

## Day Trips and Tours

A real advantage about visiting Los Banos is just how close you are to so many great things. Our central location makes it easy to experience lots of different things while enjoying the affordability of our friendly community. These destinations are within an hour and a half so you don't have to worry about an exhausting drive.

**San Joaquin National Cemetery-** in the foothills approximately 15 miles west of Los Banos. You can also view the California Korean War Veterans Memorial which consists of 16 granite slabs with the names of 2,495 California veterans who lost their lives in the Korean War. There are beautiful reflection ponds as well.

**Casa de Fruta-** approximately 28 miles west of Los Banos you will find this spot nestled just off Highway 152. You can sample wine, watch candy being made, enjoy the gift shop, the carousel and train ride and restaurant that is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**Hilmar Cheese-** approximately 35 minutes north of Los Banos on Highway 165, Hilmar Cheese Company produces natural American style cheeses – Cheddar, Monterey Jack, Colby, Pepper Jack and others. The beautiful Visitor Center's theme is tour, taste, shop and eat!

**Castle Air Museum-** approximately 35 minutes northeast of Los Banos, this Museum is home to some incredible war birds and is housed on the former Castle Air Force Base.

**Applegate Zoo-** approximately 38 miles to the north in Merced this zoo, which has been open since 1962, cur-

rently houses around 75 native Californian animals that have come from wildlife rescue centers. The whole family will enjoy the picnic areas, rose garden, Laura's Fountain and Kiddieland Amusement area.

**Gilroy Gardens-** For a beautiful combination of a nature preserve and a theme park you just have to travel approximately 45 minutes west of Los Banos. This 75 acre park features nature, rides, picnic areas, miniature golf and incredible gardens.

**Goldsmith Seeds-** located in Gilroy just west of Los Banos, you can wander through beautiful flower fields in this family-owned business. This wholesale flower-breeding business is open all year but the best times to visit are March, April, May, June, July and August. The tour is free.

**Forestiére Underground Gardens-** This unique attraction is located in Fresno, approximately 1 1/2 hours east of Los Banos. It features more than 90 rooms, patios, gardens and courtyards that were dug out by hand over a 40 year period. It encompasses a space under a 4 1/2 acre piece of land.

**Winchester Mystery House-** a little more than an hour from Los Banos, this is a tour that will educate and impress you. It's the home of Sarah Winchester, heir to the Winchester Rifle fortune. Her drive to keep the spirits away caused her to create a Victorian-style maze with doors that open to walls, stairs that lead nowhere and corridors with deadends.

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