

THINGS OF INTEREST IN APTOS AREA

Beach: A very close drive for a nice walk on the beach. Straight across the freeway on State Park will bring you to an access with street parking.

Forest of Nisene Marks: For a walk in the redwoods and ferns turn right on Soquel and drive to Aptos Creek Road (next street past Britannia Arms on the left.) You can park in the area just ahead of you after you turn or drive on down the road and find a place on the shoulder to avoid the \$8 parking fee (\$7 for Senior Citizens.) Walk in without fee or pay and have a lovely drive quite a way back with parking and trails. Gorgeous place to visit.

Native Revival Nursery: Turn left on Soquel and go to Mar Vista (past shopping center) turn left onto Mar Vista and the nursery is on the left at the end of the road. PCIs and other California Native Plants. A fun place for plant junkies. Knowledgeable staff.

Hidden Gardens: Another nursery, specializing in ornamental plants, some unusual things here as well as PCIs. They have been alerted to the Regional and will have their PCIs on display. Ask for Heather Bloom (her real name!) and tell her MBIS sent you. Until 6pm daily. Across from the Safeway Shopping Center behind the feed store.

Yarns by the Sea: Yes there are most likely knitters among you and this store is worth a visit. On the right in the shopping center after the KFC. Open until 5pm, 9pm Thursday.

Cabrillo College Botanical Garden: One of the largest collections of Salvias in the country arranged by area of origin. Open 9-5pm. Other gardens open 7 until dark. Located at the "top of the hill" at the Environmental Horticulture Center.

OUTSIDE THE APTOS AREA

UCSC Arboretum: Largest collection of Australian plants outside of Australia. Also an excellent California Native Garden and a recently finished Fragrance Garden that has reached its prime, next to a nice garden boutique. Entrance on Empire Grade Road past the University on the right.

Also in Santa Cruz area of course is the Boardwalk with its famous wooden (one of only a handful left) roller coaster "The Giant Dipper" admission is free, fee for rides.

Seymour Marine Discovery Center: If you can't make it down to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. On the west side.

West Cliff: Santa Cruz's favorite place to walk the dog, run, bike, roller blade, surf (Steamer Lane) sit on a bench and read, etc. North of the Boardwalk and the pier, follow the road around past the lighthouse and along the cliffs to Natural Bridges. If it's sunny, everyone will be out, if not they will be out anyway.

South of our area is Elkhorn Slough with good sea mammal watching and bird watching as well. Rent a kayak and explore the slough or go whale watching on a boat out of Moss Landing. Good restaurants in the area are: Whole Enchilada, Sea Harvest with an excellent view of the bay and the noisy sea lions (often otters too), Phil's Seafood on the other side of the marina past Whole Enchilada (turn right here.) This is a fun area to explore, take a pair of binoculars.