

San Luis Obispo

The San Luis Obispo County Courthouse in San Luis Obispo.
Part 1: Highway 1, Ragged Point, Piedras Blancas, San Sim-
eon, Hearst Castle, Cambria, Cayucos.



County

San Luis Obispo County

Population: 246,681 (Rank: 25)

Land Area (square miles: 3,304 (Rank: 17))

One of the original counties, San Luis Obispo was first settled was founded by Father Serra founded the mission in 1772. The county takes its name from the mission. The mission is named for Saint Louis, the Bishop of Toulouse, France.

Most of the county is covered by mountains and hills—the Santa Lucia Range along the coast, and the La Panza and Temblor ranges on the east side of the county. The Salinas River and Valley separates the two.

Morro Bay offers a relief from the rugged unprotected coastline. It shelters fishing boats and is easily seen from a distance because Morro Rock marks the entrance to the harbor.

Most of the population is concentrated along Highway 101 that runs through the middle of the county and then along the coast. Paso Robles and Atascadero are located in the Salinas Valley. Highway 1 runs along the coast. Located here is the famous San Simeon State Park and the small towns of Cambria and Morro Bay. South of the city of San Luis Obispo are the beach-front towns of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach. On the east side of Highway 101 is Arroyo Grande.

There are four highways that connect Highway 101 with the Central valley. There are no towns along these highways. They cross the dry, barren hills that separate the Central Valley from the Salinas Valley. The most picturesque of these routes is Highway 166 that follows the bor-

der between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. This is the Cuyama Valley.

Highway 58 provides access to the geological oddity of the Carrizo Plain which is a national monument. The large area is so arid life forms have unique adaptations to the conditions. There are also sacred Indian artifacts.

Tourism, manufacturing (mostly computers and electronics) and farming are the mainstays of the economy. Wine grapes are the main crop. New vineyards can be found along Highway 41 east of Paso Robles. There are over sixty vineyards.

While the Gold Rush was going on in Northern California, San Luis Obispo retained its Spanish-Mexican ways. In the drought of 1862 to 64 the large cattle herds died and the Californio landowners sold their land to Yankees. Dairying became a major industry and the only means of transport was by sea.

The Southern Pacific railroad didn't arrive in San Miguel and Paso Robles until 1886. Then there was the challenge of building the railroad down the steep Cuesta Grade into San Luis Obispo. This was accomplished in 1894. By 1900 the population of the entire county was only 16,600. It wasn't until 1901 that a railroad connection with Los Angeles was completed.

Cities: Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Paso Robles, Atascadero
Towns: Cayucos, San Simeon, Cambria, San Miguel, Avila Beach, Santa Margarita, Pozo, Oceano, Cholame, Shandon, Creston.

San Luis Obispo



Ragged Point

Ragged Point is 15 miles north of San Simeon on Highway 1. (August 2005)



Ragged Point

(August 2005)



Ragged Point

(August 2005)



Piedras Blancas – Highway 1

The lighthouse was constructed in 1875. The top part has been removed because of earthquake damage. (August 2005)



Piedras Blancas – Highway 1

Considered one of the most scenic highways in the U.S., the whole route was not given its *designation* as Highway 1 until 1964.
(August 2005)



San Simeon

San Simeon is William Randolph Hearst's mansion overlooking the Pacific Ocean. This 90,000 square foot place was designed by Julia Morgan and it was built from 1919 to 1947. Hearst died in 1951 and the site was turned over to the state in 1957. (August 2005)



San Simeon

(August 2005)



San Simeon

(August 2005)



San Simeon

San Simeon is a small port at the foot of the hill the Castle sits on. There are warehouses here that store goods destined for the Castle. 462 people live here. (August 2005)



San Simeon

(August 2005)



San Simeon

(August 2005)



San Simeon

(August 2005)



Hearst Castle

(July 2010)



Hearst Castle

(July 2010)



Hearst Castle

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Hearst Castle

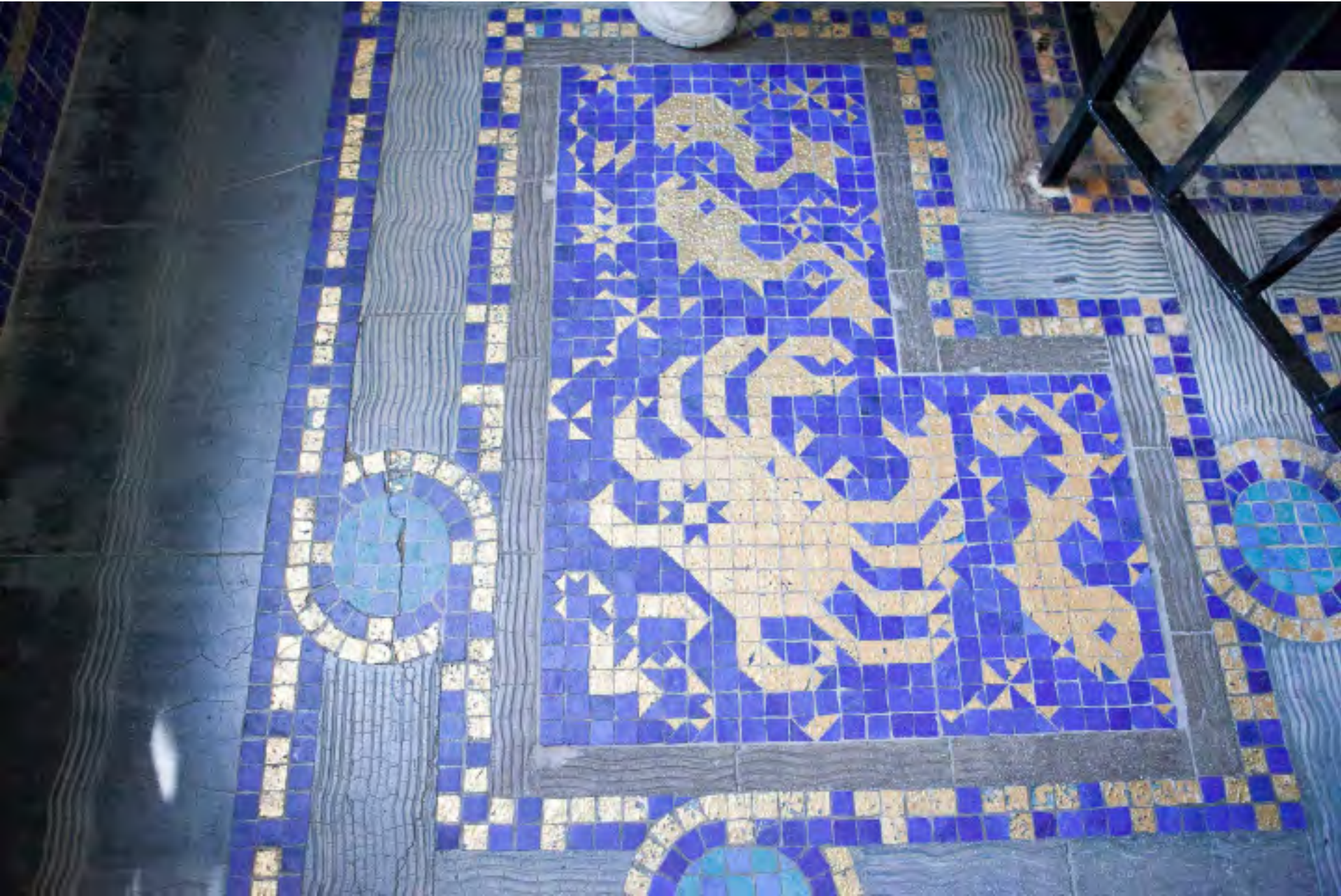
(July 2010)





Hearst Castle

(July 2010)



Hearst Castle

(July 2010)



Hearst Castle

(July 2010)



Cambria

Cambria is on Highway 1. It dates back to 1869. It has a population of 6,000. (July 2010)



Cambria

(July 2010)



Cambria

(July 2010)





Cambria

(July 2010)



Cambria

(July 2010)



Cambria

(July 2010)



Cambria

(July 2010)



Cambria

(July 2010)



Cayucos

The town was founded in 1867. It has a population of 2,600. (August 2005)



Cayucos

I took a lot of pictures of Cayucos because I had to wait for the fog to clear off Hwy 1 before I could travel north. (August 2005)



Cayucos

(August 2005)



Cayucos

(August 2005)



Cayucos

(August 2005)



Cayucos

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