



SEASIDE GEMS AT VENTURA

2024 ANNUAL CFMS-AFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

The National Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show!

May 24-26, 2024

RECOMMENDED SIDE TRIPS

As of this time (July 2023), in lieu of formal field trips, we offer this list of recommended side trips you may want to consider while in Ventura. Some are just blocks from the Fairgrounds, but most require a bit of travel, and some are for the truly brave-at-heart willing to do battle with LA freeway traffic!

Cool Museums

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara. (805) 682-4711. A giant blue whale skeleton greets you at the entrance to this hidden gem of a museum. All sorts of natural history is on display, but you'll especially want to take in the Geology & Paleontology Hall featuring local fossils (including Channel Island pygmy mammoths) and their newest hall, the Mineral & Gem Gallery. While there, you should also visit the Old Mission nearby. For driving directions: <http://www.sbnature.org>

Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits. 5810 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. (213) 763-3499. The world's only consistently active urban Ice Age excavation site houses over 1 million Pleistocene fossils, including skeletons and recreations of our state fossil, the sabertooth cat *Smilodon*. You can see indoor exhibits, view paleontologists at work cleaning and restoring specimens, and journey outside to see tar still bubbling up in asphalt excavation pits. As they say on their web site: "See what we dug up in our own backyard!" For driving directions: <http://www.tarpits.org/visit/plan-your-trip>

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles. (213) 763-3466. If you're into fossils or gems (and we're assuming you are), this is the place to go! Visit the hall of gems where our very own CFMS Golden Bear nugget is usually displayed alongside the CFMS benitoite specimen when not on display at our annual show. For fossils, check out the Age of Mammals and Dinosaur Hall—both were finished in recent years and are eye-popping. In most museums, the dinosaur skeletons on display are usually reproductions in plaster or resin. No polyester here, though—these are the real deal! The museum is a world-class institution, with over 35 million specimens. For driving directions: <http://www.nhm.org>

The UCLA Meteorite Gallery. In Room 3697 of the Geology Building on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles, 595 Charles E. Young Drive, Los Angeles. (310) 825-2015. The largest collection of meteorites on the West Coast and the fifth largest collection in the U.S. Docent-led tours offered on Sunday afternoons. Find full details at <https://meteorites.ucla.edu/>

Borax Visitor Center. 14486 Borax Rd, Boron, off Highway 58. (760) 762-7588. For a real adventure into deep mining, head to the Mojave Desert and visit one of the biggest borax deposits on the planet. Learn the 150

year history of U.S. Borax from 20 mule team times to the monster trucks of today and get a free ore sample in the parking lot! Check it out at <https://www.borax.com/about/community/borax-visitor-center>

In addition to museums highlighting earth sciences, you may want to explore other museums, venues & activities:

- **Albinger Archaeological Museum**, 113 E. Main, Ventura. (805) 648-5823. Exhibits and on-site excavations document 3,500 years of Ventura County history.
- **Museum of Ventura County**, 100 E. Main, Ventura. (805) 653-0323. Rather than geology, the focus is on history, culture and archeology of the county.
- **The Old Mission Basilica San Buenaventura**, 211 East Main, Ventura. (805) 643-4318. Step back into 1700s Spanish California with a tour of the last mission founded by Saint Junipero Serra.
- **Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center**, 1901 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura. (805) 658-5730. The visitors' center to the islands off-shore features natural history exhibits including a dwarf mammoth skeleton.
- **Island Packers Cruises**. 1691 Spinnaker Drive #105B, Ventura. (805) 642-1393. After learning about the Channel Islands, why not take a whale-watching trip around them?
- **Ventura Botanical Gardens**. 567 S. Poli St., Ventura. (805) 232-3113. Enjoy flora from Mediterranean climates worldwide, with a view that can't be beat of Ventura and the offshore Channel Islands in all their glory.
- **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library**, 40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley. 800-410-8354. No visit to Ventura County is complete without a visit to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum and Air Force One!

So-Cal Fee Dig Rockhounding Adventures!

If you're visiting from afar and will either be arriving early or staying around a while after the show concludes, there are several fee digs you may want to consider for rockhounding adventures in southern and central California.

Oceanview Tourmaline Mine, Pala, CA

Collecting with all the amenities provided: picnic and restroom facilities, screens, shovels, and other tools, and a big heap of mine tailings from which to extract tourmaline, kunzite,morganite, quartz crystals, aquamarine, and more!

www.oceanviewmine.com or www.digforgems.com

The Pala Chief Mine, Pala, CA

Owned and operated by the same group running the Oceanview Mine, the Pala Chief was first mined in 1903 and is especially renowned for the kunzite that has been found there, as well as tourmaline and associated minerals.

www.palachiefmine.com or www.digforgems.com

Benitoite Mining Company, near Coalinga, CA

The only place to collect the California state gem—ultra-rare and valuable benitoite! Screening from mine dumps, you'll also find natrolite, neptunite, and other associated minerals.

www.benitoitemining.com

The Enst Quarries at Shark Tooth Hill, Bakersfield, CA

A premier, world-class site for Miocene fossil shark teeth (including Megalodon) and marine mammal remains.

www.sharktoothhillproperty.com

We'll continue adding destinations as folks suggest more, so please watch our Show website, www.2024cfms-afms.com, for still more trip suggestions and any formal field trips that may yet get planned.