



California Whale Trail Sites



Open to roam



California Highway 1 Discovery Route of San Luis Obispo County

Uncrowded beaches, scenic landscapes and regional wines form the perfect backdrop for the ultimate rural road trip.

Customize Your Vacation

Where to find local advice? Visit Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com to create specialized itineraries for your interests: great dining, romance, history, wine tasting, farm touring, and outdoor adventures. You'll find a complete list of hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts and vacation rentals as well as a calendar of events.

During your visit, become a Stewardship Traveler, California's award winning "Commitment to Community" Program to Stay, Play, Connect and Care along Highway 1 Discovery Route. Look for meaningful **Stewardship Travel** activities by locating this icon:



Salmon Creek Falls
Big Sur Coast National Scenic Byway

Ragged Point
Ragged Point Cliffside Trail

Boucher Trail
Elephant Seal Rookery

Piedras Blancas Light Station

Hearst Castle

Sebastian's General Store
Coastal Discovery Center
San Simeon Pier & W.R.H. Memorial State Beach

San Simeon

Hearst Ranch Zebras

Covell CA Clydesdale Ranch

Nitt Witt Ridge

Leffingwell Landing
Moonstone Beach Drive

Cambria's East & West Villages

Fiscalini Ranch Preserve

Cambria

Harmony

Harmony Headlands State Park

Estero Bluffs State Park

Cayucos Tide Pools

Cayucos State Beach and Pier

Cayucos History Museum & Visitor Center

Cayucos

Morro Strand State Beach

Morro Rock

Morro Bay

Morro Bay National Estuary

Los Osos El Moro Elfin Forest

Sea Pines Golf Resort

Morro Dunes Natural Preserve

Montaña De Oro State Park

Los Osos/
Baywood Park

Avila Beach

Avila Pier, Port San Luis and Historic Lighthouse

Pecho Coast Trail

Central Coast Aquarium

Pismo Beach

Monarch Butterfly Grove

Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center

Oceano Dunes SVRA

Oceano Train Depot

Cypress Ridge Golf Course

Black Lake Golf Resort

Dana Adobe

Monarch Dunes Golf Club

Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area

Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes

Getting to the Highway 1 Discovery Route

From:

San Francisco	231 miles
San Jose	185 miles
Monterey	141 miles
Yosemite	230 miles
Santa Barbara	116 miles
Los Angeles	189 miles
San Diego	312 miles
Las Vegas	422 miles



	HWY1 Discovery Route		Beach Access
	Wildlife Viewing		Historic/Museums
	Hiking		Golf
	Biking		Stewardship Travel
	Wine & Beer Tasting		

101 miles of adventure

VISIT

Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com

Find over 500 lodging properties and specials:
Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com/stay

Visit Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com

Discover uncrowded beaches, road trips, bicycle routes, wildlife viewing, hiking trails, wine regions & lodging

The best of Highway 1 is about to unfold

California Highway 1 Discovery Route

All roads are open to roam along the

FREE ROAD MAP COASTAL SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY



California Highway 1 Discovery Route

Annual Events

For detailed information go to: Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com

Location Key

North

(SS) San Simeon

(CM) Cambria

(PR) Paso Robles

(CY) Cayucos

(MB) Morro Bay

(LO) Los Osos & Baywood Park

[SLOC] San Luis Obispo County

South

(SL) San Luis Obispo

(EV) Edna Valley

(AB) Avila Beach & Valley

(PB) Pismo Beach

(AG) Arroyo Grande Valley

(ON) Oceano & Nipomo

January

Polar Bear Ocean Dip (CY)

Art & Wine Festival Cambria (CM)

Model Railroad Train Show (ON)

Winter Bird Festival (MB)

Elephant Seal Exploratory Tours (SS)

Cayucos Food & Wine Festival (CY)

February

Coastal Discovery & Stewardship (SLOC)

California Western Monarch Day (PB)

Western Dance Jamboree (CM)

BlendFest on the Coast (SS)

PCWT Passport Weekend (SS, CM, CY)

Huell Howser Memorial Nature Walk (ON)

Avila Bird Sanctuary & Wildlife Day (AB)

March

International Film Festival (SLOC)

Sea Glass Festival (CY)

Vintage Paso: Zinfandel & Other Wild Wines (PR)

April

Cambria Fish Fry (CM)

Easter Parade (CY)

Orchid Show and Sale (AG)

Sculptors Symposium (CM)

SLO Marathon (SL)

Cambria Chili Cook-off & Car Show (CM)

Central Coast Aquarium's Beneath the Surface Dive & Beach Cleanup (AB)

May

Avila Beach Tequila Festival (AB)

Strawberry Festival (AG)

Avila Beach Blues Festival (AB)

Cambria Wildflower Show (CM)

May Madness (CY)

Paso Robles Wine Festival (PR)

Cayucos Antique Faire (CY)

Ollaliberry Festival (CM)

International Chardonnay Symposium (AB, PB, EV)

10 destinations and 1 fantastic vacation

Ragged Point



Gateway to Big Sur

Ragged Point, with its 'Million Dollar View' is a landmark stop for travelers heading north to Big Sur or south to Hearst Castle along California's iconic Highway 1 Discovery Route. Towering 400 feet above the Pacific Ocean, the view from the point reveals miles of deep blue ocean, waves crashing on remote beaches, and seasonal whale watching.

Must-See Spots: Ragged Point Cliffside Trail, Salmon Creek Falls

San Simeon



The Majestic Coast

Your experience begins at the edge of NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and is sandwiched between Highway 1, a National Scenic Byway, and the Pacific Whale Trail, the gray whale migration route from the feeding grounds of Alaska to the breeding grounds of Baja California. World Famous Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument sits atop "The Enchanted Hill" with a magnificent 115-room main house, guesthouses, pools, 8 acres of cultivated gardens and a world class art collection.

Cambria



Pines Meet the Sea

Just 6 miles south of Hearst Castle, Cambria is where the pines meet the sea. Antique and art shops, boutique restaurants and a weekly farmers market offer plenty to do, as well as the town's rich history, beautiful vistas and miles of beach-front boardwalks. Cambria invites you to lace up your hiking boots, clip into your road bike, cozy up by a fire, enjoy walks along the beach, engage in a Stewardship Travel Activity or simply eat, drink and repeat.

Cayucos



Historic Beach Town

Explore this iconic seaside town where the old west meets the Pacific Ocean. Head to the shore to watch surfers, kayak, explore tide pools, fish off the 950-foot historic pier, or view sea life just off shore. Stretch your legs by promenading down the small-town streets discovering historic buildings with local antique stores, sea-side restaurants and mom and pop shops that have been around for decades.

Must-See Spots: Cayucos Pier, Tide Pools, Estero Bluffs, Historic Cass House, History Museum and Visitor Center

Los Osos & Baywood Park



Off The Beaten Path

Nestled around the south shore of Morro Bay, nature lovers are drawn to Los Osos and Baywood Park. These little-known gems are surrounded by gorgeous parks, bay and estuary. Morro Bay National Estuary, near the Morro Dunes Natural Preserve, is one of the best-preserved estuaries in central and southern CA, and home to more than 250 species of birds and an historic oyster farm. Montaña de Oro State Park offers more than 50 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails with spectacular ocean, mountain and valley vistas.

Must-See Spots: Montaña de Oro State Park, Morro Bay National Estuary, El Moro Elfin Forest, The Back Bay Marina, Udderly Osos CowBear

Avila Beach & Valley



Pick Your Perfect Paradise

What's your idea of paradise? Is it a spa retreat that combines natural, mineral hot springs? Are you searching for a beach getaway in a warm, sunny place? Perhaps you yearn to explore the Central Coast's finest vintners on a wine tasting adventure? Or is it discovering the source of farm-to-table in an amazing agritourism experience? There is also biking, hiking, kayaking and oceanfront golf. Whatever paradise means to you, it's easy to take your pick in Avila Beach.

Must-See Spots: : Port San Luis Harbor and historic Lighthouse, Pecho Coast Trail, Bob Jones Trail, Avila Valley Barn, Central Coast Aquarium

Oceano & Nipomo



Explore Our Historic Roots

Oceano is an authentic California beach town at the edge of the largest dunes complex in the state. The Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area is the only place in California where visitors may drive on the beach and enjoy the area's diverse recreation opportunities, from ATV surf fishing. The historic Oceano Train Depot served as a classic Type 22 train depot until 1973, and is now a museum filled with railroad artifacts. Nipomo is home to three world-class golf courses, and the historic Dana Adobe home and gardens. Nipomo's flower-filled greenhouses, orchards laden with citrus and avocados, and fields of strawberries reflect the community's agricultural roots.

Must-See Spots: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, Oceano Train Depot, Oso Flaco Natural Area, Monarch Butterfly Grove, Dana Adobe, CowParade Moonarch Dude

Edna Valley



SLO Wine Country

Cool ocean breezes and rich soil create ideal conditions for growing world-class grapes. Edna Valley — an American Viticultural Area (AVA) — covers a dozen miles from Arroyo Grande Valley to San Luis Obispo through Tuscan-style countryside. Sample award-winning wines in more than 27 tasting rooms or attend wine tasting events such as the Chardonnay Symposium and Harvest on the Coast. Enjoy a visit to the Old Edna Townsite. Founded in the 1840s, Old Edna was once a bustling center for farming and ranching families and today is host to a wine tasting room and gourmet deli nestled within the historic buildings.

Must-See Spots: Old Edna Townsite, SLO Wine Country wineries

Arroyo Grande Valley



Wine and Water Sports

The valley is the perfect climate for long bike rides and wine tasting among rolling hills. Just a short distance away is the village of Arroyo Grande full of shopping, great places to eat, and CA's only swinging bridge. The Lopez Lake Recreation Area offers a water playground with 22 miles of shoreline ideal for boating, fishing, sailing, hiking and mountain biking. Families can enjoy the Mustang Waterpark and Vista Lago Zipline Adventure Park.

Must-See Spots: : Lopez Lake Recreational Area, Historic Huasna Townsite Drive, Swinging Bridge, SLO Wine Country wineries



Stewardship Travel

Wildlife Viewing and Stewardship Tips

Great wildlife viewing encounters involve good timing, observation skills, and a little luck! California's Highway 1 Discovery Route offers some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities anywhere. Use these tips to improve your chances for a memorable wildlife experience!



Be outside during dawn, dusk, and incoming tides.

Birds, fish, and mammals are active during these times. Look for churning water surfaces, diving birds, shiny dolphin backs, seals and otters in bays and on open water. Listen for songbirds singing in bushes and trees, especially during spring and early summer.

Look and listen for signs of wildlife.

Look for animal tracks and droppings (called scat). Large birds like ospreys, hawks, vultures, and cormorants leave noticeable white droppings (whitewash) on bushes, trees, sea cliffs and rocks. When you see this, look up to find where birds roost or nest.

Low tide exposes fascinating and fragile life on the rocks.

Venture carefully on rocks for a close-up peek into the exciting tidal world of animals feeding, interacting or waiting for the incoming tide.

Look for whales when seas are calm.

Look for whale spouts or blows, tail flukes, and dorsal fins. Big splashes may indicate a whale has just breached. Look for The Whale Trail viewing sites along the Highway 1 Discovery Route at: TheWhaleTrail.org.

Stay at a distance, including drones.

If birds and animals get nervous, they show it by looking at you, raising their heads and stopping what they were doing. Any change of an animal's natural behavior is a disturbance.

Stay away from animals that appear sick or abandoned.

If you find an injured bird or land animal, you can help by calling Pacific Wildlife Care; 805-543-9453. If you suspect a marine animal is injured or in danger, call the Marine Mammal Center; 415-289-7325.

SLO County is known for its abundant wildlife seasons

Significant natural occurrences can be observed annually. Plan your next trip around your favorite species or group of animals.

ELEPHANT SEALS:

December, January, February and May

BIRDS:

December, January and February

GRAY WHALES:

March, April and May

SEASON OF OCEAN ABUNDANCE:

August, September and October

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES:

November, December, January and February

SEA OTTERS:

Look for them ALL year

Explore, Play, Connect & Care

Enjoy 50+ Stewardship Traveler Activities

Gain a deeper connection to the people, land, wildlife, and heritage.

Be a Citizen Scientist.

At the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay learn about citizen science – collect, look under a microscope, and help test water quality with the whole family.

Docent Hikes & Volunteer.

In the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve enjoy ocean bluff hikes, meet expert locals, and contribute to sustaining the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve in Cambria.

Free Clean Up Kits Protect Wildlife.

Lend a hand and help protect wildlife from harmful plastic with free beach clean-up kits and tote bags in Avila Beach, Cambria, Cayucos and San Simeon Visitor Centers.

Volunteer for Fun Trail Building.

Join locals in Montaña de Oro State Park and along the Highway 1 Discovery Route to help expand, restore, and maintain trails – a couple hours goes a long way!

Preserve & Explore History.

Walk back in time at the Rancho Nipomo Dana Adobe restored park and museum from 1830, a California State Historic Landmark.

Enjoy many more activities and ways to connect:

Watch sharks feed at Central Coast Aquarium

Enjoy a historic tour of the Oceano Train Depot

See the birth of a baby elephant seal

Paddle your way on a wildlife kayak tour

Walk and learn on a self-guided history tour

Visit

Highway1DiscoveryRoute.com/stewardship-travel