



Pacific Coast Highway - San Francisco to Los Angeles USA



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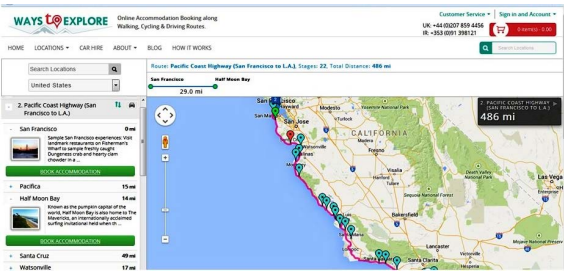
Pacific Coast Highway: San Francisco to Los Angeles – USA

Hit the open road and feel the salt spray from the crashing Pacific waves; drink in the breathtaking land and seascapes; and bask in the California sun along 495 miles of the stunning Pacific Coast Highway!

Travel south on America's most scenic drive, hugging cliffs and curvy contours on Highway 1 along the 495 miles between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Drive at a leisurely pace over several days to absorb compelling Instagram-worthy dramatic ocean views, taking time for kite-flying, kayaking, roadside farmers' stalls with produce fresh from the fields and compelling vistas where mountains meet the sea.

Do not be surprised, however, if Northern California's Pacific water is much better appreciated in a wetsuit than a bikini. Notably, fog can happen...it's one reason why wine grapes and coastal redwoods do so well in this climate. As you travel south, expect any morning fog to burn off early with temperatures warming up nicely, especially a few miles inland.

Completed in 1937, the "All-American Road" ushered in the first State Scenic Highway in the USA, attracting writers, artists, folk music festivals as well as billionaires and Hollywood film location scouts. They don't build roads like the beloved Pacific Coast Highway anymore; it's about knowing it is not the fastest way to go from A to B, but rather about taking the time to stop and enjoy stunningly beautiful California landscapes.



You may also like:

[Wild Atlantic Way](#) | [Route 66](#) | [South West Coast Path](#)



Book Your Pacific Coast Highway Accommodation Here



Highlights

Highlights of a Pacific Coast Highway journey, referred to as Highway 1 in Northern California and the PCH in Southern California include: a start by crossing the **Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco**; **Monterey Bay** and the 17-Mile Drive; the spectacular natural beauty of **Big Sur**; the stately **Hearst Castle** in San Simeon; the offshore **Channel Islands National Park** and the approach to **Los Angeles, California**.

– Stages



1. San Francisco

Sample San Francisco experiences: Visit landmark restaurants on Fisherman’s Wharf and savour freshly caught Dungeness crab and hearty clam chowder in a sourdough bread bowl. Ride a vintage trolley or hang off

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2. Pacifica

Fifteen miles south of the city, the scenery has already changed, where this stretch of road hugs the rocky bluffs that drop precipitously to the sea. Dramatic headlands covered in wildflowers are dotted with beachfront inns and

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3. Half Moon Bay

Known as the pumpkin capital of the world, Half Moon Bay is also home to The Mavericks, an internationally acclaimed surfing invitational held when the waves whip up to 50-feet in late winter. A gentler experience means

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4. Santa Cruz

Upon approaching Santa Cruz, temperatures are likely to be noticeably warmer. Exit Highway 1 at Swift Street for Natural Bridges State Beach along the bluffs to Monarch Grove, where fragrant eucalyptus trees provide a winter

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5. Watsonville

Watsonville is best known for birds and berries. The bird-lover’s paradise has 200 species include shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and song birds as well as migrating birds arriving from as far away as South America to make

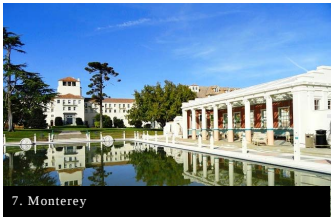
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6. Marina

Descend a hill from the parking lot to a broad stretch of beach. Bring a kite and a jacket for a windy, yet beautiful, walk along the soft sand at Marina State Park. Take in views of Monterey Bay and Pacific Grove. Surfers on the

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7. Monterey

Perched on the edge of one of the largest underwater canyons on earth, Monterey Bay is all about the intersection of land, sea and sky. Old Fisherman’s Wharf and Cannery Row are the two in-town highlights. Stroll

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8. Carmel-by-the-Sea

Widely considered one of California’s most attractive towns, accolades for Carmel-by-the-Sea keep pouring in. The charming European-style village is packed with stylish boutiques, cozy bistros, fine dining establishments and 100 art galleries along tree-lined streets dotted with idyllic-looking cottages. Ocean Avenue, the downtown corridor, ends at the fine white sands of Carmel Beach, an achingly pretty stretch of beachfront. Known for its outstanding natural scenic beauty, the 17-Mile Drive offers views across Monterey Bay, Pebble Beach and Del Monte Forest, home to the peninsula’s indigenous Monterey cypress. One special tree, The Lone Cypress, has withstood the elements atop its granite outcrop for 250-plus years. With its stunning bay backdrop, it’s America’s



9. Big Sur

Beginning with the stunning seascape of Point Lobos, views are so spectacular that some say Big Sur is a state of mind. It’s actually a 90-mile rural stretch covering the most breathtaking part of the Pacific Coast Highway.

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The biggest attraction on California’s Central Coast is about movie star glamour of a bygone era. Hearst Castle, the extensive Spanish Colonial Revival hilltop mansion built by publishing scion, William Randolph Hearst, was

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The unusual-looking landmark rock offshore at Morro Bay is an ancient volcanic plug standing 581 feet, home to peregrine falcons, egrets, comarants and blue herons. Connected to the mainland by a causeway, a family beach

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Just south of the county border, arrive in Santa Barbara County hungry, for Santa Maria has been called “West’s Best Barbecue Town” by food magazine editors and “California’s Sweet Spot” by its fans. In addition to cattle

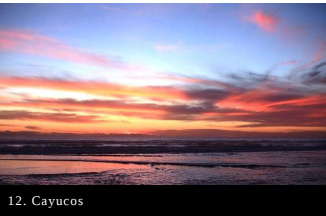
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If balmy ocean breezes, palm trees, boating, hiking, biking, golf and surfing aren’t enough, laid-back Ventura can add shopping, live music, nightlife, breweries, wineries, and

most photographed tree, also fulfilling a role as logo for Pebble Beach, one of the nation’s top championship golf courses. Allow several hours to pace yourself for stops at a few of the 21 turnouts along the 17-Mile Drive.

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A pleasant stop along Highway 1, Cayucos-by-the-Sea is a small beach community with a free public fishing pier to delight anglers and sightseers alike. Dating back to 1872, the historic pier is undergoing a partial rebuild to sustain

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A turn-of-the-century Central Coast village highlights the feel of western frontier Americana of the late 19th to early 20th century. In the heart of town, free concerts take place at the Rotary Bandstand in Heritage Square Park. Take a

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The small coastal town of Carpinteria features daytime room temperature comfort all year round. This is home to the famous Santa Barbara Polo Club as well as the Avocado Festival which attracts 80,000 visitors to

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Pines by the Sea is Cambria’s romantic description for the destination precisely midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The quaint East and West Villages of specialty shops, art galleries, wine tasting rooms, cozy

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There’s always the chance sighting the distinctive V-shaped blow of 50-foot California gray whales migrating offshore from the 1890 Port San Luis Lighthouse. Inside, period-furnished interiors catch your attention to

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One look at the Mediterranean-inspired architecture and ocean views from Santa Barbara explains the nickname of “American Riviera.” Mission Santa Barbara, known as the “Queen of the Missions,” was established in 1786 as the

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Winter blues can get to anyone, but not to the residents of Santa Monica. People in this city know how to have a good time on both land and ocean. Whether you just want

good restaurants to their list. Some suggest this is one of

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21. Los Angeles

Angelenos call the Pacific Coast Highway "PCH" for short. First, focus on the 20 miles from Malibu to Santa Monica; it's the quintessential LA drive seen on television commercials with a shiny convertible sports car driver

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to relax and take in the sun or revel in summer sports

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Walking Routes

- England Walks
- Wales Walks
- Scotland Walks
- South West Coast Path
- Hadrian's Wall Path
- South Downs Way
- Cotswold Way

Driving Routes

- Ireland Driving
- Route 66
- Wild Atlantic Way
- Wild Atlantic Way Golf

Cycling Routes

- Ireland Cycling
- England Cycling
- Scotland Cycling
- Wild Atlantic Way
- Great Glen Way
- Coast & Castles
- Hadrian's Cycleway

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