

Six Santa Barbara

CHARTERS TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Le Grand Bleu offers both overnight and shorter day trips to the Channel Islands. A trip across the channel usually has numerous marine mammal sightings, such as whales, dolphins, and the occasional shark as well as being escorted by various types of birds. Charters arrive on the island late morning and generally try to see Painted Cave on the west end of Santa Cruz Island before lunch, a three course meal which is served at anchor in a protected cove. Afternoons are spent kayaking, relaxing, snorkeling, and swimming, which is generally followed by a nap before cocktail hour and appetizers on the Flybridge or rear deck. Dinner service is four courses and is custom-designed for each charter.

If You Go: Le Grand Bleu, 805.452.7052

ROCK CLIMBING

Most of the rock in Santa Barbara County is sandstone, a fairly soft and porous rock, making it ideal for beginning climbers and offering some challenges to seasoned veterans. Local rock formations provide excellent face climbing and some challenging cracks. A great spot for beginners is San Ysidro Rocks, while the infamous "t-crack" and assorted crack routes at Gibraltar Rock will challenge the more advanced. Try the climbing wall at Santa Barbara Outfitters to build your confidence or clean the dust off your forgotten climbing shoes. The folks at Santa Barbara Outfitters can also give you exact directions to the climbing locations.

If You Go: Santa Barbara Outfitters, 805.564.1007

THE LAND SHARK

Climb aboard Santa Barbara's original amphibious vehicle for a personally narrated 90 minute land and sea adventure. Beginning at Stearns Wharf, you'll wind your way through the delightful streets of Santa Barbara and see historical landmarks as you learn about the city's past, present and future. The adventure continues as you splash down into the blue Pacific waters of the Santa Barbara harbor. See the luxurious private yachts and the fleet of working commercial fishing boats. Hear the maritime legends of Stearns Wharf and discover the abundant marine mammals and sea life that inhabit our ocean.

If You Go: Land and Sea Tours, 805.683.7600



Adventures



SURFING

Santa Barbara is the only coastline in California which faces South instead of West, which is good news for beginning surfers and somewhat frustrating for bigger wave surfers. The occasional storm brings larger waves from a south swell, but generally the waves range from two to five feet. There are a number of point breaks that have beautiful shape, but most of the beaches have beach breaks. The water temperature varies year round, and most of the time you will need a wet suit. Beginners should have wet suits to help make the experience more enjoyable. Buddy up with some locals and they may turn you on to some hidden breaks.

If You Go: A-Frame Surf Shop, 805.684.8803



VINO VAQUEROS WINE TOURS

Daily horse riding and wine tasting tours in the beautiful Santa Ynez Valley. Take a ride with Vino Vaqueros to experience the valley's richness on horseback, followed by wine tasting and or meal, and your time spent in the valley is sure to be a memorable one. Vino Vaqueros specializes in private horseback rides on quality horses with professional horsemen/women and views you will never forget. Ride through Fess Parkers family ranch and vineyards. Explore the top of the ranch that will offer you spectacular 360 degree views of ranches and vineyards. After your ride, make your way to the tasting room to taste eight wines from the Fess Parker vineyards.

If You Go: Vino Vaqueros, 805.559.4232



WHALE & DOLPHIN WATCHING

The Gray, Blue and Humpback Whales all migrate through the Santa Barbara Channel. Experience the thrill of seeing a Blue Whale swimming as close as a one hundred yards away. Whales breach, spy hop and spout as they make their way up and down the coast. Seals and dolphins are abundant, and you may even see a dolphin pod that consists of over a hundred dolphins. The dolphins seem to relish the opportunity of swimming by the boat's hull and it's enchanting to watch them jump and spin along the boat. The occasional Orca Whale and Basking Shark have also been spotted. The season begins in February and continues through May.

If You Go: Captain Don's, 805.969.5217