California Trip #126

Highway 76, Pala Road. This is the the highway up to Mt. Palomar. It passes through a couple of small Indian reservations that now have casinos. Big casinos.



Highway 76 follows the San Luis river which flows into the ocean north of Oceanside. Mission San Luis Rey de Francia is a few miles from the coast.



The mission, still serving as parish church, began in 1798. The current church was erected in 1811. The church was the center of a mission which covered nearly a million acres. There were two assistant missions. One at Pala which still exists and the other Las Flores which is now a Boy Scout camp.





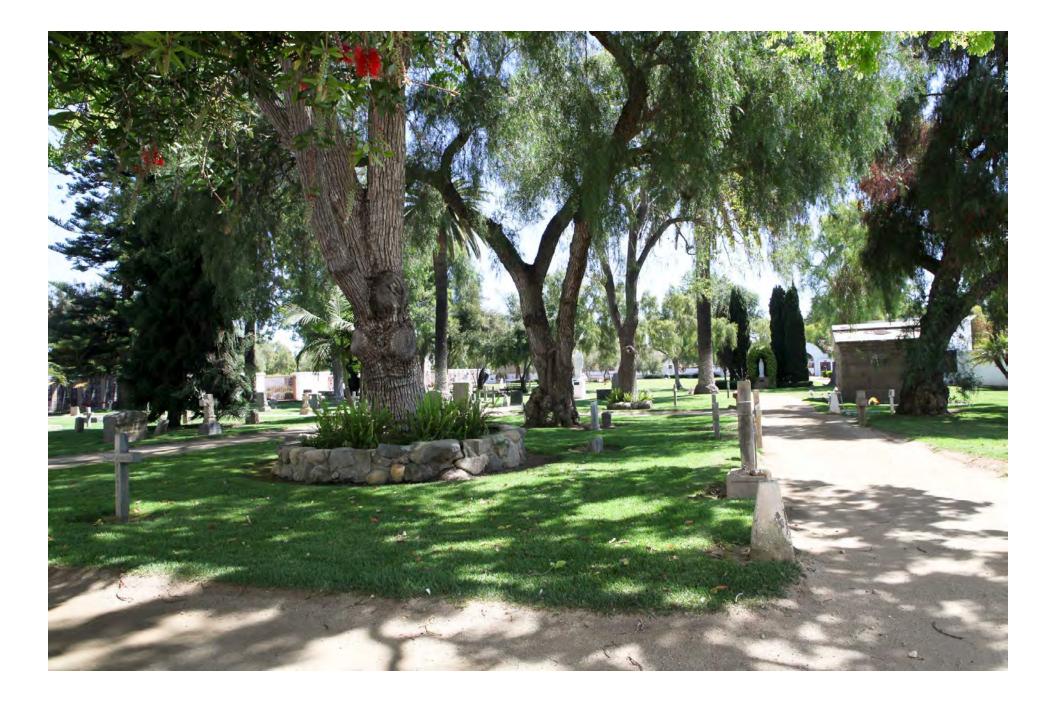
The mission is undergoing extensive renovatiion.

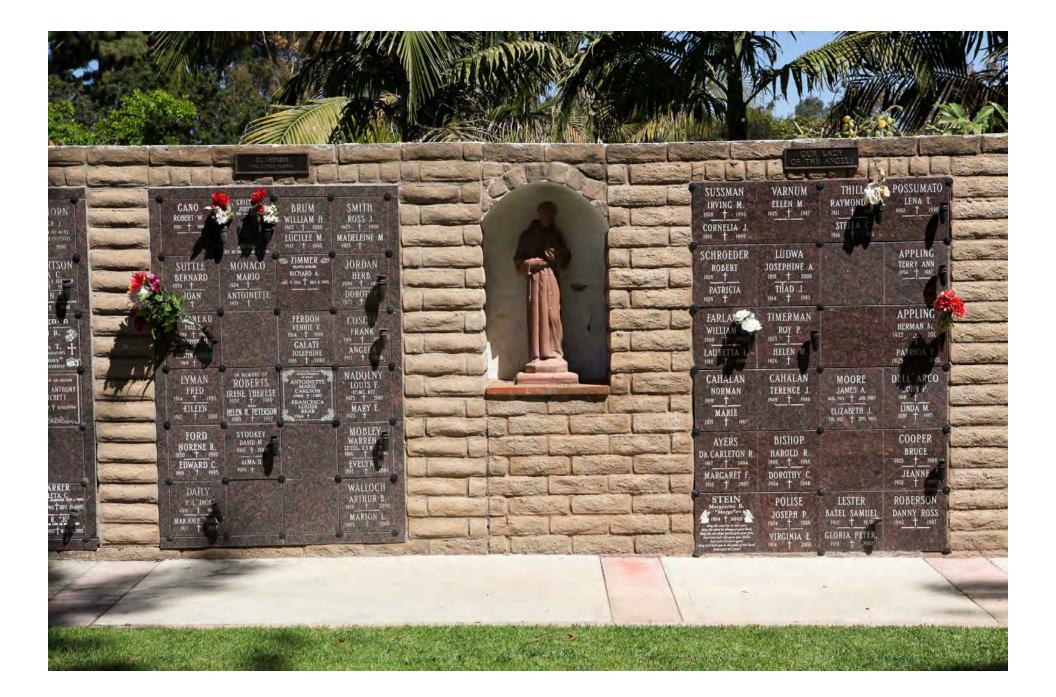




The skull and crossbones over the gate is not original. It was added by Walt Disney when he shot the Zorro TV series in here in 1957.





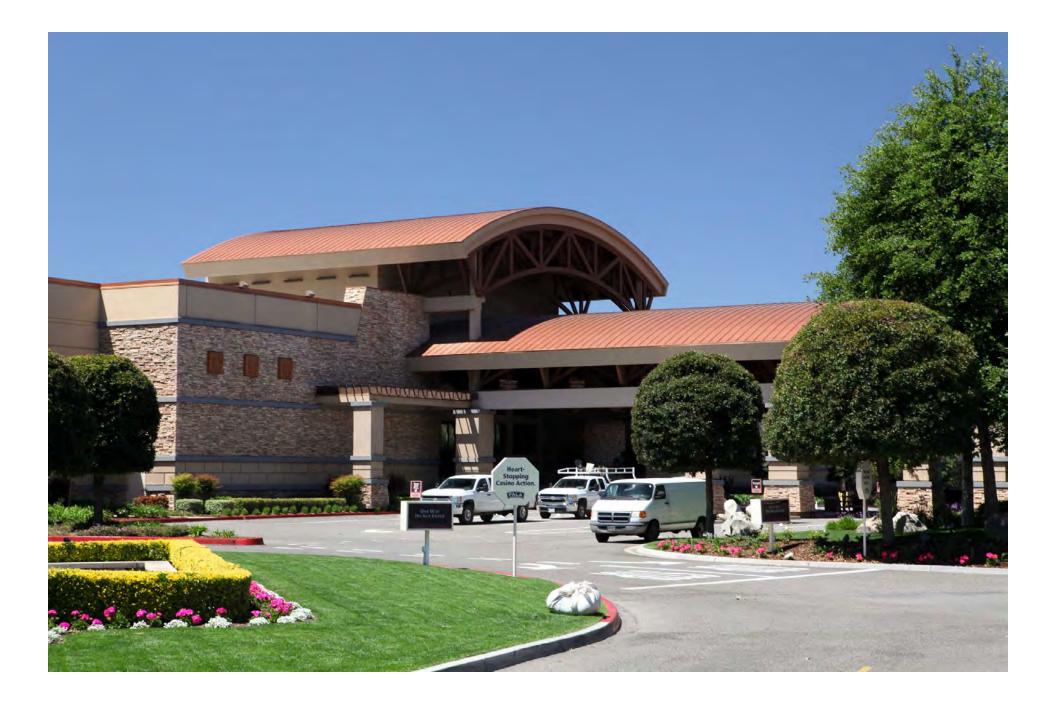


Highway 76, Pala Road. This is the the highway up to Mt. Palomar. It passes through a couple of small Indian reservations that now have casinos. Big casinos. The Pala casino is huge. We were impressed. 500 rooms, 10 restaurants and 2,000 slots. Well landscaped grounds. Now the village of Pala is something else.



About 1,500 people live in Pala, 1,000 are enrolled tribal members.





This is the road to the Pauma Casino. This is a smaller tribe. It has 186 members. This area became a reservation in 1872.





The Pauma are doing their casino on the cheap. This is mostly a tent. The parking lot was pretty full. Their big time rival, the Pala, are just down the road.

This is the drive into the Pauma Casino.



The thing that struck us on our drive up the valley was that the orange trees were not harvested and they were beginning to bloom again. The perfume was incredible. What happened? Did the marketing board keep them from picking? There is a state marketing board that decides on the amount of oranges that can be picked.





The casino dominates the little village. Profits from the casino have been invested in the town. There is a large civic center.

Most people know there are 21 Spanish missions in California. Actually there are more. This was an assistant mission to Mission San Luis which is down the valley closer to the coast.







Housing has improved on the reservation.



There is still a lot of old buildings in Pala. This is one. Established in 1897.





There are many mobile homes in the area. They are new. An improvement.



A strip mall in Pala.





One of the little villages along the Pala Highway.



There is a large palm nursery in the valley.



This nursery stood out in the valley because it is devoted to palms. It was large. The price of a palm. Washington palms, the tall graceful ones, go for \$22 a foot.



Aside from gambling and orange groves, nurseries are the major valley industry.

