

Hot Springs

Los Padres National Forest



Los Padres National Forest contains several natural hot springs. Four of these springs are open to Forest visitors.

These include Big Caliente and Little Caliente Hot Springs on the Santa Barbara Ranger District and Sespe and Willet Hot Springs on the Ojai Ranger District. Big Caliente Hot Springs is the only one that has been modified to include a small concrete retention structure; all other sites are primitive and undeveloped.

Big Caliente Hot Springs is a day-use only area. A picnic site is adjacent to the springs and camping facilities are located a short distance away. To reach Big Caliente Hot Springs, take Highway 154 north from Highway 101, turn right on East Camino Cielo (5N12/5N123/5N15) at the summit of San Marcos Pass (Hwy 154) and follow this road for a distance of about 23 miles to the Pendola Station. Just beyond the station, turn right (north) on 5N15 and follow this road approximately 3 miles to the hot springs. Total driving time from Santa Barbara is approximately 1 hour, 45 minutes.

To reach **Little Caliente Hot Springs**, continue on road (5N15) past Pendola Station to Mono Campground (approximately 5 miles). From here it's a short walk to the springs. Little Caliente is also a day-use area. No camping is permitted. The closest camping area is Mono Campground.

Sespe Hot Springs is not accessible by vehicle. It is located inside the Sespe Wilderness area that is open only to foot and horse travel. There are no mountain bikes, motorized equipment, or motorized vehicles allowed.

Three separate hiking trails lead into the springs: (1.) The Middle Sespe Trail (22W04) which starts

from Lion Campground in the Rose Valley area located off of Hwy 33. It is a 17.5 mile hike (one way) to the springs. (2.) Alder Creek Trail (20W11) to Upper Sespe River Trail (20W30) from the Fillmore area off of Goodenough or "A" street to the trailhead at Dough Flat. This is a 9.4 mile (one way) hike. (3.) From the Mt. Pinos District side into the Sespe, start from the Mutau Flat area. This trail is the Johnston Ridge Trail (6N31). Starting from Mutau Flat, it is a 9 mile (one way) hike.

To access **Willet Hot Springs**, take Hwy 33 (FH76) to Lion Campground (6N313). From the Sespe River Trail (20W14) this is a 9 mile hike (one way) to Willet Campground, then 6/10 of a mile to the hot springs, also located in the Sespe Wilderness Area.

Locations of these hot springs are shown on the Los Padres National Forest Recreation Maps. Two maps cover the entire National Forest and show all major roads, trails, wilderness areas, recreation facilities and other important features. These maps are available from Los Padres Ranger District Offices or the Forest Supervisor's Office in Goleta. For further information contact the Ranger District nearest your destination or visit our website, www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres. They can also be purchased from the National Forest Store at <http://www.nationalforeststore.com/>.

Private Sites

The following sites are not owned or operated by the Forest Service, but are adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest, Monterey Ranger District. For more information, contact them directly.

Tassajara Hot Springs (open May-September). (831) 659-2229.

Esselen Institute (831) 667-3000

Gaviota Hot Springs (CA State Parks) (805) 968-1033 also adjacent to the Los Padres, Santa Barbara Ranger District.

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Ojai Ranger District

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Monterey Ranger District

406 South Mildred
King City, CA 93930
Voice: (831) 385-5434
TTY: (831) 385-0628
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Santa Lucia Ranger District

1616 North Carlotti Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93454
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Mount Pinos Ranger District

34580 Lockwood Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93255
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Santa Barbara Ranger District

3505 Paradise Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
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