



CHUMASH INDIAN MUSEUM

Before you visit

The History of the Chumash Indian Museum

The Chumash Indian Museum is a historical site and living history center. This museum is dedicated to restoring and preserving an awareness of the Chumash people and their historical, cultural, material and present-day influence, as well as the natural environment and historical significance of this site. Through exhibits, events, and educational programs, the Chumash Indian Museum serves as a gathering place for a partnership with the Native and non-Native communities connecting the past with the present to continue our shared future.

The museum, established in 1994, is part of the Simi Hills and is located at a 432-acre Chumash archaeological preserve on Lang Ranch Parkway in Thousand Oaks. Paul Varela (Chumash), the founding director of the Chumash Interpretive Center, recognized that the site of Oakbrook Park was a home for the Chumash people for several thousand years, and fought to protect it and establish the museum for future generations. Paul, along with a few others, created the Chumash Interpretive Center.

Located upon Conejo Park and Recreation Department property, the museum is managed by the non-profit organization Oakbrook Park Chumash Indian Corporation.

OUR GOAL

is to provide an immersive and enriching educational experience in our unique indoor-outdoor environment. In addition, our tours satisfy History/Social Science Common Core State Standards for 3rd and 4th grade.



Chumash Tomol

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3rd & 4th Grade Chumash Indian Museum Tour Educational Value

Students will explore the natural habitats and resources available to the Chumash people who lived on these lands. They'll learn how Chumash managed and used these resources, and how they were influenced by their natural region and available resources. The students will examine artifacts and elements of their natural region using authentic visual aids. Students will learn about the history of the Chumash people and what makes them distinct from other Native Americans. They will hear about Chumash village and how it is both like and unlike, our lives today.

Relevance to your curriculum

3rd Grade CA History Social Science Standards

3.1

Students describe the physical and human geography and use maps, tables, graphs, photographs, and charts to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.

3.2

Students describe the American Indian nations in their local region long ago and in the recent past.

4th Grade CA History Social Science Standards

4.2

Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.



The Chumash that lived on this site named their village S'apwi or House of the Deer. Deer supplemented the diet of the villagers, and provided them with material for clothing, tools, instruments, and structures.

Tour Information

Our popular school program includes a tour of the museum, a nature walk to the replica Chumash village site and a craft activity. Storytelling and games can be included, time permitting.

Lunch and Shopping

After their tour and nature walk students can enjoy their lunches at our outdoor picnic tables. Our Museum Gift Shop carries a number of inexpensive nature and native arts inspired gifts for students to bring home as a reminder of their special tour.

Buses

There are two school bus parking spaces available at the front of the museum parking lot, which can accommodate large buses.

Fees

The school program fees are \$8 per student. There is a no fee for adult chaperones, whose assistance on the tour is essential.

Tour Length

School tours run from 9:30am to 1:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Supervision

Only one adult chaperone per 10 students is allowed. Teachers, aides and chaperones MUST remain with the group at all times. Chaperones are expected to engage with students and are responsible for good group behavior. The Chumash Indian Museum reserves the right to turn away any group with inadequate supervision.

Suggested Reading

For Teachers:

The Chumash People: Materials for Teachers and Students
by Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Docents

The Chumash World at European Contact: Power, Trade, and Feasting Among Complex Hunter-Gatherers
by Lynn H. Gamble

First Coastal Californians: A School for Advanced Research Popular Archaeology Book
by Lynn H. Gamble

For Students:

Chumash Indian Games
by Travis Hudson and Jan Timbrook

The Chumash (Native American Histories)
by Liz Sonneborn

The Chumash Through a Child's Eyes
by John Wilcox and Kate Yarbrough



Chumash 'ap

The People of this Land: the Chumash Indians

The Chumash lived in an area that stretches north to Paso Robles and south to Malibu. They also lived on the Channel Islands and as far inland as the Cuyama area. There is evidence of Chumash culture dating back 10,000 to 12,000 years.

The Chumash were hunting, gathering, fishing and seafaring people. They gathered acorns from oak trees, an important food source, as well as nuts, seeds, berries, bark, roots and leaves from other plants for food and medicine. The Chumash were excellent hunters of bear, rabbit, mule deer, seals and other animals. They utilized much of the animal, including bones and skins.

The coastal and Channel Island Indians relied mostly on the ocean for food and other resources. They ate fish, seal, whale, and shellfish. The inland Indians relied heavily on acorns and deer meat for food. It was common for the coastal and inland Indians to trade with each other to expand their resources.

The Chumash people spent much of their time hunting and gathering food; however, since resources were plentiful in this part of California, there was still time for other activities such as playing games and telling stories, participating in ceremony, music and dance.

The Chumash were craftsmen and artisans. They used locally gathered plants for their homes, beds, and baskets. They used stone grinding tools, knives, arrowheads and pots. Hides and bones were used for clothing, tools and musical instruments. Shells were used for money, ornaments and dishes. The Chumash collected driftwood to make sea-worthy plank canoes or tomols. Chumash created beautiful rock art.



Chumash Indian Museum (Google Maps)

Contact Us

Chumash Indian Museum

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 Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
 805.492.8076

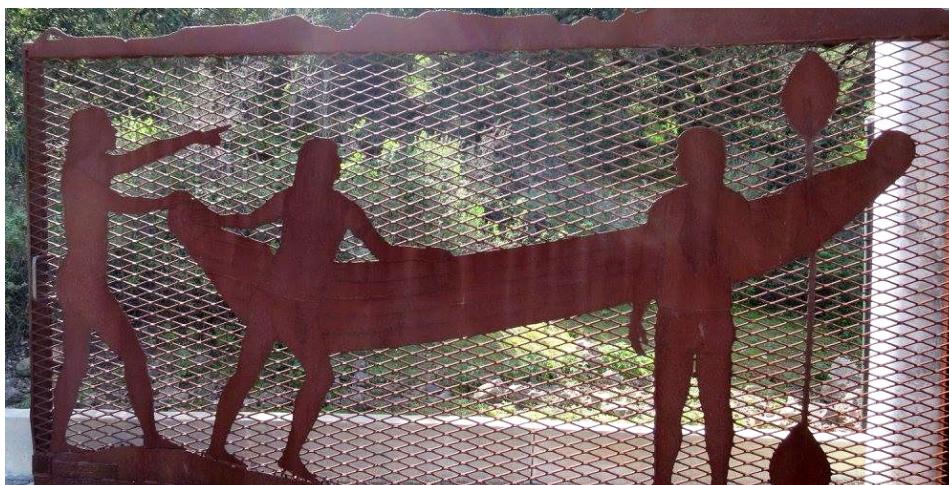
education@chumashmuseum.org

Visit us on the web at
www.chumashmuseum.org

Or see our Facebook page

Other suggestions for activities prior to your visit:

- 1) Locate and read several books on pre-Mission Chumash Indians.
- 2) Describe the geography and climate of Chumash territory. Tell about the animals and plants that lived there.
- 3) Describe houses, clothes, utensils and weapons of the Chumash people.
- 4) Find at least 5 places that have Chumash names and explain what they mean.
- 5) Tell about the Chumash's religion and describe their cave paintings. Show pictures if you can.
- 6) Make small baskets using Chumash techniques—or using a cave painting motif, make a picture for your wall—or make a scale model of a Chumash tomol—or make a model of a Chumash 'ap in a village setting.
- 7) Learn what the Chumash ate and drank.



Chumash Indian Museum Gate

Chumash Words

There were several Chumash dialects in 7 distinct language groups. The people who lived in the area of the Chumash Indian Museum spoke Mitsqanaqan' (Ventureño).

'alipay	sky
'alishaw	sun
'ap	house
ch'ich'l	child
'eneq	woman
haku	hello
'ihi'y	man
'o'	water
tomol	canoe