

SANTA MARIA VALLEY VISITOR ITINERARIES

~A World of Fun for Kids~

From beaches and nature hikes to parks, museums and family arcades, the Santa Maria Valley is brimming with fresh air and room to roam. The following itinerary is designed to give visitors an idea of what to see and do.

Day One

Morning:

Start the family's day off right with a healthy **breakfast** sandwich or yummy pastry at **Panera Bread**, located at 540 E. Betteravia Road, Santa Maria, 805-349-9800.

Ready for a coastal outing? First, stock up on picnic lunch ingredients! Panera Bread is happy to make sandwiches and other goodies to go, or, stop by Dino's Deli, located at 750 E. Main Street.

Next, head west on Highway 166 for some coastal hiking and nature walks at **Oso Flaco Lake**. Begin your adventure at the **Dunes Center** in Guadalupe, an interactive center providing information on the **Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex**, which spans 18 miles of shoreline with 1,400 individual species of flora and fauna, as well as numerous lagoons and lakes. The Dunes Center, located within a beautifully restored Craftsman house, offers educational displays, information on guided hikes plus dunes-related videos, artifacts and maps. The largest of only two coastal dunes complexes in California, the dunes have been featured in major motion pictures for more than 80 years, including Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 silent epic "The Ten Commandments." Most recently, the dunes were visited by Johnny Depp and crew for filming of the third installment of Disney's "Pirates of The Caribbean" franchise.

Afternoon:

Picnic at **Guadalupe Beach (Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve)** and enjoy the uncrowded stretch of picturesque surf and sand.

Next, head to the **Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum**, where kids of all ages can run, jump and learn. Located adjacent to a historic art deco Coca Cola Bottling Company, this 13,000-square-foot facility is the only hands-on children's museum in Santa Barbara County. Here, visitors find colorful murals; games that test your sight and senses; a beach with real sand, boardwalk pier and climbing nets; and even a live talking parrot, corn snake and variety of iguanas and geckos. Cleverly designed to give children a taste of the region's natural wonders, the museum features zones highlighting the wildlife of the Guadalupe Dunes; the origins of local produce, ranching life and the culture behind the famed Santa Maria Style Barbecue; and even a rocket launch pad that celebrates the sights and sounds of nearby Vandenberg Air Force Base. Other favorites include a genuine whale skull found on a local beach, a "creation station" craft area, and "cow-ches"—small couches that look a lot like Holsteins!

Evening:

Dinnertime! **AJ Spurs** is a family style dining hall with lots of Old West flair. From cowhides to stuffed animals to ranch paraphernalia, kids have plenty to view while dining. Portions here are huge and hearty, and the courses keep coming. Burgers, steaks, beans, soup, salad and bread are all a part of the mix . . . and root beer floats are included with the meal.

Up for some after-dinner entertainment? Located right next door to the restaurant, **Rancho Bowl** is a family-oriented bowling spot that also offers pool tables, an arcade and café. Particularly popular are Rancho Bowl's Friday night "Rave & Bowl" events, which feature special light shows and music from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Additionally, **Boomers**, with its go-karts, arcade games, batting cages, miniature golf, bumper boats, rock climbing wall and snack bar is a great spot for an extended family outing.

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Day Two

Morning:

Café Noir is a family friendly coffee house and breakfast spot with everything from quiche and pastries to juices and fine tea. The easygoing atmosphere presents an ideal place in which to wake up and begin your day.

Nearby, the **Natural History Museum** features rock and fossil exhibits from the area, as well as native bird displays, a real bat room, and an interactive workstation.

Next, head over to the **Santa Maria Museum of Flight**, which features a variety of planes, models, photos, memorabilia and exhibits, including a restored F4 fighter jet that served in Vietnam and a 1929 Fleet biplane. The museum is also known for its movie props including a replica H-1 Racer used in *The Aviator*, a full-scale Wright glider from *Winds of Kitty Hawk* and a large radio-controlled model airplane that flew in the *Flight of The Phoenix*. Even the museum's main building is an original wooden hangar featured in the movie *The Rocketeer*. A custom acrobatic plane from *The Rocketeer* is also featured.

Afternoon:

What could be better than lunch with views of airplanes? Just a heartbeat from the museum is **Pepper Garcia's**, a cozy restaurant with Mexican fare that is located within the Santa Maria Valley Public Airport.

Need to burn off some energy? Action-packed afternoon options include, rollerblading or skateboarding at the **YMCA Skateboard Park**; indoor roller hockey and recreational skating at **Central Coast Sports Arena**; swimming at the **Paul Nelson Pool**; fishing at **Jim May Park**; kite flying at **Rotary Centennial Park**; recreating at **Waller Park** and **Orcutt Community Park**; or biking or hiking at **Los Flores Ranch Park**, the first regional open space park in the Santa Maria Valley, which offers gorgeous views of the hills and surrounding country.

Evening:

Wingstop is great for family dining because of its casual ambiance and kid-friendly, fresh-made side dishes including potato salad, cole slaw, beans and French fries. The chicken, of course, comes in a variety of cooking styles and flavors. And if your party is up for more activity after dinner, the **Hi-Way Drive-In** offers low admission and delicious snacks! Double feature movies rotate weekly, and families are welcome to recreate with a ball or Frisbee on the front lawn before the movie begins.

Don't forget to check with the **Santa Maria Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau** for other activities and scheduled events!

For More Information

- Santa Maria Valley Visitors & Convention Bureau, 614 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, 800-331-3779, www.santamaria.com
- Panera Bread, located at 540 E. Betteravia Road, Santa Maria, 805-349-9800, www.panerabread.com
- Dino's Deli, Fine Wine and Spirits, 750 E. Main Street, 805-925-4438, www.dinosdeli.com
- Dunes Center, located at 1055 Guadalupe Street, Guadalupe, 805-343-2455, www.dunescenter.org
- Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, 705 South McClelland Street, Santa Maria, (805) 928-8414, smvdiscoverymuseum.org
- AJ Spurs, 1520 N. Broadway, Santa Maria, 805-922-3700
- Café Noir, 1555 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, 805-361-0402
- Natural History Museum, 412 S. McClelland, Santa Maria, 805-614-0806, www.naturalhistorysantamaria.org
- Santa Maria Museum of Flight, 3015 Airpark Drive, Santa Maria, 805-922-8758, www.smmof.org
- Pepper Garcia's at The Airport, 3301 Terminal Drive, Santa Maria, 805-928-4088
- YMCA Skateboard Park, 3400 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, 805-937-5855, www.skateboardparks.com
- Central Coast Sports Arena, 937 South Thornburg Street, Santa Maria, 805-739-0920, www.centralcoastsportsarena.com
- Paul Nelson Pool, 516 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria, 805-925-0951 ext. 260, www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us
- Jim May Park, 809 Stanford Drive, Santa Maria, 805-925-0951 ext. 260, www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us
- Rotary Centennial Park, 2625 S. College Drive, Santa Maria, 805-925-0951 ext. 260, www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us
- Waller Park, 300 Goodwin Road, Santa Maria, 805-934-6211, www.countyofsb.org
- Orcutt Community Park, 5800 S. Bradley, Orcutt, 805-934-621, www.countyofsb.org
- Los Flores Ranch Park, 6271 Dominion Road, Santa Maria (8 miles south), 805-925-0951, ext. 260, www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us/LosFloresRanchPark.shtml
- Rancho Bowl, 128 E. Donovan Road, Santa Maria, 805-925-2405
- Boomers, 2250 Preisker Lane, Santa Maria, 805-928-4942, www.boomersparks.com
- Wingstop, 560 E. Betteravia Road, Santa Maria, 805-614-9464, www.wingstop.com
- Hi-Way Drive-In, 3085 Santa Maria Way, Santa Maria, 805-937-3515