

The 2012 Monterey Peninsula Getaway

If after reading about this getaway and you would like to participate, please contact Dennis Ratay (916-543-9935) for lodging options.

OVERVIEW OF GETAWAY:

We are combining a getaway to the Monterey Peninsula with a day trip to the Pinnacles for our featured hike. Given the length of the drive to Monterey (approximately 220 miles), we are planning a 5 day / 4 night trip to make it worth our while. While the hiking plan isn't finalized, we do plan to hike at the Pinnacles, Big Sur, and Point Lobos. In addition a docent led tour of the Big Sur Light Station is planned.

DATES: April 30, May 1, 2, 3, returning on May 4th.

We would drive down on Monday and arrive home on Friday. These dates will balance the cool Monterey Peninsula temps with the warmer Pinnacles temps and also optimize wildflowers in the hiking areas.

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 1 (Arrival Day)

a) 8:00 AM - Drive to Pacific Grove. Arrive no later than 1:30 PM.

b) 2:30 PM – We will take a short hike. It could be one of 3 choices, based on the weather and if the ice plants are in bloom.

1) the Asilomar State Beach trail along the ocean along Spanish Bay and Sunset Drive to Point Joe (approximately 5.5 miles – easy and

extremely scenic). Could be reduced to 3.5 miles if we don't go out and back to Point Joe.

2) Ocean View Blvd trail if the ice plants are in bloom.

3) Garrapata State Park, south of Carmel. 3 mile scenic hike overlooking the Pacific. Includes a short hike up Whaler's Knoll

c) 6:30 PM – Cocktails / wine hour, followed by a pot luck dinner at the 5 bedroom house (Rancho Reposo) back yard where we will stay on Asilomar Ave

DAY 2 (Featured day trip / hike to the Pinnacles)

a) 8:00 AM – Drive to the Pinnacles. Trip is approximately 75 miles and will take about 2 hours.

b) 10:15 AM – Hike the High Peaks trail of the Pinnacles. Approximately 6.5 miles – moderately strenuous with approximately 1200 elevation gain. Outstanding scenery,

including a unique trek through a cave (unless it is closed during the mating season of the bats). This is a unique hiking experience. There is an available detour around the stairs and narrow trail for those opting for a less intimidating hike. Optional hikes are also being considered.

c) 6:00 PM – Dinner at the Dona Esther Mexican Restaurant in the historic town of San Juan Baptista on our route back to Pacific Grove. **If time permits, we may walk the grounds of the Mission San Juan Baptista, which is built on the faultline of the San Andreas Fault.**

DAY 3 (Point Lobos)

a) 9:00 AM – Drive to Point Lobos State Reserve. Trip is approximately 12 miles and will take about 25 minutes.

b) 9:45 AM – Hike the perimeter trails of Point Lobos. Trek is approximately 6 miles and will take about 3.5 hours. Easy and very very scenic with its wind swept trees and interesting coast line. Includes the Whalers Museum, sea lion point and bird island. Lunch will be a bag lunch on the ocean.

c) 2:30 PM – Arrive back to the cottages.

d) Free afternoon to relax or shop around Monterey, Carmel, Cannery Row, the Monterey Fishing Pier or Pacific Grove.

e) Dinner can be on your own or we can select one of many fine restaurants and go as a group (optional)

DAY 4 (Big Sur)

a) Hike at the Andrew Molera State Park

b) Short hike at the Julia Pfeiffer State Park, featuring McWays Falls.

c) Docent-lead tour of the Point Sur Light Station.

DAY 5 (Departure Day)

a) Short hike to be planned