



BIKING: Monterey to Pismo Beach – 3 Day Itinerary *(168 Total Miles / Daily Average = 56 miles / Daily Range = 45-71 miles)*

Day One – Monterey to Big Sur – 45 miles (elevation +2748 / -2530 ft)

Today's ride begins with a side trip out to scenic 17 Mile Drive to experience the storied golf courses of Pebble Beach. We'll continue through Carmel, enjoying its white sandy beach and beautiful mission. South of Carmel, we 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 Cambria – 71 miles (elevation +5832 / -6039 ft)

The rest of the epic Big Sur coast dominates the first 50 miles of the ride today. Right off the bat you'll tackle the biggest hill of the tour as you climb above the Big Sur River past colorful cafes before descending back toward the ocean. Short hikes to redwood canyons and waterfalls as well as panoramic views from scenic vistas line this stretch of the route. After the hills leading up to Ragged Point the terrain levels out as we ride through idyllic ranchland past an elephant seal colony and Hearst Castle before getting a well earned night's rest in the seaside village of Cambria.

Day Three – Cambria to Pismo Beach – 52 miles (elevation +1812 / -1798 ft)

In the morning our route sticks close to the coast and winds through the picturesque towns of Cayucos and Morro Bay before skirting scenic Morro Bay National Estuary, home to an incredible diversity of bird life. Cycling inland from Morro Bay, you'll pass through idyllic ranchland and the historic mission town of San Luis Obispo (voted happiest town in North America!) before heading back to the coast. A short detour along a creekside bike path to the small resort town of Avila Beach beckons before the final leg of the route to Pismo Beach, another classic beach town.

*****Please note that all mileages and elevation gain/loss data (in feet) 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.

Cambria

The oceanside village of Cambria has quite a few diverse offerings for a layover day. The town itself is filled with art galleries, other shopping options and excellent small restaurants. Scenic hiking trails surround the town and can also be found just north of town in [San Simeon State Park](#). Many visitors to Cambria enjoy a tour at the iconic [Hearst Castle](#), about 6 miles north of town. Just opposite the entrance to Hearst Castle in San Simeon Cove, a popular place to kayak with [Sea For Yourself Kayaks](#) or to just sit on the beach.

Pismo Beach

Pismo Beach is a great base from which to explore beaches as well as the nearby [Edna Valley wine country](#). Pismo Pier is a popular surfing spot and local shops rent wetsuits and boards. Located just 5 miles inland along Price Canyon, the award winning wines of the Edna Valley also beckon. This compact wine growing region is perfect for exploration by bicycle.

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