

4-Day Itinerary for

# Highway 1 Road Trip

California's legendary Highway 1 is the perfect place to rev up the engines and cruise the Central Coast, boasting some of the most famous views and pit stops in California, so grab your bags and go! Take your trip through Santa Cruz along Highway 1.

**GETTING HERE:** Arrive at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and drive approximately 70 miles/113 km south to Santa Cruz County (recommended: drive via Scenic Highway 1 – Pacific Coast Highway).

## Day One

Adventure along Highway 1 begins with a stop at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center at Long Marine Lab. The Marine Lab overlooks the bay and features

aquariums and marine exhibits illustrating the work of resident scientists. Outside the lab rests Ms. Blue, one of the world's largest blue

whale skeletons and the remains of the La Feliz shipwreck, which crashed ashore more than 85 years ago. A stone's throw away, Natural Bridges State Beach is an ideal place for tide pool exploration. The perfect end to the day is on Swift Street, directly off Highway 1, home to Surf City Vintners. Always brimming with something new to see or taste, this lively spot is home to more than a dozen wine tasting rooms.

### OVERNIGHT IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

## Day Two

Situated between Natural Bridges State Beach and the Santa Cruz Wharf, West Cliff Drive, a two and a half mile scenic path overlooks the bay. Along the route, you'll find the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum housed inside the Mark Abbott lighthouse. Nearby, fearless surfers ride the waves at Santa Cruz's legendary surf spot, Steamer Lane. Adjacent to "The



Lane", novice surfers test their mettle at Cowell Beach. Down from the point, the Santa Cruz Wharf stretches out a half-mile into the waters of the Monterey Bay. Lining the wharf are family-owned fish markets and seafood restaurants, perfect for lunch. Walk to the famous Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk for a

*continued on back*

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*continued from front*

ride on the Giant Dipper, the park's centerpiece, a vintage wooden roller coaster that has thrilled visitors for over 85 years, or take a spin aboard one of seventy-three hand carved horses on the historic Loeffler Carousel, built in 1911.  
**OVERNIGHT IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

## Day Three

Traveling south on Highway 1 you'll find Capitola, California's oldest seaside resort town. Founded over 135 years ago, Capitola still radiates the charisma of a vintage beachside town, where galleries and boutiques decorate the quaint streets of Capitola Village. Check out



Gayle's Bakery and Rosticceria for a tasty brunch, then stop by the Capitola Historical Museum and pick up a map for a self-guided walking tour. On Wednesday evenings during summer, free twilight concerts are hosted at Esplanade Park's outdoor bandstand. Next, the 164-year-old town of Soquel lies just inland from Capitola where antique shops line the streets of Soquel Village. The hills up above the town are draped with vineyards, and a starting point for wine tasting is Bargetto Winery, located near the heart of town. Scenic two-lane roads wind up through the mountains to more wineries north of town. **OVERNIGHT IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY.**

## Day Four

Head to Aptos, home of The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, with over 30 miles of trails made for hiking, jogging and biking. Nearby, on the beach side of Highway 1, pet-friendly Seacliff State Beach is the perfect spot for walkers, runners or dog lovers. Continuing on Highway 1 south, stop at a roadside fruit and veggie stand for



local produce in Watsonville. On Fridays, at the farmers market, you'll find delicious local food, flowers and fun, all centrally located near the Watsonville Plaza. Finish the day with a sunset walk at nearby Sunset or Manresa State beaches. In addition to magnificent sunset views, these beaches offer abundant fishing and recreation options. **DEPART SANTA CRUZ COUNTY.**

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