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Media Contact:
Emma Rhoads
TJA Advertising
321-209-3020
emma@tjaadvertising.com
https://experiencepismobeach.com/

Pismo Beach Travel Preview - America 250 + 2026 Events

2026 Signature Events & Travel Planning Highlights

[Pismo Beach, California – January 22, 2026] 2025 was packed full of entertaining events that made headlines, and Pismo Beach is geared up for 2026 to do the same. Highway 1 is open for the first time in years, and several hotels are completing their renovations in the next few months. The year ahead opens the door to coastal travel, classic road trips, and thoughtfully planned getaways on California's Central Coast.

As the nation celebrates its 250th birthday, there's no better place to mark the milestone than in a history-filled, classic California beach town.

Below is a seasonal snapshot of key moments and signature events editors may wish to flag for 2026 travel, lifestyle, food, outdoor, and community coverage.

Winter (January–February)

Quiet Coastlines, Surf Culture & Nature-Focused Travel

- **SLO CAL Open** | *January 19–25, 2026*
  A premier winter surf competition bringing world-class athletes and beachside energy to Pismo Beach. January offers fewer crowds, sunny days, and a relaxed pace ideal for winter travel features.

- **Wine & Wings: An Evening for Monarch Conservation** | *February 28, 2026*
  A seasonal event centered on monarch butterflies, coastal habitat, and environmental stewardship, connecting visitors with the region's natural landscape. Hosted by the Pismo Beach Stewardship and Educational Outreach program, it's a weekend to give back to the place that gives so much.

Spring (March–May)

History, Food & Classic Coastal Traditions

- **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail – 250th Anniversary Celebration** | *March 1, 2026*
  Hosted by Friends of Price House, featuring guided tours of historic grounds and a

community barbecue.

- **Taste of Pismo** | *April 25, 2026*
  A signature culinary showcase that sells out early every year. It highlights local restaurants and wine with the stunning backdrop of the Pacific.

- **Pismo Beach Classic Car Show** | *May 29–31, 2026*
  As one of the largest car shows on the West Coast, this event is perfectly Pismo. It's a walk through a nostalgic, Classic California time. Hundreds of classic cars are displayed along the oceanfront and along the pier.

Summer (June–August)

Peak Beach Season & Iconic Celebrations

- **Fourth of July Celebration** | *July 4, 2026*
  The busiest weekend of the year in Pismo Beach, because it never disappoints. Fireworks, community festivities, and one of the most iconic coastal holiday settings in California. Lodging fills early.

Fall (September–October)

Festivals, Pets, Art & Coastal Heritage

- **Corgi Nation Vacation Beach Party** | *September 11–13, 2026*
  A high-energy weekend featuring hundreds of corgis, costumes, contests, and VIP experiences.

- **Pismo Beach Clam Festival** | *October 17–18, 2026*
  Celebrating the 80th anniversary of this historic festival honoring Pismo Beach's roots with food, entertainment, and family-friendly fun.

- **Pismo Beach Sand Art Festival** | *November 7-9, 2026*
  Last year's debut of this event blew all expectations out of the water. The beach transforms at low tides into an open-air gallery. Top artists from around the world show their talents of creating large scale sand murals across the beaches with best viewing from the cliffs above the beach.

Holiday Season (December)

Coastal Takes on Classic Traditions

- **Holiday Season in Pismo Beach** | *December 2026*
  Seasonal favorites, including Small Business Saturday, Holiday Harmony, Snowflakes in the Sand, and Surfboards by the Sea, bring a festive, coastal twist to holiday travel and shopping.

Note

This preview is intended as a planning resource. Select assets here. More high-resolution photography and b-roll are available upon request.

Custom itineraries, interviews, and reminder pitches are available throughout the year. Lodging and experiences are available to support extended stays and feature development. Please reach out to Emma Rhoads at emma@tjaadvertising.com for requests.