



## **BIKING: Carmel to SLO via Ragged Point– 3 Day Itinerary** *(136 Total Miles / Daily Average = 45 miles / Daily Range = 26-61 miles)*

### **Day One – Carmel to Big Sur – 26 miles (elevation +2112 / -1917 ft)**

South of Carmel, you'll enter the fabled Big Sur coastline, home to some of the most spectacular coastal scenery anywhere in the world. Here Highway One is often carved out of cliffs and ridges high above the Pacific Ocean with waves crashing below on rocky sea stacks. After crossing photogenic Bixby Bridge and climbing to Hurricane Point, the ride finishes a short distance inland among the redwoods in the town of Big Sur.

### **Day Two – Big Sur to Ragged Point – 49 miles (elevation +5043 / -4941 ft)**

Get ready for a full day of the epic Big Sur coast! Right off the bat you'll tackle the biggest hill of the tour as you climb above the Big Sur River past colorful cafes and more redwoods before descending back toward the ocean. Rugged and remote coastline dominates the rest of the day, with numerous state parks offering short hikes to waterfalls and panoramic views of the Pacific. After cycling a final set of hills, you'll enjoy a well earned rest at the Ragged Point Inn, perched on a bluff high above ocean.

### **Day Three – Ragged Point to San Luis Obispo (SLO) – 61 miles (elevation +2228 / -2313 ft)**

After descending from Ragged Point the coastal route in northern SLO County features more forgiving terrain, but still encompasses expansive ocean views as you pass by historic Hearst Ranch and Hearst Castle. Just south of Piedras Blancas lighthouse, the largest elephant seal colony in North America is a must-see stop. Later in the morning you'll pass through the charming seaside village of Cambria, featuring numerous art galleries and restaurants, on the way to the beach and surfing town of Cayucos. Our route hugs the coast from Cayucos south to Morro Bay, which is a fishing village with a scenic harbor area. From Morro Bay to SLO you'll skirt the edge of wildlife rich Morro Bay National Estuary before cutting inland for some hilly but very scenic cycling. SLO (voted happiest town in North America!) features an historic mission and a vibrant walkable downtown area.

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

## Potential Layover Day Locations

### Big Sur

Big Sur is an amazing destination for just relaxing under a canopy of towering redwood trees or for enjoying some incredible hiking. [Andrew Molera State Park](#) has a variety of hikes featuring ocean views and river valleys. [Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park](#) has several hikes into the redwoods, along lush canyon bottoms and up to great viewpoints.

### San Luis Obispo

This diverse town offers plenty of galleries and restaurants in its [award winning downtown area](#). The [Edna Valley](#) stretches south of town and offers numerous winery tasting rooms and great cycling.

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