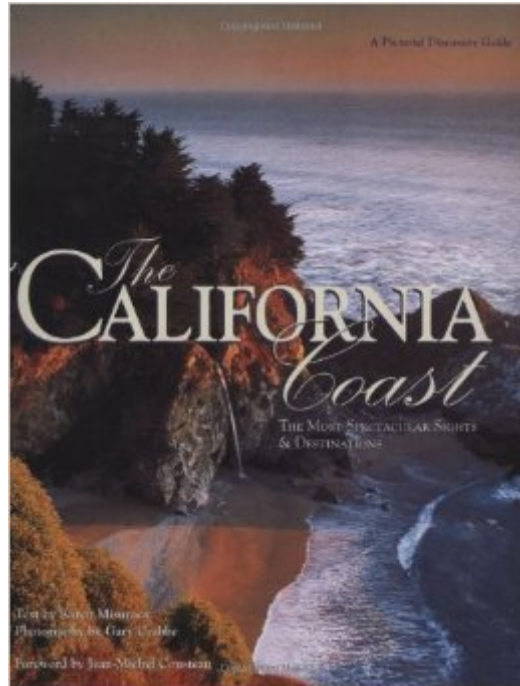


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# The California Coast: The Most Spectacular Sights & Destinations



## Synopsis

From a rugged, mountainous northern shore fringed with redwood forests to the inviting beaches of southern California; from the world-famous cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles to the historic Spanish towns of Santa Barbara and Monterey; from the wild Big Sur to the quaint fishermen's villages of Mendocino and Eureka, *The California Coast* describes the look and local color of this 1,200 mile strip of the Pacific Rim. Visitors and residents alike will treasure this tribute to the breathtakingly beautiful California coastline. Karen Misuraca is a travel journalist, book publicist, and author of several books on the Golden State. Gary Crabbe is an internationally published, award-winning freelance photographer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One of my favorite things to do is to travel down sections of the California coast. I do this whenever I can, and usually have an opportunity to revisit a favorite site at least once a year. One of the high points of being a teenager in California was taking a driving trip with my mother and sister where we covered almost the entire coast. I was very impressed by this book. If you think you are interested in taking a trip to the California coast, I think this book is essential! First, I couldn't find any sight that I have enjoyed visiting that was not included. For example, I have spent a lot of time near Laguna in Southern California in recent years. I found every activity that I enjoy doing in Laguna captured in the book, down the art galleries and museum I like to visit there. Second, most books of photography cause you to have great envy for the skill of the photographer, with no idea how to take your own

images. I was delighted when the book opened with a brief photographic note that explained what equipment was used for the photographs. It's all equipment that I can access and manage, which is also nice. The images of sunsets over the ocean are the best! Third, the book brings in the environmental issues of defending the coastline from California's enormous population and heavy tourism industry. You will read about how development and wildlife are both being protected and brought together in complementary ways. Ms. Misuraca's text makes no bones about the smog and congestion near Los Angeles, and the photographs make those problems visually appalling. Fourth, the writing is way above what I've come to expect for travel-related books. I thought that Jean-Michel Cousteau's Foreword was especially eloquent. "California is a fabled land . . . . From small, Hispanic-influenced farming towns to the cosmopolitan bustle of San Francisco and Los Angeles, it is host to a blend of cultures not seen since the days of ancient Rome." Fifth, there's a balance in the subject matter that I found helpful. Many areas of California offer seasonal festivals related to fishing, harvesting or simply cultural history. Anyone who loves California enjoys visit those festivals. The book is quite complete in telling you about those activities. At the same time, you get ideas of where the architecture, hiking, photography, swimming, surfing, and nature observing are good. This is probably the only book about California's coast that I have seen that both residents and potential visitors will treasure equally. After you have finished enjoying this remarkable book, I hope you will plan to visit some of California's lesser known but remarkable locales. I particularly recommend the section of Route 1 that goes south from Carmel through Big Sur, the Lost Coast, Fort Ross, Muir Woods, Point Reyes, Drake's Bay, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve, Morro Bay, Catalina, and Torrey Pines.

Stunning photographs!! A beautiful book! Text is most interesting & informative too. Well written. You wish you could jump into the page & pictures themselves. I once lived in California - wish I had this book - years ago! SM Pierrot Olney, MD

What an excellently written book. If a picture is worth a thousand words, the authors words are worth a thousand (mental) pictures. But there are very nice photo's as well. Covers nature, towns, and cities with the type of information a tourist or native would appreciate. And if you can't actually do such a trip, you definitely can from your armchair while reading this book. A real pleasure.

My guests signed the book yearbook style. Before my wedding on the northern California Coast I read this book cover to cover. It is very interesting to me, but I love our Cali Coast!! Great coffee

table book with beautiful pictures!!

My husband and I have been touring the coast of California for a couple of years and I was sure we had missed a few beautiful spots, I saw this book in the waiting room of my dentist recently and had to have it. This book has given my husband and I many places to visit and enjoy. It is full of wonderful pictures and great descriptions of the coastal towns California has to offer. I would encourage everyone to get a copy of it. Even if you are not planning on visiting these areas it is a wonderful book for you coffee table your friends and family will enjoy it.

I purchased a copy of this book to present to a German friend who helped me locate my long-lost family. At one time, this friend had spent a month traveling up and down the California coast and he said this book brought back all those beautiful memories. The photography is beautiful and the photos are presented in a lovely format. (In fact, I'd love to have a copy for myself ... )

I bought this book thinking it would be a good guide to the hidden gems on the West Coast but found that it was more a coffee table book or souvenir book. If you are looking for something with detailed information on the coastal drive, e.g., highlights, directions, tips, etc. this isn't it. If you want a nice memento of the California Coast, then it's a beautiful book.

Detailed guide, excellent narratives with good historical and contemporary information, great pictures. I am planning my trip to California based on the information presented in this book. Good work! Just an idea: it can be an exciting present for all sun and ocean loving people..

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