

## HISTORY AND HABITAT ALONG THE AMERICAN RIVIERA



photo: David Muench, [www.muenchphotography.com](http://www.muenchphotography.com)

WITH ITS SANDY BEACHES, coastal mesas, and graceful streets lined with Spanish-Moorish architecture, Santa Barbara long has been known as “America’s Riviera.” TPL’s new trip to Santa Barbara features the rich history of the area along with the unique features of the nationally significant biological transition zone of the Gaviota coast.

We will begin our trip with two nights at El Capitan Canyon Resort, which *Sunset* magazine has called the place to “go into the wild (in style).” Home to abundant birdlife and other species, the canyon and adjacent 2,500-acre El Capitan Beach State Park are also prized for their hiking

and equestrian trails and panoramic views. The state park was the first of several TPL acquisitions on the Gaviota coast. Our first evening, we will dine at La Paloma Ranch as the guests of TPL supporters at their 19th-century property.

The next day, we will hike the biologically diverse landscape of the 75-year-old Midland School, which TPL recently helped to preserve from development using a conservation easement. Having worked up an appetite, we then will take a short drive into the famed Santa Ynez wine country featured in the movie *Sideways*, where we will stop for a gourmet picnic lunch and wine

tasting at the Gainey Winery. Our afternoon will feature a choice between a private tour of the organic Cimarone Estates winery or a hike along the El Capitan Canyon ridgeline with TPL California Advisory Board member Susan Rose and Allan Ghitlerman. Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, Inc. and co-founder of 1% for the Planet, has been invited to host a conversation on environmental ethics and his personal commitment to local and global land conservation.

Following our second night at El Capitan Canyon, we will head south to visit two other TPL projects. At the Sperling Preserve at Ellwood Mesa, we will hike with Darlene Chirman, biological consultant and president of the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Audubon Society. This coastal mesa is perhaps best known as site of an annual winter migration of up to 60,000 monarch butterflies. Following our hike, we will stop at the coastal Douglas Family Preserve, before heading to the waterfront for a local seafood lunch. The afternoon will present an opportunity for an easygoing sea kayak excursion among the seals and sea lions of Santa Barbara harbor and beyond—a trip suitable for kayakers of all experience levels. Or you may choose to explore the shops and museums of downtown Santa Barbara or enjoy a private tour the city’s 18th-century mission.

After settling into the charming Upham Hotel—a historic Victorian building located in the heart of the downtown—we will dine at the home of TPL California Advisory Board member Susan Rose and Allan Ghitlerman. Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, Inc. and co-founder of 1% for the Planet, has been invited to host a conversation on environmental ethics and his personal commitment to local and global land conservation.

The Santa Barbara Channel is home to 27 species of whales and dolphins and one the best places in the world to see marine mammals. On our last day, we will embark on a private whale-watching excursion with senior interpreters from the Ocean Conservancy and the Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center. We are sure to encounter a friendly humpback whale or gigantic blue whale.

## TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 19–23, 2010  
 DAYS/NIGHTS: 5/4  
 MAX. GROUP SIZE: 16  
 PRICE (PER PERSON):  
 Double \$2,334 Single \$2,734  
 HOSTS: John Padden, TPL  
 California Advisory Board  
 member