California’s Central Coast

One of California’s most dramatic coastlines extends south of Monterey Bay for a hundred miles to the edge of San Luis Obispo County. Ansel Adams called this land home. Between the rugged Ventana Wilderness and the Pacific Ocean, California’s Central Coast has long sandy beaches, rocky headlands, trails to spectacular waterfalls, and the southernmost range of California redwoods. From Monterey to Morro Bay, this newsletter highlights my favorite photo locations with details on the best time of year to visit and where to find the trails, plus photo tips and techniques to improve your exposures for more dramatic images.
**This wild and rugged coast**

follows the western edge of Big Sur, a steep and wooded landscape climbing into the Santa Lucia Mountains. Deep canyons with redwood groves and steep coastal headlands have made road building difficult here. A few tiny communities along Highway One, the coast road, provide necessary services. Local residents live quietly, off the grid and scattered deep in the mountains.

When you plan your photo trip to California’s Central Coast drive south, so that you can pull off the road any time you see a photograph, without cutting across oncoming traffic.

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**Best time of year to visit**

Long Indian summers, in this part of California, usually stretch into the month of November. December through February is the rainy season here, when beaches and trails are empty and off-season room rates drop. Winter is my favorite time for photo trips to California’s Central Coast—the middle section of this state’s coastline between Monterey Bay and the San Luis Obispo County line.

Check online weather websites for long-range forecasts and pick a week with a mixture of scattered showers and a fifty-percent chance of sun. A cloudy western horizon is needed for great sunset photography. Redwood groves are best photographed when dripping with rain.

Coastal wildflowers, usually California poppies, will fill your viewfinder from late March and into April. Set up your camera on the edge of Hurricane Point for a classic image of spring. May usually brings some of the lowest tides of the year, attracting tide pool photographers to this coastline. By early summer, wild calla lilies are blooming in the gullies dropping onto Garrapata Beach. Morning and afternoon fog banks cover this coastline during early summer months. Waterfalls are barely flowing by late in the summer when tourists crowd the highway, the trails, and the beaches.

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**The Monterey Aquarium**

A great place to start your photo exploration is the Monterey Bay Aquarium, 125 miles south of San Francisco in Monterey, California, at the western end of historic Cannery Row. The aquarium entrance is at the corner of Cannery Row and David Avenue. It’s open every day except Christmas.
My favorite displays are the huge kelp forest tank where you can fill your viewfinder with leopard sharks and the fascinating mackerel and anchovy tanks with nonstop action—great for shooting videos. You must see the jellyfish and sea horse exhibits and the large octopus that leaps onto the tank’s glass walls giving photographers a great view of tentacles and suction cups.

You’ll find a great variety of lodgings in the Monterey area. Stay several days here to photograph the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Point Lobos. Add a few more days and visit all the photography galleries in Carmel, including these:

**The Center for Photographic Art**
Located in the Historic Sunset Cultural Center, at San Carlos Street and 9th Avenue in Carmel, California. [www.photography.org](http://www.photography.org)

**Weston Gallery**
6th Avenue near Lincoln Street; (831) 624-4453
[www.westongallery.com](http://www.westongallery.com)

**Photography West**
Dolores Street near Ocean Avenue; (831) 625-1587
[www.photographywest.com](http://www.photographywest.com)

**Robert Knight Gallery**
Dolores between Ocean and 7th Avenue, (831) 626-1230
[www.robertknightgallery.com](http://www.robertknightgallery.com)

No tripods are allowed, and flash is not permitted in some areas. So you’ll have to increase your ISO setting high enough to allow you to use shutter speeds fast enough to freeze some motion. Try panning with moving schools of fish to reduce blurring. Make a few test exposures when you arrive at the aquarium, and then fine-tune your white balance settings. I set my Nikon D300s’ white balance settings with Live View. I don’t actually shoot with Live View. I use it as a real-time color temperature preview to fine-tune the underwater mood I’m seeking. Some tanks are open to direct skylight and others are artificially illuminated. Some of the deep-sea creatures prefer very low lighting and are almost too dark to photograph. Crank up your ISO as far as it will go to see what you can actually photograph in the darkest tanks.

Avoid summer weekend visits and arrive early, before crowds show up. Weekdays during winter months are the best time to enjoy a quiet day of photography here.

[www.montereybayaquarium.org](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org)

**Carmel Mission**
Avoid the harsh light of a sunny day when you visit the Carmel Mission, just off Highway One, near the Carmel River. Small details of very old, weathered adobe buildings are best photographed in soft, diffused light. The gardens are most colorful in the spring and early summer. Rain brings out the warm colors of handmade roof tiles.
and weathered adobe walls. Wrought-iron gates and old hand-carved wooden doors make unusual backgrounds for photographs of the flower gardens.

To find the Mission, drive south of Carmel on Highway One. At the last stoplight, turn right onto Rio Road and drive two miles west. When the large gates are open, the public is allowed to visit the grounds.

You can control your exposure problems when shooting contrasty scenes including dark woods and crashing white ocean spray by making multiple, bracketed exposures and merging them into one perfectly-exposed image. High dynamic range techniques can create images that reproduce exactly what you see without black shadows and washed-out highlights.

HDR can compress the range of a contrasty scene and give you both detailed shadows and highlights. I usually make five exposures, bracketed in one-stop increments. I check the histograms of my lightest and darkest exposures to be sure that they are clipped in midrange. If not, I delete the five exposures, increase or decrease my exposure, and try it again.

Flowing rivers, waterfalls, and crashing surf can be captured realistically. Wind-blown trees will cause problems. There are many HDR applications available to simplify the procedure. I like the natural-looking effects that can be created with the Exposure Fusion function included in the latest version of Photomatix Pro.

Back at the trailhead at the Information Station, head northwest on the North Shore Trail. Take a short side trip to photograph the Old Veteran Cypress still clinging to the granite cliffs above Cypress Cove. The North Shore Trail passes through some ancient cypress groves and skirts the edge of rocky cliffs for views of offshore rocks and Blue Fish Cove.

Point Lobos

Point Lobos State Reserve is a great place to visit on a foggy day. Cold mists add a dreamy atmospheric effect to dense cypress groves and pine forests on rocky headlands.

The entrance gate is four miles south of Rio Road. This reserve has a limited number of parking spaces. On a busy summer weekend, you may have to wait at the gate for someone to leave. You can park outside along the highway and walk in to save the entry fee.

New trails have been added and old trails have been improved, but the landscapes across this State Reserve have not changed at all. Everything looks as it did thirty years ago. Pick up a free map at the entrance gate, drive out to the parking area at the Information Station and head north on the Cypress Grove Trail. Head left or right at the fork and follow the loop trail around the Allan Memorial Grove to the tip of the peninsula for spectacular views of surf crashing into narrow coves. Use your wide-angle lens to include wind-sculpted cypress trees framing a rugged coastline of cliffs receding for miles into the hazy distance.
Compress the coastal views looking north and south with a telephoto lens. A polarizer will cut through some of the haze. For maximum sharpness, lock up your mirror and use a cable release. To handle the contrasty light on a sunny day, read your camera manual and learn how to set up your DSLR camera to bracket multiple exposures.

Winter days on the California Central Coast can be clear and cool. Summer days can be foggy and cool. Be prepared for any type of weather by packing a few Rain Sleeves and a raincoat or bring someone along to hold a large umbrella over your tripod.

**Garrapata Beach State Park**

Garrapata Beach State Park is 7.5 miles south of Point Lobos State Reserve. This is my favorite coastal location for late afternoon images of a rugged Pacific coastline being pounded by rough seas. Swift streams dropping from the Santa Lucia mountain range carve deep gullies and narrow coves as they flow into the Pacific. Several trails lead along cliffs above the surf. To find the best photo locations, pull off and stop at any of the seven wide spots along this four-mile stretch of park road and follow some of the trails leading out closer to the edge. Watch your footing on the steeper trails and be cautious of the gusty winds along the edge. Views to the south are framed by Soberanes Point. The best light here starts just before sunset, which occurs around 4:30 in the winter and much later in midsummer. Dramatic surf that crashes over offshore rocks, rolls in during stormy winter days. Those storm clouds can turn bright red when conditions are right. Normal summer weather patterns include fog along the California Coast. Solid fog can last for 3-4 days. Fog can move onshore during morning hours and then burn off. It can return in the afternoon to block any chance of seeing a sunset.

Near Milepost 66, on the east side of Highway One, is a gate at the Rocky Ridge Trailhead. A short stroll will take you past an old barn and a small grove of Monterey cypress. Just before the trail dips to cross Soberanes Creek, it passes beneath an overhanging cypress creating a green tunnel. This trail continues eastward following a long, narrow canyon filled with redwood trees before climbing steeply for five miles to the summit of Doud Peak.

Just south of the trailhead a long row of Monterey Cypress Trees line Highway One—a monochromatic pattern in the fog. On the Pacific Ocean side of the highway, a trail leads to several flights of wooden stairs dropping to the beach. This is another great location for shooting the interaction of windblown waves crashing over dark, half-buried, sculptured beach stones. This requires a wide-angle lens, hand-held down low to the sand and close to the beach stones. Just before each incoming wave arrives, press the shutter release and run. Wrap your camera in a plastic bag and use your neck strap.
Bixby Creek Bridge
One of the most photographed bridges on the Big Sur Coast, the Bixby Creek Bridge was constructed in 1932, filling a challenging gap in the completion of Highway One through the Big Sur area. Before this bridge was built, all traffic had to drive a long, winding, and steep road that heads inland to cross Bixby Creek in a narrow, mountainous redwood forest and then returns down to the coast at Andrew Molera State Park, a twelve-mile detour on the Old Coast Road.

Pull off the pavement at the northwest corner of the bridge and fill your viewfinder with the long, curved concrete bridge and distant cliffs dropping into the Pacific. The bridge is 260-feet high, 40 feet higher than the Golden Gate Bridge. You may need to shoot several over-lapping vertical images to be merged into a seamless panoramic composition later.

When driving south, watch for the Old Coast Road. This unpaved road heads uphill to the east, just before reaching the bridge. A half-mile up the canyon are several wide spots where you can pull over and then look back toward the span. It makes a great silhouette against the setting sun. Don’t drive the Old Coast Road in the dark.

Since the Old Coast Road is unpaved, it can be muddy after a rain. I had to dodge several fallen trees and squeeze by a mudslide on the road through an impressive redwood forest. I shot multiple exposures to create some HDR images in the sunlit redwood groves. A foggy day would provide the best light for this part of the road. Five miles up the canyon, near the small bridge over the narrow end of Bixby Creek, the road was partially washed away, leaving just enough room for a car to navigate the steep climb out of the canyon.

The seven-mile drive back down to the coast crosses through fenced-off, private ranch lands that roll toward the sea in green waves. The last boundary fence, near the bottom of the hill, makes the perfect foreground for a sunset photograph above the coast or a midday photograph of steep hills above the wooded valley of Big Sur.

If you choose to avoid the Old Coast Road, stay on Highway One, cross over the Bixby Creek Bridge and drive one mile farther south. Pull off at the wide parking area at Hurricane Point for a great view of long green meadows reaching northward toward the distant bridge. This spot can be spectacular in the spring when California poppies cover the meadows. Late afternoon light is best here when it warms up a cloud-filled sky.

Point Sur Lighthouse
Four miles south of Hurricane Point, just beyond the Little Sur River, are viewpoints for photographs of the distant Point Sur Lighthouse atop a dome rising from the edge of the Pacific. Early morning sun strikes the lighthouse. It stands in silhouette at sunset.

Guided three-hour tours of this lighthouse are available on a first-come basis, because of the limited parking space at the site. During winter months, arrive early on Saturday or Sunday for the 10:00 AM tour. Wednesday afternoon tours start at 1:00 PM. For extended summer schedule, fee information, and moonlight tour dates, go to: www.pointsur.org/
For more information call 831-625-4419.

Andrew Molera State Park
The Old Coast Road returns to Highway One directly across from the entrance to Andrew Molera State Park. Here you will find many trails, some leading out to the beach. From November to February, clusters of monarch
butterflies gather high in eucalyptus trees along the Andrew Molera Campground Trail to the beach.

This park is one of the favorite destinations of monarch butterflies making their long migratory journeys to warmer winter conditions. Some fly as far as Mexico and travel up to 1,500 miles. They arrive in November and stay through February.

The Andrew Molera Campground Trail follows the north side of the Big Sur River to a spur trail—the Highlands Trail that climbs to an overlook on Molera Point offering dramatic views of a distant rocky coastline below towering cliffs. Thousands of gulls covered the wide sand spit at the mouth of the river on the day of my visit. They were all moving slowly down the beach toward the fresh water stream, taking a dip, and quickly bobbing downstream to the edge of the surf where they walked back onto the beach and got back in line to do it again. Maybe they were rinsing off the salt water or were just having a good time. The Campground Trail and the Highlands Trail are accessible during winter months when temporary bridges over the Big Sur River are removed.

During summer months, the river level drops and small wooden bridges are replaced to span the narrower river. The Beach Trail crosses over to the south side of the river, out past a large lagoon to a long sandy beach. The Bluff Trail winds along the top of the cliffs for dramatic views of the Pacific, all the way to the south boundary of the park. Return to the trailhead on the Ridge Trail along the top of the long ridge between Big Sur and the Pacific. Twenty-four first-come walk-in campsites are near the entrance to this park. No RV spaces are available.

Some monarchs spend their summers feeding and breeding in the California Sierra foothills, then migrate to spend their winters in warmer areas along the California Central Coast. Large clusters can be found in tall pines and eucalyptus. In their adult stage, monarchs have a strictly liquid diet.

Other monarch gathering sites include: Natural Bridges State Park near Santa Cruz, Pacific Grove on the Monterey Peninsula, and Pismo Beach’s small eucalyptus grove off Highway One. No entry fee is charged visitors at the Pismo Beach Preserve, and it’s a very short walk from the highway.

Your 300 mm telephoto will fill your viewfinder with large clusters of butterflies that are close to the ground. Use an ISO setting of 800 and a shutter speed fast enough to stop any movement. A little fill flash will lighten shadow details. Monarchs fold their wings closed in colder weather hiding the brighter orange topside of each butterfly. On warm and sunny days, wings start flapping and more color can be seen.

Big Sur
South of Andrew Molera Park, Highway One enters the Big Sur Valley, with a forest of redwoods, maples, oaks, cypress and sycamores blocked from the coastline by a long and high ridgeline. The two-lane highway passes several small communities, each with a café, a general store, a gas pump and a small motel or campground. At the south end is the entrance to Big Sur State Park with rental cabins, a restaurant and the largest campground along the Big Sur River. Just south of the state park is the Big Sur Visitor Center, called Big Sur Station.
Pfeiffer Beach
The road to this remote beach is unmarked. A half-mile south of Big Sur Station, watch for a side road heading down to the coast marked only with a yellow sign warning: “Narrow Road - No RVs - Trucks”

This narrow two-mile road is one lane wide. There are wide places where you can pass oncoming vehicles. The road heads down Sycamore Canyon along a creek to a parking lot. Pay the parking fee at the entry gate. A short and sandy trail leads through cypress trees to a view of a beach where waves crash through several arched openings in large rocks sitting just offshore. The scene is spectacular, but it’s not easy to photograph. Late afternoon light streaming through the openings is very dramatic. This light creates contrasty compositions, including large sprays of surf crashing through black stone openings brilliantly illuminated with backlight from the sun dropping to the horizon. Find a spot with the composition you want. Frame the vertical openings with a vertical camera format, filling your frame with a telephoto lens or use a wide-angle lens to frame a horizontal image of the entire monolith, with an opening at the base resembling a door.

Choose an average exposure, a compromise that will save your highlight details and let the stone go black, or try using HDR techniques to capture the whole range of visible light across this scene. If you are not satisfied with your HDR images later, you will still have a selection of bracketed images and can pick your best exposure to print.

Low tide allows you to move closer to the arches. Check online tide tables to find a low tide that occurs at sunset for the best results. Late afternoon low tides occur most commonly in December and January. On a cold January weekday, there were thirty photographers, all jockeying for the best place to set up their tripods during the last few minutes of sunlight. I had arrived three hours early to scout out the best tripod location. My spot was offset far enough to avoid including the sky through the opening.

At the north end of this beach, position your camera low to emphasize foreground details and reflections of a setting sun as the surf washes over stones across the beach.

It’s a long drive back to Monterey after sunset on Pfeiffer Beach. Reserve a cabin or a motel room in Big Sur and stay several nights here to capture some great sunsets.

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park
After shooting a sunset at Pfeiffer Beach, stay another day and shoot the setting sun again, from a viewpoint above McWay Falls as it drops eighty-feet to a sandy beach at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

Ten miles south of Big Sur, drive into the park entrance on the east side of Highway One. Pay the parking fee and follow the signs down a flight of stairs to a trail that
leads back toward the highway. It takes you through a large culvert under Highway One to a trail on the west side of the road. Turn to the right and walk a hundred yards, until McWay Falls is visible. The stream drops from a wooded ridge and free-falls onto a sandy crescent beach beside a turquoise-colored cove. At high tide, the waterfall drops directly into the Pacific, a rare occurrence for waterfall fans.

The waterfall faces northwest and is shaded until late in the afternoon. A setting sun supplies a warm, rosy glow across the whole scene. Five bracketed exposures (from two stops over- to two stops under-exposed) were merged in Photomatix Pro to create the photo in this newsletter. After making many exposures as the sun was dropping in the west, I took a twenty-minute break and waited until the sun had dropped well below the horizon to get a much warmer color across the sky. I continued photographing the same scene illuminated with a soft, diffused light. This location reveals a completely different image on a foggy day. You may prefer the subtler affect. If it’s too foggy to see the waterfall, wait until the fog starts to burn off.

Some smaller waterfalls on the same creek are found up the trail beyond the picnic grounds on the east side of Highway One—up in the redwood forest, just beyond the last picnic table near the junction of the Ewoldsen Trail.

**Elephant Seals**

Fifteen miles south of the Monterey/San Luis Obispo County line, five miles north of San Simeon, and just south of Piedras Blancas Lighthouse, is the Elephant Seal Viewing Area. Watch for a large, paved parking area on the beach side of Highway One. Park at the edge of a sidewalk where you can set up your tripod and shoot over a low railing. The nearest elephant seals are only a few feet below the sidewalk. You can easily get tightly framed full-face portraits of these creatures with a 300 mm telephoto from the railing.

Almost wiped out for their oil-rich blubber in the 1800s, a few dozen elephant seals survived on a remote island off the coast of Mexico. Today, the elephant seal population is estimated at 100,000. Populations of elephant seal rookery sites in California have steadily increased during the past century. At Año Nuevo State Park, north of Santa Cruz, California, no elephant seals were seen until the 1950s. The first pup was born there in the early 1960s. Currently, thousands of pups are born every year at Año Nuevo, on both the island and mainland. The growth of the site near San Simeon has been more spectacular. No seals were there prior to 1990.

Currently, the San Simeon site hosts more breeding animals than Año Nuevo State Park during winter season. Every year more elephant seals, born here on this beach, return to mate and raise more pups. They are making a great comeback. When I arrived at this mile-long beach, it was covered with thousands of elephant seals.
These creatures can barely drag themselves across the beach, but, in water, they can swim very fast and efficiently. Elephant seals spend most of their year alone, far out to sea before returning to the beach where they were born.

In November, the first young adult males born here return to come ashore from their journey to Alaska where they have been bulking up to get ready for several months of fasting. By late November, mature males, weighing up to 5,000 pounds, arrive and begin battling for dominance on the beach before rounding up as many as forty of the arriving females for each harem.

The first pups are born in mid-December. By late December, the beach is covered with hundreds of elephant seal pups, vocalizing with their mothers, creating a bond so they can find each other on the crowded beach. Alpha males are continuously posturing and challenging younger males by rising up and throwing back their heads and emitting a loud, hollow, low-frequency bellow that can be heard for a mile. Sometimes they bang their chests together and bite the other’s neck. The long floppy snout looks like an elephant’s trunk.

The nearby Piedras Blancas Lighthouse suffered storm damage in 1949, leaving it without a traditional light tower. The chopped-off tower is now operating with a modern lamp.

San Simeon Schoolhouse
Directly across Highway One, back at the bottom of the hill, is the road to the village of San Simeon, a whaling station dating back to 1864. Walk out on the 1000-foot pier and stand directly above the incoming waves to photograph surf breaking on the long, curving beach to the south. Near the Sebastian General Store, established in 1870, is an old one-room schoolhouse. Behind the schoolhouse is Hearst’s Castle on a mountaintop in the distance—a two-for-one photo opportunity. For this photo, I used a 70-300 mm lens set at 200mm with my camera on a tripod set up for a vertical format. I used f16 to keep the foreground and the distant castle in focus. Using HDR techniques, I made five exposures of the scene (below) and then panned left and right to shoot the overlapped edges of a panorama that was later merged in Photoshop—a total of fifteen exposures.

Hearst’s Castle at San Simeon
Three miles south of the elephant seal beach is the entrance to the San Simeon State Historical Monument. This remote palace, sitting on a mountaintop (above) on the central California coastal range, took William Randolph Hearst more than twenty-eight years to build. The Casa Grande, also called Hearst’s Castle, has 38 bedrooms and 41 bathrooms. This incredible monument houses a huge collection of valuable paintings, sculpture, tapestries and antique silver. The castle is surrounded by 127 acres of gardens, three palatial guesthouses, and both an indoor and an outdoor Olympic-sized pool. Mr. Hearst, a newspaper tycoon, entertained Hollywood movie stars, presidents, and the cream of society during the early 1900s.

Go online and reserve a spot on a guided tour or drop in as you head down the coast and, with a little luck, pick up a last-minute ticket at the Visitor Center. Visitors park at the bottom of the hill and ride up to the castle in a bus. There are four different tours. Ask for Tour #1, the basic tour for first-time visitors. If you will be packing only one lens, use your wide-angle. Everything is immense. The tour guides are very knowledgeable and can answer all your questions. The pace is slow enough that you can easily photograph everything you see. No flash and no tripods are
permitted. Crank up your ISO high enough to be able to use short exposure times and apertures small enough to give the depth-of-field you need for hand-held interior photographs. To capture the size of the swimming pools and the grand dining hall, shoot multiple exposures to merge into panoramic images later.

Photography for personal use is encouraged. Permission to publish photographs taken at the Hearst Castle must be obtained from the State of California, and fees must be paid.

The next town south of San Simeon is Cambria, with a larger and more upscale choice of lodgings and restaurants. Cambria, the site of a lumber mill back in 1861, was a remote outpost until Highway One was completed north to Monterey in 1937.

**Cayucos Polar Bears**
The next town south of Cambria is a small seaside town called Cayucos, which hosts an annual Polar Bear swim meet every year at noon on January 1, New Year’s Day. Locals and visitors brave cold weather to dive into 54˚ ocean water. No wet suits are allowed. If you are in the area, stay overnight, and get out there early to find a spot on the pier for an aerial photograph of thousands of crazy people running into the surf. Photographers line the full 953-foot length of the pier. I was a little late arriving but managed to squeeze in for a photo of the action.

**Morro Bay**
Continue driving south of Cayucos. Turn right onto Main Street into the town of Morro Bay. Turn right again onto Beach Street and drive down to the harbor where you can park anywhere along the Embarcadero. Here you can find a variety of harbor scenes with many old fishing boats to fill your foreground as you photograph Morro Rock, an extinct volcanic peak rising 576 feet above the far side of the harbor. You will find more views of the rock by driving farther south to the end of Embarcadero. Two blocks east, drive south on Main Street to the Museum of Natural History. From their deck, is a high viewpoint for a photo of Morro Rock at the far end of the harbor. Across Main Street is a large campground in Morro Bay State Park, with 135 campsites on the estuary near a trail that skirts a large marsh on Chorro Creek. The estuary at Morro Bay is the Central Coast’s most extensive complex of wetlands. In winter, these habitats are teeming with a great variety of migratory shorebirds and wading birds. Bird photographers may want to extend their stay in Morro Bay.

Highway One continues down the coast to Southern California where redwoods become palm trees, beaches are used for surfing, and coastal landscapes are covered with condos. Twelve miles east of Morro Bay at San Luis Obispo, I headed north on the freeway, US Highway 101, back to Northern California, a four-hour drive.
Unless you plan to sleep on the beach, you will find a great variety of lodgings on the Monterey Peninsula and in Big Sur, San Simeon, Cambria, Morro Bay and the other coastal towns mentioned in this newsletter. Advance reservations for lodgings are recommended during high season (late spring, summer, and early fall). Big Sur lighthouse tours are offered only on a first-come basis. You’ll need advance reservations for the tours at Hearst’s Castle.

My favorites locations for the natural scenes:

**Point Lobos**
**Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park/McWay Falls**
**Pfeiffer Beach**

Other places you should include in your itinerary:

**Monterey Bay Aquarium**
**Hearst’s Castle at San Simeon**

For information on photographing the Central Coast, read Photograph America Newsletters:

- #14 - **Point Lobos and Big Sur**
- #66 - **The Golden Gate’s Coastal Trail.**

For information on photographing coastal areas north of San Francisco, read newsletter issues:

- #17 - **North of the Golden Gate**
- #87 - **Point Reyes in Winter**
- #95 - **Redwood National Park**

*Have a great trip and send me an e-mail!*

My life-long career in photography began at San Jose State University in 1957. After college, I enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, serving as a photographer and darkroom technician. In Germany, my skills and experience with equipment and lab work were developed and polished. I took the opportunity to photograph the beauty of nature in the Black Forest. Returning to California in 1965, I produced industrial and military training films for Raytheon Electronics and began showing my color nature prints. From 1969 through 1981, my photography was exhibited and sold in West Coast galleries. During the early 1980’s, I taught color darkroom workshops, then expanded to include field trips. Former customers, who had purchased my framed photographs, wanted to learn photography. My Pacific Image Photography Workshops offered adventures to the Pacific Coast, the Southwest deserts, national parks, Hawaii, New England, Canada, England, and the South Pacific. The workshops evolved into writing and sharing my adventures with others. Photograph America Newsletter provides information on where, when, and how to discover the best nature photography in North America.

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