



Photos by Kurt Bayless

## Mission San Juan Capistrano

26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan

949-234-1300

Sunday, August 25, 2024

**Shooting Assignment:  
Aquatic Life Photography**

**Overview:** Mission San Juan Capistrano is the “Jewel of the California Missions.” The historic landmark and museum founded more than two hundred years ago is the birthplace of Orange County. It is the seventh of 21 Spanish Missions established in California by Franciscan Padres. It features a chapel still standing where Saint Junipero Serra once celebrated Mass.

Today, it is a monument to California’s multi-cultural history, embracing its Native American, Spanish, Mexican and European heritage. Originally built as a self-sufficient community by Spanish Padres and Acjachemen Native Americans, the Mission was a center for agriculture, industry, education and religion. The Mission is also famous for the ‘Annual Return of the Swallows.’ <https://www.missionsjc.com/>



## **Hours and Admission:**

Tuesday-Sunday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
(Closed Monday)

Adults (18 – 59): \$18  
Seniors (60+): \$15



**Tickets** are either available for purchase at the Main Entrance, or online (encouraged) for a specific date via the link below. Tickets are e-mailed electronically upon completion of the online order - no shipping required. E-Tickets are valid for that date only. **ALL SALES ARE FINAL!**

<https://www.missionsjc.com/store/Ticket>

**Policies:** The site Code of Conduct states: "As a family-oriented and religious site, proper dress attire is required. Graphic and transparent garments are not permitted."

It also stipulates: **No tripods allowed.**

**Parking:** Public parking is available in the surrounding streets near the Mission. The most visible parking lot is on the south side of Ortega Highway and El Camino Real. For more information, please see the City of San Juan Capistrano's Parking Map. Most parking is free, but there are time restrictions in various lots. Please read signage before departing your vehicle for restrictions or limitations on hours.

<https://www.missionsjc.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/public-parking-SJC.pdf>

**Carpool:** Meet at 8:00 am at the south end of the AAA parking lot located on the northeast corner of Beach Boulevard and Stark Drive in Huntington Beach.

**Directions:** From the North Orange County area take the 405/5 South to the second San Juan Capistrano exit, which is Ortega Highway. Turn right off the freeway onto Ortega Highway. The Mission is straight ahead 2-1/2 blocks on the right. There is also the option of taking the train to the Mission. The depot is at 26702 Verdugo Street just 2 blocks from the Mission. Check Metrolink or Amtrak for schedules and ticket prices.

**Meet up for lunch at 12 noon: EL ADOBE DE CAPISTRANO RESTAURANT**

31891 Camino Capistrano  
(one block south of the Mission)  
San Juan Capistrano  
Open Sunday: 10 am – 9 pm  
<http://eladobedecapistrano.com/>

Additional points of interest near the mission:

<http://www.sanjuanchamber.com/pdf/SJC-Walking-Tour-Map.pdf>

**Historic Railroad Station:**

This railroad station, topped with red brick, is now a popular restaurant which was built in 1894 by the Santa Fe Railroad, and is the oldest 'Mission Revival style' rail station in Southern California. At the time of completion, it was called "the finest depot on the Santa Fe system."

**Los Rios Historic District:**

The Los Rios District includes 31 historic structures. It is one of the oldest neighborhoods in California, on the oldest street in California, and includes three adobe homes built in 1794 as housing for families with ties to the Mission. Cottage shops, several restaurants, the old jail, and galleries line Los Rios Street intermingled with private residences, as well as the beautiful botanical gardens of Ito Nursery.

**Montanez Adobe – (1794):**

Oldest home in California in Los Rios Historic District (949-240-3119). This adobe was the home of Polonia Montanez who oversaw religious instruction of the village children from 1886-1910. Polonia once led the children on a spiritual trek as they journeyed in prayer and song to break a long drought. On the third day, while praying on Capistrano Beach, the rain began to pour down and three wagons were sent for Polonia and the children.



