



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

C A L I F O R N I A

1-DAY ITINERARY

Day One

MORNING

Experience **Zachary's**, a beloved breakfast and lunch eatery, and home of the famous "Mike's Mess" in Downtown Santa Cruz. Mingle with old-school Santa Cruzans, U.C. Santa Cruz students and the local professional crowd who gather to enjoy special home-made oatmeal-molasses bread, "from scratch" sourdough pancakes and much more.

Walk through downtown and visit **Bookshop Santa Cruz**, established in 1966 and a beloved independent seller of used and new books, gifts and other reading material. **Pacific Trading Co.** offers sustainable fashion, shoes, handbags and more. And **Botanic**

and **Luxe, Stripe, Berdels, Dell Williams, Artisans and Agency, Sock Shop & Shoe Company**, and **O'Neill Surf Shop** are a handful of other local shops popular with locals and visitors.

Drive scenic **West Cliff Drive** and stop at various lookout points to enjoy the scenic view of the historic **Santa Cruz Wharf** and **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk**. This three-and-a-half-mile scenic path overlooks the bay and is popular for jogs, bike rides and romantic strolls. Be sure to check out the surfer statue, dedicated to surfers everywhere. Along the route, you'll find the **Santa Cruz Surfing Museum**, housed inside the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse. The museum houses over 120 years of surfing history and inside you can get a glimpse of the first men

to surf on the mainland United States as well as one of the first wet suits ever made. Santa Cruz is the birthplace of mainland surfing in the United States, and part of the local culture. View a plaque outside the museum, gifted to the City of Santa Cruz by the descendants of Hawaiian royalty who first brought surfing to Santa Cruz in 1885. Adjacent to the museum is Steamer Lane, one of the best places to surf in the U.S. View a free demonstration of California's official sport, as local, seasoned surfers test their mettle against the waves.

Take a leisurely drive to the San Lorenzo Valley and follow the foot path to **Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park**, adjacent to Roaring Camp and walk the Redwood Loop Trail, a .8-mile easy stroll alongside heritage



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trees and surround yourself with the stoic silence of the forest. Want a more hearty hike? Veer right at the Fremont Tree and pick up the Pipeline Trail that bisects Henry Cowell Redwood State Park. Marvel at the view from the observation deck or take a sweet seat at The Overlook, where a bench provides a first-row seat to faraway vistas of the Monterey Bay beyond the trees. Traveling with a pup? This moderately-challenging route is one of three dog-friendly trails in the park!

AFTERNOON

Venture on scenic Highway 1 south to the Mediterranean-inspired seaside town of Capitola. Go where the locals go and enjoy lunch at **Gayle's Bakery**. In-house, made-from-scratch breads, sandwiches, savory salads, sweets, fresh juices and coffee drinks can be enjoyed on the indoor patio. Take a number and take a seat at this beloved local shop.

From Gayle's, walk to **Capitola Village** and window shop in this tiny town. The colorful venetian cottages which line Capitola Beach are the perfect backdrop for a selfie to remember your visit. Take in the sun at a bench along the esplanade and watch the waves lap along the shore. Admire the views

of this adorable town from historic **Depot Hill** or from the overlook at **Shadowbrook** restaurant which sits on a hillside above Soquel Creek.

Continue your mini-road trip on Highway 1 to south county's Watsonville and Pajaro Valley. Visit **Gizdich Ranch** and pick your own strawberries, apples, boysenberries and olallieberries on a seasonal basis. An on-site antique shop and pie shop are popular places to browse. Take home a pie, made fresh on the farm, or a selection of apple juice, jams and apple butter. Or enjoy a slice of pie in the meadow adjacent to the pie shop and breathe in the fresh country air.

Nearby, **Martinelli's** tasting room represents a family-owned and operated, 150+ year old company and houses an onsite shop and museum where free samples of sparkling cider blends, organic and unfiltered apple juice and sparkling blush apple cider are served. Much like a wine tasting room, staff is knowledgeable about growing and production practices, and the history of the Martinelli family and the local apple industry.

Across from Martinelli's, view the creations of local glass artist Ann Morhauser, where

her studio, retail shop and factory are housed. **Annieglass'** world-renown "artware for the table" includes platters, cake stands, bowls, plates and dinnerware that are not only found in boutiques and high-end restaurants across the U.S., but two pieces from the Annieglass Shells Collection, Coquina and Tiburon, can be found on permanent display in the Luce Foundation Collection of American Craft at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. Free factory tours are given Fridays and Saturdays at 1:30 pm.

EVENING

End your day with dinner at **Venus Spirits Cocktails and Kitchen** on Santa Cruz's westside. This distillery-meets-restaurant utilizes local produce, fresh ingredients and creative cocktails using artisan gin, vodka, reposado, aquavit and bourbon produced onsite.

Seek out some live music at a number of venues around town. The iconic **Davenport Roadhouse**, **Felton Music Hall**, **Kuumbwa**, **Rio Theater**, **Moe's Alley**, **Catalyst**, and the **Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium** are just a few other local spots that feature ongoing performances.

