

SLO County's Arts & Culture

Three Days of Arts in SLO County

Experience San Luis Obispo County's memorable arts and culture.

San Luis Obispo County features many art galleries, museums and cultural events and destinations. We invite you to immerse yourself in a celebration of our arts and heritage.

Enjoy adding a little depth and dimension to your visit while absorbing the contributions of the arts!

Day One:

Explore the South County cities of Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Avila Beach

Begin your SLO County Arts & Culture experience in the quaint town of Arroyo Grande. The **Village of Arroyo Grande** is located two miles east of the Pacific Ocean, surrounded by farms, flower-fields, and wineries. Arroyo Grande maintains a distinct village character throughout its vibrant downtown shopping and dining district. A wide variety of architecture defines the surrounding neighborhoods with unique and beautiful Victorian homes mixed with contemporary structures. Spanning the downtown Arroyo Grande Creek is a rustic **swinging bridge**. It's a favorite avenue for pedestrians to reach the "village," a cluster of historic building museums, antique stores, gift shops, upscale boutiques. While exploring the Village of Arroyo Grande, grab lunch at a local restaurant such as **Klondike's Pizza** and be sure to save some room for desert across the street at **Doc Bernstein's Ice Cream Lab!**

Later that evening chose between one of the local theatrical experiences in the south county like **The Great American Melodrama** or the **Clark Center**. Located in Oceano, the Great American Melodrama and Vaudeville Review is a local professional theater with song, dance, and comedy reviews. This experience is perfect for couples of all ages and families alike. Since opening in 2002, the **Clark Center for the Performing Arts** has become the Central Coast's premier venue for world-class, professional performing arts in an intimate setting. Located on the Arroyo Grande High School campus, the Clark Center is a state-of-the-art hub for cultural events serving all the people of our community and their families, as well as an institution for vocational and educational opportunity. The Clark Center Association is dedicated to bringing a large variety of quality, live performances from professional and community artists to the Central Coast including a variety of musical genres such as Jazz, Big Band, Contemporary and Country, as well as side-splitting comedy, amazing acrobatics and outstanding theatrical productions.

- Great American Melodrama: www.americanmelodrama.com
- The Clark Center: www.clarkcenter.org

Day Two:

Explore the Mid County cities of San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, and Cayucos.

Spend the second day in SLO County in the mid section of the county exploring the cultural experiences San Luis Obispo has to offer. As the hub of San Luis Obispo County, it is home to historic **Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa**, the world-famous Thursday Night **Farmers' Market** and Cal Poly State University. Tree-lined streets, a charming shopping district, distinctive San Luis Obispo hotels, and historic buildings comprise the delightful downtown area with its array of stores, outdoor cafes, coffee houses, and galleries.

Begin your day with a **SLO Walking Tour** through the downtown corridors. Get better acquainted with the history of downtown San Luis Obispo and the founding fathers who created it. Tour the **Mission, historic Chinatown, and Bubble Gum Alley**. Grab lunch at one of the fine downtown eateries before heading to one of the downtown museums and galleries like the **SLO Arts Council** or the **SLO Children's Museum**.

After your busy day downtown, catch a flick at the **Palm Theater**, San Luis Obispo's only locally owned movie theatre and the first solar powered cinema in the United States. Or if the theater is more your style, check out what performance is running at the **Cal Poly Performing Arts Center** or the **SLO Little Theater**.

- SLO Walking Tours: www.slowalkingtours.com
- SLO Arts Council: www.artsobispo.org
- SLO Children Museum: www.slocm.org
- Palm Theater: www.thepalmtheatre.com
- Cal Poly Performing Arts Center: www.pacslo.org

Day Three:

Explore the North County cities of Paso Robles, Atascadero, and Cambria & San Simeon

On your final day in SLO County explore the north county including San Simeon & Hearst Castle. Start your day heading up Highway 1 to **Hearst Castle**, a California State Park. **Set atop the rolling hills in San Simeon is Hearst Castle®**, one of the most popular tourist destinations in California. Originally built as the private estate of art collector and publisher W.R. Hearst, it has become recognized around the world for its glamour, elegance and authentic art pieces. Today it is a California State Park, open to the public daily for guided tour. Feel the allure of this fascinating country house, where Mr. Hearst entertained movie stars and business tycoons with lavish dinners, private film screenings and glittering parties. Hearst Castle has just launched a new tour called the Gardens & Vistas Tour where you can explore the property grounds on a self guided tour.

After your tour of the historic **Hearst Castle** wraps up, head back south down Highway 1 into Cambria. The charming town of Cambria is where the pines meet the sea. This lovely village boasts of its artists' colony and supports an impressive selection of fine restaurants, specialty shops, art galleries and a wide variety of hotels and inns. Towering Monterey pines frame the dynamic coastline along its unique Moonstone Beach Drive lined with oceanside hotels, where semi-precious agate and jasper stones can be found along in the sand. Cambria is a perfect stopping point for lunch at one of the local restaurants like Linn's Fruit Bin, home of the World Famous Olallieberry Pie.

From Cambria, continue south to Highway 46 and hang a left. Follow Highway 46 through the Westside of Paso Robles Wine Country and into downtown Paso Robles. The city of Paso Robles is an eclectic mix of past and present with a commitment to preserving its small town charm. A vibrant downtown area is filled with boutiques, antique stores and eateries all surrounding the beautiful city park. Explore the newest artist co-op at the **Studios on the Park**, a nonprofit open studios art center in the heart of historic downtown Paso Robles. There are ten studios with 40 working artists and the showroom at the Paso Robles Art Association gallery. Make art a part of your life by witnessing the creative process in action, enrolling in a class or workshop, or viewing quality themed exhibitions.

- Studios on the Park: www.studiosonthepark.org
- Hearst Castle: www.hearstcastle.com