



## **BIKING: Ragged Point to SLO (4 Days) - v2**

### ***Summary***

San Luis Obispo (SLO) County offers a great combination of spectacular coastal riding, lightly trafficked inland valleys, diverse small towns and winery areas to cycle in. This tour features moderate days with chances to add miles if desired. It's a great tour for family groups.

### ***Itinerary***

#### **Day One – Arrival, Bike Ragged Point to Cambria (20-25 miles)**

The Central Coast Outdoors (CCO) representative will meet you in San Luis Obispo (SLO) or at another location within SLO County. After meeting, we'll shuttle you to the start of the ride in Ragged Point (a little over 1 hour from SLO). From Ragged Point you'll ride down the coast to Cambria. Along the way you'll pass a colony of decidedly odd looking elephant seals and the iconic Hearst Castle. There are out and back options into lightly trafficked inland valleys near the end of the ride to increase mileage today. Home for the evening is the quaint seaside village of Cambria, home to numerous restaurants, shops and galleries. *To minimize exposure to sections of Highway One with little to no shoulder and variable traffic, it is suggested to start the day at the elephant seal colony about 10 miles north of Cambria instead of Ragged Point and cycle the inland valley(s) near Cambria to add miles as desired.*

#### **Day Two – Bike Cambria to Morro Bay (20-35 miles)**

In the morning our route veers inland for a short while before regaining the coast north of Cayucos. You also have another chance to add a wonderful out and back ride along Santa Rosa Creek Road. Cycling through the beachside town of Cayucos you'll can stop to enjoy fish and chips by the long sandy beach and pier. Continuing south from Cayucos, you'll come the old fishing town of Morro Bay with the iconic Morro Rock and harbor area.

#### **Day Three – Bike Morro Bay to Avila Beach (28-45 miles)**

Leaving Morro Bay, you'll ride along the edge of scenic Morro Bay National Estuary. Heading inland again, you pass through idyllic ranchland on the way to the historic mission town of San Luis Obispo (voted happiest town in North America!). Between Morro Bay and SLO, a hilly additional option along the coast through Montana de Oro State Park beckons, if you have the legs for it. From SLO you'll follow the San Luis Obispo Creek valley and eventually take a bike path along the creek to the Avila Beach, a wonderful, small beach resort area with several piers and a fun apple growing area just inland to explore.

#### **Day Four - Bike Avila Beach to SLO via Edna Valley (20-50 miles)**

Continuing south along the coast, you'll pass through another classic beach town with a pier, Pismo Beach, before heading inland to the Edna Valley. The Edna Valley is a beautiful wine growing region that boasts many award winning wines and scenic cycling. There are many ways to add miles today into other valleys around the Edna Valley. The ride ends with a nice bike path back into SLO.

## **John's Tour thoughts**

- You can make a five day tour out of this by adding a layover day anywhere along the way. Cambria has a great downtown area and Hearst Castle, kayaking, hiking and inland valleys to ride in area all close by. Morro Bay has a fun waterfront area, kayaking and hiking. Avila Beach has a great beach area, piers to explore and kayaking as well.
- If you want to keep this as a four day tour but add a layover day, eliminate the ride from Avila Beach to SLO at the end and add a layover day in Cambria or Morro Bay.

***\*\*Please note that all mileages are approximate only and will vary according to hotel location and actual routes ridden.\*\****

Last update 3/3/19