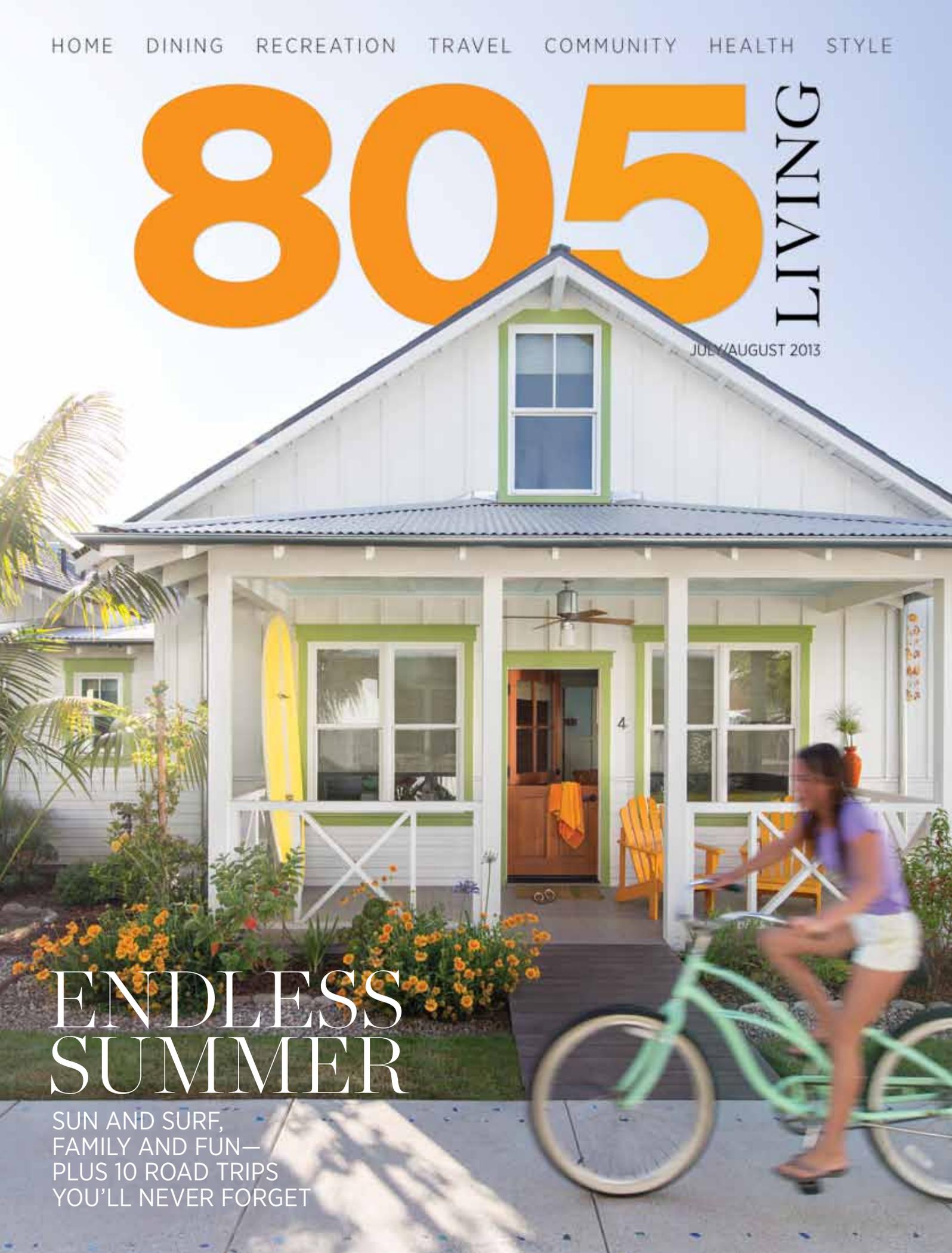


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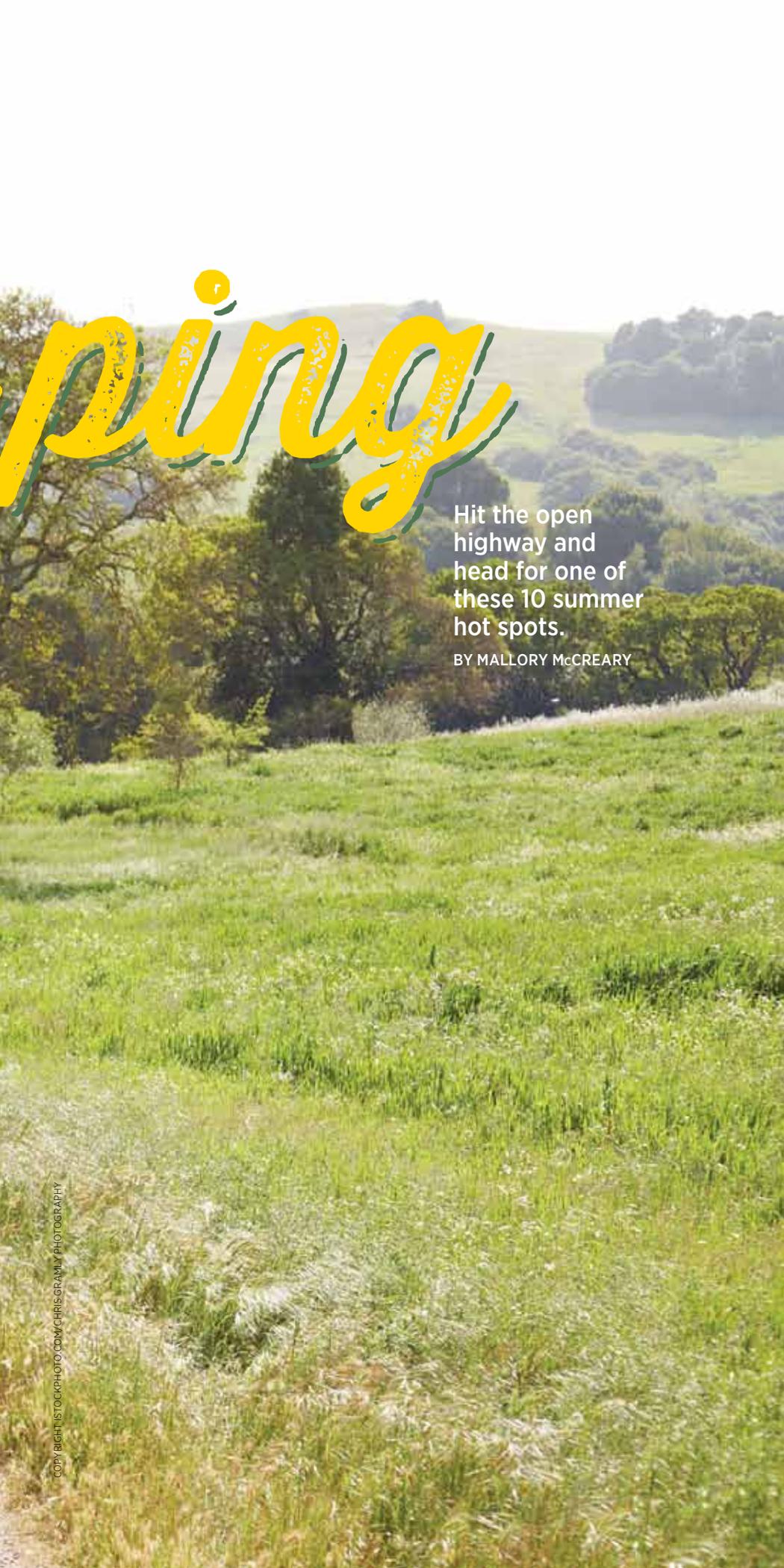


ENDLESS SUMMER

SUN AND SURF,
FAMILY AND FUN—
PLUS 10 ROAD TRIPS
YOU'LL NEVER FORGET

Road Trip





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Hit the open highway and head for one of these 10 summer hot spots.

BY MALLORY McCREARY

There's no better place for a road trip than the great state of California with its majestic peaks, ancient forests, crystal-clear lakes, and stunning beaches. Visit one—or more—of these 10 destinations that are all about exploring the different, the exciting, the historic, or the awe-inspiring beauty of the places we like to call home.



1



GARY MOSS

Carpinteria

carpinteria.com

A small-town feel and the “World’s Safest Beaches.”

Stay: The Cottages (\$200; carpcottages.com) are seven new cozy beach cottages with retro flair located two blocks from Main Street and steps away from the beach. Each one-bedroom includes a full kitchen and pullout sofa (cottages can sleep four total), and comes with beach cruisers, boogie boards, beach chairs, and towels.

To Do: Observe a polo game every Sunday at the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club (\$10; sbpolo.com); watch surfers at world-famous Rincon Beach; visit the seals at the Harbor Seal Preserve; shop along Linden Avenue and Santa Claus Lane for unique home and antique finds.

ABOVE LEFT AND ABOVE RIGHT: The Cottages in Carpinteria have vintage-California style, perfect for a relaxing beach escape.



COURTESY: GETTY IMAGES/OTO.COM/STEWART IMAGERY

2 | Catalina

catalinachamber.com

A true island getaway that's close to home.

Why Go: The city of Avalon is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, with loads of special promotions on hotels and activities through the end of the year. Visit Catalina Express (catalinaexpressplanner.com) for information.

To Do: Rent kayaks or snorkeling gear from Wet Spot Rentals (catalinakayaks.com); book a land tour, undersea expedition, or zip line eco tour from Santa Catalina Island Company (visitcatalinaisland.com).

Stay: Rent condos through Catalina Island Vacation Rentals (catalinavacations.com) or stay in downtown Avalon at the Hotel Villa Portofino (from \$225; hotelvillaportofino.com).

Cool Fact: Nearly 90 percent of the land is wild and protected.

Getting There: Take a ferry operated by Catalina Express (from \$36; catalinaexpress.com) from Long Beach, San Pedro, and Dana Point.

3 | Mammoth Lakes

visitmammoth.com

The popular ski town shines in summer, too.

To Do: Sample craft beers from more than 60 breweries and listen to live music from August 1 to 4 at the 18th Annual Mammoth Festival of Beers and Blues-apalooza (from \$35; mammothbluesbrewsfest.com).

Stay: After a multimillion-dollar renovation the Sierra Nevada Resort (from \$179; thesierranevadaresort.com) reopened this year and now offers three-bedroom chalets and fireplace suites. Summer lodging specials include popular activities like fishing, biking, and boating.

Hot Spot: Mimi's Cookie Bar (mimiscookiebar.com) makes delicious organic cookies in unusual flavors like butterscotch-coconut-blueberry, apple pie, and peanut butter with pretzels and chocolate chips.

Getting There: Skip the drive and hop a direct daily flight from LAX on Alaska Airlines (one-way flights from \$77; alaskaair.com).

4

Cayucos

cayucoschamber.com

One of America's "Coolest Small Towns" with a laid-back beach vibe.

To Do: Rent wetsuits, surfboards, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards or sign up for lessons or guided tours at Good Clean Fun (goodcleancalifornia.com) surf shop right by Cayucos State Beach, just north of Morro Bay.

Just for Fun: The California Mid-State Fair (\$10; midstatefair.com) runs from July 17 to 28 in nearby Paso Robles, with equestrian shows, concerts, kids races, and carnival rides.

Stay: A stay in one of the five charming rooms or the freestanding cottage at the Cass House Inn (from \$175; casshouseinn.com) includes homemade breakfast and afternoon wine and cheese in the restored home of the town's founder, Captain James Cass.

On the Way: Make a stop in tiny Harmony (on Highway 1 north of Cayucos), population 18, for wine tasting at Harmony Cellars (harmonycellars.com) and shopping for artisan goods at Harmony Glassworks (harmonyglassworks.com).

5

Sequoia National Park

nps.gov/seki
More than big trees.

TO SEE:

Trees more than 200 feet high and 30 feet around, including the world's largest living tree; Crystal Cave, with unique geologic formations and marble polished by a subterranean stream; waterfalls, mountain peaks, and Native American historical sites.

STAY:

Wuksachi Lodge (from \$208; visitsequoia.com) is the signature Mission-style hotel in the park.

GETTING THERE:

State Route 198, also known as Generals Highway, is a 46-mile route through the park. Park in the town of Three Rivers and take the Sequoia Shuttle (\$15 round-trip; sequoia shuttle.com) if you'd rather keep your eyes off the road and on the sights.

EXTEND THE TRIP:

Visit majesticmountainloop.com for itineraries with stops in Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite national parks.

BONUS:

Entrance fees are waived on August 25 for the National Park Service Birthday.

6 | North Lake Tahoe

gotahoenorth.com

Outdoor recreation by day, culture by night.

To Do: From July 12 to August 25, the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival (from \$15; laketahoeshakespeare.com) produces *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a ballet, and concerts. From August 2 to 18, Lake Tahoe SummerFest (from \$25; tahoesummerfest.org) celebrates classical music with orchestral concerts, chamber music, open rehearsals, and family concerts in an outdoor tent without amplification.

Stay: The newly renovated Truckee Hotel (from \$79; truckeehotel.com), built in 1873, offers different configurations of rooms (twin beds, family rooms that sleep five; most rooms share a bath) and comfortable-casual accommodations in historic downtown Truckee. Cedar Glen Lodge (from \$149; tahocedarglen.com) is a 1950s-style complex of cottages, cabins, and rooms in the lodge across from a sandy beach.

7 | Mendocino

visitmendocino.com

Towering redwoods and picturesque villages far from the crowds.

To Do: Visit walkable downtown Mendocino for blocks of restaurants, charming shops, and food co-ops not found elsewhere.

Listen: Bop along to bluegrass, big band, chamber music, classical, contemporary, and jazz from July 13 to 27 at the Mendocino Music Festival (from \$10; mendocinomusic.org).

To See: Glass Beach in Fort Bragg, a former dump where the sand is now covered in sea glass, and the free International Sea Glass Museum (internationalseaglassmuseum.com).

Stay: The 1882 Victorian MacCallum House Inn & Restaurant (from \$149; maccallumhouse.com) offers individually decorated rooms, suites, and cottages with complimentary organic breakfast and a \$14 dining credit.

Eat: It's worth the drive to sample the candy cap mushroom ice cream at Cowlick's (\$3; cowlicksicecream.com) in Fort Bragg.

On the Way: Baxter Winery (baxterwinery.com), known for handcrafted, single vineyard pinots, opened a new tasting room on Route 128 in Philo.



This fully restored 1965 Safari Airstream trailer is one of three "glamping" accommodations offered at Big Sur Getaway.

8

Big Sur

bigsurcalifornia.org

Winding Highway 1 makes the drive as much fun as the destination.

To Do: Two state parks, Andrew Molera and Pfeiffer Big Sur (parks.ca.gov), offer hiking, horseback riding, waterfalls, beaches, and wildlife viewing. Open for tours only, the still-operational Point Sur Lighthouse (\$12; pointsur.org) is dramatically perched on a volcanic rock.

Stay: Three artfully refurbished 1960s and 1970s aluminum trailers with fire pits, gas grill, hammocks, and an outdoor shower offer a comfortable camping experience at Big Sur Getaway (from \$175 plus a \$40 cleaning fee; bigsurgetaway.com).

Eat: Grab sandwiches for a picnic at the Big Sur Deli (bigsurdeli.com). On Sundays, catch live music at the Big Sur River Inn (restaurantatbigsur.com) and dip your feet into the river.

Shop: The Phoenix gift shop adjacent to Nepenthe (nepenthebigsur.com) carries souvenirs like jewelry, fine art, and musical instruments.

The Drive: Ongoing construction on Highway 1 near Big Sur may cause delays, and some overnight road closures are planned. Call 888-836-0866 for the latest conditions.

Lemurs and luxury camping await at Safari West near Santa Rosa.

9

Sonoma County

sonomacounty.com

More than top-notch wine and food.

To Do: Wander around and take a memory card's worth of photos at CornerStone Sonoma (cornerstonesonoma.com), an art park with large-scale installations created by landscape architects and designers. Also don't miss the Charles M. Schulz Museum (schulzmuseum.org) in Santa Rosa if there are any "Peanuts" fans in the family.

Stay: Luxury camping tents at Safari West (overnight from \$275; safariwest.com) north of Santa Rosa allow guests to be up close and personal with more than 900 wild animals—giraffes, zebras, gazelles, cheetahs, lemurs—in a safari setting.

Eat: Every other doorway in Healdsburg offers a delectable treat. Get to Downtown Bakery & Creamery (downtownbakery.net) early for its famous doughnut muffins before they sell out. Try Spoonbar (spoonbar.com) for inventive dining and an artisanal cocktail menu highlighting local spirits.

The Drive: The 101 is the most direct route; for a more scenic drive, take Highway 29 to Highway 128. If you fly, the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport is peppered with "Peanuts" figures.



10

Santa Cruz

santacruzca.org

The quintessential family-friendly beach town.

Eat: Pop-up breakfasts at the farmers' markets (from \$30; santacruzfarmersmarket.org) on July 20 and August 3 mix farmers, fresh food, and chefs cooking a multicourse communal meal. BYO plate and cutlery.

Stay: Dream Inn (from \$329; jdvhotels.com), next to the wharf and boardwalk, has a retro-chic beachy vibe and views of Monterey Bay from every room.

Family Fun: The landmark Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk amusement park (rides from \$3 each; beachboardwalk.com) has been offering rides, games, and food on the boardwalk since 1907.

The Drive: Two new tunnels opened along Highway 1 this spring in an area typically marred by landslides (and traffic nightmares), making road trips easier.

On the Way: View wildlife through 5 miles of trails in a saltwater tidal marsh at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Preserve (elkhornslough.org).



**ATTN:
Glampers**

Top-Tier Tenting

Pick a place, any place, and commission Shelter Co. (shelter-co.com) to stock the location with luxury camping items like a canvas tent with a real bed and linens, lighting, and bathrooms—anything from portable toilets to trailers with hot showers. The company also works with preferred partners who, for an additional cost, provide use of their properties that might include swimming ponds, scenic vistas, beachfronts, and lake boating. Prices start at \$750 for two nights with a \$2,000 minimum order, so think couples' weekends or family reunions rather than intimate camping à deux. Boat rentals, lawn games, an outdoor movie theater, and catering can also be arranged. ♦





Pop-up lodging from Shelter Co. means that you can set up camp almost anywhere—like this idyllic situation at Leonard Lake Reserve in Mendocino County—only you don't have to do the setting up. All the nostalgic comforts of summer camp (roasting marshmallows, singing campfire songs, playing games) are at your fingertips, without having to lift a finger.