Brazil Ranch
Guided Hikes

Los Padres National Forest

Monterey Ranger District
406 S. Mildred Ave.
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Description
The guided hikes are provided in conjunction with the Big Sur Environmental Institute. They meet at the gate to the ranch near off of the Cabrillo Highway also known as Coast Highway 1. Plan to arrive at least fifteen minutes before your scheduled time. Because the road into the ranch is one lane wide, visitor vehicles are escorted to the parking area. Therefore, the gate will be closed and locked after the scheduled start time.

Each hike begins with a presentation at the modern barn that is the center piece of the property. At that time visitors may choose which hike they will go on. The pace of each hike will be adjusted for the comfort of all members of the party.

The first choice is moderately difficult casual hike. It is two miles long that is primarily on a paved surfaces with one steep grade. It starts at the barn then includes visits to the “guest house.” and a promontory with views of the Bixby Bridge and Sierra Creek.

The other choice is a very strenuous hike with a steep decent so trekking poles are advised if you have them. It is over 3.9 miles long and climbs to 1345 feet in under 1.5 miles. It then descends along the ridge line and offers spectacular views of the coastline and Hurricane Point.

Figure 1. View of Bixby Bridge from promontory.

Figure 2. Detail of “guest house” front porch.
History

The Brazil Ranch was established by Tony and Margaret Brazil in the late 19th century. It was operated by the Brazil family for nearly a century.

In 1977, the ranch was purchased by Allen Funt the creator television show “Candid Camera.” Upon purchasing the property Mr. Funt began to develop the land to raise quarter horses and cattle. With the help of John Moon, they added significant improvements including an elegant barn to stable quarter horses and a “guest house” with a unique motif and other improvements.

After Mr. Funt’s death in 1999 the land was purchased by land developers. In response to the threat of development, local community leaders and activists joined together to prevent it. In early 2002 with the help of the Trust of Public Land and other partners the land was purchased. In the fall of 2002 the U.S. Forest Service through an act of Congress was given the responsibility to manage and develop the land for public use.

Reservations

For reservations and more information about visiting the Brazil Ranch, contact Monterey Ranger District, 831-385-5434, or email nkarrres@fs.fed.us, or visit the Los Padres National Forest website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/recreation for a schedule of coming events.

Driving Instructions

The Brazil Ranch is located approximately 20 miles south of Monterey on Highway 1, also known as the Cabrillo Highway.

Most of the bridges along the Cabrillo Highway are have a name because of their historical significance. Knowing this will help you locate the entrance to the Brazil Ranch.

The Brazil Ranch is on the left approximately one tenth of a mile beyond end of the Bixby Bridge. If you are looking on a map, it is just past the Old Coast Highway junction with Highway 1. To make finding the entrance even easier a U.S. Forest Service vehicle will be stationed at the entrance to the driveway. (See Figure 3.)

Figure 3. Entrance to Brazil Ranch and parked vehicle.

All Are Welcome

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