

# Pismo Beach

BY LEAH ETLING

**Pismo Beach** is off US Highway 101, about 200 miles northwest of Los Angeles; exit at Price Street. For a free *San Luis Obispo County Cities* map, visit your local Auto Club office. For driving directions, go to [aaamaps.com](http://aaamaps.com).

**B**ugs Bunny always wanted to go to Pismo Beach—and enjoy "all the clams you can eat"—in those 1950s Warner Brothers cartoons. So he was always disappointed when he popped out of his rabbit hole and, instead, found himself in places like Ali Baba's cave. You, however, can find what Bugs didn't. At Pismo Beach, you'll find a Central Coast community with the kitschy atmosphere that most Southern California beach towns lost long ago. Think fish and chips, clam chowder, and kites. Surfers suit up in the pier parking lot and get their stoke on in the waves below as people strolling seaside stop to watch, just as in days gone by. And at October's Clam Festival, you can have all the clams you can eat.

**EAT** Follow the smell wafting from **Old West Cinnamon Rolls** **1**. Inside, you might hear a customer saying the just-baked rolls are "the best in the world." *861 Dolliver Street. (805) 773-1428.* Head for **Steamers of Pismo** **2**, known for its panoramic ocean view, and have the restaurant's award-winning clam chowder and some of the tastiest fish and chips in town. *1601 Price Street. (805) 773-4711; [steamerspismo beach.com](http://steamerspismo beach.com).* At **Rosa's Italian Restaurant** **3**, try the thin-crust pizza with Italian sausage, salami, and green pepper. Be sure to save room for the tiramisu. *491 Price Street. (805) 773-0551; [rosasrestaurant.com](http://rosasrestaurant.com).*

**PLAY** If you're feeling adventurous, visit candy maker **Hotlix** **4**, known for its chocolate-covered ants and worm suckers. *179 Pomeroy Avenue. (805) 773-1942.* Go buy a kite with pictures of ladybugs, flowers, or circus animals at **The Sky's the Limit Toy & Kite Shop** **5**. *761 Dolliver Street. (805) 773-8697.* **Beach Cycle Rentals** **6** can outfit you for a day at the beach with bikes, surfboards, boogie boards, wetsuits, umbrellas, or beach chairs. *150 Hinds Avenue. (805) 773-5518; [fix.net/~pismobill](http://fix.net/~pismobill).*

## To Do

- **Pismo Beach Classic Car Show**  
June 19–21
- **63rd Annual Clam Festival**  
October 17–18



## STAY

Relax at the thatch-roofed **Cottage Inn by the Sea** <sup>7</sup>, with a cliff-top pool and spa. 2351 Price Street. (888) 440-8400; [cottage-inn.com](http://cottage-inn.com). Enjoy **The Cliff Resort's** <sup>8</sup> bluff-top setting, where rooms furnished in soothing colors frame ocean or mountain views. 2757 Shell Beach Road. (800) 826-7827; [cliffsresort.com](http://cliffsresort.com).

*Please call to check hours and availability of businesses, attractions, and events before you visit. Pismo Beach Conference and Visitors Bureau, (805) 773-7034; [classicalifornia.com](http://classicalifornia.com).*

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