cabanas, which provide a uniquely private spot for relaxation and rejuvenation. Many treatments also are available in guestrooms.

To see the full Spa Alila menu, please visit www.ventanabigsur.com/spa/treatment-menu.

GUIDE TO BIG SUR

LANDMARKS

Some say the best part of visiting Big Sur is the option to do nothing at all, while others come here precisely to expand their horizons. With endless opportunities for adventure, art, nature and culture, it's impossible to be bored in Big Sur.

Note: Before visiting state parks and other public lands, please check www.parks.ca.gov for current information on closures due to wildfires, landslides and other natural events.



CARMEL RIVER STATE BEACH

Looking for a moment with the ocean on your way down from Carmel? This easily accessible beach is the perfect way to start your journey into Big Sur. For the Rumsien (an Ohlone tribe), Carmel River was the center of the world. The river was baptized "Rio del Carmelo" by Sebastian Vizcaino in 1602. Later, Father Junipero Serra chose it for his mission headquarters.

Locals divide the beach's 1.5 miles of shoreline into three sections. Carmel River State Beach is located north of the river mouth. During the dry season, a sandbar blocks the river channel and you can walk all along the park. During the rainy season, however, this northern section is broken off from the southern beaches. Middle Beach spans from the Carmel River to a rocky granite headland to the south. A crucifix marks the highest point in the park. This modern cross

commemorates an original one that was once placed by Portola as a ship landmark.

The easiest way to access this section of the beach is through a pedestrian gate on Ribera Road in the Carmel Meadows subdivision. The southernmost stretch of coast, bordering Point Lobos State Reserve, is named Monastery Beach or San Jose Creek Beach. There is ample parking on the shoulder of Highway 1.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 28 miles. Parking at the beach entrance is on the west side of the highway.

INFO: 831.649.2836; parks.ca.gov

BEST FOR FIRST-TIME VISITORS

- Point Lobos State Reserve
- Andrew Molera State Park
- Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park
- Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park

BEST VIEWS

- Garrapata State Park
- Pfeiffer Beach
- Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park

HIDDEN TREASURES

- Garrapata State Park
- Limekiln State Park
- Jade Cove at Sand Dollar Beach

BEST HIKES

- Pfeiffer Falls Trail, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park
- Headlands Trail, Andrew Molera State Park
- Coast Ridge Road
- Pfeiffer Ridge Loop, Andrew Molera State Park

GREAT FOR A PICNIC

- Point Lobos State Reserve
- Carmel River State Beach
- Andrew Molera Beach
- Pfeiffer Beach

POINT LOBOS STATE RESERVE

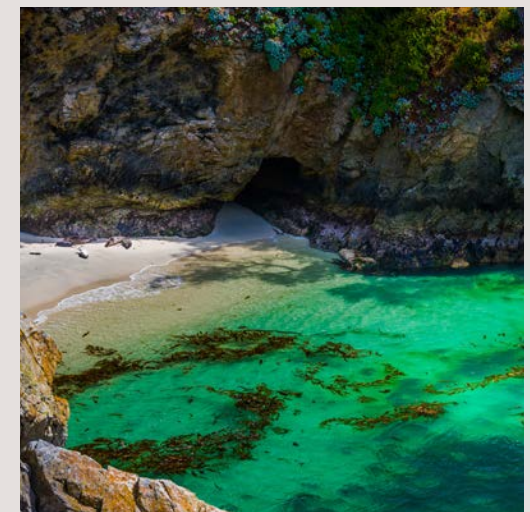
Called "the greatest meeting of land and water in the world" by landscape artist Francis McComas, Point Lobos has long attracted artists, writers and nature lovers with its sheltered coves, shallow tide pools and wind-sculpted Monterey pine and old-growth cypress trees. The park's 1,250 acres encompass 700 underwater acres and 550 acres of forest and shoreline. Sea otters, harbor seals and sea lions frolic in the kelp beds and sun themselves on sandy beaches.

Point Lobos has also played a significant role for Native Americans, Chinese fisherman, Japanese abalone harvesters and Portuguese whalers. Point Lobos is a great place to dive or snorkel; however, diving is restricted to Bluefish Cove and Whalers Cove. You can otherwise stroll down any of the park's 14 trails, soak in nature, take photos, paint or picnic in designated areas.

HOURS: 8 a.m. until 30 minutes after sunset

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 26 miles. Clearly marked, the entrance is on the west side of the highway. Bicycles are restricted to paved roads.

INFO: 831.624.4909; www.pointlobos.org





GARRAPATA STATE PARK

Garrapata is one of Big Sur’s hidden treasures. While the park is not really hidden (everyone driving down Highway 1 goes through the park), Garrapata, situated on 2,879 coastal acres, has no official entrance—but many gates with understated signs note trailheads on both sides of the highway. From steep, mountainous slopes to redwood-shaded creek crossings to gentle paths winding along coastal bluffs, Garrapata offers something for everyone.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 19 miles. The park is located on the west side of the highway. There is no official entrance. Use any of the turnouts to park and access trails. To access Garrapata State Beach, use gates 17-19. To access Soberanes Point, use gates 8-10. The park gets crowded quickly during the day, so it’s best to arrive early. Bicycles are allowed only on Rocky Ridge Trail.

INFO: 831.624.4909; www.parks.ca.gov

POINT SUR LIGHT STATION

The Point Sur Light Station was built in 1889 to provide light warning to ships navigating the Big Sur coast. The lighthouse rises 270 feet above a volcanic rock located at the mouth of the Little Sur River. During the 1960s, the U.S. Coast Guard began automating light houses. Just a short time later, in 1974, the last keeper left the Point Sur Light Station.

HOURS: Except for guided tours, the park is closed to the public. Three-hour tours take place on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and

on Sundays at 10 a.m. From April through October, tours are added on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. During July and August, additional tours take place on Thursdays at 10 a.m. A few select Moonlight Tours are available (consult website for dates). Tickets are first come, first served, so be sure to arrive early.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 10 miles. The Point Sur State Historic Park is located on the west side of the highway.

INFO: 831.625.4419; www.pointsur.org

ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK

With an area of 4,766 acres, Andrew Molera is Big Sur's largest state park. Originally part of a Mexican land grant known as Rancho El Sur, this park was the property of Juan Bautista Alvarado. Andrew Molera was the grandson of Juan Bautista Rogers Cooper, a Monterey sea captain and merchant who bought the land from Alvarado. In 1965, Molera's daughter donated the land to the park system in his name.

The park boasts a walk-in campground and 20 miles of trails that give hikers access to the Big Sur River mouth and estuary, the driftwood-strewn Molera Beach, and spectacular views from wind-swept coastal bluffs and inland mountain slopes. The Ventana Wilderness Society operates The Big Sur Ornithology Lab there, a research, habitat restoration and education center focusing

on California condors, bald eagles and migratory songbirds. And Molera Horseback Tours offers guided trail rides— contact them at 831.625.5486 or visit www.molerahorsebacktours.com.

.....
HOURS: Sunrise to sunset

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 7 miles. The entrance is at the junction of the highway and Old Coast Road on the west side. Biking is permitted on Ridge, Beach, Trail Camp and Creamery Meadow trails.

INFO: 831.667.2315; www.parks.ca.gov



PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK

Big Sur's oldest, most developed and most popular state park, Pfeiffer Big Sur stretches more than a mile inland, often providing an escape from coastal summer fog. This is an excellent place for an easy redwood forest hike, a demanding climb up Mount Manuel, a couples' picnic, or a dip in the Carmel River or one of Big Sur's natural swimming holes.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 2.3 miles. The entrance is on the east side of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2315; www.parks.ca.gov

PFEIFFER BEACH

Pfeiffer Beach is one of the most picturesque and most easily accessible beaches in Big Sur. Just one mile away from Ventana, it's the perfect spur-of-the-moment sunset experience. The stretch of purple sand is partly shielded from the ocean by rocks and sea stacks. A cave through one of the largest rock formations offers a spectacular way to see the golden reflection of sunset light in contrast with

the blue Pacific Ocean. Pfeiffer Beach is part of Los Padres National Forest.

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DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 1.1 miles. Turn off at Sycamore Canyon Road (west side of the highway) to access the beach.

JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK

For a variety of hikes with breathtaking views as a reward, Julia Pfeiffer would highly recommend this park—a place she frequented herself. The Pfeiffers, who arrived here in 1869 with one-year-old Julia, were among the first white settlers in Big Sur. This state park combines a dramatic coastline with steep forested mountainsides, all within just 3.75 square miles. The banks of McWay Creek provide a perfect picnic spot. The wheelchair-accessible Waterfall Trail offers a viewpoint overlooking spectacular McWay Falls.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 8.8 miles. The entrance is on the east of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2315; www.parks.ca.gov



SAND DOLLAR BEACH AND JADE COVE

Sand Dollar Beach is the longest easily accessible beach along the Big Sur Coast. Surfing, exploring and fishing are within walking distance at Plaskett Creek campground. The beach is also a designated hang-glider site and features a picnic area and bathrooms. Follow the nearby path on Highway 1 to Jade Cove, where you can rock-hound in search of “stones of heaven,” as the Chinese call them,

which range in color from light turquoise to deep emerald green.

.....
Directions: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 31.1 miles. The beach entrance is on the west side of the highway.



LIMEKILN STATE PARK

Pull off the highway and experience the essence of Big Sur at Limekiln, where you can easily access a rocky Pacific beach and an epic waterfall. It is easy to overlook this 716-acre park off Highway 1, but Limekiln is the perfect place to stretch your legs on a long drive down the coast.

HOURS: 8 a.m. to sunset

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 24 miles. The entrance is located on the east side of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2315; parks.ca.gov

HEARST CASTLE AND HEARST MEMORIAL STATE BEACH

Built by media tycoon William Randolph Hearst and architect Julia Morgan, Hearst Castle (or “La Casa Grande,” as Hearst called it) boasts 115 lavish rooms—yet it remains unfinished after 30 years of construction starting in 1919. Hearst Castle is open for tours daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Four daytime tours and one evening tour are available. The first tour starts at 8:20 a.m. and the last daytime tour starts at 3:20 p.m. The evening tour starting time varies according to the time of sunset. Directly across from Hearst Castle on the west side of Highway 1 is the entrance to Hearst Memorial State Beach, a sandy cove once used as the ocean-front playground for Hearst, his family and friends.

.....
HOURS: Tour hours vary. Reservations are required to guarantee the tour date and time desired.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 70 miles. Hearst Castle sits on a hill on the east side of the highway, and the beach entrance is on the west side of the highway.

INFO: 800.444.4445; www.hearstcastle.org



HIKES

Whether you're looking for an easy stroll or a serious challenge, the geographic diversity of California's Central Coast makes it an ideal place to explore on foot. From secluded beaches to majestic mountains to verdant forests, the landscape surrounding Big Sur offers a wide variety of unforgettable hiking experiences.

Note: Before visiting state parks and other public lands, please check www.parks.ca.gov for current information on closures due to wildfires, landslides and other natural events.



| RATINGS | RECOMMENDED ITEMS | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Easy | Sunblock | Hat | Extra layers of clothing |
| Medium | Insect repellent | Sunglasses | Water (1/2 liter per hour) |
| Hard | Chapstick | Snacks or a picnic | Sturdy, closed-toe shoes |

TRAIL INFORMATION

We provide photocopies of park maps, the Monterey County Walkabout map, and the El Sur Grande newspaper. For updated information on trail closures, call Big Sur Station at 831.667.2315.

VENTANA HIKES

VENTANA PROPERTY WALK

RATING: EASY | LENGTH: VARIES

The best way to start any day at Ventana! Every morning at 10, our Ventana guide leads a one-hour walk around the property. Guests learn about the history of the property, Big Sur and the flora and fauna native to the area. Wildlife viewing may include California condors, eagles, red-tailed hawks and a myriad of other birds. Trees and plants include California redwoods, bay laurel, rosemary, dalmatian sage, chaparral and pride of Madeira. During migration season (December/January and April/May), whales often can be spotted from several vantage points on the property.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the lobby at 10 a.m. The loop hike returns to the lobby at 11 a.m.

BIG SUR GUIDES AND HIKING

RATING: VARIES | LENGTH: VARIES

To see Big Sur through the best local guides, contact Ventana's reception desk to reserve a hike with Big Sur Guides and Hiking. For more than 40 years, Big Sur Guides has been leading hikes in Big Sur. Trails vary depending on weather conditions and participants' skill levels. A picnic option is offered on all hikes. For more information and the current fee for Big Sur Guides hikes, please inquire at the Ventana reception desk, visit www.bigsurguides.com, or call 831.594.1742.

DIRECTIONS: Please meet at Ventana's Social House for all hikes, including the daily group hike at 11:20 am.

NORTH COAST RIDGE ROAD

RATING: MODERATE | LENGTH: 5 MILES

Start the hike on the Ventana Big Sur path leading to the Library. The path becomes North Coast Ridge Road. Continue past the Library, and the path becomes Cone Peak Road and takes you above and around the Ventana Campground. On a clear day, you'll enjoy epic views of Ventana Big Sur, Post Ranch and the Point Sur Lighthouse.

HELPFUL TIPS

Let a family member, friend or the front desk know your expected return time for a long excursion.

Plan ahead so your hike is complete before darkness falls.

Don't park your vehicle directly beneath cliffs or steep slopes, as rocks shift frequently and may damage your car.

Lock your car and put valuables out of plain view.

Put your car keys in a zippered pocket.

Stay on the trail.

Know what poison oak looks like and take measures to avoid it.

Be sure you have correctly identified berries, nuts or mushrooms before eating them.

Brush your clothes off if you have been in tall grass or deep brush to remove ticks.

Avoid fording streams deeper than knee deep.

Light fires in designated areas only.

Extinguish cigarettes completely before disposal.

OUTDOOR ETHICS

Don't feed or attempt to closely approach wildlife.

Leave tide pool organisms undisturbed.

Leave wildflowers be so they can make seed and more flowers.

If you must "use the bushes," do so at least 150 feet away from streams; bury what you leave behind.

BIG SUR HIKES

CYPRESS GROVE TRAIL

RATING: EASY | LENGTH: 1 MILE

This short hike takes you around Allan Memorial Grove, one of the last two remaining areas with native Monterey Cypress trees left in the world. These trees are intriguing pieces of the natural ecosystem, with low, crooked branches, and bright orange lichens covering their roots. Several vista points along the way offer jaw-dropping views of the Pacific Ocean, Monterey Bay and Pebble Beach, accompanied by the sound of seals and sea lions barking on nearby Sea Lion Point.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Highway 1 for 27 miles. Enter the Point Lobos State Reserve on the west side of the highway. Park at the Sea Lion Parking Area.

SOUTH SHORE, BIRD ISLAND, SOUTH PLATEAU AND PINE RIDGE TRAILS

RATING: EASY | LENGTH: 2.6 MILES

Combine four of the most popular trails in the park on this scenic walk along the south-facing shore of Point Lobos. Wide, pebble-strewn beaches and exposed layers of tilted conglomerate sandstone—sculpted by swirling waters and uplifted by tectonic action—tell the geological history of Point Lobos. Easily accessible tide pools (collecting is strictly prohibited) offer you a glimpse into the lives of tiny sea creatures. Gulls, cormorants, oyster catchers, herons and other water birds hunt along the shoreline and roost on Bird Island. Bring your binoculars and plan on spending plenty of time taking pictures.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Highway 1 for 27 miles. Enter the Point Lobos State Reserve on the west side of the highway. Park anywhere along the South Shore.



SOBERANES CANYON AND ROCKY RIDGE TRAILS

RATING: CHALLENGING | LENGTH: 4.4 MILES

Soberanes Canyon shelters groves of the world's tallest living organism, *Sequoia Sempervirens* (or more commonly referred to as California Redwood). The trail meanders gently along Soberanes Creek, crossing the stream several times before ascending steeply out of the redwoods to the Rocky Ridge Trail. Slopes on either side of the Rocky Ridge Trail are carpeted with wildflowers in the springtime and offer breathtaking views of the Big Sur coastline all year round. However, the footing is treacherous with 10% to 20% grades in several places; sturdy hiking boots and hiking poles are highly recommended.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Highway 1 for 21.7 miles. The entrance is on the east side of the highway. Park under the Eucalyptus trees and follow the path past the shed and outdoor toilet. At the fork, stay to the right for Soberanes Canyon; stay left for Rocky Ridge.

HEADLANDS TRAIL

RATING: EASY | LENGTH: 2 MILES

The trail starts through a lush riparian habitat alongside the Big Sur River. After 0.2 mile, the trail widens as it leads to the spacious walk-in campground. The trail forks 100 feet after the campground. Take a right to get to historic Cooper Cabin, the oldest standing structure in Big Sur (built in 1861). Bear left, where the trail takes hikers through a dense forest to reach the Headlands Trail junction. Bear right and head up the stairs to access breathtaking views of Molera Point, Molera Beach, and the Big Sur River Estuary.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Highway 1 for 7 miles. Enter the Andrew Molera State Park on the west side of the highway. Turn right at the park's entrance. The trailhead is located at the north end of the parking lot.

BIG SUR HIKES

PFEIFFER RIDGE LOOP

RATING: MEDIUM TO CHALLENGING
LENGTH: 7.4 MILES

This hike affords the most panoramic views of Big Sur with the least climbing. Start by crossing the Big Sur River on the bridge by the parking area, then take the Creamery Meadow Trail to the beach. Don't go onto the sand; instead, turn left to take the Bluffs Trail, which gives a great vantage point for whale-watching if during whale migration season. After 2.4 miles, the Bluffs Trail ends at the Spring Trail, which takes you to an isolated beach. Continue south onto the climbing Panorama Trail to reach Pfeiffer Ridge. Follow the Ridge Trail north until it returns to the Creamery Meadows Trail.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Highway 1 for 7 miles. Enter the Andrew Molera State Park on the west side of the highway. Turn right at the park's entrance.

PFEIFFER FALLS TRAIL

RATING: EASY TO MODERATE
LENGTH: 1.4 MILES

This short hike is one of the most popular experiences in Big Sur. Start at Pfeiffer Redwood Creek and walk a short distance to the Valley View Trail junction. If you are seeking a quicker and less strenuous route to the falls, use the Pfeiffer Falls Trail. Passing through an ancient redwood tree forest, you will reach the base of the 60-foot waterfall.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Highway 1 for 2.3 miles. The Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park entrance is on the east side of the highway. Pass the entrance kiosk and follow signs for Pfeiffer Falls.



MOUNT MANUEL TRAIL

RATING: CHALLENGING | LENGTH: 10.8 MILES

This steep trail offers a sweeping view of the Ventana wilderness. Be prepared for the hot weather during the summer. Wear a hat and bring a lot of water. It is advisable to wear pants to avoid ticks and poison oak. The base of the closed paved road across from the parking lot leads to the trailhead for the Gorge Trail and the Manuel Peak Trail. Start by going up the service road, which curves at a junction with a dirt road. Stay on the Gorge Trail. Go past John Pfeiffer's Homestead Cabin. Past the cabin, the trail narrows and leads to the Manuel Peak Trail junction.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on Highway 1 for 2.3 miles. The Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park entrance is on the east side of the highway. Pass the entrance kiosk and the Big Sur Lodge. Immediately past the lodge, the road forks. Bear left and drive 0.7 mile past the picnic areas. Park at the base of the Gorge Trail.

EWOLDSSEN TRAIL

RATING: CHALLENGING | LENGTH: 5.7 MILES

This upward hike along McWay Creek offers a complete Big Sur experience, with fine redwood forests and beautiful coastal views. At the top, keep your eyes peeled for California condors and migrating whales.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 8.8 miles. The trailhead is located in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park at the far end of the upper parking lot on the north side of McWay Creek.

BIG SUR HIKES

MCWAY FALLS

RATING: EASY | LENGTH: 1 MILE

One of Big Sur's most popular landmarks, McWay Falls plunges 80 feet over a cliff to the sandy beach below. The only viewpoint of the Falls, and the cove it's nestled in, can be reached by following the marked trail along McWay Creek to the ocean.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 8.8 miles. The trailhead is located in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park on the east end of the main parking lot.



OUTDOOR RECREATION

Whether you are a mountain biker extraordinaire or a surfing connoisseur, Big Sur offers the opportunity to explore California's coast in all kinds of ways. Bike, ride, surf or even kiteboard your way across Big Sur during your stay at Ventana.

WILDLIFE

As one of the last areas of unspoiled coastline in California, Big Sur is home to numerous protected species. Keep your eyes peeled for the endangered California condor, the largest land bird in North America, soaring overhead or perched on rocky outcroppings along the highway. In the waves along the shoreline, look for southern sea otters floating and bobbing in the surf. View northern elephant seals, once hunted to near-extinction, gathering on the beaches of San Simeon twice yearly to breed. And scan the horizon in winter and summer for the spouts of migrating blue, gray, orca and humpback whales.

The ocean off Big Sur is an official Marine Sanctuary and Sea Otter Refuge, with kelp beds, offshore rocks and deep underwater canyons providing diverse marine habitats.

COMMON YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS

MAMMALS

Black Bear, Black-tailed Mule Deer, Bobcat, Coyote, Gray Fox, Gray Squirrel, Harbor Seal, Mountain Lion, Raccoon, Opossum, Sea Lion, Skunk, Wild Boar

BIRDS

Acorn Woodpecker, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Brown Pelican, California Quail, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Cormorant, Flicker, Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Scrub Jay, Spotted Towhee, Steller's Jay, Turkey Vulture, Western Gull, Wild Turkey

REPTILES

Alligator Lizard, California King Snake, Gopher Snake, Mountain King Snake, Western Fence Lizard, Western Rattlesnake

ON LAND

CYCLING: Whether on a road bike or a mountain bike, cycling Big Sur is a demanding endeavor. Highway 1 is the stuff made of legends; expert road riders seek the thrill of its heart-pounding hills, sharp curves and unparalleled views. If you're looking for a more rugged challenge, try mountain biking in one of these locations:

- Old Coast Road between Bixby Bridge and Andrew Molera State Park
- Pfeiffer Ridge Trail in Andrew Molera State Park
- Cone Peak Road between Nacimiento Summit and Cone Peak
- Lake San Antonio

BIG SUR HIKES: Reserve a hike with the region's premier local guides, Big Sur Guides and Hiking, who have been leading hikes in Big Sur for over 40 years. Visit www.bigsurguides.com or call 831.594.1742 to learn more.

HORSEBACK RIDING: Discover flower-studded meadows, redwood groves, bubbling streams and secluded beaches at Andrew Molera State Park on a guided horseback tour.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 7 miles. The entrance is at the junction of the highway and Old Coast Road on the west side.

INFO: 831.625.5486;
www.molerahorsebacktours.com

GOLF: One of America's most iconic golf destinations, Pebble Beach, is just an hour away. Each of the resort's four courses offers unique heritage and breathtaking beauty. Dozens of other courses also are located on the Monterey Peninsula. Contact Ventana Big Sur Guest Services for assistance with tee times.

TENNIS: For recommendations and assistance with reservations, please contact Guest Services.

ON WATER

KAYAKING: Big Sur's rough and exposed coast is not the ideal environment for the inexperienced or to learn a new sport. Be prepared with proper equipment, research the tides and wind conditions and use expert, local advice. Launch sites include Carmel Bay, Molera Beach and Whalers Cove in Point Lobos State Reserve (by reservation at pt-lobos.parks.state.ca.us). If you don't have your own kayak, Monterey Bay Kayaks offers a variety of tours that explore the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

INFO: 800.649.5357
www.montereybaykayaks.com

SURFING: The rough breaks and cold water off of Big Sur's coastline make for less-than-hospitable surf conditions, but seasoned surfers will enjoy the breaks near Ghost Tree on the Monterey Peninsula, Willow Creek, and the north end of Molera Beach in Andrew Molera State Park.

WINDSURFING AND KITEBOARDING: The San Simeon Coast, specifically the Arroyo Laguna area, is one of California's top windsurfing and kiteboarding destinations. The area features stunning ocean views and spectacularly rugged scenery.

DIVING: Point Lobos State Reserve has two diving sites: Whalers Cove and Bluefish Cove. Divers experience one of the richest marine habitats in California, with lush kelp forests, a wide variety of marine animals, and vibrant underwater colors. Reservations are recommended. All divers must register at the reserve entrance. Other sites include Carmel Bay, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park's underwater reserve and Jade Cove.



DESTINATIONS

Some say the best part of visiting Big Sur is the option to do nothing at all. Many visitors come to relax and take in the natural beauty, while others seek out the art, culture and shopping that is unique to this tranquil coastal retreat.

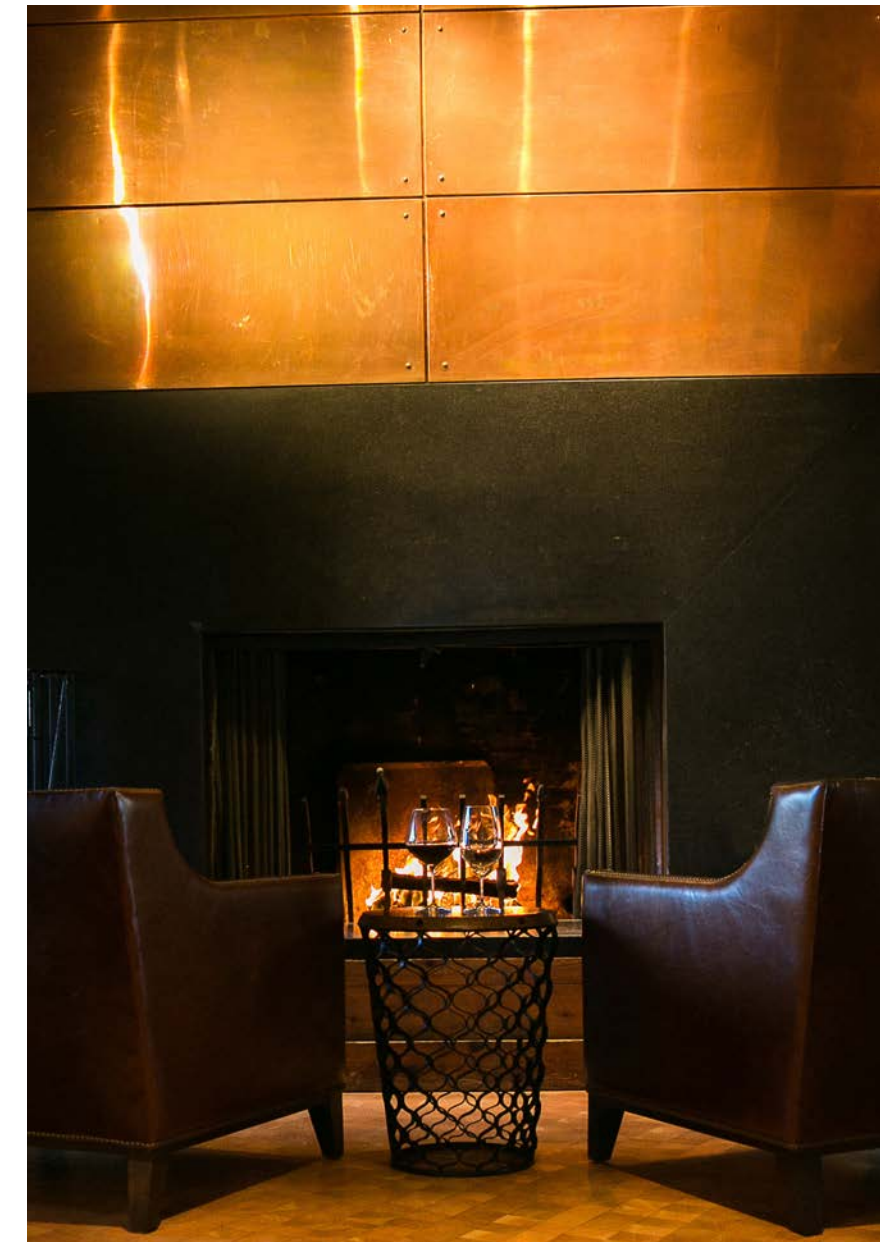
HENRY MILLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Henry Miller called Big Sur home in the 1950s. Nestled in a redwood grove on the mountainside of Highway 1, The Henry Miller Memorial Library champions the artist and author along with serving as a community arts center. A longtime personal friend of Miller, artist Emil White donated his home and personal Miller collection to create the library, which includes a gallery, sculpture garden and bookstore with a treasure of literature, art, music and history of the area. Miller's writings brought fame to the isolated destination of Big Sur, attracting other writers such as Jack Kerouac. Miller was a painter as well as a writer; his works can be viewed at both the library and Coast Gallery. The Henry Miller Memorial Library hosts dozens of events throughout the year.

HOURS: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(Closed Tuesdays)

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 1 mile. The library is on the east side of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2574;
www.henrymiller.org



ESALEN INSTITUTE

No other place has fashioned Big Sur's culture more than Esalen. This institution is an integral aspect of Big Sur's—and some would even say America's—history. Founded by Mike Murphy and Dick Price in the early 1960s, Esalen is a retreat dedicated to the exploration of "Human Potential," a phrase coined by Aldous Huxley, who once taught there. The institute has long been a leader in alternative and experiential education, and the list of renowned figures who have taught seminars here is endless. Henry Miller, Allen Ginsberg, Hunter S. Thompson, Fritz Perls, Alan Watts, Joseph Campbell, Timothy Leary, Gregory Bateson and even Boris Yeltsin have led Esalen programs.

The institute offers seminars and workshops on mysticism, religion, psychology, Gestalt therapy, quantum physics, UFOs and shamanism, as well as acupressure, art, economics, dance, yoga, massage, bodywork, couples therapy and other topics.

Esalen is well known for its hot springs, perched on a cliff above the ocean. The Esalen pools, as they are called, are available for use only by registered guests. If you are not participating in a seminar, you can visit Esalen for public night bathing between 1-3 a.m. (by telephone reservation only) or make a reservation for the famous Esalen massage. You won't be disappointed—Esalen is where massage therapists from all over the world congregate for trainings and workshops.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 12 miles. Esalen's entrance is on the west side of the highway.

INFO: Night baths, 831.667.3047; general info, 831.667.3000; spa appointments, 831.667.3002; www.esalen.org

GALLERIES AND SHOPS

GLASS HOUSE GALLERY

The Glass House Gallery at Ventana Big Sur features exquisite work from local artists and artisans. Take a peek inside and experience for yourself the unique collection of painting, sculpture, jewelry, hand-blown glass, stone and woodwork, ceramics, basketry and photography. We've carefully selected the very best works from artists' studios in Big Sur and all around Monterey County for your enjoyment.

HOURS: 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: The Glass House Gallery is located next to The Sur House.

INFO: 831.667.4298, www.ventanabigsur.com

COAST GALLERY BIG SUR

Established in 1958, Coast Gallery was the first gallery in Big Sur. Nestled in a redwood canyon beside a mountain stream high above sea level, this historic landmark houses six galleries and an indoor/outdoor cafe. With over 3,000 works created by more than 250 local and international artists and artisans, the Coast Gallery is one of the largest galleries of American crafts in the United States.

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for about 3 miles. The gallery is on the east side of the highway.

INFO: www.coastgalleries.com

THE PHOENIX SHOP

In the same way that Nepenthe has served as a social gathering place for the Big Sur community, the Phoenix is Big Sur's largest gift shop and a favorite stop among tourists seeking meaningful mementos of their trip. The shop's book section is well stocked with famous and lesser-known titles by local authors and literary legends. The jewelry, clothing, musical instruments, toys and body care product represent the finest in regional artisanship.

HOURS: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 1 mile. The shop is located under Nepenthe on the west side of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2347; phoenixshopbigsur.com

HAWTHORNE GALLERY

This gallery represents the work of local artists Gregory Hawthorne, Barbara Spring, Albert Paley, Frederick Gregory and other renowned artists, with contemporary paintings, sculpture, blown glass, ceramics and jewelry.

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Drive south on Highway 1 for 0.7 miles. The gallery is on the east side of the highway across from Nepenthe.

INFO: 831.667.3200; hawthornegallery.com

HEART BEAT GALLERY

Founded in 1988 by Teresa Bradford-Cole, the family-owned Heart Beat offers an opportunity to find your spirit and your style, with clothing, leather goods, jewelry, fine photography prints and more. From classic and traditional to modern and hip, Heart Beat features an array of treasures for the traveler and mystic within.

HOURS: By appointment only

INFO: 831.601.3272; heartbeatbigsur.com

POST RANCH MERCANTILE

The Post Ranch Mercantile sells tableware, home accessories and bedding, natural clothing and body care products, as well as Post Ranch Inn-branded souvenirs.

HOURS: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: The shop is located inside the Post Ranch Inn directly across Highway 1 from Ventana's entrance. Be careful crossing the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2795;

www.postranchinn.com/about-us/mercantile/

BOUTIQUE GALLERIES

Big Sur also offers the Garden Gallery at Loma Vista, a local arts cooperative, and Local Color, a Central Coast artisans gallery with a large selection of Big Sur jade, gifts from the New Camaldoli Hermitage, cards, books, prints and paintings.



CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Carmel-by-the-Sea has a rich history in California art and architecture, and has long been a mecca for artists, photographers, writers and actors. In this quaint European-style village of just one square mile, there are more than 100 galleries and a myriad of shopping options, including Carmel Plaza and the stores lining the famed Ocean Avenue. In addition, the Barnyard and Crossroads shopping centers are located just off Highway 1 near Rio Road. Throughout the year, there are many diverse festivals and events. One historic building of note is the Carmel Mission Basilica.

CARMEL MISSION BASILICA

The Carmel Mission was founded by Father Junipero Serra on August 24, 1771. When Serra died in 1784, the Mission was still a humble adobe structure. Father Fermin Lasuen, Serra's successor, completed the construction of the buildings you see there today. With the labor of the Rumsien, the local Costanoan tribe, and the guidance of Manuel Ruiz, a master Mexican stonemason, Father Lasuen built what is considered to be the most beautiful of California's mission chapels. The structure is open for observation seven days per week.

HOURS: Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1. After you cross the Carmel River Bridge, turn west on Rio Road, and drive 0.7 mile to the corner of Lasuen Drive.

INFO: 831.624.3600; www.carmelmission.org

CARMEL VALLEY

The rolling ranch land of Carmel Valley was once the home of many dairies, ranches and farms. In the case of Earthbound Farm, it still is. But most of the historic family properties have since evolved into eclectic shopping villages, world-class golf courses, unique resorts and award-winning wineries.

INFO: www.carmelvalleychamber.com; montereywines.org

EARTHBOUND FARM

Set on a 30-acre organic farm, the casual and welcoming Farm Stand and Organic Kitchen offer farm-fresh produce, freshly prepared organic entrées and special events, including harvest walks and garlic-braiding workshops.

HOURS: Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 to Carmel. Turn right at Carmel Valley Road; drive east for 3.5 miles.

INFO: 831.625.6219; www.ebfarm.com

BERNARDUS VINEYARDS & WINERY

For some of the best Central California wines, visit the tasting room at Bernardus. Since the early 1970s, Dutch winemaker Ben Pon has been growing Bordeaux-style varieties and has been producing exceptional vintages of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Sauvignon Blanc.

HOURS: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 43.2 miles; turn right on Carmel Valley Road for 11.7 miles.

INFO: 800.223.2533; www.bernardus.com

MONTEREY

Monterey has much to offer anyone who wants to dip into California's history, including several museums, more than 30 carefully preserved historic buildings, Old Fisherman's Wharf, the legendary Cannery Row and the world-renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium. The city also boasts a lush urban forest, beautiful gardens and special events throughout the year.

OLD FISHERMAN'S WHARF

Historic Old Fisherman's Wharf on Monterey Harbor features a wide variety of restaurants, seafood, unique shops, whale watching, fishing, bay cruises, theater and the sights and sounds of Monterey's past.

HOURS: Varies

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 30.9 miles. Take exit 399B toward Monterey. Merge onto Munras Avenue. Stay straight to go onto Abrego Street. Turn slight right onto Washington Street. Turn left onto Lighthouse Avenue. Old Fisherman's Wharf will be on the right-hand side.

INFO: www.montereywharf.com

CANNERY ROW

This historic waterfront district made famous by author John Steinbeck's Cannery Row offers a wealth of attractions, recreation, nightlife, accommodations and restaurants. Shopping is an ocean-view treasure hunt that invites you to lose yourself in an eclectic blend of specialty shops and galleries.

Directions: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 45.8 miles. Take exit 399B toward Monterey for 0.4 miles. Merge onto Munras Avenue. Turn left on Soledad Drive. Turn right on Pacific Street. Merge on Lighthouse Avenue. Turn right at Foam Street. Turn right at Reeside Avenue. Reeside turns left and becomes Cannery Row.

INFO: www.canneryrow.com

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

The Monterey Bay Aquarium is one of the largest and most respected aquariums in the world. It hosts 1.8 million visitors annually and holds an astounding 35,000 plants and animals representing 623 species.

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

DIRECTIONS: See directions to Cannery Row.

INFO: 831.648.4800; www.mbayaq.org

DINING

Fresh, seasonal and sustainable local ingredients from land and sea. The fusion of countless cooking styles. Beautiful presentation. These are the defining elements of California cuisine—and when you add the magical landscape of Big Sur, you're rewarded with authentic, unique and unforgettable dining experiences.

THE SUR HOUSE

The Sur House restaurant, helmed by Executive Chef Paul Corsentino, rises high above the Pacific where the forest and sea converge. Drawing on his experiences in kitchens across the country, Corsentino crafts coastal cuisine—using Pacific-sourced seafood delivered by local fishermen, free-range meats from local farmers, produce from nearby foragers and homemade accoutrements—inspired by the sustainable ingredients of California's Central Coast and the melting pot of America's culinary havens.

A 10,000-bottle cellar of small-production Central Coast wines

has been carefully assembled by a team of local vintners and our resident wine expert. Craft cocktails and a curated selection of beer, along with a specialty bar menu, also are offered.

The elegant, rustic setting, highlighted by natural wood interiors and furnishings, is every bit as awe-inspiring as the cuisine. And the expanded ocean-view patio and windows all overlook Mother Nature's own melting pot of Big Sur—on one side, the infinite ocean and rugged coast beckon; on the other are mountains, sprawling redwoods and wildlife.

BIG SUR ROADHOUSE

Delicious California cuisine with fresh, local ingredients, using a variety of house-made products. In keeping with their Big Sur ethos, the seasonal menu is filled with locally-sourced organic ingredients.

HOURS: Breakfast – 8:30-9:30 a.m. / Lunch – 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 3.6 miles. The entrance is on the west side of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2370;
glenoaksbigsur.com/roadhouse.html

DEETJEN'S

Sit by candlelight and listen to classical music while you dine in this quaint and quirky old-world, Big Sur setting. The menu changes often and reflects what is seasonably available.

HOURS: Breakfast – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. / Dinner – from 6 p.m. Reservations recommended.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 1.7 miles. The entrance is on the east side of the highway. Note: The sign reads "Big Sur Inn."

INFO: 831.667.2377; www.deetjens.com

SIERRA MAR

Overlooking the Pacific Ocean with a spectacular view of the California coast, Post Ranch Inn's restaurant serves world-class cuisine with an award-winning wine selection in an awe-inspiring setting. Sierra Mar features an innovative lunch and four-course, prix-fixe menu, which changes daily and utilizes seasonal fare.

HOURS: Lunch: 12:15-2:30 p.m. Reservations requested. Dinner: 5:30-9 p.m., reservations typically accepted for outside guests at 5:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Located across from Ventana's driveway. Be careful crossing the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2800; www.postranchinn.com

BIG SUR BAKERY & RESTAURANT

The best bread in town, hands down, is at Big Sur Bakery, where you'll find gourmet sandwiches and baked goods for lunch. For dinner, the restaurant has gained locals' votes for best quality in a casual setting.

HOURS: Bakery – daily from 8 a.m. / Dinner – daily, 6-9 p.m. / Brunch – Saturday and Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 0.3 miles. The entrance is on the west side of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.0520; www.bigsurbakery.com

BIG SUR RIVER INN

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily inside by a stone fireplace and outside on a deck overlooking the Big Sur River. Enjoy live entertainment on Sunday afternoons, and sip drinks while dangling your feet in the river.

HOURS: Breakfast – 8-11 a.m. / Lunch – 12-5 p.m. / Dinner – 5-8 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: From Ventana, drive north on Highway 1 for 4.2 miles. The entrance is on the west side of the highway.

INFO: 831.667.2700; www.bigsurriverinn.com

NEPENTHE

Sitting high above the Pacific Ocean, Nepenthe has been a social mecca and community gathering place since the late 1940s. This legendary restaurant offers breathtaking views of the coast from a vantage point 800 feet above the surf. Aside from its stunning views, Nepenthe offers an award-winning list of local wines and homemade desserts. Its famous Ambrosia burger keeps guests coming back for more.

HOURS: Open daily, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Directions: From Ventana, drive south on Highway 1 for 1 mile. The entrance is on the west side of the highway.

Info: 831.667.2345; www.nepenthebigsur.com

ROMANCE

In a spectacular natural setting such as Big Sur, romance comes with the territory, of course. Aside from the picture-perfect topography, however, our region offers activities perfect for anyone looking to fall in love—or fall in love all over again. Here are just a few examples.

JADE HUNTING AT JADE COVE

This is one precious stone you don't have to shop for at a jewelry store—here, these stones are free, and hunting for them together promises to be a most memorable experience.

COUPLES PORTRAITS IN BIG SUR

Looking for some romantic photographs to commemorate your journey? Let our resident photographer lead you to the best backdrops in Big Sur.

SUNSET AT PFEIFFER BEACH

Sometimes, all you need is the simple pleasures—such as sitting on one of the most spectacular and serene beaches in the area, watching the sun set over the ocean.

SOAKING IN THE ESALEN HOT SPRINGS

Not sleepy? Make a reservation and drive to Esalen between 1-3 a.m. For a small fee, you can jump naked into therapeutic hot springs perched on a cliff over the Pacific Ocean.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Watch the sun setting over the ocean as you ride gallant horses on beautiful Molera Beach.

PICNIC AT GARRAPATA BEACH

Allow us to prepare a picnic lunch, paired with your favorite bottle of wine, and take it to enjoy all alone on a spectacular beach.