



OUR TOURS

For most of the year, we offer our tours on Thursdays through Mondays, with departure times at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. During the winter, our tours run Fridays through Sundays at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

We depart from the Margarita Adventures office at 22720 El Camino Real in Santa Margarita. Please arrive 20 minutes before your designated departure time.

The cost of the tour is \$99 per person, which includes the zipline canopy experience, guided transportation and two tour guides.

Guests may also opt to visit the neighboring tasting room of our affiliated Ancient Peaks Winery, specializing in artisan wines grown on the ranch. Our tour guests enjoy a 20% savings on wine purchases, and the tasting fee is waived with the purchase of one or more bottles.

Departing from the Margarita Adventures office, you will enjoy guided transportation to Santa Margarita Ranch. Your guide will offer insights into the ranch's unique history and natural features. Two zipline canopy tour guides will greet you at the first zipline, and you will be thoroughly oriented and equipped to begin your journey. From the end of the fifth zipline, you will be transported back to Santa Margarita. Tours typically last 2.5 hours.

Reservations

Advance reservations are required. Reservations can be made online at www.margarita-adventures.com or by calling (805) 438-3120

Margarita Adventures
22720 El Camino Real
Santa Margarita, CA 93453
(805) 438-3120
contactus@margarita-adventures.com

Requirements

For guest requirements and other questions, visit the Policies and FAQ pages at www.margarita-adventures.com



OUR MISSION & COMPANY

At Margarita Adventures, our mission is to:

- Offer a uniquely thrilling perspective on a true California landmark—the historic Santa Margarita Ranch.
- Promote awe and appreciation for our natural surroundings, taking inspiration from the indigenous peoples who inhabited the terrain of Santa Margarita Ranch for thousands of years.
- Introduce guests to Santa Margarita Ranch as one of the California coastline's most significant historical and geological experiences.
- Showcase how native ecosystems can be nurtured and even restored within a working ranch and vineyard environment.
- Honor the tradition of early California rancho hospitality with a healthy sense of adventure and accomplishment.

Margarita Adventures was launched in the fall of 2011. Margarita Adventures, LLC is a privately owned company, and the owners are longtime local residents. The Margarita Adventures team is committed to offering guests a safe, memorable and rewarding experience.

Margarita Adventures, LLC also works with local wineries, tour companies and tourism organizations to showcase Margarita Adventures as an integral part of the world-class San Luis Obispo County visitor experience. The Renegade zipline is sponsored by Ancient Peaks Winery, and guests of Margarita Adventures enjoy a complimentary tasting of Ancient Peaks wines at the conclusion of their tour.



OUR ZIPLINES

With our four ziplines, we aim to change your perspective, both literally and figuratively. Our tour is designed to accentuate our larger mission: to promote a deeper appreciation for our natural surroundings, and to ultimately see things a bit differently while providing a thrilling experience along the way.

We place an uncompromising priority on safety in the construction and maintenance of our ziplines; the integrity of our equipment; and the training of our guides. Our ziplines meet or exceed all accepted design and safety requirements.

We are members of the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), which is recognized as the premier national organization for establishing zipline safety standards. The organization is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). We adhere to the ACCT standards in all matters of installation, inspection and operations:

Our four ziplines are:

The Renegade

The sweeping views from the start of the Renegade line will take your breath away—and so will the ride itself. Departing from a looming hillcrest, you will soar 1,200 feet across a grassy valley and into an awaiting oak forest along a rugged flank of the Santa Lucia Mountains.

The Woodlander

Next, you will travel 600 feet over the canopies of native blue and white oak trees before touching down on a steeply pitched mountainside.

The Hilltopper

For the next 430 feet, you emerge from the oaks and digger pines and glide down onto a bare hill with vineyard views. Don't let the shorter distance fool you—the Hilltopper is fun and fast!

The Archway

Next, you will descend 800 feet back into the forest and under a natural archway of companion oaks before emerging to a wide-open panorama of vineyards and mountains.

The Pinot Express

Our newest zipline is also our longest, highest and fastest. You soar over a mountainside forest at 125 feet above ground, then swoop right over a Pinot Noir vineyard, traveling a breathtaking total of 1,800 feet. You may have toured a vineyard before, but never like this...

**To reach the Pinot Express, you take a quarter-mile trail walk, the equivalent of a very light hike. If you are unable to walk this distance, you may opt to remain with our tour van.*



NATURE

During your tour, you will experience the remarkably diverse natural environment of Santa Margarita Ranch, which spans five distinct soil types and numerous habitats across more than 12,000 acres.

Quick Facts

- Ancient oyster fossils nearly the size of footballs have been unearthed on the ranch, and smaller fossils are literally spilling out of the soil in a spot known as Oyster Ridge.
- Santa Margarita Ranch is home to some of California's largest and most historic oak trees.
- Trout Creek is fed from springs at 1,400 feet, and is one of the few year-round streams in the region. The source of the water is unknown, but could be as far away as the Sierras.
- Several bald eagles have made the ranch their home in recent years—so keep your eyes peeled when visiting.

Wildlife

The ranch is home to a stunning range of wildlife, and frequent sightings include deer, wild turkeys, wild boar, foxes, hawks and falcons. Bears, bobcats, mountain lions, eagles and rattlesnakes also inhabit the land, but more inconspicuously. Different types of animals observed on the ranch include 157 birds, 41 mammals and 16 reptiles.

Flora

The ranch's ever-shifting elevations and soils promote a wide range of flora spanning perennial grasslands, blue oak woodlands, chamise chaparral, emergent wetlands and other plant communities. As you make your way across the ranch, you can see the vegetation change in relation to elevation, exposure and soil—a vivid glimpse of nature precisely adapting to specific micro-conditions.

Geology

The terrain of Santa Margarita Ranch is uncommonly complex, as is evident in its five soil zones: ancient sea bed, volcanic, shale, granitic and sedimentary. This soil complexity was forged over millions of years, with the land squeezed between two active faults—the Rinconada and Nacimiento—and flanked by mountains forged by the grinding of the Pacific and continental plates. These tectonic forces, combined with the property's ocean proximity, generated a profound mixture of divergent soil elements, from ocean fossils to river cobble to volcanic boulders.



SUSTAINABILITY

Santa Margarita Ranch is a testament to how native ecosystems can be nurtured and even restored within a working ranch and vineyard environment. During your tour, you will learn about the numerous sustainable practices that are making a difference in the land and what it produces.

Quick Facts

- Santa Margarita Ranch's conservation efforts have been used to demonstrate the effectiveness of progressive rangeland management practices in numerous USDA seminars.
- The ranch's vineyard has earned SIP (Sustainability in Practice) Certification. The SIP Certification program is one of the most stringent of its kind, requiring more conservation practices than even the USDA National Organic Program.
- The vineyard features several wildlife corridors that enable animals to roam freely among connected habitats.

Ranching

Santa Margarita Ranch is one of California's oldest continuously operated cattle ranches, dating back to the 1770s. The owners employ rotational "pulse" grazing with an emphasis on conservation and progressive rangeland management. Creeping Wild Rye, Slender Wheatgrass, Purple Needlegrass and Danthonia Oatgrass are some of the native grasses that are now re-establishing themselves as a result of the rotational grazing practices. Santa Margarita Ranch is a member of Harris Ranch's Natural Beef Program and Partnership for Quality, and the cattle are raised with low-stress, natural handling without usage of antibiotics or growth hormones.

Farming & Viticulture

The ranch's award-winning vineyard is also sustainably managed with deficit irrigation, natural cover crops, wildlife corridors, rotational groundwater usage and the use of compost tea for fertilization. Wetland health is preserved by the avoidance of tillage practices that might cause soil erosion. Vineyard pests are managed naturally by promoting habitats for native predators, a program that includes 34 bat boxes, 471 bluebird boxes, 29 owl boxes and 13 predatory bird perches.



HISTORY

From early Native American inhabitants to Spanish padres, Mexican generals and colorful outlaws, Santa Margarita Ranch boasts an illustrious cultural and historical pedigree that is unrivaled on California's Central Coast. Our tour introduces you to the fascinating origins of this historic landmark property.

Quick Facts

- Santa Margarita Ranch was home to indigenous peoples for more than 10,000 years, and evidence of their existence is hidden deep within the Santa Lucia Mountain Range. Much can be learned from these ancient people by reflecting on nature in this beautiful setting.
- During hostilities between the Mexican and American governments, the ranch was used for strategy meetings led by General Jose Castro and the Mexican Governor of California, Pio Pico.
- An adobe trading post built in the early 1800s, and later transformed into a Wells Fargo stage stop, still stands on the ranch today.
- Local folklore maintains that the notorious brothers Frank James and Jesse James passed through the ranch in 1874 while on the run and heading out to their Uncle Drury's La Panza Ranch.

Mission Period

The establishment of nearby Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa in 1772 marked a monumental shift in the local landscape as livelihoods changed from hunting and gathering to farming and animal husbandry. This shift had an immediate—and at times cruel—impact on the local Native American culture. At Santa Margarita Ranch, the padres introduced cattle, sheep, horses, farming and viticulture, thus changing the landscape forever. In 1787, Santa Margarita de Cortona was formally recognized as an outpost of Mission San Luis Obispo. The rock and mortar walls of the original Asistencia building still stand on the ranch today and have been declared a registered California Historical Landmark. The ranch provided a resting place along the famed El Camino Real for more than 100 years until the railroad era began in 1889.

Rancho Period

After Mexico secured its independence from Spain in 1822, the mission properties were privatized. In 1841, more than 17,000 acres, including what is now known as Santa Margarita Ranch, were granted to 26-year-old Joaquin Estrada. Known for hosting epic rodeos and fiestas, Estrada set the pace for the “early California rancho hospitality” that endures on the ranch today. In 1861, eleven years after California officially became the 31st state in the union, Estrada was forced to sell the ranch to the Murphy family.

United States Period

Santa Margarita Ranch prospered in the hands of Patrick Murphy, who was instrumental in bringing the Southern Pacific Railroad to the area, granting a right-of-way that led to the birth of the town of Santa Margarita. The ranch was sold to the Reis family in 1901, and it passed through several hands in the ensuing decades. Today, Santa Margarita Ranch remains a working ranch and vineyard, honoring and advancing the land's rich heritage.



WINE

Santa Margarita Ranch's sustainably farmed vineyard is the southernmost vineyard in the Paso Robles American Viticultural Area (AVA). During your tour, you will discover why *Sunset Magazine* recently called Paso Robles "the West's most exciting wine region."

Quick Facts

- Santa Margarita is located just 14 miles from the ocean and enjoys a steady influence of cool marine air. Such conditions create one of the Paso Robles AVA's longest growing seasons, yielding wines of uncommon balance and structure.
- The same tectonic forces that forged the surrounding Santa Lucia Mountain range also created an unusually complex mixture of soil types, resulting in wines with abundant natural complexity.
- Santa Margarita Ranch is home to the main event of the annual Savor The Central Coast celebration hosted by *Sunset Magazine*, the Central Coast's premier wine and food showcase.

Wine Tasting in Santa Margarita

Guests may opt to visit the neighboring tasting room of our affiliated Ancient Peaks Winery, specializing in artisan wines grown on the ranch. Our tour guests enjoy a 20% savings on wine purchases, and the tasting fee is waived with the purchase of one or more bottles.

We also encourage you to taste wine at the nearby Pozo Valley Winery tasting room in Santa Margarita, and to explore the artisan products and fine cuisine that distinguish the historic hamlet of Santa Margarita.