



January 2026 Field Trip

Rancho Los Alamitos
6400 East Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach CA 90815

Date: **Sunday January 25, 2026**
Hours: **1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

Information: **(562) 431-3541**
<https://www.rancholosalamitos.org/>

Assignment:
Circles & Round Shapes

Parking and Admission

Parking and Admission are “free.” There is LIMITED parking spaces available. Carpooling is encouraged, but not required.

1. Enter at the Bixby Hill residential security gate at the intersection of E. Anaheim Road & Palo Verde Ave. Note: Be sure to tell them you’re visiting the Rancho.
2. Drive up the hill and find Rancho Los Alamitos at the top. Park in the visitor lot.
3. When you arrive, the check-in desk is in the Rancho Center.

Lunch

Marri's Pizza and Italian Restaurant - 11:30 A.M.

6436 Stearns St., Long Beach CA 90815 (southeast corner of Stearns & Palos Verde)

Information: (562) 596-5771

Carpool

Meet at 11:00 A.M. at the south end of the AAA parking lot located on the northeast corner of Beach Boulevard and Stark Drive in Huntington Beach.

Guided Tours

Sign up for Docent-Guided Tours of the Ranch House - Explore the Rancho's history with a knowledgeable guide.

Visitors can reserve a 1-hour, docent-guided tour at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, or 4:00 pm. Walk-in tours are available as space permits. Masks are optional, but encouraged on tours. All are welcome.

*** PSOC will arrange for a guided tour at 1:00 P.M. (max. 10 people)**

Photography for Personal Use

Rancho Los Alamitos is a beautiful and rare open space in Long Beach, making it a popular place for taking photos. Photography during open hours is welcomed to small groups (six or less) and limited to personal cameras (no tripods).

To maximize guest experience, uphold our values as a historical site, and prioritize safety, we kindly ask that our photography policy is followed.



History of the Rancho

Rancho Los Alamitos, the “Ranch of the Little Cottonwoods,” is a Long Beach City Landmark and twice-listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Rancho is located on Tongva-Gabrielino land known as “Povuun’nga.” From the Tongva people who lived and gathered at Povuun’nga through waves of newcomers from Spain, Mexico, the United States, and more, the site has nurtured a great diversity of peoples and cultures over thousands of years. Today, the 7½-acre site includes four acres of nationally significant historic gardens, a ranch house (1790-1933), and a restored barnyard of the early 20th-century working ranch.

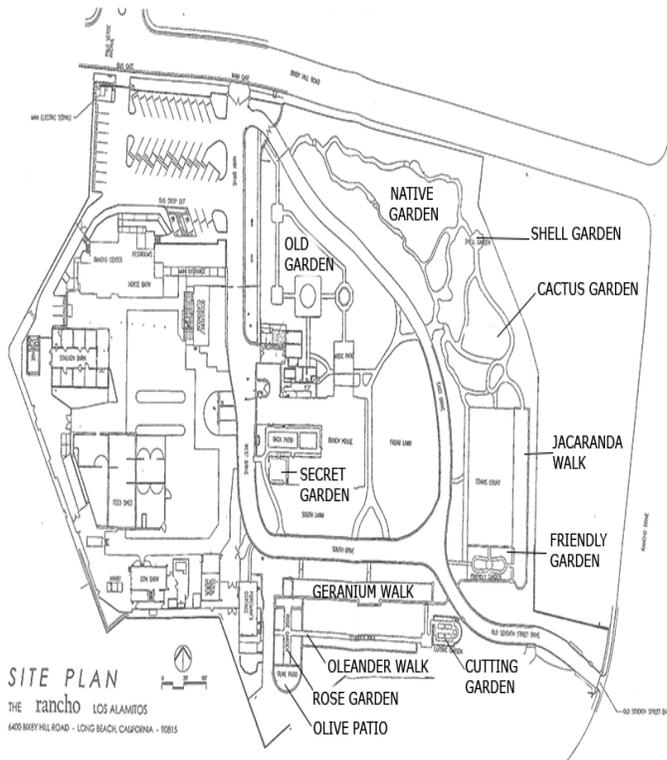
The Nieto family built an adobe on a hilltop near the location of Povuu'nga sometime between 1790-1834. It is believed the adobe sheltered vaqueros and horses at this outpost location on the Nietos' sprawling ranch land. The hilltop provided superior views of the surrounding terrain, as well as excellent drainage for vulnerable adobe structures. But the most valuable resource of all was the fresh-water spring near the base of the hill.

The decade of the 1920s when Florence Bixby developed her gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos was one of the most prolific and important periods for the creation of large and medium-sized gardens in Southern California. The large fortunes made from the movie industry, oil discovery and real estate ventures encouraged flamboyance and conspicuous consumption. A combination of available money, nurseries specializing in a wide variety of exotic plant material, skilled gardeners (often trained in Europe), fine building craftsmen, and innovative landscape designers created unparalleled conditions for the development of beautiful and expressive gardens.

Rancho Los Alamitos stands apart from the obvious opulence of many estates of the period. In 1932, Marian Cran, the English garden writer, celebrated Rancho Los Alamitos as a rare example of a "pioneer home" in California. Her sensitive appreciation of Florence Bixby's gardens emphasizes their understated elegance.

The existing gardens were created between 1920 and 1936 and while such notable designers as the Olmsted Brothers Firm, Florence Yoch, and Paul Howard were involved, the guiding influence is clearly that of Florence Bixby. The gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos eloquently express the personality of their creator, Florence Green Bixby, a modest, inward-looking woman who was never quite able to embrace the robust, ranching activity so loved by her husband. Photographic evidence indicates that there were no really rare or difficult-to-maintain plantings in Florence Bixby's garden. Rather, in developing her gardens, she attempted to "civilize" the area around the rambling adobe ranch house in a way that complemented the home and expressed her own taste and interests.

Florence Bixby's elegant gardens are notable for the way in which they extend a modest domestic tranquility into the garden. The restrained plant palette in combination with the beautifully dimensioned spaces give quiet strength and character to the garden. Created in an age of flamboyance, the gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos represent a remarkable personal aesthetic, sensitive to the traditions and scale of the past, and at ease with the relaxed dictates of outdoor living.



RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS SITE ETIQUETTE



Look but don't touch livestock, artifacts, or other structures



Preserve our Moreton Bay Fig trees by staying off their roots



Service animals are welcome; no pets allowed



Eat before entry; only water is allowed on site



Stay on garden paths



Footwear required at all times



Personal, vacation-style photography only; no photo or video in the Ranch House



RLA is smoke- and vape-free

During your visit, wander garden trails, learn from knowledgeable docents and volunteers, meet the barnyard's resident livestock (horses, sheep, goats, chickens, and ducks), and explore California history. The Rancho's mission is to inspire a sense of community by educating and engaging visitors with its rich history, compelling stories, and authentic connections to California's past.



All photos by Kurt Bayless