

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact: Laura Keresty  
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pr@wildernesspress.com**Big Sur book reveals springtime wildflower, wildlife, and fishing hikes**

Berkeley, CA (March 2005) – Springtime in Big Sur is marked by vibrant flowers blooming across hillsides and grasslands, and wildlife coming back to life in the sky, land, and water. Big Sur’s pristine coastline offers the opportunity to see California gray whales make their annual journey south from the Bering and Chukchi seas to the warmer waters of Baja California, and later in the spring to view their trip north again. Visitors can also witness the birth of sea otters and elephant seals, whose peak mating season is in the late winter and early spring. The truly lucky will catch a glimpse of the rare California condor, which was recently reintroduced into the wild in Big Sur after facing extinction. Today more than 100 of the spectacular and unmistakable condors – whose wingspans can stretch to 11 feet wide – are flying free in California.

What better way to see Big Sur’s awe-inspiring natural beauty than on foot. Analise Elliot’s *Hiking & Backpacking Big Sur: a complete guide to the trails of Big Sur, Ventana Wilderness, and Silver Peak Wilderness* leads you through the coastal cliffs, jagged rocky promontories, ancient redwood forests, and lush riparian woodlands of the coastline. Stretching 90 miles from Carmel to San Simeon, Big Sur remains remote and greatly undeveloped. For first-time visitors and knowledgeable locals, this book invites everyone to explore the region’s treasures in 76 trips (plus numerous side trips) through the rugged coastline and isolated backcountry of Big Sur, Ventana Wilderness and Silver Peak Wilderness. This invaluable resource provides the latest information on the trails, roads, camps, and beaches of Big Sur and nearby state parks and wilderness areas.

A guide that exposes some of the most natural beauty of California, *Hiking & Backpacking Big Sur* features:

- Trip descriptions with length, trail conditions, highlights, and difficulty ratings
- Updated topographic maps for each trip
- Listings of local events and Highway 1 galleries, as well as the best places to eat, stay, and camp
- A “Trips by Theme” section that highlights the best trips for your moods—waterfalls, wildlife, fishing, swimming, and more

**Best wildflower excursions:**

Ewoldsen Trail  
Pacific Valley Trail  
Pine Valley  
Cone Peak Loop

**Best hikes for wildlife:**

Point Sur State Historic Park  
Rocky Ridge Trail  
Partington Cove Trail  
San Simeon Nature Trail

**Best fishing jaunts:**

Carmel River State Beach  
Hearst Memorial State Beach  
River Trail Loop  
Ventana Camp

**BOOK BASICS:*****Hiking & Backpacking Big Sur:******a complete guide to the trails of Big Sur, Ventana Wilderness, and Silver Peak Wilderness***

by Analise Elliot

\$19.95, 6 x 9, softbound

1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2005, 323 pages

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**Companion map  
also available!**