

THE MISSION STORY

The 11th of the 21 Franciscan Missions established in California, Misión la Purisima Concepción de Maria Santísima (Mission of the Immaculate Conception of Most Holy Mary) was founded by Father Presidente Fermín de Lasuén on **December 8, 1787**.

During the Mission's early years, over **1,500 Chumash Indians** were baptized into the Catholic Church at La Purisima, making them new citizens of Spain. Large and small adobe buildings were built, a water system developed, crops and livestock were raised, and La Purisima grew and prospered.

On December 21, 1812, however, a **major earthquake** destroyed many of the Mission buildings. Aftershocks and drenching rains damaged La Purisima beyond repair. The following year, the Mission community was relocated four miles to a site with a better water supply and climate, and safer access to El Camino Real, California's main travel route.

In a few years, La Purisima once again became a thriving community with approximately 800 Chumash Indian Neophytes (converts) living on Mission land. At times over **20,000 cattle and sheep roamed the hills** along with hundreds of horses, mules, burros and other livestock. The padres developed shops for weaving, pottery, leatherwork and other crafts in addition to organizing the religious activities for the settlement.

1834 marked the end of the California mission era when the Mexican government took away control of the missions from the Catholic Church and gave it to civil authorities. La Purisima subsequently changed hands and uses a number of times by the end of the 19th century.

When the property was given to public ownership by Union Oil Company in 1933, the Mission was in ruins. Preservation and reconstruction of the complex began in 1934, and lasted seven years under the **Civilian Conservation Corps**. Buildings and grounds were painstakingly restored and furnished to appear as they had in 1820.

Today, La Purisima stands as **the most extensively restored Mission in all of California** with ten reconstructed buildings, furnished rooms, mission gardens, and livestock to represent life at the Mission during the 1820s. The nearly 2,000 acre historic state park is also home to 25 miles of hiking trails and a modern Visitor Center and Exhibit Hall.

EXPLORE CALIFORNIA HISTORY & HERITAGE

Open Year Round

La Purisima Mission is **open daily*** from **9 AM to 5 PM** for self-guided tours, hiking and exploring. The Visitor Center is a great place to start your journey (open 10 AM to 4 PM, Tuesdays - Sundays and holiday Mondays). The Gift Shop (open 12 to 4 PM) offers souvenirs and hand-crafted items.

Admission is \$6 per vehicle/\$5 per senior vehicle.

*Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Guided Tours

Guided tours of the buildings and grounds are offered Wednesdays - Sundays and on holiday Mondays. Meet at 1 PM at the Visitor Center for the 1.5 hour, 1 mile walking tour. Groups of 10 or more are asked to book two weeks in advance by calling (805) 735-3713.

Hiking Trails

La Purisima is the only California mission with hiking trails, featuring more than 25 miles of trails to explore. Trail maps are available at the Entrance Station, Visitor Center and Gift Shop.



LA PURISIMA MISSION STATE HISTORIC PARK

2295 Purisima Road, Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 733-3713 - Office
(805) 735-5185 - Visitor Center
(805) 736-3605 - Gift Shop

lapurisimamission.org



For places to stay and other Lompoc attractions:

 ExploreLompoc.com

STEP BACK IN TIME

LA PURISIMA MISSION
STATE HISTORIC PARK

Lompoc, California

COME VISIT... LET HISTORY SURROUND YOU

2017 EVENTS CALENDAR

LIVING HISTORY EVENTS

During the **Mission Life Day Event Series** (below), costumed docents and staff offer an exciting opportunity to experience early mission life back in the 1820s with special demonstrations and activities.

Traditional Mission Life Day

March 18

Tour the grounds, and see demonstrations on tortilla making, candle making, bread baking, spinning and weaving, carpentry, pottery and blacksmithing.

Sheep Shear Mission Life Day

April 22

Watch the Mission sheep get their annual "hair cut" and learn about wool production with fleece washing, spinning and weaving.

Hide & Tallow Mission Life Day

May 27

Learn about the leather and tallow crafts of the Mission with demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Children's Mission Life Day

July 22

Unplug your gadgets, and bring your kids to experience Mission life the old-fashioned way with special hands-on activities for families.

Harvest Mission Life Day

September 9

Come stomp grapes and thresh wheat at the end-of-the-season harvest, and enjoy other traditional Mission activities.

Natural History Day

April 8

Explore the colors and critters of spring with our Park Rangers at La Purisima. Learn about the park's wild inhabitants at the Mammal and Bird station, check out our Scales and Tales Reptile Encounter, and hit the trail for a wildflower/wildlife hike. For all ages!

NEW THIS YEAR!



Mountain Men Encampment

March 25 | August 25 & 26

Buckskin clad members of the American Mountain Men share mountain men history and skills such as cooking, hide preparation and tanning, leather working, rope making and blacksmithing. Equipment will be on display and tall tales will surround the campfire.

Village Days

August 26 | November 4

The Tule Village comes to life as visitors experience the blending of traditional Chumash Indian and Colonial Spanish culture. Visitors engage in activities such as acorn grinding, basket weaving, making soapstone beads and tule dolls, and playing Chumash games.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Candlelight Tours

October TBA

Escorted by candlelight, guests travel back in time to the 1820s on a walking tour, moving from scene to scene enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of the evening at La Purisima Mission.

Founding Day Remembrance

December 8

Founding Day recognizes the day La Purisima Mission was founded on December 8, 1787 which is the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mass is held at noon in the historic church, followed by a special concert by candlelight in the evening.

Las Posadas

December 16

Based on a tradition that goes back over 400 years in Mexico, Las Posadas re-enacts the journey of Mary and Joseph as they travel from inn to inn on their way to Bethlehem. Join costumed docents as they lead the procession through the Mission.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

La Purisima offers a variety of programs and learning experiences for students and educators. Please visit the website for details.



March 18th

Traditional Mission Life Day
11 AM to 2 PM

March 25th

Mountain Men Encampment
10 AM to 4 PM

April 8th

Natural History Day
10 AM to 2 PM

April 22nd

Sheep Shear Mission Life Day
11 AM to 2 PM

May 27th

Hide & Tallow Mission Life Day
11 AM to 2 PM

July 22nd

Children's Mission Life Day
11 AM to 2 PM

August 25/26th

Mountain Men Encampment
10 AM to 4 PM

August 26th

Village Days
11 AM to 2 PM

September 9th

Harvest Mission Life Day
11 AM to 2 PM

October TBA

Candlelight Tour
6 PM to 9 PM

November 4th

Village Days
11 AM to 2 PM

December 8th

Founding Day Remembrance
12 PM (mass) / 7 PM (concert)

December 16th

Las Posadas
2 PM to 4 PM

For more information on all these special events:
www.lapurisimamission.org

