

Community Hiking Club  
October 2017 Camping Trip



**PONDEROSA CAMPGROUND – LOS PADRES NF  
AND PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK**

October 26-29, 2017

Latitude and Longitude:  
36°0'18" N, 121°22'35" W  
36.005, -121.37639  
Elevation: 1,500 feet

**Introduction:** **Ponderosa Campground** is located in the Los Padres National Forest in the mountains of Big Sur. One-way mileage to the campground from the Santa Clarita area is about 230 miles, with an approximate travel time of 3 ½ hours.

**Directions:** From Santa Clarita, take the 1-5 north for approximately 110 miles. Take Exit 278 for Highway 46 West to Lost Hills/Paso Robles. Travel on Highway 46 for about 65 miles until you reach Paso Robles. In Paso Robles, take Highway 101 North and travel on Highway 101 for about 20 miles. Take Exit 252 for Jolon Road/Ft. Hunter Liggett. (You may want to take a quick side trip to Mission San Miguel, by taking Exit 239A. The mission is located very close to I-5.) Travel on Jolon Road for about 21 miles. Then, turn left at Mission Road, at a sign for Fort Hunter Liggett.

Do not worry -- even though you are entering the boundaries of the Fort, the military has given permission for the public to drive on the public roads in this area. Please do not drive off of the main roads or you may find yourself in very big trouble. Also be sure to have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance with you at all times. Finally, be sure to obey the speed limits, especially within the Fort. Also watch out for cattle and rodents in the road from this point until you reach the campground.

After traveling for about 4 more miles, you will see a green bridge and green sign on a road that is on your left. Turn left in the direction of "State Route 1" and drive over the green bridge. This intersecting road is Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, although you will not see a sign that says that until after you cross the bridge. (If you want to take another short side trip, do not turn left on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, but instead continue on Mission Road for about 2 miles, where you will find Mission San Antonio de Padua.)



After traveling about 10 miles on Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, you will see the campground entrance on your left. Look for the brown sign that says Ponderosa Campground.



When you arrive at the campground, if you have not made prior arrangements with Dianne regarding your camping fees (see below), you will need to put your payment in the metal box located at this sign in the campground:



**Description:** The campground is located on the Nacimiento River and has a scattered canopy of ponderosa pine, oak, madrone and sycamore trees, which provide ample shade in most campsites. There is a lot of poison oak in the area, so be prepared with long sleeves/pants and Technu. There may also be some bugs/mosquitos since there is a lot of water in the area. Bring bug spray.

**Amenities, Fees, and Rules:** The campground offers 23 single-family sites for tent and RV camping. Utility hookups are not available. The parking surfaces are paved. A maximum of two vehicles is allowed for each site. Additional vehicles are not allowed.



Each site is equipped with a table and campfire ring with grill. Vault toilets and drinking water are available March through November. Trash collection bins are available throughout the campground.

Fees are \$25.00 per site, with a maximum of 8 people per site, but an additional \$10.00 must be paid if there are more than 6 people in a site. An additional fee of \$10.00 must also be paid if a second vehicle is parked in a site. Interagency Senior Pass and Interagency Access pass holders are entitled to 50 percent off of camping only – the full \$10.00 must still be paid for a second vehicle.

Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Dogs are allowed in the campground and National Forest, if they are on a leash. However, dogs are strictly prohibited in Pinnacles National Park (which is the Saturday day trip).

**Weather:** The average temperatures this time of year at the campground are highs about 80 degrees and lows in the mid-40s. If you wish to look up the weather forecast for yourself, on [weather.com](http://weather.com), the closest town to the campground is Jolon; you can look up Pinnacles National Monument for the Saturday day trip.

**Hikes:** We plan to go on some or all of the following hikes:

- Slick Rock Trail – approximately 5 miles RT
- Vicente Flat Trail – as long as 21 miles RT all the way to the ocean
- Cone Peak – approximately 6 miles RT
- Gamboa Trail – approximately 9 miles RT
- Carrizo Trail – approximately 10.5 miles RT
- Saturday day trip to Pinnacles National Park with several hike options from the Chaparral trailhead, including Balconies Cave Trail, Balconies Cliff Trail, North Wilderness Trail, Old Pinnacles Trail, and Juniper Canyon Trail)

**RSVP:** To sign up for this camping trip, contact Dianne by email at [zuliebear@aol.com](mailto:zuliebear@aol.com). Please note that by reserving early with Dianne, and giving her the camp site fees, she will do her utmost to get you a camping site. However, campsites cannot be guaranteed for any of us, due to the first-come-first-served rule enforced at the campground. Unused camp site fees will, of course, be refunded. If you pay in advance and do not show up, your fees will not be refunded. (They will have already been deposited at the campsite check-in on your behalf.)