



## **BIKING: San Luis Obispo (SLO) to Santa Monica (LA) – 3 Day Itinerary**

*(220 Total Miles / Daily Average = 73 miles / Daily Range = 58-81 miles)*

### **Day One – SLO to Solvang – 81 miles (elevation +3351 / -3072 ft)**

You'll start your tour in the historic mission town of San Luis Obispo (voted happiest town in North America!) before heading toward the coast and the classic beach and surfing town of Pismo Beach. From Pismo Beach the route veers inland through rich farmland. The terrain 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. From Santa Maria, you'll quickly find yourself in the idyllic vineyards of the Santa Ynez winery region. 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 quick ride 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 Two – Solvang to Ventura – 81 miles (elevation +3792 / -4245 ft)**

A pleasing spin and climb through isolated country behind Solvang 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. From Santa Barbara to Ventura the route hugs the coast and features some more freeway riding and views of several classic surf spots.

### **Day Three – Ventura to Santa Monica – 58 miles (elevation +1529 / -1571 ft)**

Southern California ambience dominates the route today. In the morning, you'll ride through urban areas and farmland before reaching the scenic northern Malibu coast. As you get close to the actual town of Malibu, you'll see classic California beach homes built right over the ocean. The last few miles of riding are on a bike path winding across the golden sands of the Santa Monica Beach to Santa Monica pier.

***\*\*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

### 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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