

Best Family Adventures:

San Luis Obispo County



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POLY CANYON offers a variety of trails for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrian use. The Design Village offers a unique opportunity to view student architectural efforts up close. Ridge trails offer splendid views. Opportunities for birding, wildflower viewing and creek play abound.

Chapter 1

San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo is haven for families with children of any age. The county seat and namesake boasts a chain of 65-million-year-old volcanic peaks, rolling hills, meandering creeks, arts opportunities, parks as well as a variety of eateries and activities designed specifically with children in mind.

It is little wonder so many people have made this temperate valley home. The centrally located city within a few minutes' drive of beaches, lakes and mountains was home to the Chumash people for centuries before Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa was established here in 1772. The fifth of the state's original 21 missions remains the focal point downtown. Services are still held in the chapel, festivals are celebrated in the plaza, children continue throwing rocks across the creek while the smells of good food and sounds of live music float through the fresh air.

San Luis Obispo is home to 30 parks including pocket parks locals may hardly notice and sports complexes that play home to tournaments throughout the year. Many of the larger parks have group areas available by reservation.

On-street parking in downtown San Luis Obispo is metered and often hard to find, but the city provides ample parking in a number of centrally located parking garages where the first hour is free: on Marsh Street at Chorro Street; on Palm Street between Chorro and Morro streets; or off Palm Street at Morro Street.

The city is also home to California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly).

ARTS

ASI Craft Center Gallery

First Floor of Julian McPhee University Union, Cal Poly

(805) 756-1266

www.asi.calpoly.edu/uu/craftcenter

FREE!-\$\$\$

From Highway 101, take the Grand Avenue exit north onto the Cal Poly campus. Stop at the information booth on the right side of the road immediately upon entering campus for a parking pass. Continue onto campus. The gallery is inside the student union at the intersection of Perimeter Road and Grand Avenue.

This art center and gallery features student works and public workshops, special sales and an annual Throwfest, a 24-hour clay throwing event held each February. The gallery is generally open Sunday through Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m., though hours vary. Call ahead.