Fun Things to Do in Santa Cruz
UCSC Community Rentals Office

The Community Rentals Office serves as a resource center for UCSC students, faculty, and staff. Our rental listings are easily accessible to all eligible individuals.

Services Include:

- Online Renters’ Workshop
- Online listing program for local rentals
  - House/apartment/condo listings
  - Rooms in shared housing listings
  - Rental listings auto-matched to your search parameters and emailed to you
  - Available housemates search
  - Search short-term or summer sublets
- Rental application, agreements, disclosures and other forms
- Rental cost statistics
- Extensive online rental resource information
- Rental laws and tenant/landlord advising referrals

Renters’ Workshop:

Why should you take the Renters’ Workshop?

“I wish I had! ”
Read my story...

The workshop covers:

- Preparing: What to consider-- your needs, budget, picking housemates, which rental agreement to use, situations to avoid, rental ad scams, making an impressive Rental Application Packet
- Searching: CROs’ rental listings program tips, when to look, what to say, how to inspect the rental
- Moving In: Condition of Rental Property Checklist, making a rental folder, meeting neighbors
- Living In: Shared household, being a good neighbor, being a good host, fun things to do in Santa Cruz, landlord obligations, tenants’ rights and responsibilities
- Moving Out: Giving legal notice to vacate, move-out steps, security deposit returns laws, what to do when there are problems
- Applicable tenant-landlord rental laws and resources

Take our Online Renters’ Workshop and increase your rental knowledge today!
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Updated 10/2015
Indoor Activities

Art Galleries

**Artisans Gallery**
1368 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, 831-423-8183
Artisans Gallery features American-made crafts with an emphasis on the wealth of local artists that Santa Cruz and the surrounding communities have to offer.
www.artisanssantacruz.com

**Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery**
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Art gallery located at Cowell College, UC Santa Cruz. Open through the academic year.
cowell.ucsc.edu/smith-gallery

**First Fridays Art**
Tour of the Arts of Santa Cruz in which business owners offer space for local art to be displayed.
www.firstfridaysantacruz.com

**Frans Lanting Gallery**
500 Chestnut St. Suite 200, Santa Cruz, 831-429-1331
Fine prints, books, videos, and posters of nature and wildlife by National Geographic photographer, Frans Lanting.
www.lanting.com

**Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery**
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tues-Sat. 12-8 p.m. Wed. Art gallery located in Porter College, UC Santa Cruz. Open through the academic year.
arts.ucsc.edu/sesnon/

**Santa Cruz Art League**
526 Broadway, Santa Cruz, 831-426-5787
Gallery with free monthly fine art exhibits. Gift shop features local artisans. www.scal.org

Museums

**Bigfoot Museum**
5497 Highway 9, Felton, 831-335-4478
Learn about and track the whereabouts of Bigfoot!
www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

**Capitola Historical Museum**
410 Capitola Ave., Capitola, 831-464-0322
History and art exhibits include historical photographs and artifacts of Capitola.
www.capitolamuseum.org

**The Museum of Art and History**
705 Front St., Santa Cruz, 831-429-1964
Changing exhibitions of contemporary art and Santa Cruz history. Docent-led tours, lectures, family activities. Free admission monthly on the first Friday.
www.santacruzmah.org

**Santa Cruz Surfing Museum**
Mark Abbott Lighthouse, 701 West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz 831-420-6289
Unique little museum chronicling over 100 years of local surfing history.
www.santacruzsurfingmuseum.org

**Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History**
1305 East Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz, 831-420-6115
Exhibits on native peoples, geology, and local wildlife. Tide pool touch tank, live beehive, and life-size whale.
santacruzmuseum.org

**Seymour Marine Discovery Center**
100 Shaffer Rd., Santa Cruz, 831-459-3800
Exhibit halls, aquarium, tours, and discovery shop.
seymourcenter.ucsc.edu

**Davenport Jail Museum**
2 Davenport Ave., Davenport, 831-429-1964
View the old Davenport jail.
www.santacruzmah.org/our-exhibition-philosophy/historic-sites

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
**Places of Historical Interest**

**Bonny Doon Kilns Upper Laguna Creek**
This 2.4-mile trail wanders through old-growth forests and past meandering creeks to century-old limestone kilns.
www.limekilnlegacies.com

**Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park**
144 School St., Santa Cruz, 831-425-5849
The historic park is downtown on Mission Plaza. The adobe is located off of the plaza on School Street.
www.findrecreation.parks.ca.gov

**San Lorenzo Valley Museum**
12547 Highway 9, Boulder Creek
831-338-8382
Features a yearly series of historical talks with expert speakers.
www.slvmuseum.com

**Performing Arts**

**Kuumbwa Jazz Center**
320 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
831-427-2227
World-renowned jazz artists weekly.
www.kuumbwajazz.org

**The Palomar Ballroom**
1344 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-426-1221
Dance studio. Visit web for class schedule. www.palomarballroom.com

**UCSC Theater Arts Center and Music Center Recital Hall**
1156 High St., Santa Cruz
831-459-2787
Featuring nationally and internationally known artists and student performers.
arts.ucsc.edu/news_events/

**Bakeries, Coffee Houses & Ice Cream Shops**

**The Abbey**
350 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-429-1058

**The Bagelry**
320 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
831-429-8049
1636 Seabright Ave.
831-425-8550

**The Buttery**
702 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
831-458-3020

**Cafe Bene**
1101 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
831-425-0441

**Café Delmarette**
1126 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-420-1025

**Caffé Pergolesi**
418 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
831-426-1775

**Coffeetopia**
1723 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-425-6583

**Companion Bakeshop**
2341 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-252-2253

**Emily’s Bakery**
1129 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-429-9866

**Firefly Coffee House**
131 Front St., Santa Cruz
831-713-5799

**Gayle’s Bakery**
504 Bay Ave., Capitola
831-462-1200

**Hidden Peak Teahouse**
1541 Pacific Ave. #C, Santa Cruz
831-423-4200

**Hoffman’s Bistro**
1102 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-420-0135

**Java Junction**
580 River St. #A, Santa Cruz
831-426-2128

**Jamba Juice**
1550 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-426-5262
1820 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-421-0572

**Kelly’s French Bakery**
402 Ingalls St., Santa Cruz
831-423-9059

**Lulu Carpenters**
1545 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-439-9200

**Lulu’s at the Octagon**
118 Cooper St., Santa Cruz
831-429-5858

**Marini’s**
1308 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-3299
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz
831-423-7258

**Midtown Cafe**
1121 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
midtowncafesc.com/

**Mission Hill Creamery**
1101 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-216-6421

**Mission Hill Creamery**
1101 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-216-6421

**Peet’s Coffee and Tea**
1409 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-457-8170

**Penny Ice Creamery**
913 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
820 41st Ave., Santa Cruz
831-204-2523

**Peoples’ Coffee**
1200 17th Ave. #126, Santa Cruz
831-464-2739

**The Picnic Basket**
125 Beach St., Santa Cruz
831-427-9946

**SC Coffee Roasting Company**
1330 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-459-0100

**Starbucks**
1335 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-459-7681

**Verve**
1540 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-600-7784

**Westside Coffee Company**
849 Almar Ave., Santa Cruz
831-427-1300

**Whale City Bakery Bar & Grill**
490 Coast Rd., Davenport
831-423-9009

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
Creative Activities

Petroglyph Ceramic Lounge
125 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz
831-458-4278
Paint your own ceramics.

Santa Cruz Knitting Meet-up

Movie Theaters

The Del Mar
1124 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-469-3220
Also shows midnight movie classics Friday and Saturday nights. www.thenick.com

Nickelodeon Theatre
210 Lincoln St., Santa Cruz
831-426-7500
Independent and foreign films. www.thenick.com

Regal Cinemas Santa Cruz 9
1405 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
844-462-7342
www.fandango.com

Other Attractions

Beach Boardwalk
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz
831-423-5590
California's oldest amusement park on the beach. www.beachboardwalk.com

Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary
35 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-421-9993
Explore our remarkable bay. Free admission. montereybay.noaa.gov

The Mystery Spot
465 Mystery Spot Rd., Santa Cruz
831-423-8897
Perceptions of the laws of physics and gravity are questioned here. www.mysteryspot.com

Roaring Camp Railroads
5401 Graham Hill Rd., Felton
831-335-4484
Scenic beach and forest steam train rides, BBQ's, and music. www.roaringcamp.com

Santa Cruz Wharf
21 Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz
831-420-6025
Take a fishing trip, rent a boat, eat fresh seafood, or do a little shopping. cityofsantacruz.com/departments/

Spas

Tea House Spa
112 Elm St., Santa Cruz
831-426-9700
www.teahousespa.com

Well Within Spa
417 Cedar St., Santa Cruz
831-458-9355
www.wellwithinspa.com

Capitola Village
Mediterranean-style village located 5 miles south of Santa Cruz. www.capitolavillage.com

Downtown Pacific Avenue
Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
Offers shops, restaurants, and street performers. www.downtownsantacruz.com

Weinshop Santa Cruz
1520 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-0900
Find new & used books, newsstands, cards, and Santa Cruz t-shirts. Free weekly author events in the heart of downtown. www.bookshopsantacruz.com

Peta~glyph Ceramic Lounge
125 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz
831-458-4278
Paint your own ceramics.

Martial Arts

Aikido of Santa Cruz
306 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-423-8326, aikidosantacruz.org

Aptos Martial Arts Academy
7000 and 9032 Soquel Dr., Aptos
831-688-1118, www.aptosmartialartsacademy.com

Neptune's Kingdom:
Indoor Mini Golf
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz
Open until 11p.m. on Friday and Saturday. 831-423-5590, beachboardwalk.com/neptuneskingdom/

Sports

Boardwalk Bowl
115 Cliff St., Santa Cruz
831-426-3324
www.boardwalkbowl.com

Neptune's Kingdom:
Indoor Mini Golf
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz
Open until 11p.m. on Friday and Saturday. 831-423-5590, beachboardwalk.com/neptuneskingdom/

Sports

Boardwalk Bowl
115 Cliff St., Santa Cruz
831-426-3324
www.boardwalkbowl.com

Neptune's Kingdom:
Indoor Mini Golf
400 Beach St., Santa Cruz
Open until 11p.m. on Friday and Saturday. 831-423-5590, beachboardwalk.com/neptuneskingdom/

Pacific Edge Indoor Climbing Gym
104 Bronson St. #12, Santa Cruz
831-454-9254
pacificedgeclimbinggym.com

Santa Cruz County Cycling Club
Meeting spots vary. Club for the serious cyclist who likes to have fun. www.santacruzcycling.org

Santa Cruz Roller Palladium
1606 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-0844

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
Thrift Stores

Bargain Barn
292 Pioneer St., Santa Cruz
Located in the Harvey West area.
Warehouse run by Goodwill, with donated items that do not end up in their stores. Sold by the pound.

Cognito
821 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-426-5414
Vintage clothing, Hawaiian shirts, halloween costumes, and wigs.

Crossroads Trading Company
811 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-458-2555
Buy, sell, and trade gently used clothing.

Goodwill
204 Union St., Santa Cruz
831-423-1078
Clothing, shoes, belts, ties, purses, books, furniture, lamps, small appliances, curtains, dishes, and more.

Moon Zoom
813 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-8500
Vintage and eclectic clothing-shop full of materials such as feathers, satin, and velvet.

Retro Paradise
1010 Pacific Ave. #C, Santa Cruz
831-460-9960
Small store of vintage clothing, hats, shoes, accessories, and jewelry.

The Salvation Army
812 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-429-8118
Used clothing, furniture, and accessories.

Thrift Center
1305 Water St., Santa Cruz
831-429-6975

Bicycling (Sales & Rentals)

Another Bike Shop
2361 Mission St., Santa Cruz
831-427-2232

The Bicycle Trip
1001 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
831-427-2580

Bike Bike
1321 River St., Santa Cruz
831-425-3843

The Bike Church
703 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-425-2453

Bill's Bike Repair
2630 Soquel Dr, Santa Cruz
831-477-0511

Dave's Custom Bikes
910 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-8923

Epicenter Cycling
8035 Soquel Dr, Aptos
831-662-8100
1730 Mission St, Santa Cruz
831-423-9000

Family Cycling Center
914 41st Ave., Capitola
831-475-3883

Surfboard Sales and Rentals

Cowell's Beach Surf Shop
30 Front St., Santa Cruz
831-427-2355

Freeline Design Surf Shop
821 41st Ave., Santa Cruz
831-476-2950

Haut Surf & Sailboards
345 Swift St., Santa Cruz
831-426-7874

Pacific Wave
1502 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
831-458-9283

Rip Curl
1604 Mission (Outlet), Santa Cruz
831-454-0360
1395 Pacific Ave
831-713-5394
753 41st Ave., Santa Cruz
831-464-3233

Stretch Boards
983 Tower Pl., Santa Cruz
831-479-7309

Noe Surfboards
2111 Delaware Ave., Santa Cruz
831-420-0663
Outdoor Water Activities

Water Sports & Lessons

Adventure Sports Unlimited
303 Potroo St. #15, Santa Cruz
831-458-3648
Training in diving, kayaking, swimming, and other water activities offered.
www.asudoit.com

Aqua Safaris Scuba Center
6896 Soquel Ave. #A, Santa Cruz
831-479-4386
Programs to learn scuba diving.
aquasafaris.com

Capitola Boat and Bait
1400 Wharf Rd., Capitola
831-462-2208
Full bait and tackle store with daily skiff rentals, pole rentals, and gift shop.
www.capitolaboatandbait.com

Kayak Connection
413 Lake Ave. #3, Santa Cruz
831-479-1121
Offers sea kayaking rental, instruction, and tours.
www.kayakconnection.com

Lighthall Yacht Charters
790 Mariner Park Way, Santa Cruz
831-429-1970
Sailing lessons offered that prepare you to take out a boat without a captain on board.
www.lighthallcharters.com

Pacific Yachting & Sailing
790 Mariner Park Way, Santa Cruz
831-423-7245
Full-service sailing school
www.pacificsail.com

Santa Cruz Boat Rentals
#15 Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz
831-423-1739
Daily skiff and pole rentals.
www.capitolaboatandbait.com

Venture Quest Kayaking
#2 Municipal Wharf, Santa Cruz
831-425-8445
Explore the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from a kayak.
www.kayaksantacruz.com

Beaches

Capitola Beach
Reminiscent of a Mediterranean village.
Take Bay and Porter exit off Highway 1.
www.cityofcapitola.org/community

Cowell/Main Beach
Beach St., Santa Cruz
831-420-5270
Main beach is to the left of the Boardwalk, Cowell beach is to the right.

Lighthouse Field State Beach
740 West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz
831-429-2850
State beach overlooking the internationally renowned surfing hotspot Steamer Lane.

Natural Bridges State Beach
2531 West Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz
831-423-4609
Tide pools and seasonal Monarch Butterfly sanctuary.
www.parks.ca.gov

New Brighton Beach
Located in Capitola off Highway 1 at New Brighton/Park Ave. exit
831-464-6329
www.parks.ca.gov

Pleasure Point Beach
East Cliff Dr. and Pleasure Point Dr., Santa Cruz
One of the area's most popular surf spots.

Rio Del Mar / Seacliff Beach
201 State Park Dr., Aptos
831-685-6500
Fire pits, barbecues, picnic areas, and one-mile promenade.

Seabright Beach
East Cliff Dr. at Seabright Ave.,
831-427-4868
A mile of sandy shoreline, popular for surfing, swimming, and campfires.

Panther Beach
10 miles north of Santa Cruz, on Hwy 1
Has a private, secluded feel.

Twin Lakes State Beach
Located at the end of 7th Ave., Santa Cruz
thatsmypark.org/parks-beaches/parks-beaches/

Wilder Beach
North of Santa Cruz, between Natural Bridges and Wilder Ranch along Highway 1

Whale Watching & Boating

Chardonnay Sailing Charters
790 Mariner Park Way, Dock FF, Santa Cruz
831-423-1213
70-foot luxury sailing yacht to charter.
www.chardonnay.com

Stagnaro Charter Boats
1718 Brommer St., Santa Cruz
831-427-0230
Fishing trips, scenic bay cruises, whale and dolphin watching, and private parties.
www.stagnaros.com

O’Neill Sea Odyssey
2222 East Cliff Dr. #222, Santa Cruz
831-462-9188
Charter the 65-foot Team O’Neill catamaran for up to 49 passengers.
www.oneillseaodyssey.org

Surf Instruction

Club Ed Surf School & Rentals, Inc
101 Beach St., Santa Cruz
831-464-0177
Located on the beach between the Wharf and the Dream Inn. club-ed.com/

Richard Schmidt Surf School, Inc.
236 San Jose Ave., Santa Cruz
831-423-0928
Reasonably-priced group rates.
www.richardschmidt.com
Outdoor Land Activities

Parks (Hiking, Mountain Biking, Skateboarding, etc.)

Jim Keefe Skate Park and Santa Cruz County Highland Park
8500 Hwy 9, Ben Lomond
Santa Cruz County Highland Park
831-454-7956

Harvey West Park
326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz
831-420-5270
Pool, picnic areas and baseball fields.
www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation

Santa Cruz Bike Park
Corner of Beach and Front Streets in town.
Ramps and asphalt areas for bicycles only.
santacruz.org/regions/santa-cruz

Big Basin State Park
21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek
831-338-8860
Home to largest continuous stand of ancient coastal redwoods south of San Fransisco
www.redwoodhikes.com/BigBasin/BigBasin.html

Henry Cowell State Park
101 North Big Trees Park Rd., Felton
831-335-4598
Loved for its extensive hiking trails.
www.parks.ca.gov

Santa Cruz City Parks
Santa Cruz is rich with parks with trails for outdoor enthusiasts seeking hiking, picnicking, sports, wildlife, and more.
www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation

Ken Wourmhoudt Skate Park
225 San Lorenzo Blvd., Santa Cruz
Full pipe, two bowls with pool coping and tile, practice bowl, and street course with steps. Open 9-Sunset daily
skateparks.com/completed_parks

Wilder Ranch State Park
1401 Coast Rd., Santa Cruz
831-423-9703
The park has 34 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails winding through coastal terraces and valleys.
www.thatsmypark.org

Bike Map
Local website for mountain biking as well as street cycling.
scrrtc.org/services/bike/#bikemap

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton
4.5 miles of hiking and equestrian trails.
www.scparks.com/home/

Neary Lagoon Park
110 California St., Santa Cruz
831-420-5270
Abundant wildlife, trails, tennis courts, floating walkways and interpretive signage.
santacruz.org/

Wilder Ranch State Park
1401 Coast Rd., Santa Cruz
831-423-9703
The park has 34 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails winding through coastal terraces and valleys.
www.thatsmypark.org

Willow Pond Ranch
505 Alfadel Ln., Soquel
831-464-2276
English riding school, horse boarding, horse leasing, sponsorship, equine-assisted growth and learning, horse rescue. Open Tuesday through Sunday.

Dog Park
110 California St., Santa Cruz
831-420-5270
Dog park enthusiasts can find several parks in Santa Cruz.

Running

Pacific Coast Trail Runs
Organizers of Skyline to Sea marathon. Trail runs all over Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas.
www.pctrailruns.com/

Santa Cruz Track Club
Year-round club meet at Soquel High School and participates in competitive events of cross-country and track.
www.santacruztrackclub.com/

Willow Pond Ranch
505 Alfadel Ln., Soquel
831-464-2276
English riding school, horse boarding, horse leasing, sponsorship, equine-assisted growth and learning, horse rescue. Open Tuesday through Sunday.

Horseback Riding

Santa Cruz Triathlon Association
Provides a supportive, social, and positive environment for athletes of all abilities.
sctriathlon.com/

Santa Cruz Bike Park
Corner of Beach and Front Streets in town.
Ramps and asphalt areas for bicycles only.
santacruz.org/regions/santa-cruz

Santa Cruz City Parks
Santa Cruz is rich with parks with trails for outdoor enthusiasts seeking hiking, picnicking, sports, wildlife, and more.
www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation

Skypark
361 Kings Village Rd., Scotts Valley
831-438-3251
Skateboarding, mountain biking, and hiking at Skypark

Wilder Ranch State Park
1401 Coast Rd., Santa Cruz
831-423-9703
The park has 34 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails winding through coastal terraces and valleys.
www.thatsmypark.org

Willow Pond Ranch
505 Alfadel Ln., Soquel
831-464-2276
English riding school, horse boarding, horse leasing, sponsorship, equine-assisted growth and learning, horse rescue. Open Tuesday through Sunday.

Tennis

Santa Cruz Bike Park
Corner of Beach and Front Streets in town.
Ramps and asphalt areas for bicycles only.
santacruz.org/regions/santa-cruz

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Willow Pond Ranch
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831-464-2276
English riding school, horse boarding, horse leasing, sponsorship, equine-assisted growth and learning, horse rescue. Open Tuesday through Sunday.

Tennis

Capitola Parks and Recreation
4400 Jade St., Capitola
831-475-5935
Reasonably-priced tennis classes for all levels of ability.
cityofcapitola.org/recreation

Community Tennis Leagues
Tennis matches available for all levels of players at some Santa Cruz public courts.
www.santacruzchamber.org/cwt/external/wcpages/visitors/activities.aspx#tennis

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
Golf & Disc Golf

Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club
16901 Big Basin Hwy, Boulder Creek
831-338-2121

Cassery Par 3 Golf Course
626 Cassery Rd, Watsonville
831-724-1654

DeLaveaga Disc Golf Club
DeLaveaga Park, Branciforte Dr., Santa Cruz
One of the world’s most highly-rated disc golf courses. Known for its inspiring setting and uncompromising challenge.
www.delaveagadiscgolf.com

DeLaveaga Golf Course & Driving Range
401 Upper Park Rd, Santa Cruz
831-423-7214
18-hole championship public golf course. Golfing, restaurant, and night-lighted driving range.
www.delaveagagolf.com

Pajaro Valley Golf Course
967 Salinas Rd, Watsonville
831-724-3851

Pasatiempo Golf Club
20 Clubhouse Rd, Santa Cruz
831-459-9169
Ranked among the top 100 courses in the U.S.
www.pasatiempo.com

Seascape Golf Club
610 Clubhouse Dr, Aptos
831-688-5242
18-hole regulation public golf course.
www.seascapegc.com

Spring Hills Golf Course
31 Smith Rd, Watsonville
831-724-1404

Valley Gardens Golf Course
263 Mt. Hermon Rd, Scotts Valley
831-438-3058

Nature Spots

Arboretum at UCSC
1156 High St, Santa Cruz
831-427-2998
World famous garden at the base of campus.
arboretum.ucsc.edu

Bamboo Giant
5601 Freedom Blvd, Aptos
831-687-0100
20 acres of over 60 varieties of bamboo, 3 self-guided walking tours.
www.bamboogiant.com

Monarch Grove
Natural Bridges State Beach
831-423-4609
Tour of a state-designated insect preserve and monarch butterfly grove.
www.parks.ca.gov

Seacliff’s Ancient Fossil Beds
831-685-6500
Explore fossil evidence of an ancient inland sea.
www.thatsmypark.org

Public State Campgrounds

Big Basin Redwoods State Park
21600 Big Basin Way, Boulder Creek
831-338-8860
Has one of the last areas of virgin redwood forest in the Santa Cruz mountains.
www.parks.ca.gov

Henry Cowell Redwoods & Fall Creek State Park
101N. Big Trees Park Rd, Felton
831-335-4598
www.parks.ca.gov/

Manresa Uplands State Beach
205 Manresa Beach Rd, La Selva Beach
831-761-1795
www.parks.ca.gov

New Brighton State Beach Park
1500 Park Ave, Capitola
831-464-6330
www.parks.ca.gov

Seacliff State Beach
State Park Dr., Aptos - (RV only)
831-685-6442 www.parks.ca.gov

Sunset State Beach
201 Sunset Beach Rd, Watsonville
831-763-7063 www.parks.ca.gov

U-Pick Farms

Organic Strawberries and Kiwis
Swanton Berry Farms
25 Swanton Rd, Davenport
831-469-8804
swantonberryfarm.com/

Olallieberries, Boysenberries, and Apples
Gizdich Ranch
55 Peckham Rd, Watsonville
831-722-1056
www.gizdich-ranch.com

Organic Apples
Swanton Pacific Ranch
25 Swanton Rd, Davenport
831-458-5410
www.spranch.org/events.ldml

Pumpkin Farms
Fambrini’s Fresh Farm Produce
44 Coast Rd, Santa Cruz
831-423-5891

Rodoni Farms
4 miles north of Santa Cruz on Hwy 1
831-426-6438
www.rodonifarms.com

Seaside Pumpkins
½ mile north of Davenport on Hwy 1, open in October. 831-426-6438

Food Trucks

Cruz N Gourmet
Found at UCSC Baskin Circle School of Engineering weekdays at lunch
831-251-2223
www.cruzngourmet.com/

Raymonds Catering
Found at Science Hill weekdays at lunch
831-459-3542

The Truck Stop
Found at W. Cliff Dr. and Sundays at Live Oak Farmers Market.
831-621-7361

Zameen Mediterranean Cuisine
Found at UCSC Theater Arts parking lot at lunch during the academic year.
831-688-4465
www.zameencuisine.com/food-truck

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at communityrentals.ucsc.edu
Farmers Markets

**Aptos Farmers Market**
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Saturdays at Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos
Offers organic and non-organic produce, flowers, pasta, coffee, and music. Largest market in the county.
www.montereybayfarmers.org/markets

**Downtown Santa Cruz Farmers’ Market**
1:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Lincoln St. and Cedar St., Santa Cruz
Fruits and veggies grown by local farmers.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

**Felton Farmers Market**
2:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, May through October at 120 Russell Ave., Felton.
Marketplace selling seasonal produce.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org/markets

**Live Oak Farmers Market**
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sundays year-round on East Cliff Dr.
Provides sustainable sources of fresh produce and other unique foods.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

**Scotts Valley Farmers Market**
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Saturdays at 360 Kings Village Dr., Scotts Valley.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org/markets/scotts-valley

**The UCSC Market Cart**
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday & Friday. Early June through October on the corner of Bay and High Street.

**Watsonville Farmers Market**
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Every Friday.
1:00-6:00 p.m. Every Sunday.
Located on Main and Peck Street (at the plaza), Live music on first Fridays of the month.
831-234-9511

**Westside Farmers Market**
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Saturdays at Western Dr. and Mission St., Santa Cruz
Food for sale from local farmers.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Outdoor Vendors

**Antique Fair**
8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Second Sunday of every month. Located on Lincoln St. (between Pacific Ave. & Cedar St.), in downtown Santa Cruz.
Vendors offer an eclectic blend of antiques, vintage, and unique items in an outdoor street fair. 831-476-6940

**Santa Cruz Flea-Market**
2260 Soquel Dr., Santa Cruz
831-462-4442
An array of goods sold by individual vendors, laid out through a parking lot. Entry fees per person: $1.00 on Friday, $1.50 on Saturday, and $2.50 on Sunday.

Other Destinations near Santa Cruz

**Aptos**
10 miles south of Santa Cruz, Aptos consists of a number of small communities. You’ll find boutiques, restaurants, a landmark 1870’s Bayview Hotel and access to 30 miles of hiking/biking Redwood forest trails in the village of Aptos, on the east side of the freeway. Seacliff, Rio Del Mar and Seascape beaches to the west afford miles of wide, sandy, sunny beaches; Seacliff Beach has barbeques, picnic tables, and a fishing pier.
Aptos Chamber of Commerce
www.aptoschamber.com

**Capitola**
This region with a mediterranean ambience, just a few minutes south of Santa Cruz, is full of tradition and an interesting history.
Founded in 1869, Capitola is California’s oldest seaside resort town and still exudes its quintessential beach charm with craft galleries, salt water taffy, sandcastles and colorful beach bungalows. Capitola Chamber of Commerce.
www.capitolachamber.com/
www.ci.capitola.ca.us

**Davenport**
A 25-minute drive up the coast from Santa Cruz, Davenport rests along the Pacific Ocean and is home to art galleries, restaurants, and charming cafes. In the winter months, migrating whales can be seen just off shore.
www.santacruzca.org/regions/davenport.php

**Soquel**
This cozy region just minutes south of Santa Cruz is reminiscent of another time in history. The 150-year-old town lies inland from Capitola. You’ll find antique dealers, scenic two-lane roads, and the Ugly Mug, a music and art venue.
www.santacruzca.org/regions/capitola-soquel-village.php

**Monterey**
About 50 minutes from Santa Cruz, Monterey boasts a dazzling waterfront along one of only 13 federally protected national marine sanctuaries in the country. This coastal community offers historic and cultural resources, museums, gardens, and recreational activities. Watch sea lions and migrating whales from the coastline or kayak in the waters shared with dolphins and sea otters. Home to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and next to carmel-by-the-sea.
www.monterey.org

**San Lorenzo Valley**
The Santa Cruz Mountain communities are about 15 minutes from the bustling coast. The 25-mile long San Lorenzo River threads through the towns of Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, and Felton. San Lorenzo Valley offers cafes, antique stores, shops, galleries, railroads, and hiking trails. The valley is also home to the oldest State Park in California, Big Basin. If you want to visit California Redwoods, this is the place to start.
www.hwy9.com
Classes/Organized Activities

UCSC Office of Physical Education, Recreation & Sports
Promoting physical education and wellness through a myriad of activities.
831-459-2806
www.ucsrcrecreation.com

Capitola/Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation

General special interest classes include:
(Offerings vary by session)

- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
- Community Sing
- Dance
- Guitar
- Japanese, Portuguese
- Jewelry
- Korean Martial Arts: Tae Kwan Do
- Photoshop
- Tennis: all levels
- Therapilates
- Trial running for women
- Sailing
- Watercolor painting
- Yoga

www.capitolarecreation.com
831-475-5935

Louden Nelson Center,
and other locales

Example of classes:

- Acting and Movement
- Baking with Chocolate
- Basic Japanese Calligraphy
- Chinese
- Cooks Workshop Basics
- Intermediate Hand Drumming
- Persian Dance
- Polynesian Dance
- Salsa Crash Course Cuban Style
- for Beginners
- Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk tours
- Women’s Self Defence

www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation/
831-420-6177

Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Monterey Bay Master Gardener
1432 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville
In becoming a Master Gardener, you will have the opportunity to give back to your community through different forms of volunteering.
mbmg.org

Volunteer Matching Networks

UCSC Student Volunteer Center
Provides information about both long-term and one-time volunteer opportunities with a variety of organizations. Also offers grant opportunities.
www2.ucsc.edu/svc

Volunteer Centers of Santa Cruz County
Great resource for county-wide volunteer opportunities.
www.scvolunteercenter.org

Volunteer Match
Search online listings of hundreds of opportunities in the Santa Cruz area.
www.volunteermatch.org
Above the Line
Above the Line is an organization that aims to reduce teen homelessness in Santa Cruz County.
www.abovetheline.org

Ag Against Hunger
831-755-1480
Help provide hungry people with surplus produce from local fields.
www.agagainsthunger.org

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Programs
831-454-5003
Participate in educational workshops, college programming, and peer education.

Big Brothers and Sisters
1500 41st Ave., Suite 250, Capitola
831-464-8691
Be a mentor to local youth.
www.santacruzmentor.org

Familia Center
711 East Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz
831-423-5747
Latino-based community resource that offers recreational and educational programs for youth.
communitybridges.org/volunteer

Friends of Santa Cruz
831-429-1840
Work with school groups, lead nature and history walks, host visitor centers or booths at special events. Apply through State Park’s Docent Program.
www.thatsmypark.org

Friends Outside
1740 17th Ave., Santa Cruz
831-427-5078
Friends Outside provides programs and services to incarcerated individuals in state prisons all over California.
www.scvolunteercenter.com/programs/strengtheningfamilies/friends-outside

HIV Prevention Program
831-459-3772
Provides the UC Santa Cruz community with information, resources, and support to lower the risk of contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Programs include Condom Co-op, free and anonymous HIV testing, presentations, outreach, and special events.
healthcenter.ucsc.edu/shop

Homeless Garden Project
831-426-3609
People throughout the community are brought together in the beauty and security of this certified organic garden.
www.homelessgardenproject.org

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
831-429-6116
Help with a variety of jobs: staff booths, take tickets, direct traffic, clean-up, etc.
www.landtrustsantacruz.org

Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
831-464-2950
Help protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through participation in information, education, and technical assistance programs.
www.rcdsantacruz.org

Surfrider Foundation: Santa Cruz Chapter
831-476-7667
Help prevent pollution by participating in classroom presentations, beach clean-ups, taking water samples, and many other opportunities.
santacruz.surfrider.org/

Santa Cruz Area Radical Fairies
831-818-2528
This group facilitates a variety of social activities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning persons.

Santa Cruz State Parks
Volunteer to be a docent, campground host, trail worker, student intern, resource management volunteer, or to be on the horse bike patrol.
www.thatsmypark.org

Walnut Avenue Women’s Center
831-426-3062
WAWC seeks to improve the economic, physical, and emotional well being of all families.
wawc.org
On-Going Events

Sundays

Dance Church
9:00a.m.-11:30a.m. 418 Front St., Santa Cruz.
Freestyle DJ’d dance. Not affiliated with religion; dance
represents a spiritual reverence. Donations suggested.
the418project.com/dance-church

Jazz Jam Sessions
3:30p.m.-7:30p.m. Four free hours of fun and spontaneous
jazz played by musicians who have never rehearsed
together.
www.santacruzjazz.org

Live Oak Farmers Market
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Provides sustainable sources of fresh
produce and other unique foods every Sunday year round.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

Mondays

Half Price Bowling at Boardwalk Bowl
Mondays and Tuesday after 9:00 p.m. and weekdays 2:00-
5:00 p.m.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

International Jazz Series
World-class jazz artists perform in concert at the Kuumbwa
Jazz Center most Mondays.
www.kuumbwajazz.org

Movie Screenings at The Crepe Place
Starting at 8:00 p.m. every Monday. Watch a free older film
over dinner or dessert on their back patio area. Reservations
recommended. 831-429-6994

Open Mic at The Ugly Mug
6:00p.m. Open Mic at The Ugly Mug Café in Soquel.
www.cafeugly.com

Tuesdays

Contact Improv Jam
7:00p.m.-8:25p.m. 418 Front St., Santa Cruz, across from the
Metro Bus Station. Drop-in is okay. First three weeks are free.
Requested donation.
831-458-1500, the418project.com/contact-jam

Fetton Farmers Market
2:30p.m.-6:30p.m. May through last Tuesday in October at St.
John’s Catholic Church parking lot. Community marketplace
offering fresh seasonal produce.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org/

Half-Price Bowling at Boardwalk Bowl
After 9:00p.m.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

Live Music at Boardwalk Bowl
Live music at Boardwalk Bowl while bowling.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

Movie Night at The Ugly Mug
7:30 p.m. Movie nights at The Ugly Mug Café in Soquel.
www.cafeugly.com

Wednesdays

Downtown Farmers Market
1:30p.m.-6:30p.m. Lincoln and Cedar St. in Downtown
Santa Cruz. www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org/markets/

Sailboat Races
During the months of March through October. These
Wednesday night races begin at 6:30 pm and last until
8:00p.m. Contact the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for more
information. 831-425-0690, www.scyc.org

Acoustic Music Night at The Ugly Mug
7:30 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The
Ugly Mug Café in Soquel hosts acoustic music nights.
www.cafeugly.com

Fridays

Free Fridays at the Museum of Art and History
1st Fridays of the month are free at the MAH. Changing
exhibitions of contemporary art and Santa Cruz history.
Docent-led tours, lectures, family activities.
www.santacruzmah.org

Friday Night Bands at the Beach
6:30p.m. & 8:30p.m. Classic rock bands of the 70s and 80s
perform two free shows Friday nights on the beach during
summer www.beachboardwalk.com

Live Music at the Boardwalk Bowl
Live music at Boardwalk Bowl while bowling. Check the
web site to know when there will be live music.
www.boardwalkbowl.com

Midnights at the Del Mar
The Del Mar Theater features a variety of movies and prizes.
1124 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
www.thenick.com

Print out your own copy of Fun Things To Do in Santa Cruz at
communityrentals.ucsc.edu
**Watsonville Farmers Market**
3:00p.m.-7:00p.m. every Friday. The Watsonville Farmers Market, located on Main and Peak Street, provides fresh and locally grown foods. Live music on first Fridays of the month. 831-234-9511

**Saturdays**

**Watsonville Farmers Market**
8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Open year-round. Located at Cabrillo College. It is the premier farmers market in the county. 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos
www.montereybayfarmers.org

**Aptos Farmers Market**
8:00a.m.-12:00p.m. Located at Cabrillo College. It is the premier farmers market in the county.

**Arboretum Garden Tour**
11:00a.m. of the first Saturday of each month. The tour is free with admission to the Arboretum.
arboretum.ucsc.edu

**The Legendary Santa Cruz Slam**
6:30p.m.-11:00p.m. Talented poets perform rousing, stimulating, and thought-provoking spoken word on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Poet and Patriot.
www.legendarycollective.com

**Midnights at the Del Mar**
The Del Mar Theater features a variety of movies and prizes.
1124 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz
www.thenick.com

**Santa Cruz Knitting Meet-up**
3:00-6:00 p.m. Mingle and trade knitting tips year-round. Drop-ins welcome. Check web site for week’s location
knitting.meetup.com/115/

**Santa Cruz Saturday Market**
10:00a.m.-6:00p.m., May through November.
San Lorenzo Park, 137 Dakota Ave., Santa Cruz
An artisan’s bazaar, with emphasis on ecological living.

**Scotts Valley Farmers Market**
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m. Located at 360 Kings Village Dr., Scotts Valley Community Center.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

**Westside Farmers Market**
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m., 2801 Mission St., Santa Cruz
Food from local farmers.
www.santacruzfarmersmarket.org

**Other**

**Karaoke at the Boardwalk**
Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 p.m. to closing. Boardwalk Bowl five nights a week.
831-426-3324 , boardwalkbowl.com

**Live Jazz Seven Nights a Week**
6:30p.m.-8:30p.m. Hoffmann’s Bakery, Downtown Santa Cruz.
www.hoffmanssantacruz.com
Yearly Events in Santa Cruz

January

Annual Arboretum Volunteer Training Classes – University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum; Every Tuesday in January. There is a variety of opportunities open to volunteers which will help to expand knowledge about plants and gardens. arboretum.ucsc.edu

Elephant Seal Walks – Año Nuevo State Reserve; All month. To view the seals during this season, you must be on a guided walk. These popular three-mile walks over rolling sand dunes last about two and a half hours. 650-879-2025, www.parks.ca.gov/

Eight Tens at Eight, Ten Minute Play Festival – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Mid- to Late January. The Actors’ Theater on Center Street hosts Eight Tens at Eight. Both local and national playwrights compact works into eight never before produced ten-minute plays. www.sccat.org, 831-335-4409

Monarch Butterfly Tours – Monarch Grove near Natural Bridges; Every weekend of January. Guided tours of the monarch grove take place during the winter months, (mid-September to mid-October) when migrating monarchs come to Santa Cruz. Monarch migration is variable, so before you visit, call the park to find out population particulars. 831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org Click on Parks and Beaches, then Natural Bridges State Beach.

Santa Cruz Fungus Fair – Louden Nelson Center; Early January. The Fungus Fair displays extraordinary mushrooms, delicacies and enticing cooking demonstrations. Visitors may bring mushrooms for identification. 831-420-6115, ffsc.us/fair

Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival – Cocoanut Grove; On a Sunday, mid-January. This festival is a celebration of all things chocolate. Chocolate tastings from area vendors, a silent auction, and live jazz are featured. www.santacruzchocolatefestival.org

The Volcom Great White Surf – Steamer’s Lane; Late January. This surf contest annually graces Santa Cruz with its presence. www.volcom.com/events/

Volunteer Docent Training – Seymour Center; Mid-January. Join the Seymour Center team for a ten-week docent training course and learn about current topics in marine science and conservation from the researchers and trainers at Long Marine Lab. No experience necessary. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-job-descriptions

February

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour – Rio Theater; Late February. This film festival facilitates journeying to exotic locations, presenting amazing big-screen stories. 831-459-2806, www.ucscrecreation.com

Clam Chowder Cook-Off – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk; Mid February. Teams from all over the West Coast compete for the “Best Clam Chowder” award. The purchase of a tasting kit allows one to vote for which chowder is the best. 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.com/clamchowder

Migration Festival – Various locations; Mid-February. Migration Festival at Natural Bridges, Seacliff, New Brighton and Henry Cowell State Parks will celebrate animals that migrate with crafts, games and more. 831-423-4609, www.thatsmypark.org/

Quilted Memories Quilt Show – Santa Cruz County Fair Grounds; On a weekend in late February; www.pvqa.org

Santa Cruz Dayz - Mid February; The Annual Santa Cruz Dayz musical entertainment showcases a lineup of reggae favorites. 831-420-5260, www.santacruztickets.com

St. Valentine’s Day Massacre Surf Shoot Out – Pleasure Point; Mid-February. This is an annual surf competition of the Eastside vs. Westside vs. All Sides. The First Peak is at Pleasure Point. 831-462-3880

Volunteers’ Annual Training – Wilder Ranch; Early February; sign-ups through January. This event allows volunteers to come forth to give heart and soul to the “Life on the Ranch” and other activities at Wilder Ranch State Park. 831-426-0505
March

**Jazz on the Wharf** – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-March. Jazz on the Wharf features live jazz amidst the beautiful setting of Santa Cruz Wharf. 831-420-5273, www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation/community-facilities/santa-cruz-wharf/

**Best of the Rest** – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Late March. The “Best of the Rest,” stages readings of the runner-ups of the Eight Tens contest. 831-335-4409, sccat.org

**Santa Cruz Kayak Surf Festival** – Lighthouse Point; Late March. This festival features world class champions in kayaking, wave skiing, stand-up paddle surfing, gala parties and free demostrations. 831-458-3648, asudoit.com/santa-cruz-paddlefest

**Watsonville Film Festival** - Henry B. Mello Center for the Performing Arts; Mid-March. Three days of films ad events celebrating Latino culture. www.watsonvillefilmfestival.org

April

**AIDS Walk** – Various locations; Mid-April. An AIDS walk organized by the UCSC Student Health Organization begins at the Santa Cruz Wharf. 831-427-3900, www.encompasscs.org/community-support-services/santa-cruz-aids-project-scap

**Ducky Derby & Carnival** – Harvey West Park, Friendship Gardens; Late April. This event features a carnival, entertainment, rubber duck races, prizes, food, and more. Fundraise for scholarships and local charities. 831-479-4070, duckyderbysantacruz.org/

**Cine Maiz** – UCSC Performing Arts Media Theater; Mid April. The Latin American Film Festival Committee holds a mission to expose, educate, and challenge prevailing perceptions of Latin America as conveyed through the mainstream movie industry and popular culture in general. Free admission. www2.ucsc.edu/raza/cinemaiz.html

**Hanamatsuri Festival** – Watsonville; Mid-April. The Watsonville Buddhist Temple hosts the Hanamatsuri Festival of flowers with displays and demonstrations. Free admission. 831-724-7860, wbtemple.org/hanamatsuri.html

**HOPE Concert** – University of Santa Cruz; Early April. The HOPE event takes place outside of the Multi-Purpose Room of UCSC’s College Nine and Ten. This yearly concert combines live entertainment with activism opportunities. 831-459-1253, www.ucsc.edu

**Santa Cruz Half Marathon** – Early April. The Santa Cruz Half Marathon consists of a 13.1-mile run/walk past breathtaking vistas of the Pacific coastline. www.firstwave-events.com/

**The Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society Show** – Late April. Feature a variety of jewels, jade and ancient fossils. scmgs.org/

**Wednesday Night Sailboat Races** – At the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, through October. These Wednesday night races begin at 6:30 pm and last until 8:00p.m. Contact the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for more information. 831-425-0690, www.scyc.org

May

**Civil War Battle Encampment** – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late May. The annual Civil War Battle and Encampment at Roaring Camp Railroad stages encampments of Union and Confederate soldiers and battles at one of the West’s longest running Civil War reenactments. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

**Santa Cruz Blue Grass Fair** – San Lorenzo Park, early May. There is free admission to live performances, and a raffle. scbs.org/events/

**Santa Cruz Film Festival** – Local theaters, Early May. The Santa Cruz Film Festival is an annual 9-day festival hosting eclectic film screenings, music events, educational panels and parties. 831-459-7676

**Santa Cruz Rejuvenation Festival** – San Lorenzo Park, Mid-May. This festival has an eco-fair, organic food, sustainable living workshop, and free yoga classes. Free admission. www.loveeternal.org/le_productionstudios/

**Strawberry and Justice Festival** – The Farm, UCSC; Late May. Join UCSC for strawberry shortcake and Bluegrass tunes at this fundraiser. $5 donation requested. 831-459-3240, casfs.ucsc.edu/
La Guelaguetza – Harbor High School; Fourth Sunday in May. This event celebrates brings the Oaxacan community coming together from near and far to celebrate with music, traditional costumes, food, and dance. www.viveoaxaca.com

Music in the Gardens Tour – Near Pleasure Point; Last Sunday in May; This tour is an afternoon of musical groups performing different styles of folk & nostalgic music throughout area gardens. 831-457-9693, www.scbaroque.org

June

Father’s Day – Hats Off to Dad – Roaring Camp Railroads; Father’s Day. This steam train ride and chuck wagon BBQ is accompanied by live country entertainment. Each dad receives an engineer’s cap, and one lucky Dad is selected per train to ride down the mountain in the cab of the locomotive. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com


Juneteenth Celebration – Laurel Park; Second Saturday of June. The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is celebrated in Laurel Park. The event is free and offers soul food for the mind and body. 831-420-6177

Los Mejicas Annual Spring Concert – UCSC Theater Arts Mainstage; Early June. This annual performance, featuring traditional dances from various regions of Mexico, is performed by UCSC students. 831-459-2159, www.santacruztickets.com

Scottish Renaissance Festival – Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds; Mid June. The Scottish Renaissance Festival of Santa Cruz is an annual celebration of culture through music, theatre, crafts and art. 831-252-4878, www.scottishrenaissancefestival.org

Walnut Avenue Women’s Center Strawberry Festival – 303 Walnut Avenue; First Saturday in June. This fundraiser consists of carnival games, food, bounce houses, a dunk tank, raffle prizes, and, of course, strawberries prepared many different ways. www.wawc.org

Woodies on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Wharf; Late June. Surf City Classic: Woodies on the Wharf is a car show that also celebrates the surf spirit. 831-420-5273, www.santacruzwoodies.com/woodies-on-the-wharf
July

10K Firecracker Race – Harvey West Park; July 4th. Santa Cruz 10K Firecracker Race and Kids 1K is a scenic and challenging course. www.santacruzfirercracker10k.org

Santa Cruz Shakespeare – UCSC; July through early August. Independent non-profit theatre company dedicated to the plays of William Shakespeare and other dynamic playwrights whose work celebrates language. santacruzshakespeare.org/

Annual Day at the Beach – Cowell’s Beach; Mid July. Plywood placed over the sand allows those with mobility issues to enjoy the beach and engage in sports like kayaking, scuba diving, and water flotation. 831-459-7210, sharedadventures.org/

Boomeria Extravaganza – Boony Doon; Mid-July. This annual unique organ concert is a fundraiser for the SC Baroque Festival. 831-457-9693, www.scbaroque.org

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music – Cabrillo College; July through August. Preeminent and emerging compositions are performed, partly by renowned guest artists from across the globe, to give voice to works which are rarely more than a year or two old, and sometimes still wet on the page. 831-420-5260, www.cabrillomusic.org

“Cops ‘n Rodders” Classic Car Show & Cruise – Scotts Valley; Third Saturday in July. The show includes hot rods, police and fire safety exhibits. 831-440-5670, www.scottsvalleypd.com

Family 4th of July Fest – Roaring Camp Railroads; July 4th. Roaring Camp Railroads hosts its annual ‘50s Family July 4th Fest with a 1950s style sock hop, dance and hula hoop contest, sack races, balloon toss, BBQ and live entertainment. www.roaringcamp.com

Festival del Nopal - Downtown Santa Cruz; Late July. A culinary festival of all things cactus. www.festivaldelnopal.com/

Free Friday Night Bands on the Beach – Beach Boardwalk; Mid-July to Early September. The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk features two free live concerts every Friday night with bands from the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.com

Great Train Robberies – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early July. Hold onto your valuables, as each train is sure to be robbed at Bear Mountain. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Moonlight Dinner Train – Roaring Camp Railroads; Second Saturday of July, August, September, and October. A moonlight dinner, dancing, and train ride through the redwood forest are scheduled once a month during the summer and fall. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Santa Cruz Fringe Festival – Various venues; Mid-July. A 10-day performing arts event that rotates around storytelling. santacruzfringefestival.com/

The Watsonville Strawberry Festival – Downtown Watsonville; Late July. The Strawberry Festival serves up a menu of various strawberry dishes, with entertainment and contests. www.mbsf.com

The Museum of Art & History’s Plein Air Affair – Abbott Square, behind the Museum of Art and History; Mid-July. Participating artists contribute over 150 pieces of artwork on display during the public sale. Many artists are onsite and some show live demonstrations. 831-429-1964, www.santacruzmah.org

Obon Festival – Watsonville Buddhist Temple; Mid July. The Watsonville Buddhist Temple hosts Watsonville’s Obon Festival with food, music, dance performances and demonstrations. 831-724-7860, www.wbtemple.org/

Wharf to Wharf Race – Various locations; Fourth Saturday of June. This race is a 6-mile run from Santa Cruz to Capitola-by-the-Sea. Runners are limited to 15,000 and tickets to participate sell out early. www.wharftowharf.com

Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge Bicycle Ride – Various locations; Late July. This is a one day event on the West Coast with both a 100 mile and 100k events. www.santacruzcycling.org/
August

**Redwood Dulcimer Festival** – Bonny Doon; Early August. This is a musical showcase from the talented Redwood Dulcimer Day staff and special guests that is eclectic and delights every year. During three 90-minute workshop sessions, there are diverse workshop options to choose from, catering to players from novice to advanced ability.
www.redwooddulcimer.com/events.html

**Aloha Celebrity Races and Polynesian Festival** – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-August. Designed especially for new and novice paddlers, these races are a chance to discover the excitement of outrigger canoe racing. The Polynesian Festival follows with a taste of the tropics- fresh flower leis, Hawaiian shaved ice, Maori face painting, print making and dance performances.
831-420-5273, cityofsantacruz.com

**Roughwater Swim** – Santa Cruz Wharf; First Week of August. This one-mile swim around the Santa Cruz Wharf attracts ocean swimmers from all over Northern California.
831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

**Musical Saw Festival** – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early August. Roaring Camp Railroads invites you to listen to musical saws and folk instruments from around the world.
831-426-6966, www.cabrillomusic.org

**Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music** – Santa Cruz Auditorium; Starts early August. The Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium is the backdrop for this symphonic music festival.

**Santa Cruz City Amateur Golf Championship** – De Laveaga Golf Course; Mid-August. This annual event invites amateur players to play with some of the best golfers in Northern California.
949-325-6192, surfshopchallenge.com/

**Day on the Monterey Bay Regatta** – Monterey Bay; Late August. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County host this regatta on the Monterey Bay, with BBQ, live music and raffles.
September

**Capitola Begonia Festival** – Capitola Village; Labor Day weekend. It features fun activities that all the family can enjoy: a Sand Sculpture contest, a Fishing Derby, Row Boat races, and culminates with a Nautical Parade of begonia-laden floats traveling down Soquel Creek. 831-475-6522, www.begoniafestival.com

**Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day** – Various locations; Mid-September. Coastal Cleanup Day is a premier volunteer event to help clean the local beaches. 831-462-5660, saveourshores.org/acc/

**The Big Kahuna Triathlon** – California Coast to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-September. This triathlon consists of a 1.2 mile swim, 5.6 mile bike ride, and 13.1 mile run along the beautiful coastline with finish line and luau at the Boardwalk. 877-366-7223, www.firstwave-events.com/events/big-kahuna-triathlon/

**Greek Culture and Food Festival** – Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church, Church Street; Early to mid-September. This is a Santa Cruz tradition with folk dancing and superb food such as dolmas, kabobs, and baklava. 831-425-1234, www.propheteliassc.org/

**Monterey Bay Birding Festival** – Various locations; Mid-September. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. 831-724-3900, www.montereybaybirding.org/ Click on Events

**Ohlone Day Celebration** – Henry Cowell State Park; Mid-September. Celebrate Ohlone day by learning about the culture, traditions, food and dance of the Ohlone Indians. 831-335-3174, www.mountainparks.org

**Santa Cruz County Fair** – 2601 East Lake Ave., Watsonville; Mid-September. The Annual Santa Cruz County Fair has many festivities to enjoy, including a carnival. 831-724-5671, www.santacruzcountyfair.com

**Mole and Mariachi Festival** – Mission Adobe State Historic Park; Late September. There is free admission to music and crafts and you can vote for the best mole. www.thatsmypark.org/

**Santa Cruz Triathlon** – Various locations; Late September. Run, swim, and bike in the Santa Cruz Triathlon while raising money for local school athletics programs. www.santacruztriathlon.org/triathlon/

**Thunderbirds on the Wharf** – Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf; Late September. This show displays a collection of vintage Thunderbirds. www.montereytbirds.com

**Surf City AIDS Ride** – San Lorenzo Park; First Sunday of October. A bicycle ride to benefit the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. Choose from 12, 30, 60, or 100 mile routes. www.surfcityaidsride.org
October

The Annual Sculpture Garden – Watsonville; All month. This is major exhibition of sculptures throughout the beautiful demonstration gardens and is on display throughout the month. 831-728-2532, www.sierraazul.com

California Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale – Eucalyptus Grove, High Street and Western Drive; Early October. The California Native Plant Society hosts this spring plant sale. The plant list may be viewed on the website. 831-427-2998, arboretum.ucsc.edu

Hot Rods at the Beach – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk; Mid October. This car show is a non-profit event featuring over 500 vehicles, local foods and vendors, music and a raffle. 831-295-8038, www.hotrodsatthebeach.com

The Halloween Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late October. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is narrated during a ride on the Ghost Train. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com Click on Events.

Lobster Feed – Cowell Redwoods State Park; Mid October. The annual fundraising event provides a gourmet lobster dinner and bluegrass music in the redwoods. 831-335-3174, www.mountainparks.org

Halloween Mask Making and Haunted Theater – Louden Nelson Community Center; Late October. 831-420-6177, www.nelsoncenter.com Click on Events and Activities.

Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza – Capitola Village; Mid-October. This is a fundraising event featuring a display of fireworks over the Capitola wharf hosted by the Monte Foundation. www.monte-foundation.com

Open Studios Art Tours – Various locations; First three weekends of October. Take a self-guided tour of area art studios during the Annual Cultural Council Open Studios Art Tour. www.ccscc.org Click on Open Studios

Pacific Rim Film Festival – Various locations; Mid October. This film festival is a rare one in that it offers screenings of international feature films, shorts and documentaries to the Santa Cruz community for no admission charge. www.pacrimfilmfestival.org

Practical Activism Conference – University of California Santa Cruz; Late October. This is a student-led conference with speakers and hands-on activism workshops. 831-459-1253, www.practicalactivism.org

Santa Cruz Youth Band Review – Downtown Santa Cruz to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-October. California high school bands march from downtown Santa Cruz to the Boardwalk. beachboardwalk.com/bandreview

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Chili Cook-Off – Beach Boardwalk; Late October. Both professional and amateur chefs work their culinary magic and compete for the title of best Chili! www.beachboardwalk.com/chili/

Scottish Games & Celtic Festival – San Lorenzo Park; Early October. This festival features live music, games, shopping, food and a living history exhibit to explore Scottish traditions. www.santacruzscottishgames.com

Tours of the Monarch Butterfly Grove – Monarch Grove Butterfly Sanctuary; Mid-October - January. Join a docent naturalist and see thousands of monarch butterflies wintering in Santa Cruz. 831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org Click on Parks and Beaches, then Natural Bridges State Beach.

O’Neill Coldwater Classic - Steamer Lane; Mid October. The longest running surf event in North America featuring unsponsored professional surfers vying for the Coldwater title and a year-long sponsorship by O’Neill Wetsuits. us.oneill.com/
November

**Strike Out Hunger and Bowl for Free!** – Bring in a can of food in November and December to the Boardwalk Bowl and bowl a game for free. All donations are given to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County. 831-426-3324, www.boardwalkbowl.com

**Santa Cruz Sea Glass and Ocean Art Festival** – Cocoanut Grove on the Boardwalk; Early November. Admission here enters you into a raffle and there is also a competition with 10 different categories and prizes. santacruzseaglass.com/festival

**The Volcom Great White Surf** – Steamer’s Lane; Mid-November. This contest is the second of two hosted annually by Volcom. volcom.com/events

**Mi Casa Es Tu Casa** – PVAC Art Gallery; November to Mid-December. Pajaro Valley Arts Council presents their exhibit with themes that vary each year, featuring Mexican tradition and art. 831-722-3062, www.pajarovalleyartscouncil.org/about

**The Big Sur Half Marathon** – Various locations; Mid-November. This marathon offers a gently rolling fast course that winds through historic downtown Monterey, along Cannery Row, and proceeds along Pacific Grove’s coastline with incredible views of the Monterey Bay. A walker-friendly course welcomes Half Marathon walkers. 831-625-6226, www.bigsurhalfmarathon.org

**Roaring Camps’ Holiday Tree Walk** – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late November and December. The Holiday Tree Walk is an event where guests sip hot cider and view beautifully adorned trees decorated by area businesses and organizations as funds are raised for their respective organizations. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com
December

The Nutcracker – Santa Cruz Ballet Theater; 3 days. The Santa Cruz Ballet Theater presents “The Nutcracker” in December, featuring the Houston Ballet’s principal dancer. 831-477-1606, www.scbt.org


Downtown Santa Cruz Holiday Parade – Downtown Santa Cruz; First Saturday of December. An annual downtown parade celebrates the holidays with floats, marching bands, horses, classic cars, the Grand Marshall, and Santa Claus. 831-429-8433, www.downtownsantacruz.com

Lighted Boat Parade – Santa Cruz Harbor; First Saturday night in December. The Santa Cruz Lighted Boat Parade features over fifty decorated boats parading through Santa Cruz Harbor, rain or shine. 831-475-6161, www.santacruzharbor.org

Roaring Camp’s Holiday Tree Walk – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late November and December. The Holiday Tree Walk is an event where guests sip hot cider and view beautifully adorned trees decorated by area businesses and organizations as funds are raised for their respective organizations. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

The Jingle Shells Art & Craft Festival – Seymour Center; Early December. This art and craft festival features ocean-inspired gifts and presentations with live music and a whale lighting ceremony at dusk. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu

The Scotts Valley Christmas Tree Lighting – Scotts Valley Community Center; Early December. The Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce invites the community to light the Christmas tree and listen to live music. www.scottsvalleychamber.com

The Aptos Village Holiday Tree Lighting – Aptos Village; Early December. This holiday tree lighting celebrates the holiday spirit with food, music, caroling and lights. You are asked to bring a charitable gift or donation. 831-688-1467, www.aptoschamber.com

Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo – Año Nuevo State Park; mid-December-March. Año Nuevo State Reserve hosts naturalist-led walking tours of elephant seals in their natural habitat in December. 650-879-2025, www.parks.ca.gov/

The Ranch Holiday Festival – Wilder Ranch; Mid-December. The Wilder Ranch allows you to experience the winter holidays as folks did in Victorian and early 20th century times with crafts, games, treats. 831-426-0505, www.thatismypark.org

The Holiday Gift Faire – Henry Cowell Redwood state park; Mid-December. This event provides an opportunity to select holiday
Art Exhibits and Lectures

The Museum of Art & History's Plein Air Affair – Abbott Square, behind the Museum of Art and History; Mid-July. Participating artists have contributed over 150 pieces of artwork on display during the public sale. Many artists are onsite and some show live demonstrations. 831-429-1964, www.santacruzmah.org

The Annual Sculpture Garden – Watsonville; October. A major exhibition of sculptures throughout the beautiful demonstration gardens is on display through the month. 831-728-2532, www.sierraazul.com

Open Studios Art Tours – Various locations; First three weekends of October. Take a self-guided tour of area art studios during the Annual Cultural Council Open Studios Art Tour. www.artscouncilsc.org

Mi Casa Es Tu Casa – PVAC Art Gallery; November to Mid-December. Pajaro Valley Arts Council presents their annual Day of the Dead/Dia de los Muertos exhibit with the theme of “mi casa es tu casa” featuring Mexican tradition and art. 831-722-3062, www.pvarts.org

Festivals

Ducky Derby & Carnival – Harvey West Park; Late April. This event is held at the Friendship Gardens, featuring a carnival, entertainment, rubber duck races, prizes, food, and more. Fundraise for scholarships and local charities. 831-479-4070, duckyderbysantacruz.org/

Festival del Nopal – Downtown Santa Cruz; Late July. A culinary festival of all things cactus. www.festivaldelnopal.com/

Juneteenth Celebration – Laurel Park; Second Saturday of June. The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation is celebrated in Laurel Park. The event is free and offers soul food for the mind and body. 831-420-6177


Redwood Dulcimer Festival – Bonny Doon; Early August. A showcase made up of the Dulcimer Day staff and special guests. During three 90-minute workshop sessions, there are diverse workshop options to choose from, catering to players from novice to advanced ability. www.redwooddulcimer.com/events.html

The Watsonville Strawberry Festival – Downtown Watsonville; Late July. The Strawberry Festival serves up a menu of various strawberry dishes, with entertainment and contests. 831-768-3266, www.mbsf.com

Boomeria Extravaganza – Boony Doon; Mid-July. This annual organ concert is a fundraiser for the SC Baroque Festival. Preston Boomer presents a unique musical experience. 831-457-9693, www.scbaroque.org

Obon Festival – Watsonville Buddhist Temple; Mid-July. The Watsonville Buddhist Temple hosts Watsonville’s Obon Festival with food, music, dance performances and demonstrations. www.wbtemple.org/

Aloha Celebrity Races and Polynesian Festival – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-August. Designed especially for new and novice paddlers, these races are a chance to discover the excitement of outrigger canoe racing. The Polynesian Festival follows with a taste of the tropics-fresh flower leis, Hawaiian shaved ice, Maori face painting, print making, and dance performances. 831-420-5273, cityofsantacruz.com

Greek Culture and Food Festival – Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church, Church Street; Early to mid-September. This is a Santa Cruz tradition with Greek folk dancing and superb homemade food such as dolmas, kabobs, and baklava. 831-425-1234, www.propheteliassc.org/

Capitola Begonia Festival – Capitola Village; Labor Day w www.scbt.org w eekend. This annual event includes a nautical parade, sand sculpture competition, movies, concerts and many more free family events. 831-475-6522, www.begoniafestival.com
Monterey Bay Birding Festival – Various locations; Late September. See 200 species of birds in this picturesque area of California on the Monterey Bay. montereybaybirding.org

Ohlone Day Celebration – Henry Cowell State Park; Mid-September. Celebrate Ohlone day by learning about the culture, traditions, food and dance of the Ohlone Indians. 831-335-3174, www.mountainparks.org

Scottish Games & Celtic Festival – San Lorenzo Park; Early October. This annual festival features live music, games, shopping, food, and a living history exhibit to explore Scottish traditions. www.santacruzscottishgames.com

The Holiday Gift Faire – Henry Cowell Redwood state park; Mid-December. This event provides an opportunity to select holiday gifts from a variety of nature-oriented items. 831-335-7077, www.mountainparks.org

The Ranch Holiday Festival – Wilder Ranch; Mid-December. The Wilder Ranch allows you to experience the winter holidays as folks did in Victorian and early 20th century times with crafts, games, and treats. 831-426-0505, www.thatsmypark.org


Performing Arts (Dance & Theatre)

Dance

Los Mejicas Annual Spring Concert – University of California Santa Cruz Mainstage; Early June. This annual performance, featuring traditional dances from various regions of Mexico, is performed by UCSC students. 831-459-2159, www.santacruztickets.com

Theater

Eight Tens at Eight, Ten Minute Play Festival – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Mid- to Late January. The Actors’ Theater on Center Street hosts Eight Tens at Eight. Both local and national playwrights compact works into eight never before produced ten minute plays. 831-335-4409, www.sccat.org

Best of the Rest – Santa Cruz Actors’ Theater; Late March. The “Best of the Rest,” stages readings of the runner-ups of the Eight Ten’s contest. 831-335-4409, www.sccat.org


Santa Cruz Fringe Festival – Various venues; Mid-July. A 10-day performing arts event that rotates around storytelling. santacruzfringe.com

Santa Cruz Shakespeare – UCSC; July through early August. Independent non-profit theatre company dedicated to the plays of William Shakespeare and other dynamic playwrights whose work celebrates language. santacruzshakespeare.org/
Music

**Annual Santa Cruz Dayz Entertainment** – Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium; Late February. Santa Cruz Dayz entertainment presented by Good Vibz includes a lineup of reggae favorites. 831-420-5260, www.santacruztickets.com

**Jazz on the Wharf** – Santa Cruz Wharf; Mid-March. Jazz on the Wharf features live jazz amidst the beautiful setting of Santa Cruz wharf. 831-420-5273, www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/parks-recreation/community-facilities/santa-cruz-wharf/

**Music in the Gardens Tour** – Near Pleasure Point; Last Sunday in May. The annual Music in the Gardens Tour is an afternoon of musical groups performing different styles of folk & nostalgic music throughout area gardens. 831-457-9693, www.scbaroque.org

**Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music** – Cabrillo College; Begins late July. Preeminent and emerging compositions are performed by renowned guest artists from across the globe to give voice to works which are rarely more than a year or two old, and sometimes still wet on the page. 831-420-5260, www.cabrillomusic.org

**Free Friday Night Bands on the Beach** – Beach Boardwalk; Mid July to Early September. The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk features two free live concerts every Friday night in the summer. 831-423-5590, www.beachboardwalk.com

**Santa Cruz Blue Grass Fair** – San Lorenzo Park, early May. There is free admission to live performances, and a raffle. scbs.org/events/

**Santa Cruz Youth Band Review** – Downtown Santa Cruz to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-October. The annual Santa Cruz Youth Band Review showcases California high school bands marching from downtown Santa Cruz to the Boardwalk. beachboardwalk.com/bandreview

Nature Lectures and Events

**Volunteer Docent Training begins** – Seymour center; Mid-January. Join the Seymour Center team for a ten-week Docent Training course and learn about current topics in marine science and conservation from the researchers and trainers at Long Marine Lab. 831-459-3800, seymourcenter.ucsc.edu/get-involved/

**Annual Arboretum Volunteer Training Classes** – University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum; Every Tuesday in January. There is a variety of opportunities open to volunteers expanding knowledge about plants and gardens. arboretum.ucsc.edu

**Monarch Butterfly Tours** – Monarch Grove; Every weekend of January, and again throughout the month of October. Guided tours of the monarch grove take place during winter months, when migrating monarchs come to Santa Cruz. Migration is variable. Before you visit, call the park to find out population particulars. 831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org

**Elephant Seals at Año Nuevo** – Año Nuevo State Park; December. Año Nuevo State Reserve hosts naturalist-led walking tours of elephant seals in their natural habitat. 650-879-2025, www.parks.ca.gov/

**Annual Call for Volunteers** – Wilder Ranch; Early February. This event allows volunteers to give heart and soul to the “Life on the Ranch” and other activities at Wilder Ranch State Park. Sign-ups take place through January; training begins in February. 831-426-0505

**Migration Festival** – Various locations; Mid-February. Migration Festival at Natural Bridges, Seacllif, New Brighton, and Henry Cowell State Parks celebrate animals that migrate with crafts, games and more. 831-423-4609, www.santacruzstateparks.org

**Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day** – Various locations; Mid-September. Coastal Cleanup Day is a premier volunteer event on behalf of the marine environment of the world that helps clean the local beaches. 831-462-5660, saveourshores.org/acc/

**Races, Walks, and Sporting Events**

**O’Neil Coldwater Classic** - Steamer Lane ; October. The longest running surf event in North America featuring unsponsored professional surfers vying for the Coldwater title and a year-long sponsorship by O’Neill Wetsuits. us.oneill.com/

**Surf City AIDS Ride** – San Lorenzo Park; First Sunday of October. A bicycle ride to benefit the Santa Cruz AIDS Project. Choose from 12, 30, 60, or 100 mile routes. www.surfcityaidsride.org
St. Valentine’s Day Massacre Surf Shoot Out – Pleasure Point; Mid-February. The annual surf competition, Eastside vs. Westside vs. All Sides. First Peak is at Pleasure Point. 831-462-3880

The Volcom Great White Surf – Steamer Lane; Late January. This annual surf contest graces Santa Cruz with its presence at Steamer Lane. www.volcom.com/events/

Santa Cruz Kayak Surf Festival / Paddlefest – Lighthouse Point; Late March. This festival features world class champions in kayaking, wave skiing, stand-up paddle surfing, gala parties, and demos. 831-458-3648, asudoit.com

Santa Cruz Classic Criterium Bike Race – Beach Hill; Early April. Team Santa Cruz hosts this annual bike race. www.santacruzcycling.org

Wednesday Night Sailboat Races – March (with Daylight Savings) through October. These Wednesday night races begin at 6:30 pm and last until 8:00 p.m. Contact the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for more information. 831-425-0690, www.scyc.org

Santa Cruz Mountains Challenge Bicycle Ride – Various locations; Late July. This is a one day event on the West Coast with both a 100 mile and 100k events. 831-475-5234, www.santacruzcycling.org

Wharf to Wharf Race – Various locations; Late July. This race is a 6-mile run from Santa Cruz to Capitola-by-the-Sea. Runners are limited to 15,000 and tickets to participate sell out early. www.wharftowharf.com

10K Firecracker Race – Harvey West Park; July 4th. Santa Cruz 10K Firecracker Race and Kids 1K is a scenic and challenging course. www.santacruzfirecracker10k.org

Santa Cruz City Amateur Golf Championship – De Laveaga Golf Course; Mid-August. This annual event allows players to join the best golfers in Northern California. 831-423-7214, www.delaveagolf.com/

Santa Cruz Triathalon – Various locations; Late September. Run, swim and bike in the Santa Cruz Triathlon while raising money for local school athletics programs. www.santacruztriathlon.org/triathlon/

The Big Kahuna Triathlon – California Coast to Beach Boardwalk; Mid-September. Consists of a 1.2-mile swim, 5.6-mile bike ride, and 13.1-mile run along the beautiful coastline with finish line and luau at the Boardwalk. 877-366-RACE, www.firstwave-events.com/events/big-kahuna-triathlon/

The Big Sur Half Marathon – Various locations; Late November. This walker-friendly marathon offers a gently rolling course that winds through historic downtown Monterey, along Cannery Row, and proceeds along Pacific Grove’s coastline with views of the Monterey Bay. 831-625-6226, www.bigsurhalfmarathon.org


AIDS Walk – Various locations; Mid-April. An AIDS walk organized by the UCSC Student Health Organization begins at the Santa Cruz Wharf. 831-427-3900, encompasscs.org/

Railroad Activities

Civil War Battle Encampment – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late May. The annual Civil War Battle and Encampment at Roaring Camp Railroad stages encampments of Union and Confederate soldiers and battles at one of the West’s longest running Civil War reenactments. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Father’s Day – Hats Off to Dad – Roaring Camp Railroads; Father’s Day. This steam train ride and chuck wagon BBQ is accompanied by live country entertainment. Each dad receives an engineer’s cap, and one is selected to ride in the cab of the locomotive. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com
Family 4th of July Fest – Roaring Camp Railroads; July 4th. Roaring Camp Railroads hosts its annual ’50s Family July 4th Fest with a 1950’s style sock hop, dance and hula hoop contest, sack races, balloon toss, BBQ and live entertainment. www.roaringcamp.com

Musical Saw Festival – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early August. Roaring Camp Railroads invites you to listen to musical saws and folk instruments from around the world at the Musical Saw Festival. www.roaringcamp.com

Santa Cruz Holiday Lights Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; Throughout December. Ride Roaring Camp’s Holiday Lights Train through the streets of Santa Cruz with hot cider, Christmas carols and Santa Claus. Reservations required. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Roaring Camp’s Holiday Tree Walk – Roaring Camp Railroad; late-November and December. The Holiday Tree Walk is an event where guests sip hot cider and view beautifully adorned trees decorated by area businesses and organizations as funds are raised for their respective organizations. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

The Halloween Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; Late October. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is narrated during a ride on the Ghost Train. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Great Train Robberies – Roaring Camp Railroads; Early July. Hold onto your valuables, as each train is sure to be robbed at Bear Mountain. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Moonlight Dinner Train – Roaring Camp Railroad; Second Saturday of July, August, September, October. A moonlight dinner, dancing, and train ride through the redwood forest are scheduled once a month during the summer and fall. 831-335-4484, www.roaringcamp.com

Other Special Events

Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival – Cocoanut Grove; Mid-January. Celebration of all things chocolate, features tastings from area vendors, a silent auction and live jazz. 831-423-2053, www.santacruzchocolatefestival.org

Annual Clam Chowder Cook-Off – Boardwalk; Mid-February. Teams from all over the West coast compete to be awarded the “Best Clam Chowder.” The purchase of a tasting kit allows one to vote for which chowder is the best. 831-420-5273, www.beachboardwalk.com/clamchowder

Strawberry and Justice Festival – The Farm, UCSC; Late May. Join UCSC for strawberry shortcake and Bluegrass tunes at this fundraiser for low-income shares in the CASFS Farm and Garden’s Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project. $5 donation requested. 831-459-3240, casfs.ucsc.edu

Woodies on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Wharf; Late June. Surf City Classic: Woodies on the Wharf is a car show that also highlights the surf spirit. 831-420-5273, www.santacruzwoodies.com/woodies-on-the-wharf

“Cops ‘n Rodders” Classic Car Show & Cruise – Scotts Valley; Third Saturday in July. The show includes hot rods, police and fire safety exhibits. 831-440-5670, www.scottsvalleypd.com

Annual Day at the Beach – Cowell’s Beach; Mid-July. Plywood placed over the sand allows those with mobility issues to enjoy the beach and engage in sports like kayaking, scuba diving, and water flotation. 831-459-7210, sharedadventures.org

Thunderbirds on the Wharf – Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf; Late September. Visit a collection of vintage Thunderbirds on the Wharf at this annual show. www.montereytbirds.com

Mole and Mariachi Festival – Mission Adobe State Historic Park; Late September. There is free admission to music and crafts and you can vote for the best mole. thatsmypark.org

Lobster Feed – Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park; Mid October. The annual fundraising event provides a gourmet lobster dinner and bluegrass music in the redwoods. 831-335-3174, www.mountaingparks.org

Hot Rods at the Beach – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk; Mid October. The Annual Hot Rods at the Beach car show is a non-profit event featuring over 500 vehicles, local foods and vendors, music, and a raffle. 831-259-8038, www.hotrodsonthebeach.com

Practical Activism Conference – UCSC; Late October. The Annual Practical Activism Conference is a student-led conference with speakers and hands-on activism workshops. 831-459-1253, www.practicalactivism.org

Strike Out Hunger and Bowl for Free! – Bring in a can of food in November and December to the Boardwalk Bowl and bowl a game for free. All donations are given to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County.
Limit one free game per person per day. Shoe rental not included.
831-426-3324, www.boardwalkbowl.com

**Lighted Boat Parade** – Santa Cruz Harbor; First Saturday night in December. The Santa Cruz Lighted Boat Parade features over fifty decorated boats parading through Santa Cruz Harbor. Rain or shine.
831-475-6161, www.santacruzharbor.org

**Downtown Santa Cruz Holiday Parade** – Downtown Santa Cruz; First Saturday of December. An annual parade celebrates the holidays with floats, marching bands, horses, classic cars, the Grand Marshall, and Santa Claus.
831-429-8433, www.downtownsantacruz.com

**Scotts Valley Christmas Tree Lighting** – Scotts Valley Community Center; Early December. The Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce invites the community to light the Christmas tree and listen to live music.
www.scottsvalleychamber.com

**Aptos Village Holiday Tree Lighting** – Aptos Village; Early December. The holiday tree lighting celebrates the holiday spirit with food, music, caroling and lights and asks that you bring a charitable gift or donation if attending. 831-688-1467, www.aptoschamber.com

**HOPE Concert** – University of Santa Cruz; Early April. The HOPE event takes place outside of the Multi-Purpose Room of UCSC's College Nine and Ten. This concert combines live entertainment with activism opportunities.
831-459-1253, www.ucsc.edu

**Fungus Fair** – Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History; Early January. The Fungus Fair is a display of extraordinary mushrooms, delicacies and enticing cooking demonstrations. Bring your mushrooms for identification.
831-420-6115, ffsc.us/fair

**Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Chili Cook-Off** – Beach Boardwalk; Late October. Professional and amateur chefs work their culinary magic and compete for the title of best Chili! www.beachboardwalk.com/chili/

**The Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society Show** – Late April. The show features a variety of jewels, jade, and ancient fossils. scmgs.org/shows/

**Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza** – Capitola Village; Mid-October. This is a fundraising event featuring a display of fireworks over the Capitola wharf hosted by the Monte Foundation. www.monte-foundation.com

**Special Sales**

**California Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale** – Eucalyptus Grove, High Street and Western Drive; Early October. The California Native Plant Society hosts this spring plant sale.
831-427-2998, wwwarboretum.ucsc.edu