

News Release



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State Parks' Capitol Exhibit Explores Indian, Mexican, Spanish Heritage

SACRAMENTO – Inspired by the two new bronze commemorative seals inset on the West Steps of the state Capitol, California State Parks on Tuesday will open an historical exhibit in the Capitol's rotunda exploring California's Indian, Mexican and Spanish heritage.

The exhibit, produced in collaboration with the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Latino Legislative Caucus, is called "California State Parks Celebrates the Commemorative Seals."

The California Indian portion of the exhibit includes baskets, hunting and cooking implements, regalia, a tribal map of California, and an elk hide, representing an important source of food and clothing. The Spanish-Mexican portion features an ornate charro costume, a United Farm Workers flag, an unusual mission roof tile, pottery, basketry and a rare antique blanket. Photographic murals depict the continuing traditions and celebrations of the California Indian and Spanish-Mexican cultures in California.

Sen. Richard Polanco, chair of the Latino Legislative Caucus, said, "I congratulate Ms. Ruth Coleman, Acting Director of California State Parks, for her leadership in developing this inclusive historical exhibit at our state Capitol. The Commemorative Seals bring our common history and heritage together. As Californians, we salute the creators of our great state!"

"This truly is a one-of-a-kind exhibit," said Acting Director Coleman. "We are able to bring to life some of the items featured in the seals by displaying the actual historical artifacts."

The exhibit, produced by the State Parks' Museum Resource Center, will be on the second floor of the Capitol's historic rotunda, 10th and L Streets in downtown Sacramento. It is available for public viewing during regular public visiting hours at the Capitol, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., weekends and holidays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead at (916) 324-0312, ext.210, to assure access. The exhibit, free of charge, will run through Nov. 22, 2002.

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The commemorative seals, which were placed in the West Steps of the state Capitol in May, were created under legislation by Assemblyman Robert M. Hertzberg. The idea of recognizing California's history prior to statehood originated with Larry Myers, the executive secretary of the Native American Heritage Commission.

The California Indian seal was designed by Robert Freeman, a Luiseño Indian born on the Rincón Indian Reservation in San Diego County. The names of 68 California Indian tribes are inscribed along the border. The seal includes images of an Indian woman with an infant and child, and three military jets, representing the military experiences that many Indians have in common.

The Spanish-Mexican seal was designed by artists Donna Billick and Susan Shelton, who was born in Mexico City. A Spaniard's profile and the face of an indigenous person are depicted in the center of the seal. Other images include the first encounter of the two cultures and chronicle the ensuing transformations.

The California State Park system interprets the many facets of California's dynamic Indian and Spanish-Mexican history throughout its 273 parks.

Selected state parks that interpret Native American Culture:

- **Antelope Valley Indian Museum** – Exhibit on Great Basin Native Americans, collections emphasizing Southwestern California and Great Basin Indian tradition. Lancaster, Calif., (661) 0662.
- **Clear Lake State Park** – Self-guided Indian Nature Trail through the site of what was once a Pomo Village. Kelseyville, Calif. (707) 279-4293.
- **Cuyamaca Rancho State Park** – Display of an Indian residence dating back at least 7,000 years, and bedrock mortars. Descanso, Calif. (760) 765-0755
- **Fort Humboldt State Historic Park** – Interpretive exhibits of the impact miners and settlers had on the Yurok, Karok, Tolowa, Hupa, Wiyot, Wintun, Yuki and Shasta tribes, and efforts by the army to resolve conflicts. Eureka, Calif. (707) 445-6567
- **Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park** – Chaw'se Regional Indian Museum features a variety of exhibits and an outstanding collection of Sierra Nevada Indian artifacts, including those from Northern, Central and Southern Miwok, Maidu, Konkow, Monache, Nisenan, Tubatulabal, Washo and Foothill Yokut; also displayed is a Miwok village complete with roundhouse and bedrock mortars and petroglyphs. Pine Grove, Calif. (209) 296-7488.
- **Lake Oroville State Recreation Area** – Displays on Maidu culture and lifestyles; two movies are available, including *Ishi, The Last Yahi*; self-guided nature trail explains uses of local plants by the Konkow. Oroville, Calif. (530) 538-2200.

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- **Lake Perris State Recreation Area** – Ya’ Heki’ Regional Indian Museum includes interpretive exhibits of Mojave Desert groups culture of Serrano, Cahuilla, Cupeño, Vanyume, Luiseño and Chemehuevi tribes. Perris, Calif. (909) 657-0676.
- **Patrick’s Point State Park** – Park includes Sumêg village with traditional style family houses, currently used by the local Yuroks for education of their youth and to share their culture; Native American Plant Garden displays the plants used for medicinal, basketry, subsistence and ceremonial purposes. Trinidad, Calif. (707) 677-3570.
- **Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park** – On display is 1824 row-type housing, the only surviving Indian housing of its type among the California missions. Santa Cruz, Calif. (831) 425-5849.
- **State Indian Museum** – Artifacts include basketry, beadwork, clothing and exhibits about the ongoing traditions of various California Native Americans; emphasis on Central Valley groups: the Yana, Yokuts, Patwin, Wintu and Nomlaki; includes display about Ishi, the last of the Yahi Indians. Sacramento, Calif. (916) 324-0971.
- **Wassama Round House State Historic Park** – Historic site used as a ceremonial meeting place by local Native Americans is preserved; reconstructed dance house is used for Miwok and Yokut celebrations. Friant, Calif. (209) 742-7625.

Selected state parks that interpret Spanish-Mexican culture:

- **El Presideo de Santa Barbara State Historic Park** – Interpretive topics include the 1782-1850 government, military, Spanish era, Mexican era, archeology and adobe architecture, Santa Barbara, Calif. (805) 965-0093.
- **La Purísima Mission State Historic Park** – Misión la Purísima Concepción de María Santísima, founded in 1787, the largest and most authentic mission restoration project in the American West. Lompoc, Calif. (805) 733-3713
- **Monterey State Historic Park** – This park, at the location of the capital of Alta California under Spain and Mexico, has 10 buildings, including the Custom House, built in 1827, California’s first theater (1846-47), and several residences from the 1830s.
- **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park** – Early Mexican-era pueblo represented in its transition to American-era town; museums, buildings, stores and restaurants interpret the community in historic restoration. San Diego, Calif. (619) 220-5422.
- **Pío Pico State Historic Park** – Thirteen-room restored adobe home of Pío Pico, the last governor of Mexican California. The park site was once the headquarters for Pico’s 8,891-acre ranch. Whittier, Calif. (562) 695-1217.

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- **San Juan Bautista State Historic Park** – Park features several structures from the 1800s, including the Castro-Breen Adobe (1843), which was used briefly as the headquarters of the Mexican government; exhibits show California life at the mission during the Mexican and early American periods. San Juan Bautista, Calif. (831) 623-4526.
- **San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park** – Site of the battle of San Pasqual where U.S. and California forces fought on Dec. 6, 1846, in the midst of the Mexican-American War. Escondido, Calif. (760) 737-2201.
- **Sonoma State Historic Park** – Park includes the 1840 Mexican Army barracks and Lachryma Montis, the two-story home of General Mariano Vallejo and his family. Sonoma, Calif. (707) 938-9559.
- **Sutter's Fort State Historic Park** – The headquarters for John Augustus Sutter's nearly 50,000-acre Mexican land grant, established in 1839. The Mexican flag is still flown at the fort today. Sacramento, Calif. (916) 445-4422.

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