

Santa Cruz County

The Santa Cruz County Courthouse in Santa Cruz.
Part 1 of 5: Santa Cruz.



Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz County Data

Population: 255,602 (Rank: 22)

Land Area (square miles): 446 (Rank: 47)

Santa Cruz lies entirely in the coastal ranges. The county surrounds the northern curve of Monterey Bay. It is mostly mountainous except for the flat plain of the Pajaro River where strawberries are grown.

Most of the people live along the coast with Santa Cruz being the largest city. The area is famous as a resort with summer homes for the well-to-do to escape the heat of the Central Valley.

It includes the most southern range of Redwoods. The Big Basin Redwood Park was created to protect the redwoods from logging. There are also state beach parks along the coast: Natural Bridges, Cowell, Twin Lakes, Capitola, Seacliff, La Selva, Manresa and Sunset.

Scenic Highway 1 runs along the coast and Highway 17 is the main route from San Jose. Highway 9, which connects Highway 35 and Highway 1, is the scenic route. This is also the route to Big Basin.

The county was one of the original counties. Its name was Branciforte after the original Spanish pueblo founded in 1797. Two months later the name was changed to Santa Cruz after the name of the mission.

In the southern part of the county is the Pajaro Valley formed by a river of the same name. This is a farm area specializing in strawberry production.

Cities: Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Watsonville.

Towns: Felton, Boulder Creek, Davenport, Pajaro Dunes, BenLomond, Brookdale.

Introduction

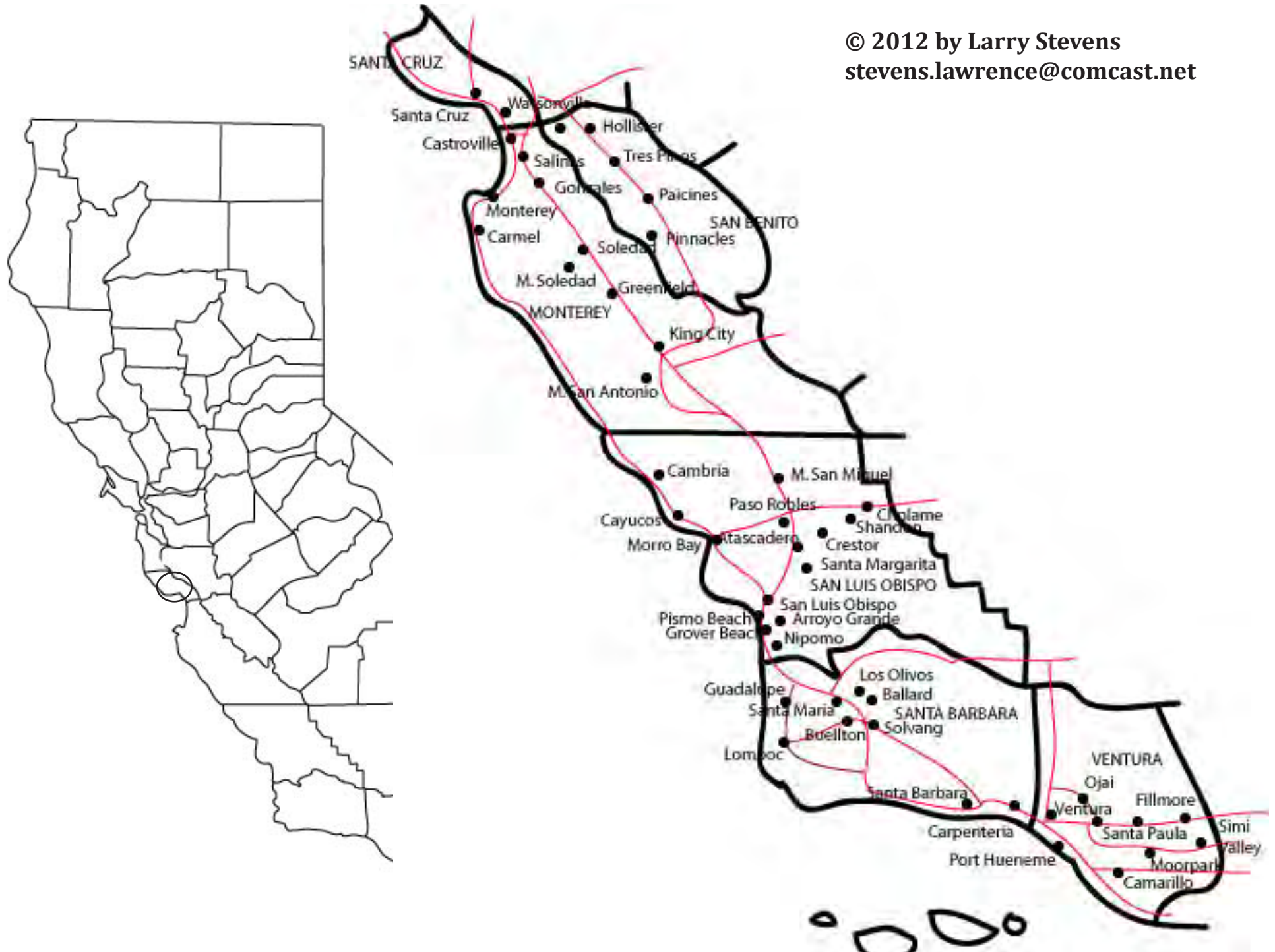
California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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Santa Cruz – Boardwalk

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Boardwalk

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Boardwalk

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Boardwalk

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Boardwalk

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Boardwalk

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz

This is not the Santa Cruz Mission. There is a small replica of that to the right of the church.
(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(April 2002)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

The community was started by the Spanish in 1791. It became a city in 1866. Today it has a population of 60,000. (October 2004)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(October 2004)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(October 2004)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(October 2004)



Santa Cruz

(October 2004)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(October 2004)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(February 2006)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(February 2006)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(February 2006)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(February 2006)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(February 2006)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(February 2006)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(February 2006)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz – Downtown

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz – City Hall

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz – City Hall

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz – City Hall

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz – City Hall

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz – City Hall

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz

This statue memorializes the innocent who have been killed in wars. (September 2009)



Santa Cruz

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz

(September 2009)



Santa Cruz

February 2006)



Santa Cruz

February 2006)



Santa Cruz

February 2006)



Santa Cruz

February 2006)



Santa Cruz

February 2006)



Santa Cruz

February 2006)



Santa Cruz

The city wharf is the sixth and last to be built on this site. It is the longest wharf in the U.S. at 2,745 feet long. It was constructed in 1914. (February 2006)







