

Important Dates in Santa Cruz History



1769

Don Gaspar de Portola discovered the land area which is now known as the City of Santa Cruz.



1791

Father Fermin de Lasuen establishes the Santa Cruz Mission.



1866

City of Santa Cruz is incorporated.



1875

First railroad connection to Santa Cruz.



1885

In July, surfing is introduced for the first time in North America in Santa Cruz by three Hawaiian princes.



1907

The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is built.



1914

The current Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf was constructed and at 2,745 feet, is the longest wharf on the West Coast.



1940

The Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium was built.



1948

The City adopted a new City Charter that is still in existence today.



1968

The Pacific Garden Mall design by local architect Kermit Darrow and landscape architect Roy Rydell approved.



1989

The Loma Prieta earthquake hits, causing devastation to downtown. New downtown redesign replaces Pacific Garden Mall.



2011

A tsunami wave from an earthquake near Japan causes \$10 million in damage to the Santa Cruz Harbor.