


travel  
itinerary

# CENTRAL COASTING ON THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

A 10-day outdoor adventure  
from **Ventura to Monterey**  
featuring stops at **Channel  
Islands National Park** and the  
towns and villages of  
**Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo**  
and **Monterey Counties**

visit  
**California**

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- Day 1: **LAX to Ventura**  
Day 2: **Channel Islands  
National Park & Ventura**  
Day 3: **Ventura to  
Santa Barbara**  
Day 4: **Santa Barbara**  
Day 5: **Santa Barbara to  
Santa Ynez Valley**  
Day 6: **Avila Beach**  
Day 7: **SLO Coast to Cambria**  
Day 8: **Big Sur**  
Day 9: **Carmel-by-the-Sea**  
Day 10: **Monterey**

# CENTRAL COAST

## Itinerary overview

Drive the Pacific Coast Highway on the Californian road trip of a lifetime. Soak up the surf culture and laid-back vibes of friendly seaside communities, from the authentic charms of Ventura and Cambria to the elegant sophistication of Santa Barbara and Carmel-by-the-

Sea. Experience pristine protected landscapes, uncrowded open roads and bucolic wine country. Bask in the rugged natural beauty of Big Sur and the Channel Islands. Hit the trails on foot, bike and horseback and splash in the Pacific on kayaks and catamarans.



## Day 1: LAX to Ventura

- Drive Highway 101 to **Ventura** (70 mi/112 km).
- Stroll along **Main Street**, browse the shops and tour the historic **Mission Basilica San Buenaventura**.
- Watch the sunset from **San Buena Ventura State Beach**.
- Head back downtown for dinner at **Rumfish Y Vino** or **Model Citizen** and a nightcap at **Bank of Italy Cocktail Trust** or **Strange Beast**.
- Overnight in **Ventura**  
(**Waypoint Ventura** offers an Airstream glamping experience).

## Day 2: Channel Islands National Park & Ventura

- Board your **Island Packers Cruises** ferry\* for a day trip to Santa Cruz Island at **Channel Islands National Park**.
- Join your group for a guided sea cave kayaking and snorkeling excursion with **Channel Islands Adventure Co.**\*
- If time allows before the return ferry passage, hike the **Cavern Point Loop**.
- Upon return to mainland, enjoy dinner at one of the many eateries in **Ventura Harbor Village**.
- Overnight in Ventura.

*\*must book ferry and kayak tour in advance to ensure availability*



### Day 3: Ventura to Santa Barbara

- Watch the sunrise over the city and sea and enjoy a hilly stroll around the **Ventura Botanical Gardens**.
- Drive to **Santa Barbara** (27 mi/43 km) via Highway 101.
- Stroll and browse **Downtown State Street** and take in the sweeping American Riviera views from the **Santa Barbara County Courthouse** clock tower.
- Bike along the **Cabrillo Bike Path** to Butterfly Beach in Montecito.
- Pop into an **urban wine tasting room** and check out the shops in **The Funk Zone**.
- Explore the **Santa Barbara Harbor** and board a sunset sail on the **Double Dolphin**.
- Dine at crowd-pleasing favorites **The Lark**, **Loquita** or **Flor de Maiz** near the waterfront.
- Overnight in **Santa Barbara**.

### Day 4: Santa Barbara

- Start the day with a hike up to **Inspiration Point** or a walk along the **Douglas Family Preserve**.
- Take a docent led tour of **Ganna Walska's Lotusland**\* in Montecito or self-guide a tour through **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**.
- Head up the coast to check into **El Capitan Canyon**.
- Enjoy the nature glamping property's amenities, including the market restaurant and s'mores kits.
- Overnight at **El Capitan Canyon** on Santa Barbara's northern coast.

*\*reservations required and recommended 1-2 months in advance at Lotusland*



## Day 5: Santa Barbara to Santa Ynez Valley

- Take a morning walk to **El Capitan State Beach**.
- Check out and hit the road for Buellton in the **Santa Ynez Valley** (25 mi/40 km) via Highway 101.
- Soar above the valley ziplining with **Highline Adventures**—home to California’s biggest and fastest ziplines.
- Stop for a hyper-local lunch at **Hitching Post Wines** or **Industrial Eats**.
- Take a late afternoon sunset horseback ride with **Fess Parker Ranch Horseback Adventures** or **Vino Vaqueros**.
- Have dinner at **Bar Le Cote** or **Mattei’s Tavern** in Los Olivos.
- Overnight in the **Santa Ynez Valley**.

## Day 6: Avila Beach

- Depart for **San Luis Obispo County** (60 mi/96 km) via Highway 101, stopping at popular **Bob’s Well Bread Bakery** in Los Alamos for breakfast
- Check into **Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort** in Avila Beach.
- **Rent bikes** and hop on the **Bob Jones Trail** to the charming waterfront town of Avila.
- Return to the resort for **spa treatments**, including a complimentary 30-minute a soak in the famous mineral hot tubs.
- Have dinner on property or head to **Mersea’s** at Port San Luis for salt-of-the-sea ambience.
- Overnight at **Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort** on San Luis Obispo County’s southern coast.



## ● Day 7: SLO Coast to Cambria

- Take a sunrise hike on the **Sycamore Crest Trail** for epic coastal views.
- Depart for **Montana de Oro State Park** in Baywood-Los Osos (20 mi/32 km) and check out the tidepools and trails.
- Fuel up on sandwiches at **High Street Deli** in Baywood Park.
- Continue up the coast to **Morro Bay** (10 mi/16 km) and rent kayaks from **Morro Bay Paddle Sports** for a paddle around Morro Bay's working harbor and estuary.
- Drive north to **Cambria** (21 mi/34 km), making it in time to join the queue for dinner with a view at legendary **The Sea Chest Oyster Bar**.
- Overnight in **Cambria**.

## ● Day 8: Big Sur

- If Highway 1 is fully open, head north on the PCH to **Big Sur** (69 mi/111 km). Alternative route would require going north on Highway 101 to Monterey and going south on PCH, 176 mi/283 km.
- Stop for lunch with a magical view at Big Sur's iconic **Nepenthe**.
- Drop by the **Henry Miller Memorial Library** to browse the bookshop and learn about the legendary Big Sur resident writer.
- Hike one of the trails in **Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park**.
- Overnight in **Big Sur**.



## Day 9: Carmel-by-the-Sea

- Have breakfast at **Big Sur Bakery**.
- Walk through the woods to the beach at **Andrew Molera State Park**.
- Drive north to **Carmel-by-the-Sea** (26 mi/42 km).
- Stroll around the village, stopping at wine tasting rooms and independent shops.
- Have dinner at **Aubergine**, **La Bicyclette** or **Chez Noir**.
- Overnight in **Carmel-by-the-Sea**.

## Day 10: Monterey

- Wake up with a walk along the **Carmel Scenic Road** from Carmel Beach to Carmel River State Beach.
- Head to **Monterey** (6 mi/10 km) to spend the day exploring **Monterey Bay Aquarium** and walking around **Cannery Row** and the historic old town district.
- Have dinner at a tried-and-true Monterey institution such as **The Sardine Factory** or **Stokes Adobe**.
- Overnight in **Carmel-by-the-Sea** or **Monterey**.