



TOUR ITINERARY

RIDING
LEVEL

3

United States / California / Central Coast

California Coast Bike Tour

Monterey, Carmel, Big Sur, and Santa Barbara: Cycling the Iconic Central Coast

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Bike the entire length of California's Big Sur coastline and cover some of the most spectacular coastal roads in the world
- Savor fresh seafood, farm-to-table fare, and flaky pastries at the hippest restaurants, hidden bistros, and charming bakeries
- Experience Central Coast luxury at hotels and inns in ideal locations lining the way from dramatic Carmel-by-the-Sea to country-chic Los Olivos
- Taste wine where it's produced in the Santa Ynez Valley—a region that's coming to compete with California's well-known Napa and Sonoma wine country
- Challenge yourself with a century ride that covers 100 miles of Pacific coastline from Big Sur to Morro Bay



ARRIVAL + DEPARTURE

Arrival Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**
San Jose or Monterey, California
- 📍 **Pick-Up Location:**
Stanford Park Hotel
- 🕒 **Pick-Up Time:**
9:30 am

Departure Details

- ✈ **Airport City:**
Santa Barbara or Los Angeles, California
- 📍 **Drop-Off Location:**
Downtown Santa Barbara
- 🕒 **Drop-Off Time:**
11:00 am

NOTE: DuVine provides group transfers to and from the tour from the pick-up and drop-off locations stated on the itinerary. In the event your train, flight, or other travel falls outside the arrival or departure times or locations, you may be responsible for extra costs incurred in arranging a separate transfer.

Emergency Assistance

For urgent assistance on your way to tour or while on tour, please always contact your guides first. You may also contact the Boston office during business hours at +1 617 776 4441 or emergency@duvine.com.

Travelers Take Note

This itinerary is currently under review due to recent closures on Highway 1. Please [contact us](#) for updates.

Highway 1 is as popular for cyclists as it is for motorists. Be prepared for (and comfortable with) riding in some traffic along the route, and discuss your desired travel dates with a DuVine Travel Specialist to avoid more populous visiting periods.

For the hikes on this tour, we strongly recommend bringing hiking boots or trail shoes with good traction (not running shoes or sneakers). Moisture-wicking clothing or daypacks are also recommended, but not required.

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Tour By Day

DAY
1

From the Top!

Our adventure begins on the cusp of Northern California as you meet your guides in Palo Alto for a transfer to Monterey. And just like that, you're on California's Central Coast! We'll get to know each other over coffee at the historic Fisherman's Wharf, then get fitted to our bikes for an unforgettable first ride: the scenic coastal road plainly called 17 Mile Drive. Pedal by Cannery Row (a nod to Steinbeck's novel of the same name), past Spanish Bay, and alongside Pebble Beach, home to the legendary golf links. Pull into our favorite cycling-themed bistro for a laid-back lunch in Carmel: this artsy beach town gives you a taste of the Central Coast flavor, and it's a local hotspot for shopping and exploring. After lunch, finish up with a short spin to our luxury hotel in the heart of a charming coastal town. Settle in with a glass of champagne before our first dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Monterey, Carmel

Accomplished: 23 miles / 37 km, elevation gain: 1,099 feet / 335 meters

Accommodations: [Hotel Villa Mara](#)

DAY
2

Beautiful Big Sur

Rise and shine: we're heading out early so we can enjoy the coastal road during the cool and peaceful morning hours. Today it's Highway 1 all the way—and the postcard-worthy views that come along with it. From the fog-shrouded mountains above to the crashing surf below, every mile is a visual feast. We'll even pedal across Bixby Creek Bridge, one of the most recognizable landmarks on the Big Sur coast. Stop for a well-earned lunch in Big Sur, a place that derives its name from the Spanish "*el pais grande del sur*" or the "big land of the south." Since these coastlands lie south of Monterey, the onetime Spanish capital, this beautiful community became known as "Big South"—or Big Sur. This afternoon, get settled at the hotel, head down to the beach, or wind down with a hike into the backcountry. Tonight we'll have a beautiful sunset dinner—a quintessential Central Coast experience.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Notleys Landing, Bixby Creek Bridge, Big Sur

Accomplished: 26 miles / 42 km, elevation gain: 2,831 feet / 863 meters; optional afternoon hike

Accommodations: [Alila Ventana Big Sur](#)

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DAY
3

Down the Pacific Coast

Time for the biggest ride of the trip—a day of total coastal bliss. Start cycling towards McWay Falls and check out this breathtaking waterfall that empties directly on the beach. Then it's back on the bikes as we climb and descend through a changing landscape: first towering redwoods, then endless coastal panoramas. Take a moment to appreciate the view during a snack stop before we continue riding to Ragged Point. After lunch, transfer to Los Olivos, home to our fantastically whimsical hotel—or make it a full century and pedal all the way to Morro Bay, where Highway 1 finally veers away from the coast. The rest of the day is yours to explore Los Olivos' many tasting rooms.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Destinations: Gorda, Big Sur, San Simeon

Accomplished: 47 miles / 75 km, elevation gain: 4,800 feet / 1,223 meters

Longer Option: 100 miles / 162 km, elevation gain: 7,580 feet / 2,311 meters

Accommodations: [Fess Parker Hotel](#)

DAY
4

Santa Ynez: California's Other Wine Country

This morning we'll ride into Santa Barbara wine country along Foxen Canyon Road. A gentle climb leads past golden fields where cattle graze lazily, framed by views of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Descend past vineyards of Rhone varietals in Foxen Canyon and the Santa Maria Valley, where chic tasting rooms dot the landscape. Enjoy the most beautiful lunch of the week at our favorite winery, complete with a tasting and acres of vineyard views, then finish cycling back to the hotel or catch a ride in the van. There's time to relax by the pool before our final dinner: a taste of essential California cuisine.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Destinations: Foxen Canyon, Sisquoc, Santa Maria

Accomplished: 30 miles / 50 km, elevation gain: 1,929 feet / 587 meters

Longer Option: 60 miles / 100 km, elevation gain: 3,858 feet / 1,164 meters

Accommodations: [Fess Parker Hotel](#)

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DAY
5

The End of the Road

On our final morning, choose to take a spin through the vineyards or catch some extra sleep and a leisurely breakfast. Your guides will transfer you to Santa Barbara and see you off to the next leg of your California travels.

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Santa Barbara

Accomplished: Optional morning ride
