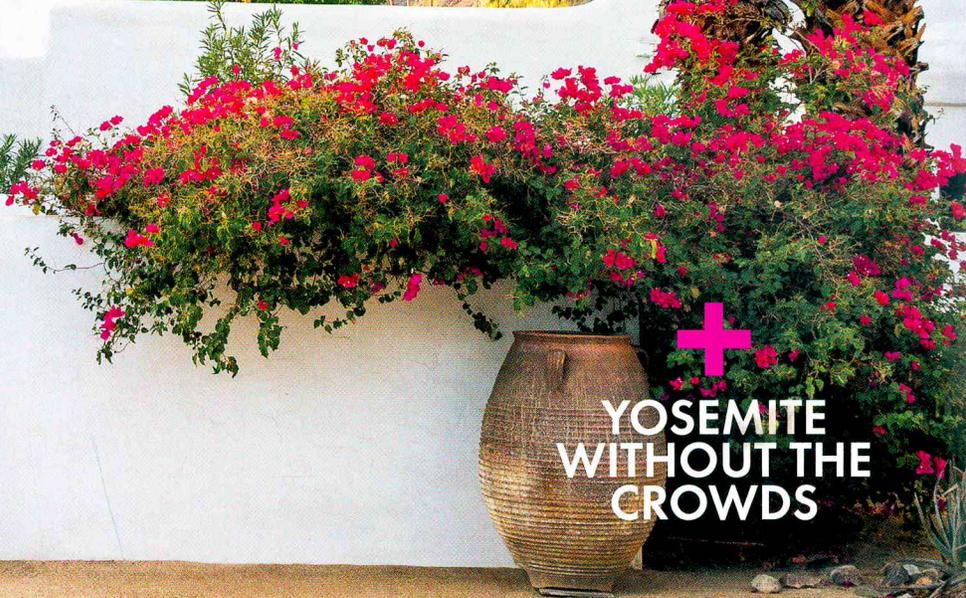


ULTIMATE KITCHEN MAKEOVER GUIDE

Sunset

25 GLORIOUS WINTER ESCAPES

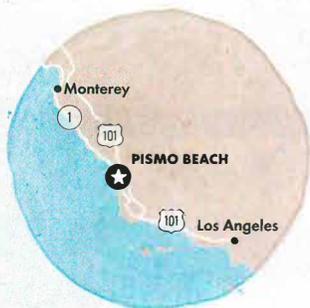
KORAKIA PENSIONE,
PALM SPRINGS



+
YOSEMITE
WITHOUT THE
CROWDS

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GETTING HERE

Pismo Beach is off U.S. 101 in San Luis Obispo County, about 180 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Central Coast Kayaks leads paddling tours, where this time of year you can expect to see whales, dolphins, sea otters, and sea lions. Refuel with locally roasted coffee and a breakfast burrito at nearby **Steaming Bean**, a funky cafe with a well-stocked lending library and chipper baristas. *Kayaks: \$75/3 hours; centralcoastkayaks.com. Steaming Bean: \$; thebeanpismo.com.*

Sweet-and-salty treats

Pismo has its fair share of ice cream parlors, fro-yo shops, and fish-and-chips stands, but two newish spots are elevating beach treats to another realm. Tiny **Chipwrecked** tickles your grub bone with homemade chips and dips. The owners bake fresh potato chips daily, then top them with everything from cilantro to

strawberries. Around the corner, **Surfside Donuts** dresses up a daily array of artisanal doughnuts. Every morning, crowds line up out the door for the salted caramel and Dirt Surf crumb doughnuts and Stumptown coffee. *Chipwrecked: \$; 246 Pomeroy Ave.; chipwreckedinpismo.com. Surfside Donuts: 603 DOLLIVER; surfside donuts.com.*

Garden to plate

Two blocks from the bustle of the shore, a more sophisticated retail district is taking root on Price Street. Local institution **Pismo Garden Art** just expanded into a former hardware store—filling it with colorful pots, garden tools, whimsical statues, birdhouses, and stone benches. New additions to the food scene include **The Moose Deli & Brew**, a gourmet sandwich shop with a dog-friendly patio; **Chop Street**, which serves potpies, the best fish tacos in town, and a long list of local craft beers on tap; and **Tastes of the Valleys**, a wine bar that offers hundreds of Central Coast wines by the glass. *Garden Art: 930 Price St.; pismobobs.com. Moose Deli: 950 Price; (805) 556-3055. Chop Street: \$; 779 Price; chopst.com. Tastes of the Valleys: \$10 tasting; 911 Price; pismowineshop.com.*



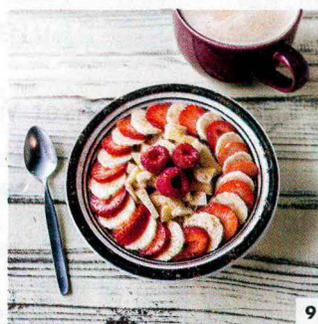
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6. Select your swimming preferences at Inn at the Cove. 7. Chop Street. 8. Chipwrecked's parmesan-flavored potato chips. 9. Start your beach day with fresh fruit and oatmeal at The Steaming Bean.

MAKE IT A WEEKEND

The recently renovated Inn at the Cove has big rooms and a blufftop pool. Ocean-view rooms have private patios or balconies with clear views of dolphins and whales in wintertime. Bonus: It's one of the few Pismo hotels with direct beach access. From \$169; 2651 Price; innatthecove.com.

This land is your land—again

Until just last year, the 880-acre parcel of green space that makes up **Pismo Preserve** was slated for development. But thanks to a grassroots effort by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo, which raised \$12.3 million to buy the acreage, the former ranch will be protected permanently as open space for everyone to

enjoy. Now the Land Conservancy is busy building restrooms, picnic areas, and nearly 12 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding and hopes to open the preserve to the public by this summer. Until then, you can get a preview—and speed things up—by volunteering to help build trails. *Off of Mattie Rd. and U.S. 101; lcslo.org/pismopreserve.*