



3-DAY ITINERARY

SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY

C A L I F O R N I A

Day One

MORNING

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

Take a leisurely drive to the San Lorenzo Valley and embark on a nostalgic ride through the redwood trees of the Santa Cruz Mountains aboard a vintage steam locomotive at **Roaring Camp Railroads** in Felton. Admire the old west storefront facades, pan

for "gold", enjoy a blacksmith demonstration, and visit an old-timey General Store, complete with "penny" candy.

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 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

Stop in for a bite to eat at The **Grove Café** in downtown **Felton**. This diminutive bistro focuses on hearth breads, vegan options, nutrient-rich items and locally roasted coffee. The bread is baked in-house and combined with a charming display of vintage Pyrex bakeware which welcomes guests as they arrive, creates a cozy, inviting atmosphere.

Window shop along Highway 9 in downtown Felton after lunch and mix with the locals.

EVENING

Seek out some live music at a number of venues around town. Have dinner at the iconic **Davenport Roadhouse** and enjoy a glass of wine and roasted Brussels sprouts, one of



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the specialties as a local band plays nearby. The **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.

OVERNIGHT IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Day Two

MORNING

Opt for a sunny window table at **Flower Bar Café** in downtown Santa Cruz. Pastries, breads, and small plates paired with creative coffee drinks are the perfect choice for a small savory-meets-sweet breakfast.

Take a self-guided walking tour of downtown's historic Walnut Avenue, and admire historic buildings and bygone architecture. Walking tour maps are available online. 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.

AFTERNOON

Visit the **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk**, set along Santa Cruz's Main Beach. The legendary Boardwalk has been named "Best Seaside Amusement Park," in the world by amusement industry experts. Ride the Giant Dipper, a vintage wooden roller coaster that celebrates 100 years in 2024, and one of two National Historic Landmarks at the park. Next, take a spin on one of seventy-three hand-carved horses on the famous Looft Carousel, built in 1911 as they prance proudly to the music from two beautiful antiques, the park's original 342-pipe Ruth band organ and a showy Wurlitzer 165 band organ. Opt for a self-guided walking tour of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's nearly 20 points of interest. Munch and lunch on classic Boardwalk fare with all-American corn dogs, giant pretzels, potatoes-on-a-stick, soft-serve ice cream, funnel cakes and cotton candy (hey, it's your vacation!).

Next, walk to the nearby **Santa Cruz Wharf**, and take a breezy stroll to the very end. The wharf stretches a half-mile into

the Monterey Bay and provides 360-degree views of the ocean. This structure, more than a century old is lined with shops, restaurants, and fishermen hoping to snag the catch of the day. Watch the ocean waters for whales, dolphins, otters and views of Monterey at the other end of the bay. Something else to watch for: lumbering sea lions lazing on the wharf's pilings down below, suddenly acquiring a ballerina's grace the moment they hit the water. Stop in at **Marini's Candies**, a 100+ year-old family-owned business for a sample of a locally-made treat: salt water taffy!

EVENING

Visit the **Santa Cruz Harbor** for seaside views and a choice of restaurants to end your day. Sit back with a glass of wine and fresh seafood, steaks, or authentic Mexican plates at the **Crow's Nest, Johnny's Harborside** or **Café El Palomar**.

OVERNIGHT IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Day Three

MORNING

Venture on scenic Highway 1 south to the





Mediterranean-inspired seaside town of Capitola. Go where the locals go and enjoy breakfast at **Gayle's Bakery**. In-house, made-from-scratch breads, pastries, savory small plates, fresh juices and coffee drinks can be enjoyed on the indoor patio adjacent to a fireplace to ward off any remnants of fog from the night before. 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.

AFTERNOON

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.

Sunset State Beach in south county is wide, expansive, and an ideal spot for your "main character moment." Walk along the shoreline and enjoy the solitude and sweeping views of this magnificent beach.

As you head back toward Highway 1, just inland from Sunset State Beach is **Martinelli's** tasting room. This family-owned and operated, 150+ year old company features an onsite shop, museum and tasting room 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.

End your south county adventure at a mid-county winery as you head north. Stop in at one of six independent, family-owned wineries on the **Corralitos Wine Trail** and sip and savor with a view of the vines.

EVENING

End your day with a Michelin Bib Gourmand dining experience at **Mentone** restaurant in Aptos Village, a newer community of retail shops and residential buildings. This California-casual eatery is where the "cuisine of the Riviera from Nice to a bit past Genoa" is served with a local flavor, alongside an extensive wine list.

