

## **Day Four – MONTEREY TO BIG SUR**

### **Route Notes (Monterey to Big Sur):**

Today's ride is a combination of developed, but beautiful shoreline riding along the edge of the Monterey Peninsula and epic riding along the rugged northern Big Sur coast.

From Monterey you'll be back on the bike path for a while, then along a really pretty oceanfront road before getting to 17 Mile Drive and then into Carmel. The bike path through the waterfront area in Monterey can be quite congested. Just take your time and enjoy the views. 17 Mile Drive is really pretty and you'll see lots of other cyclists and tourists. Keep following the markings on the road to stay on 17 Mile Drive. The route through Carmel is designed to keep you off Highway One as long as possible as it is heavily trafficked with little to no shoulder until you get to Rio Road. It's pretty easy to get lost in Carmel. Just use the street map provided if you get off the route.

After Carmel you'll be on Highway One all the way to Big Sur. Enjoy the scenery (and hills!). Little to no shoulders for much of the way. The first major climb on the Big Sur coast starts at Rocky Creek Bridge and goes to Hurricane Point with Bixby Bridge along the way. Although it's a longer climb, the grade is not steep. A stop at Bixby Bridge for the views is highly recommended.

As you enter the town Big Sur, there are several hotels, restaurants and stores spread out along the highway. Most of the accommodations are in the first two mile stretch between the Big Sur River Inn and the Big Sur Lodge at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Ventana Inn and Post Ranch Inn are at the top of a long climb past Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and Deetjens Big Sur Inn is located a few miles past Ventana/Post Ranch Inn.

### **Food/Supplies/Lunch (Monterey to Big Sur):**

If you decide to eat lunch in downtown Carmel, you'll need to go up the hill at Ocean. There is also the Rio Grill and some other options in the Crossroads shopping center across the road once you hit Highway One.

After Carmel, there are no real stores until you get to almost Big Sur, so be sure you have food and supplies you need once you leave Carmel. The last bike shop until Morro Bay (115 miles south) is Bay Bikes, located in The Barnyard shopping center to the left of the intersection of Rio Road and Hwy 1. The only place to eat lunch between the Carmel area and Big Sur on Highway One is at Rocky Point Restaurant. If you get an early start on the day, it's feasible to wait until Big Sur itself and have a later lunch.

### **Recommended Dinner (Big Sur):**

Big Sur Lodge has an onsite dining room as does the Big Sur River Inn. Fernwood Resort has more casual dining in a bar area. The Big Sur Roadhouse is across from Glenoaks. Both Ventana and Post Ranch have excellent on site dining. Nepenthe is a great restaurant as well, but tricky to get to on a self guided tour as there are no cabs and it's a few miles away from any of the hotels on Highway One, which is NOT safe to ride on in the dark.