

SAMPLE ROUTE NOTES - SAN FRANCISCO TO HALF MOON BAY

Average Distance: 34 miles

Average Elevation Gain/Loss: +2289 / -2261 ft

Regular Route Notes:

There are a fair amount of short steep hills through SF along the route. The turn onto Lincoln Blvd at after the short climb on Crissy Field Avenue can be tricky. Just be sure to get on the surface street here. If you miss this you'll end up at the start of Golden Gate Bridge – just get back to Lincoln and all should be good. Just after the turn onto Point Lobos and before the Cliff House is a great stop. It's the Lands End National Park Service Visitor Center and Sutro Baths. Worth a stop if you like history.

After a longer stretch right next to the beach on the Great Highway, there is a longer climb through Daly City, part of it through a neighborhood. There is a steep downhill back to the water and then a stretch through combined business and residential areas largely paralleling Highway 1 until you are finally forced onto Hwy1 just after Moose Lodge.

Once you are on Highway 1 in Pacifica there is another climb up to the new tunnel that bypasses an old section of Hwy 1 called Devils Slide. The shoulder on the climb is narrow to non-existent, but there is no other way around for road cyclists. Use caution. At the start of the tunnel, you'll keep to the right for a really nice stretch of bike path that follows the old highway. You could also stay on the main road and go through the tunnel (which has no hills and is shorter), but the bike path around the tunnel is really nice. Past Devils Slide through Montara and into Half Moon Bay there is usually a better shoulder, but traffic can be relatively heavy.

NOTE: There is a bike path called Naomi Partridge Trail that parallels Hwy 1 in the Half Moon Bay area that is pleasant to ride, easy to follow, and gets you away from traffic. Note that this is a different bike path than the Maximum Bike Path option and is only described here. It starts on the right side of Hwy 1 just before the stoplight at Ruisseau Francais Avenue 2.6 miles after passing Capistrano Street and Pillar Point Harbor. It parallels Hwy 1 all the way through town with a short stretch on surface streets from the stoplight at Hwy 92 to Kelly Avenue. Probably best to cut back over to Hwy 1 at this point, especially if you are staying at Coastside Inn in Half Moon Bay.

Maximum Bike Path Notes:

There are a several optional bike path sections between San Francisco and Half Moon Bay. The first optional section is the bike path that parallels the Great Highway along the beach in San Francisco and merges back to the regular route at the intersection with Sloat Blvd. You can get back to the regular route on The Great Highway very easily at numerous points along this stretch.

The second optional bike path section is a really nice path that starts at the stoplight for Reina del Mar just after you get on Hwy 1 near Moose Lodge. This section avoids a busier stretch

of Hwy 1 near Pacifica, includes a short bit on surface streets through Rockaway Beach and ends in a parking lot between Hwy 1 and the beach in Pacifica.

The third optional bike path section is a longer one (about 4-5 miles) that starts in Pillar Point Harbor as you approach the Half Moon Bay area. It also avoids a busier section of Hwy 1 and is quite pleasant winding mostly through park land with some views of the ocean. Note that this is a different bike path than the Naomi Partridge bike path that sticks close to Hwy 1 and is described above.

Cell service:

Mostly good. There might be pockets of poor service around Devil's Slide.

Food/Supplies/Restaurants:

Most of the riding today is through developed areas with plenty of stores and restaurants along the way if you need food or supplies. If you are doing a mid day start from SF and just cycling to Half Moon Bay, consider eating lunch in SF before you cycle south out of town. If you are starting first thing in the morning from SF, it is possible to cycle to Half Moon Bay and have lunch there if desired.

If you are starting in the Crissy Field area in SF, Sports Basement (we often meet here to start self guided tours) is a great place to stock up on supplies and gear. There is a Valero Gas station with mini-mart on Skyline Drive after you get off the busier Skyline Blvd in Daily City. Lots of stores and restaurants along the route in the Pacifica area after this. No store or restaurants in the Devils Slide area, but lots of store/restaurant options once you finish the downhill into the Montara/Pillar Point/Half Moon Bay area. There is a good bike shop in Half Moon Bay called [Bike Works](#), just off Hwy 1 at Kelly Ave.

The Pillar Point Harbor area at Capistrano Street a little north of Half Moon Bay has several fun restaurants, with Mezza Luna at 459 Prospect Way (Italian) being the best of them. The Half Moon Bay Brewing Company at 390 Capistrano is also fun.

In Half Moon Bay itself, Pasta Moon is our favorite place. It's located downtown at 315 Main Street. You can get good deli sandwiches at the Garden Deli at San Benito House on Main Street as well. There many other choices in town, both out on Highway One (Tres Amigos has good Mexican food) and in town on Main Street.

If you are staying south of town in the golf course area, Navio is the restaurant at the Ritz Carlton and is quite good. Also in the golf course area, Half Moon Bay Joe's is a casual Italian place on Hwy One.