



## Scenic Highways



### Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway

**State Route 27: California's newest officially designated State Scenic Highway (post miles 1.0-3.5)**

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Announcing State Route 27 (SR-27): "Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway," California's newest officially designated State Scenic Highway. Running through the City and County of Los Angeles, the officially designated segment of SR-27 (Topanga Canyon Boulevard) offers breathtaking views of massive rock formations, sweeping valleys, and diverse flora and fauna.

Running parallel to the route is Topanga Creek, the third largest watershed into the Santa Monica Bay, and the last free running stream from the crest of the mountains to the sea. Featuring the greatest diversity of native plants and animals of any watershed in the Santa Monica Mountains, Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway travels through a portion of Topanga State Park. Topanga State Park features 36 miles of trails through open grassland, live oaks and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. The park is one of the world's largest wildlands within the boundaries of a major city.

This designation was made possible by the City and County of Los Angeles policies and development standards, and California State Park's ecological preservation mission, which have long preserved the visual quality within Topanga Canyon. Official designation as a State Scenic Highway further affirms that

the visual quality protection measures enacted and enforced by the City, County and State Parks will ensure that the natural scenic beauty of the canyon will be preserved for generations to come.

## Newly Designated: Gaviota Coast State Scenic Highway



Gaviota Coast State Scenic Highway, a newly designated State Scenic Highway is located in the County of Santa Barbara. The officially designated segment travels through one of the longest remaining rural coastlines in southern California, along 21 miles of Highway 101 from the City of Goleta's western boundary, to Route 1 at Las Cruces.

The Gaviota Coast State Scenic Highway includes spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, grassy rolling hills, and the Santa Ynez Mountains. The route also adjoins three stunning California State Parks: Gaviota and Refugio State Parks, and El Capitán State Beach.

Abundant in scenic beauty, the Gaviota Coast is also rich in natural and cultural resources. It harbors rich biodiversity, with numerous parallel watersheds draining to the ocean from the Santa Ynez Mountains. The scenic highway follows the same route used by Portola and Father Serra in their historic journey up the

This designation was made possible by the County of Santa Barbara's coastal visual policies, and California State Park's natural and cultural preservation mandates, which have protected the scenic quality along the Gaviota Coast for decades. Official designation as a State Scenic Highway further affirms that the visual quality protection measures enacted and enforced by the County and State Parks will preserve the natural scenic beauty of this stunning coastline for generations to come.

Notable scenic features include: Mission Trails Summit which divides the coastal plain from inland valley, and Cowles Mountain, the highest point in the City of San Diego (1,592 feet). From within MTRP, views on clear days extend from sea level to over 6,000 feet in Cuyamaca State Park and the Cleveland National Forest. Natural habitats include riparian woodlands, vernal pools, and coastal sage and chaparral at higher elevations. Sensitive habitats for the Endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and Threatened California gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila californica*) are found throughout MTRP.

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View a map, photos and descriptions of California's scenic highway routes

## Scenic Highways Guidelines

A process for the designation of official scenic highways. (PDF)

## Scenic Highway Proposal and Corridor Protection Program Example

Gaviota Coast State Scenic Highway: Visual Assessment (VA) and Corridor Protection Program (CPP) (PDF)

## Scenic Highway System Lists

List of eligible and officially designated State Scenic Highways (XLSX)

List of Officially Designated County Scenic Highways\* (PDF)

\*Obtaining state recognition as an officially designated County Scenic Highway requires following the same Scenic Highway Program process that applies to State Routes. See the *Scenic Highway Guidelines* (PDF) for more information.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently asked questions (and answers) about the Scenic Highway Program

## Scenic Highway Coordinators

A list of people to contact for more information on scenic highways (PDF)

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## Scenic Highway Links

[Scenic Highway Designation Process \(PDF\)](#)

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