

About the *Peafowl* of Leo Carrillo Ranch

In 1937, Hollywood actor Leo Carrillo purchased and restored *Rancho de Los Quiotes*, now known as Leo Carrillo Ranch. He created it as a personal retreat reminiscent of a working Old California rancho to honor his family's Spanish-California heritage.

Leo's fond childhood memories of the peafowl that wandered his uncle's California ranch inspired him to start his own collection beginning with just six birds. The descendants of those original peafowl are the ones you see today.



The peafowl at Leo Carrillo Ranch are feral and migrate freely throughout the grounds and the greater Rancho Carrillo community. The City of Carlsbad does not own or keep the peafowl, we merely share the park with them.

While the peafowl are accustomed to people, they are not pets. Please do not feed, touch, chase or harass the peafowl.



Scan this code to learn more about how these birds and their neighbors live together peacefully.

*"I love the sight of the peacocks...
the males spreading their tremendous
feathered tails with the springtime urge
and strutting for the benefit of the
females who sometimes don't
pay much attention."*

—Leo Carrillo, *The California I Love*



About *Leo Carrillo* Ranch Historic Park

Once part of a 1,700-acre working rancho and home to actor Leo Carrillo and his family, this 27-acre parcel and its many historic buildings have been stabilized, preserved and restored by the City of Carlsbad, with assistance from the Friends of Carrillo Ranch, Inc.

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park is a registered local and California Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

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6200 Flying Leo Carrillo Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92009

Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

The Peafowl



Established 1937



The Bird of *Royalty*

Leo Carrillo Ranch is home to the Indian species of peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), which has been prized for its beauty for thousands of years. It is the national bird of India and is the oldest ornamental bird recorded to have been kept by royalty. The Phoenicians are often credited with being the first to export peafowl from their native habitat of Asia, distributing them across the Mediterranean. The pharaohs of ancient Egypt and King Solomon of Israel and Judah were among the first royals to own these living jewels outside of their native range.

After their introduction to Greece by Alexander the Great, owning peafowl quickly became a common luxury among the ruling class in both Greece and Rome by the 4th century BCE. By the 14th century, peafowl were a common sight wandering opulent palace grounds and royal estates in many parts of Europe, including France, Germany and England as symbols of wealth and prestige. Since their introduction to the Americas with other domestic poultry in the 16th century, peafowl have remained a popular fixture of zoos, farms, parks and estates, including here at Leo Carrillo Ranch.

Peafowl Facts

- Only the brightly colored males are called peacocks, while the more neutral toned females are called peahens
- There are three species of peafowl: Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), Congo peafowl (*Afropavo congensis*), and the green peafowl (*Pavo muticus*), also called the Java green or Indonesian peafowl
- Though Indian peafowl are plentiful, green peafowl are currently listed as endangered, while Congo peafowl are listed as vulnerable due to hunting and habitat loss
- Peafowl are omnivorous and will eat seeds, fruit and other vegetation, insects, reptiles (including venomous snakes) and small mammals
- A group of peafowl is called an ostentation, a muster, a pride or a party
- Peahens lay between six to fifteen eggs in a clutch, and one to two clutches per year
- Their main predators include coyotes, raccoons, rodents, bobcats, raptors, crows and even domestic animals
- Contrary to popular belief, peafowl can fly, and roost in the tree canopy for safety at night!



Peafowl in *Tradition*

Because of their widespread popularity and distribution throughout the world, Indian peafowl make an appearance in many religions, literature and folklore throughout history. Peafowl have become synonymous with pride and vanity, but also as universal symbols of romance, charm, love, beauty and grace.



Peafowl are a recurring symbol throughout the traditions of their native India as important cultural icons. In the Hindu religion, the peacock is the symbol of the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, and it is believed that keeping a peacock feather in your home will bring you wealth and prosperity.