



BIKING: Ragged Point to Solvang – 4 Day Itinerary *(142 Total Miles / Daily Average = 36 miles / Daily Range = 22-43 miles)*

Day One – Ragged Point to Cambria – 22 miles (elevation +937 / -1202 ft)

After meeting in San Luis Obispo (SLO) in the morning, we'll shuttle you a little over one hour north to Ragged Point where you'll get geared up while ocean waves break far below. After descending from Ragged Point the coastal route in northern SLO County features relatively level terrain that 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. Those up for more mileage can explore idyllic, lightly trafficked inland valleys as out and back options toward the end of the ride. Home for the evening is the charming seaside village of Cambria, featuring numerous art galleries and restaurants.

Day Two – Cambria to San Luis Obispo (SLO) – 39 miles (elevation +1456 / -1273 ft)

South of Cambria you'll veer inland for short while before returning to the coast just north of Cayucos, a classic beach town with a pier, a huge sandy beach and surfers plying the waves just offshore. 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.

Day Three – SLO to Santa Maria – 43 miles (elevation +1101 / -1131 ft)

From SLO you'll head back toward the coast and the classic beach and surfing town of Pismo Beach. From Pismo Beach the route 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 from Pismo beach starts out with some rolling hills, but levels out as you pass through the sleepy town of Guadalupe before a 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.

*****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

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.

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.

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.

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