

Chumash Cultural Village

WHERE MALIBU BEGAN

How Humaliwu became Malibu...

Malibu, Zuma, Tujunga, Hueneme. If you live or have traveled through Southern California, these are names that you've probably seen and wondered about. All are Native American Indian words coined by the Chumash people who lived in Malibu and along the California coast for millennia.

To learn more about the original Malibu beach combers, our next stop is: Wishtoyo Foundation's Chumash Village.

Located on four pristine acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean at Nicholas Canyon County Beach, the site is an authentic re-creation of a working Native American village.

With replicas of Chumash dwellings called "aps," sea worthy canoes known as "tomols," tools, and handicrafts, in addition to performance of ceremonies, blessings, solstice and celebrations, the village offers students and the general public a unique, multi-sensory experience of a native Chumash Village.

Tours explain a typical day in a Chumash village, demonstrating how houses were built, and clothes were made and food was prepared using the available natural resources.

Solstice and other celebrations are marked by ceremonies, as in ancient times; dances are performed by Dolphin Dancers from the Santa Clara Valley River Chumash Turtle Clan.

CHUMASH HISTORY

The first human inhabitants of the Channel Islands and Santa Monica Mountains areas, The Chumash numbered approximately 20,000 from Malibu in the South, to San Luis Obispo in the North.



MEET MATI WAIYA

**FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WISHTOYO FOUNDATION**

Chumash ceremonial leader and Dolphin Dancer Mati Waiya (Little Hawk) created the Wishtoyo Foundation, a non-profit organization, in 1997.

Wishtoyo is the Chumash word for rainbow, and like the legend telling of the arrival of the first Chumash settlers on a rainbow bridge from Santa Cruz Island, Wishtoyo serves as a bridge to link the people of today to their environment - the land, air and water that support and sustain them. Wishtoyo aims to preserve Chumash culture by using traditional beliefs, practices, songs, stories and dances to create self-respect and teach a greater awareness of the connection with and dependence upon the natural environment.

Wishtoyo's strong ties to environmental awareness fostered the launch in February 2001 of the Ventura Coastkeeper, 54th member of the national Waterkeeper Alliance, founded by Robert Kennedy, Jr. Mati is the first Native American to become a Keeper - an ombudsman dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring our marine habitat, coastal waters and watersheds and to bridging the gap between pollution laws, as stated in the federal Clean Water Act, and the government's ability to enforce them.

Mati is actively involved with preservation of Chumash cultural / historical sites. He also addresses cultural resource laws protecting sensitive archaeological sites as well as endangered species and natural resources.

Mati conducts Chumash ceremonies including Solstice, and continues the mission of the Wishtoyo Foundation by giving cultural presentations for schools, public events, government functions and grassroots foundations. Many of these presentations are offered at the living Chumash Village at Nicholas Canyon County Beach Park in Malibu. Programs introduce students and the public to the sights, sounds and workings of an authentic Chumash village.

Mati believes education is the primary tool for a future healthy, sustainable environment, awakening a passion for our natural surroundings to be passed on for generations to come.

