



BIKING: Santa Cruz to San Luis Obispo (SLO) – 5 Day Itinerary *(201 Total Miles / Daily Average = 40 miles / Daily Range = 22-49 miles)*

Day One – Santa Cruz to Monterey – 46 miles (elevation +1923 / -1934 ft)

From Santa Cruz to the Monterey Peninsula the coastal route weaves through farmland (watch for artichokes!) and along scenic dune areas with long stretches on bike paths. Along the way you may see sea lions and seals as you cross Elkhorn Slough at Moss Landing. The historic town of Monterey features Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row, made famous by writer John Steinbeck.

Day Two – 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 Three – Big Sur to Ragged Point – 49 miles (elevation +5043 / -4941 ft)

Get ready for a full day of the epic Big Sur coast! Right off the bat you'll tackle the biggest hill of the tour as you climb above the Big Sur River past colorful cafes and more redwoods before descending back toward the ocean. Rugged and remote coastline dominates the rest of the day, with numerous state parks offering short hikes to waterfalls and panoramic views of the Pacific. After cycling a final set of hills, you'll enjoy a well earned rest at the Ragged Point Inn, perched on a bluff high above ocean.

Day Four – 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 Five – 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.

*****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

Monterey

The Monterey Peninsula offers a host of activities for a layover day. The world class [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) and Cannery Row are very popular to explore. Monterey was the capital of California in the late 1700s and early 1800s and has an interesting downtown historic district. Golf enthusiasts might enjoy the famous [golf courses of Pebble Beach](#), just south of Monterey. In winter, [Pacific Grove](#) (also just south of Monterey) is the home for thousands of migrating monarch butterflies. Kayaking on Monterey Bay with [Monterey Bay Kayaks](#) is yet another option.

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.

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.

Last update 3/2/19