

Fallbrook

Avocado groves, art classes, gems and minerals, and bucolic country life

By [Triveni Sheshadri](#)

Westways June 2012



Live Oak County Park

Tucked away in the hills of north San Diego County, the rural enclave of Fallbrook is known as the avocado capital of the world. But the town's other attractions include a thriving art scene, an old-fashioned downtown, and spectacular open spaces.

Explore Tall sycamores and oaks—as well as native plants, such as toyon, elderberry, and sage—dot the serene Los Jilgueros Preserve ¹, one of several open spaces under the stewardship of the [Fallbrook Land Conservancy](#). Stroll an easy 1.5-mile trail to take in the beauty of a firescape garden with more than 100 species of drought-tolerant plants. *South Mission Road between Pepper Tree Lane and Sterling Bridge. 1-760-728-0889.* Pack a picnic, and make your way to [Live Oak County Park](#) ², a scenic 27-acre park with old trees, a creek, trails, playgrounds, and a softball field. Look for grinding holes (6- to 12-inch-wide depressions in grayish brown boulders) that were used by the Luiseño people who once inhabited the area. *2746 Reche Road. 1-760-728-2303.*

Learn Be dazzled by tourmaline from San Diego County mines and the fluorescent mineral display at the [Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society museum](#) ³ . 123-B W. Alvarado Street. (760) 728-1130. Reserve a class to paint watercolors, mold clay, or make a print at the [Fallbrook School of the Arts](#) ⁴ . 310 E. Alvarado Street. 1-760-728-6383. The [Fallbrook Art Center](#) ⁵ , a downtown exhibition space, presents rotating sculpture, watercolor, wildlife art, ceramics, and glass shows year-round. 103 S. Main Avenue. 1-760-728-1414.

Eat Enjoy a grilled lemon-basil chicken sandwich amid a waterfall, rock garden, and fountain at the [Garden Center Café & Grill](#) ⁶ . 1625 S. Mission Road. 1-760-728-4147. Mexican comfort food, such as San Felipe fish tacos, is on the menu at [La Caseta](#) ⁷ , an eatery well-loved by locals. 111 N. Vine Street. 1-760-728-9737. Peruse art as you lunch at [Café Des Artistes](#) ⁸ . Fallbrook Art Center. 103 S. Main Avenue. 1-760-728-3350.



Getting There To visit Fallbrook, take Interstate 5 south to State Route 76 (exit 54A) and head east. Just past Bonsall, turn left on Mission Road (County Road S13) and follow it north into town. Or head west on Mission Road (exit 51) from southbound Interstate 15. For a free *Oceanside–Escondido Area* map, visit your [Auto Club branch](#).

CLICK MAP FOR LARGER VERSION

Please call ahead to check hours and availability of businesses, attractions, and events before you visit. [Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce](#): 1-760-728-5845.