

The Big Sur Coast Campout

President's Day Weekend February 17 – 20th

Consider President's Day weekend on the Big Sur Coast. Famous for its beauty... sheer cliffs, secluded beaches, crashing waves, pockets of redwoods, clover-like sorrel and ferns sustained by winter rains and a damp summer fog. The waters and kelp beds along the coast are rich in sea life. The scenic splendors of the area are protected in a network of parks and preserves. From our campsite, we'll be in striking distance of Pt. Lobos... famous for groves of Monterey Pines, and frothy seas, home to the beleaguered sea otter. Also nearby, the world renowned 17-Mile Drive. Along this spectacular coastal drive from Carmel to Pacific Grove are the coiffed links of Pebble Beach and Spanish Bay, and scenic overlooks of rock, sand, and sea. Although the Big Sur's beauty is predictable; the winter weather isn't. ***This is definitely a trip for the adventurous.***

Where We're Staying

Our home for this long weekend will be Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, where we have three adjoining campsites reserved along the Big Sur River (as you make your way north along the coast, don't confuse our campsite with Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park). The creature comforts include picnic tables, fire rings, rest rooms with showers, and potable water. Our sites are wooded, shady and damp. We have reserved sites #200, 201 and 202. Only two cars are allowed at each site and parking priority will be given to the trip leader and those carrying the most passengers. Over-flow parking is elsewhere in the park and cost \$10 per night and not included in the cost of the trip. No pets are allowed on this trip.

Weather

Predicting the weather on President's Day weekend weeks in advance is an improbable exercise. Keep in mind ***this is winter camping on the Central Coast***, and February is traditionally a wet month. If we're lucky (like I was last year) days may be mild... in the 60s... and nights cold, dipping into the low 40s. As I mentioned, our campsite is shaded and damp. Our outings will take us to the wind-swept coast. As we get nearer to our departure date, we can get a better fix on the weather.

What to Bring

You'll need the usual clothing and camping equipment for a long weekend along the coast, keeping in mind that this is winter camping and ***you want to stay warm and dry***. Bring your tent, tarp, sleeping bag and pad, food, cooler, stove and fuel, lantern and flashlight. For day hikes, pack boots, a knapsack, water bottle. Rain is possible, so pack a poncho or raincoat. Pack extra shoes/boots/clothing to be on the safe side.

How to Get There/Carpooling

It's about a 400 mile drive from Los Angeles to Big Sur much of it along the scenic, winding Highway 1. From Los Angeles drive north on the 101 to San Luis Obispo. Exit the 101 to Highway 1 North in San Luis Obispo. Continue north to the Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Park admission is covered by your campsite reservation; we have sites #200, 201, and 202. Our sites are at the distant end of the campsite loop. Great Outdoors encourages carpooling. Please indicate on your registration form if you need or can offer a ride. I will email out a list of those registered, but it will be up to you to coordinate your own carpool arrangements.

Itinerary

2/17/11 Friday – Arrive and set up camp anytime after 2:00 PM.

2/18/11- Saturday 9:00 AM -Enjoy a full day of activities. We'll drive north and explore the splendors of Pt. Lobos, a preserve dedicated to protecting groves of cypress and Monterey Pine and marine life, including the elusive sea otter. We'll hike the preserve's trails and eat our sack lunch here before driving north to Carmel and the 17-Mile Drive. Pack lunch, water, sunscreen, warm cloths. Cost of admission to Pt. Lobos (\$10 per car) and the 17- Mile Drive (\$9.50) are not included in the cost of the trip (and should be divided among passengers).

2/18/11- Saturday evening – No potluck planned; but we'll enjoy an evening campfire and games.

2/19/11- Sunday 9:30 AM – We'll drive north again; our destination today is Andrew Molera State Park. On our short hike to the coast, we'll observe the efforts to restore native habitats. Afterwards we'll continue north, perhaps poking around Carmel, a scenic, tony, sea-side berg, or visiting Mission Carmel. Costs of admissions not included in the cost of the trip.

2/19/11- Folks may head into Monterey for dinner, or enjoy dinner by our campfire. (Daring night owls may attempt to visit the Hot Springs at the Esalen Institute, which are open to the public between 1 AM and 3 AM (!). Space is limited and a **non-fundable reservation is required** \$20 (831) 667-3047

2/20/11- Sunday – Check out time: 12 noon

Registration/Cancellation

To register for this outing, please complete the registration form and mail it to me with your check made out to Great Outdoors (not to me!) In order to get a full refund for this trip, you must cancel within 10 days of our departure (2/7/12) otherwise a refund will only be given if suitable replacement camper registers. If as we move toward our departure, it appears that we'll be experiencing El Nino like downpours this weekend, I will cancel the trip. Because GO will incur a cancellation fee, **camper's will be refunded their registration cost minus \$10** to cover our cancellation costs.

If you have any additional questions about this trip, please contact Timothy at ts709@roadrunner.com

Big Sur Registration Form

Members

Non-member

Single **\$50**

Single **\$75** (includes GO e-membership)

Couple **\$90** (two people 1 tent/1 car)

Couple **\$115** (two people 1 tent/1 car includes GO e-membership)

Write check out to **Great Outdoors** and mail to: **Timothy Stirton**
1328 N Occidental Blvd
LA CA 90026

Registration Info (Couples, please register on one form)

Name 1) _____ Name 2) _____

Great Outdoors Member? **Yes** or **No** Chapter: _____ Membership # _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail address :** _____

Do you have a carpool companion? Yes or No If yes, who (name) ? _____

WAIVER, MEDICAL RELEASE AND ASSIGNMENT

I am aware that my participation in the GREAT OUTDOORS may include potentially hazardous activities, and I am voluntarily participating in these activities with that knowledge and understanding that I will use my best judgment to avoid injury to others and myself. I agree to follow the directions of the trip leader and abide by the rules of the facility I am using. I hereby release GREAT OUTDOORS, including its officers, trail or trip leaders, agents or other persons working with GREAT OUTDOORS from any liability for injuries, physical or mental, which I may suffer by reason of any participation in these activities. I recognize in waiving this liability that I am assuming sole responsibility for my actions and cannot blame any injuries on any other persons connected with GREAT OUTDOORS. I hereby agree to assume full financial responsibility for any bills incurred by me for medical treatment as the result of my participation in this GREAT OUTDOORS activity. In the event that I am unable to consent to medical care, I hereby authorize the trip leader to consent to emergency medical treatment for me, including hospitalization and surgery, as may be best determined under the circumstances.

Signature(s) 1 _____ **2)** _____

Date _____ In case of emergency contact: _____ Relationship _____

Phone _____ Your Medical Insurance Carrier _____ Group/Policy No. _____

Physician _____ Phone _____

Health problems or allergies _____ Prescriptions? _____