



## **BIKING: Ragged Point to Santa Barbara – 5 Day Itinerary** *(194 Total Miles / Daily Average = 39 miles / Daily Range = 30-52 miles)*

### **Day One – Ragged Point to Cayucos – 37 miles (elevation +1401 / -1721 ft)**

After descending from Ragged Point the coastal route 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 day 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. A stroll along the wide beach stretching south from the pier in Cayucos offers a delightful way to end the day.

### **Day Two – Cayucos to Pismo Beach – 37 miles (elevation +1280 / -1273 ft)**

In the morning our route sticks close to the coast as it 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.

### **Day Three – Pismo Beach to Santa Maria – 30 miles (elevation +1111 / -670 ft)**

Most of the route today veers inland through rich farmland. The mild climate and deep soils here mean a wide variety of crops will thrive. Watch for artichokes and strawberries! The terrain starts out with some rolling hills, but levels out as you pass through the sleepy town of Guadalupe before the short spin to Santa Maria.

### **Day Four – Santa Maria to Solvang – 38 miles (elevation +1931 / -1662 ft)**

From Santa Maria, you'll quickly find yourself in the idyllic vineyards of the Santa Ynez winery region. This is where the movie "Sideways" was filmed, often with actual staff from the winery tasting rooms. Tackling the hills at the south end of Foxen Canyon Road brings you to the tiny hamlet of Los Olivos and its numerous tasting rooms. From Los Olivos it's a short spin along Alamo Pintado Road (or a rollicking climb and descent on Ballard Canyon Road) to the Danish-themed town of Solvang in the heart of the Santa Ynez wine country.

### **Day Five – Solvang to Santa Barbara – 52 miles (elevation +2472 / -2965 ft)**

A pleasing spin and climb through isolated country behind Solvang past Nojoqui Falls Park starts the day before you gain US 101 and climb over Gaviota Pass to get back to the coast. The coastal approach to Santa Barbara on US 101 is actually quite pleasant for cycling on a freeway and features expansive ocean views. As you near Santa Barbara, you'll take the traditional Coast Bike Route through Hope Ranch and bike along the waterfront before ending the day among the palm trees and sandy beaches of Santa Barbara.

***\*\*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

### Cayucos

Cayucos is a small surfing oriented town with a very long beach area and a pier. There is some short rides one can do out of Cayucos, but its chief charm is just relaxing 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.

### Solvang

Solvang, located in the heart of the [Santa Ynez Valley](#), is the perfect base from which to explore this wine growing region. Santa Rosa Road, Happy Canyon, Figueroa Mountain Road, the Foxen Canyon Loop and Ballard Canyon all offer great views, fun cycling and numerous winery tasting rooms. The small towns of Los Olivos, Ballard and Santa Ynez (each with shops, tasting rooms and restaurants) are also fun to explore. It is possible to do two days of cycling in the Santa Ynez Valley based in one spot with very little repeat riding.

Last update 3/3/19