

Pilgrimage Guide for Sukkot on the Farm

Dear Travelers,

Back in the day, our ancestors would travel to Jerusalem over many days to join the celebration of this chag (holiday). Now, in 5772, most of you will be traveling swiftly by car to join us for our joyous Sukkot festival in Pescadero, CA. As we journey to the Farm, a source of nourishment, we have the opportunity to contemplate the abundance in our lives. We have included here for you a guide to farms, producers, and purveyors who take deep pride in the quality of food they make and sell, as well points of interests along the way. When we travel with our senses keenly attuned to the earth, the pilgrimage can offer medicine in profound and unexpected ways. May your trip to the Farm be safe as you leave the introspection of the High Holidays and enter the zman simchateinu, the season of our joy. Nesia Tovah (Good trip)!

Tefilat HaDerech - Traveler's Prayer

Yehi ratzon milefanecha Ado-nai Eloh-einu veilohei avoseinu shetolicheinu leshalom vesatzideinu leshalom vesadricheinu leshalom vesismecheinu leshalom vesagi'einu limechoz cheftzeinu lechaim ulesimchah uleshalom (If intending to return immediately, add: vesachazireinu leshalom) vesatzileinu mikaf kol oyeiv ve'oreiv velistim vechayos ra'os baderech umikol puraniyos hamisragshos uva'os le'olam vesishlach berachah bechol ma'aseh yadeinu vesitneini lechein ulechessed ulerachamim be'einecha uveinei chol ro'einu vesigmeleinu

May it be Your will, G-d, our G-d and the G-d of our fathers and mothers, that You should lead us in peace and direct our steps in peace, and guide us in peace, and support us in peace, and cause us to reach our destination in life, joy, and peace (*If intending to return immediately, add: and return us in peace*). Save us from every enemy and ambush, from robbers and wild beasts on the trip, and from all kinds of punishments that rage and come to the world. May You confer blessing upon the work of our hands and grant me grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us, and bestow upon us abundant kindness and hearken to the voice of our prayer, for You hear the prayers of all. Blessed are You G-d, who hearkens to prayer.

Some questions for your ride down to ponder:

Sukkot is most commonly understood to be *Chag Ha Sukkot*, the festival of booths, where we dwell in temporary shelters and *Chag Ha-Asif*, festival of the fall harvest, where we celebrate the ingathering of the food from the land. Sukkot is known as a time of great joy because we are grateful for the sustenance we receive from the earth and for our fragile, awe-inspiring place in this world.

In ancient times, we performed *Simchat Beit Hashoeva* (literally “Rejoicing at the Place of Drawing Water”), a powerful, magical ceremony of drawing forth and pouring waters to invoke the fall rains. This ceremony was followed by a great celebration of music, dancing, fire swinging, juggling, and revelry in its many forms – we’re taught that there was no higher joy than that experienced at *Simchat Beit Hashoeva*.

Wilderness Torah awakens and celebrates the *Simchat Beit Hashoeva* ceremony and celebration at Sukkot on the Farm. In preparation for this transformative and celebratory Sukkot on the Farm, we offer the following guiding questions that may help you prepare to fully celebrate with the Wilderness Torah community this year.

1. What brings you joy in your life?
2. What obstacles do you currently have to experiencing this joy in your life?
3. Are you interested in releasing these obstacles? How might you prepare to release these obstacles?
4. How do you want to be transformed by the Sukkot on the Farm Festival?
5. How do you want to celebrate and bring in Joy this Sukkot?

At the *Simchat Beit Hashoeva* ritual, you will be provided an opportunity to partake in the ritual in a personal way. Pouring the waters may be used as a mechanism to release those obstacles in preparation for joyful celebration. We invite you to consider how you would like to step into this ritual process.

Journeying by bicycle:

Green your Sukkot by biking to the farm! Join Adam Edell for the ride of a lifetime. Adam can be a resource for you are thinking about leaving from all points north of Pescadero, CA. Contact Adam immediately at adumkov@aol.com if you are remotely contemplating a bicycle journey.

How to Get There And Have an Adventure On the Way:

Here are directions to Green Oaks Creek Farm & Retreat. Green Oaks is located off of Hwy. 1, approximately ½ an hour south of Half Moon Bay and ½ an hour north of Santa Cruz. Directions are in **bold**.

From the East Bay:

Take either Hwy. 92 to Half Moon Bay or 84 to San Gregorio, both of which connect to Hwy. 1.

For a nice scenic overlook of the reservoir, you can stop at the top of the hill on Hwy. 92 and make a left turn onto Skyline Blvd. Continue further on Skyline to find redwood trails and good picnicking spots.

If you are taking 92 over the hill, start your odometer at the junction of Hwy 1 (a T in the road that faces Burger King in Half Moon Bay). Drive South on Hwy 1, past the turn off to the town of Pescadero (Pescadero Creek Rd), 15.5 miles. (Pick up the Pilgrimage Guide at the *** below to adventure in Half Moon Bay.)

From San Francisco or the North Bay:

Take Hwy 1 South and start your odometer at the junction of Hwy 1 and Hwy 92.

Adventures:

- You may want to stop at **Linda Mar Beach** in Pacifica to see the ocean and check out the surfers.
- You'll pass through "**Devil's Slide**" – an incredibly scenic portion of Hwy 1 that stretches from Pacifica to Montara. Rocky cliffs give way to endless ocean views. You will also see construction in the works for a future tunnel that will alleviate the aging coastal road. The tunnel project is the result of a lengthy environmental campaign to preserving fragile habitat for the endangered California red-legged frog in the valley below, which would have been disrupted had a plan to build a huge highway instead of the tunnel won. (read more here <http://science.kqed.org/quest/2010/10/11/the-turns-and-twists-of-devils-slide/>).
- Once you enter Moss Beach, you may want to stop for a visit at the **Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**, an amazing tide pool area where you can see bright marine life – from starfish to sea anemones. Find more info here: <http://fitzgeraldreserve.org/> and check for low-tide times to plan your visit here <http://www.protides.com/california/2193/>.
- In El Granada, you'll pass **Princeton Harbor and Surfer's Beach**, a nice place for a stroll. Princeton is the home of **Mavericks**, a world-renowned big wave break located one-half mile off the coast. (see <http://www.maverickssurf.com/>).

You will then reach the junction of Hwy 1 and Hwy 92 in Half Moon Bay. Proceed.

*** From the Junction of Hwy 92 and Hwy 1:

- This is the city of Half Moon Bay: The historic downtown is home to numerous shops, art galleries, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and other businesses. Find fun things to do here: http://www.halfmoonbaychamber.org/visiting_hmb/
Rae's Picks:
 - Get a hot cup of chai from **Raman's Chai** (101 Main St, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019) – a legendary brew that's been written up in national papers. Check out Raman's poetry on the walls and allow yourself to relax into a different tempo with Raman's soulful slow approach to life. Hours and more: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/ramans-coffee-and-chai-half-moon-bay>
 - Stop for a sandwich at the renowned San Benito House (356 Main Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019) This hole-in-the-wall sandwich shop makes its own bread, hummus, and soups and my oh my is it ever delicious! A ½ sandwich is enormous. Outdoor patio seating. <http://www.sanbenitohouse.com/the-san-benito-deli/>
 - Take the whole car to M. Coffee (522 Main St, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019) for ice cream, including local pumpkin flavor during October. M. Coffee was sued by McDonald's in the '90s and forced to change its name since "McCoffee" is a registered trademark of the fast food corporation. Say what?!
 - Visit Kelly State Beach at the end of Kelly Avenue.
 - Stop for a burrito or a taco at one of the great Mexican taquerias on the coastside. **El Gran Amigo** is on the west side of Hwy. 1 in Moss Beach shortly after Devil's Slide. **Tres Amigos** is at the corner of Hwy. 1 and Kelly Ave. in Half Moon Bay. And if you're looking for a sit-down restaurant, **Spanish Town**, is tasty and is located on Church St. (From Hwy. 1 turn left onto Kelly Avenue and Right onto Church St., restaurant will be on the left.)

- Yes, there is a **Jewish community on the Coastsides**, and you can learn more about our vibrant chevre here <http://www.coastsidejewishcommunity.org/>

Continue South on Hwy 1.

Pumpkin Farm and Hay Bale Maze: Fun for the whole family!

Stop at Farmer John's to take a walk through a pumpkin patch. Find directions and details here: <http://www.farmerjohnspumpkins.com/> (Farmer John and his wife donated tons of farm fresh organic produce to Sukkot on the Farm last year so don't forget to thank them too ☺)

Visit Arata's Pumpkin Farm to adventure through a hay bale maze! Directions and more info here: <http://www.aratapumpkinfarm.com/>

San Gregorio General store (1 mile off HWY 1, look for sign to the left when driving south that says San Gregorio Road)

For an old fashioned general store with modern day curios and a fantastic bookstore that's hard to pull away from stop by this store. There's often music on Sundays, which you may stop and enjoy on the return pilgrimage.

You will wind your way down the coast in an incredibly scenic drive and soon after some sand dunes you'll come to a big sign for the town of Pescadero. If you turn left at this junction and drive a mile up the road, you'll come to this little one-road-town, which has some great features:

- Stop by **Harley Farms** (205 North Street, Pescadero, CA), a restored 1910 dairy farm, with 200 alpine goats on nine acres of pasture. The farm grew from six pet goats to today's herd, with their delicious, critically-acclaimed cheese which features edible flowers. Harley Farms is open year-round for farm and dairy tours, cheesemaking classes, and events in our fabulous restored hayloft. Visitors see a working farm, and watch the milk move from goat



to dairy, from curd to cheese. Plan your tour here:

<http://www.harleyfarms.com/farm.php>

- Visit **Phipps Farm** to enjoy a trip through the fields **picking fresh berries!** Or buy fresh made jams, beans and sundries. Visiting info: <http://www.phippscountry.com/>
- **Arcangeli Grocery** (est. 1929) has the best artichoke garlic herb bread ever. Period. Stop in for a loaf hot out of the oven. <http://www.normsmarket.com/store/>
- **Duarte's Tavern** has the most amazing green chili and artichoke soup. Ask for a cup of the two mixed together, and take the soup plus the bread to Pebble Beach off Hwy 1 at Pescadero Rd. for a lovely roadside snack and view.
- On Thursday evenings there is now a **NEW Farmer's Market in Pescadero**. The Pescadero Grown! Farmer's Market will be held every Thursday from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. in the Pescadero Elementary School (620 North Street) parking lot until November.
- Visit the office of **Puente**, the only community resource center for the south coast. The individuals and families served by Puente face wide-ranging challenges that are often compounded by the isolation that stems from living in rural communities, language barriers, and difficulties with negotiating a new cultural and social

landscape. Puente helps local folks and migrant farmworkers access health services, job resources, leadership development and more. Coastside Jewish Community member Kerry Lobel is the executive director of Puente and extends an open invitation to Wilderness Torah festival-goers to stop in to the office and learn more about this crucial resource. More info here: <http://puentedelacostasur.org/>

At 11.3 miles from the intersection of Pescadero Road and Hwy 1, or 26.8 miles total from the intersection of Hwy 92 and Hwy 1: After you pass Costanoa on your left and the sign for Rossi Road, there will be a passing lane. As this passing lane narrows into one lane again, slow down and look for a **sandwich board that says "Pie Ranch"** and a small brown sign that says "Green Oaks Creek Farm" which are on your left. This sign is placed between two parallel dirt driveways: take the southern of the two driveways.

If you get to **Año Nuevo State Reserve** you've gone too far, but why not stop at this amazing park?! What is it? Año Nuevo State Park is the site of the largest mainland breeding colony in the world for the northern elephant seal! You can view these huge beautiful creatures lumbering around on the beach. The purpose of Año Nuevo State Park, in San Mateo County, is to preserve and protect the scenic, biological, ecological, and cultural values of the central California coastline. Come back for a visit during mating season, December – March when the males battle for mates on the beaches and the females give birth to their young on the dunes. More info in planning a visit to Año Nuevo State Park here: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=523

From Points South:

Drive north on Hwy. 1. You may wish to stop in Monterey and visit the Aquarium, or wind your way through the breathtaking terrain of Big Sur. You will pass the town of Davenport, Wadell State Beach, and Año Nuevo State Reserve (see info about this above). **After you pass the Reserve (approx. ½ a mile), our dirt driveway is the first right after the highway opens to two lanes. You will see a small sign on your right that says "Green Oaks Creek Farm". This sign is placed between two parallel dirt driveways: take the southern of the two driveways. See directions below.**

For the map please go to:

<http://www.wildernesstorah.org/programs/festivals-general/sukkot-on-the-farm/logistics/>

From the driveway:

Soon after you turn onto the dirt road there is a turn off to the left – stay to the right. Proceed 4/10th of a mile (you will pass through a stand of eucalyptus trees) until you reach a distinct Y in the road. Take the left fork of the Y (there is another sign here that says "Green Oaks Creek Farm"), drive through the deer fence gate (please shut it behind you) and drive 3/10th of a mile until you see a parking sign on your right. Please park in the designated parking area.

"Life is a journey, not a destination."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson