



## HEALEY 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEET

### PRE/POST TOURS

## PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY (CENTRAL SECTION, PART 2)

### SANTA CRUZ/MONTEREY TO CAMBRIA/MORRO BAY

(From Monterey to Cambria: 3 hours, 102 miles)

(From Monterey to Morro Bay: 3 ½ hours, 122 miles)

(From Capitola/Santa Cruz, add 30 minutes, 30 miles)

Times do not include stopping time for attractions

Now for the **Main Event**, the famous section of the Pacific Coast Highway from Monterey to Morro Bay. These directions will presume you start from Monterey and the junction of Hwy 1 and Munras Avenue (downtown exit). If you stayed the night in Santa Cruz/Capitola, just proceed down Hwy 1 South for 30 miles to Monterey. If you are coming from point East (i.e. Salinas) Hwy 68 ends at Hwy 1, turn South.

How you approach this drive will determine the best way to plan your day(s). If you are one who likes to stop at all the roadside attractions, plan on two days with an overnight at **Ragged Point**. If you want to blast through most diversions, you can easily do this in one day, staying overnight (preferably) in **Cambria** (mostly due to the good hotel) or you can press on a bit to **Morro Bay**.

To help you decide your approach, here's a rundown on the Tour. See the maps for locations.

### Segment 1: Monterey to Big Sur

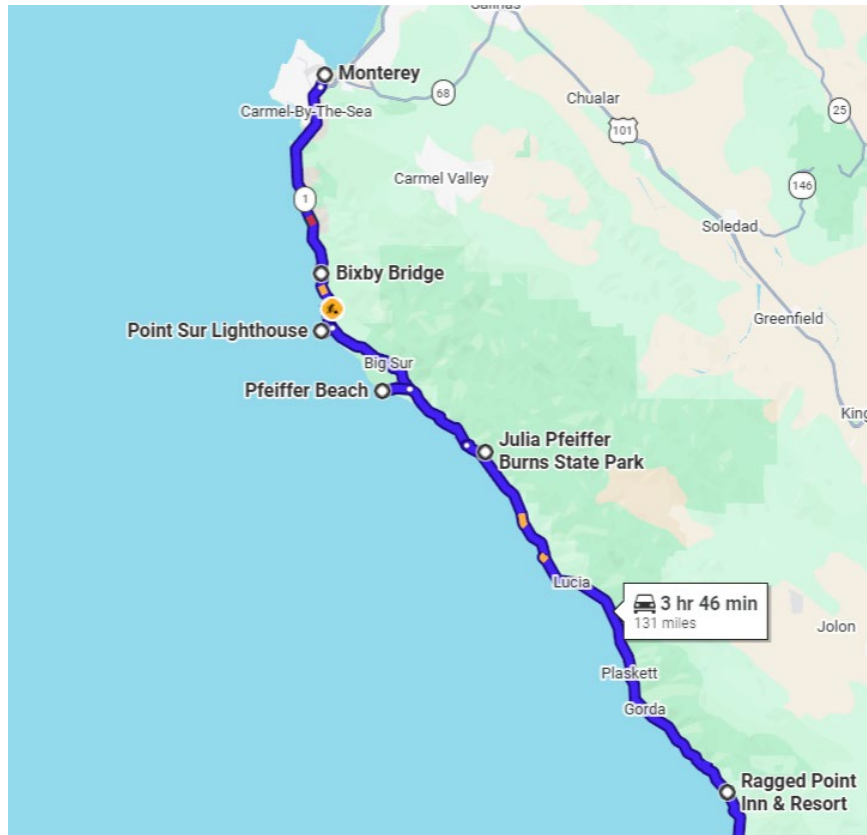
- **Start:** Grab morning coffee in Monterey, then head south on the 1.
- **Bixby Creek Bridge:** One of the most iconic, highly photographed single-span concrete bridges in the world. Get a photo with you car.
- **Point Sur Light station:** A historic 1889 lighthouse perched on a dramatic volcanic rock. Access only via a pre-booked, three-hour tour, but you can get good pictures from the roadside.
- **Pfeiffer Beach:** Turn off onto Sycamore Canyon Road to see the famous purple sand and Keyhole Rock. See details below.

### Segment 2: The Heart of Big Sur

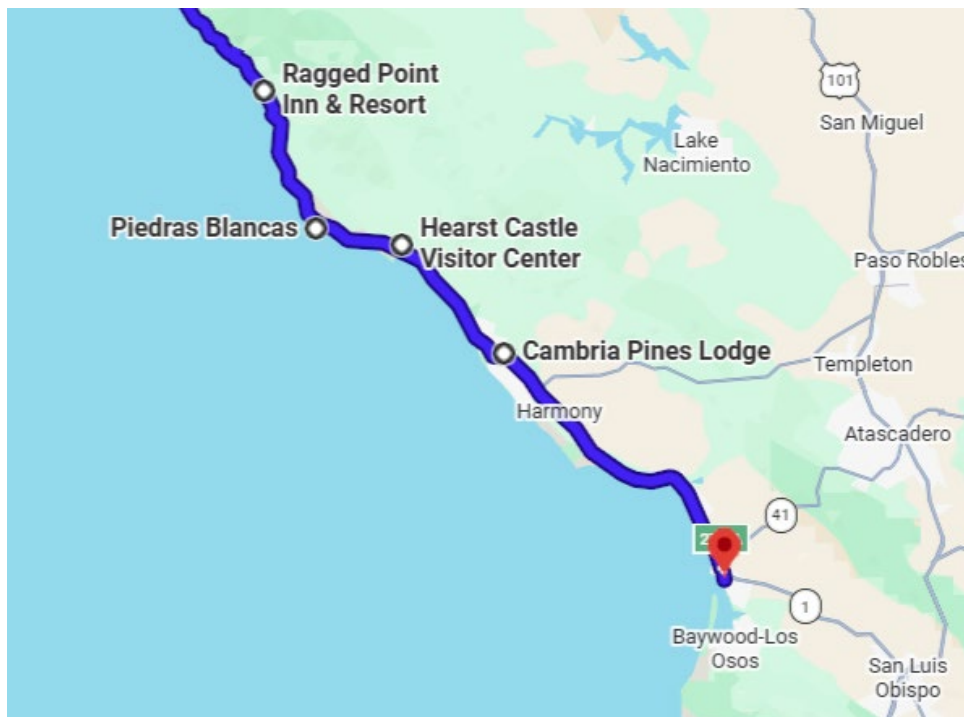
- **Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park:** Pull over to see McWay Falls, an 80-foot waterfall that drops directly onto a pristine, untouched beach.
- **Ragged Point:** Known as the "Million Dollar View," this headland is the gateway to southern Big Sur. Grab a bite or stretch your legs at the Ragged Point Inn.

### Segment 3: San Simeon & The Coast

- **Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery:** Just north of San Simeon, you can safely view hundreds of massive elephant seals from elevated boardwalks.
- **Hearst Castle:** Tour the opulent 1919 estate of William Randolph Hearst. Advance reservations are highly required.
- **Cambria:** Stroll down Moonstone Beach Drive for a quiet, scenic walk along the shoreline. Overnight at the Pines Lodge (details below)?
- **Morro Bay:** Look out for the massive, 576-foot volcanic plug, Morro Rock. Great spot for grabbing fresh seafood along the Embarcadero.



**Monterey to Ragged Point**



**Ragged Point to Morro Bay. Red Dot is Morro Bay**

## DIRECTIONS FROM MONTEREY

- Head South on Hwy 1
- In 17.0 miles, approach **Bixby Bridge** for a photo
  - Castle Rock Viewpoint (North End): The most popular and easily accessible spot, located on the ocean side of Highway 1. It features the largest dirt pullout and provides an up-close, head-on view of the iconic arch.
- Continue on Hwy1S, in 5.4 miles, arrive at Point Sur Lighthouse overlook.
  - Get your photos from the roadside only. It is not practical to visit the lighthouse as it is only accessible on pre-booked tours (3 hours).
- In 8.5 miles, turn right onto Sycamore Canyon Road for Pfeiffer Beach
  - The Turnoff: Located just south of the **Big Sur Station Visitors Center**, look for the unsigned Sycamore Canyon Road and a yellow "Narrow Road" warning sign. There are no large signs pointing to the beach.
  - Vehicle Restrictions: The 2-mile road leading to the beach is incredibly narrow, winding, and single-lane in parts. There is a \$15 per vehicle fee, but might be free with an America the Beautiful National Parks pass.
  - **Purple Sand**: The sand gets its unique purple and pink hue from manganese garnet washing down from the surrounding cliffs. It is most vivid after heavy rainfall.
  - **Keyhole Arch**: This iconic rock formation in the surf is a paradise for photographers.
- Back on Hwy 1S, in 7.6 miles arrive at **Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park**
  - The highlight here is McWay Falls, an 80' waterfall from granite cliffs to the beach and ocean. The only current viewing is from the roadside. Look for turnouts and other people viewing near the park entrance.



**Mcway Falls, Big Sur**

- **The next 40 miles are quintessential PCH, with sections along the coast turning inland, winding down to gorges where small creeks flow to the ocean, then winding back up again toward the sea. Take your time.**
- In 40 miles, arrive at **Ragged Point Inn & Resort** for Lunch. At this point you will be 2.5 hours on the road, plus stoppage time. If you have indulged in a lot of exploration, this could be your overnight stop. Fast food, gas, plus a good restaurant here. And great views down a little trail.

<https://www.raggedpointinn.com/accommodations>

- Depart Ragged Point on Hwy 1 South
- In 9.4 miles, arrive at **Piedras Blanca Marine Reserve**. Park and walk to observe the huge colony of Elephant Seals. Blue sign “Vista Point” and a large parking lot on the right. Also look for a green sign “Friends of the Elephant Seal”.

***Note that there are two parking lots and two “Vista Point” signs. The Elephant Seals are normally congregated south of the second parking lot. If not, there is a pathway connecting the two lots. Look for where the tourists are congregated.***

- In another 6.0 miles, arrive at the **Hearst Castle Visitor’s Center** in San Simeon.

***Hearst Castle, known formally as La Cuesta Encantada, is a historic estate in San Simeon, located on the Central Coast of California. Conceived by William Randolph Hearst, the publishing tycoon, and his architect Julia Morgan, the castle was built between 1919 and 1947.***

Hearst Castle offers a few tour options of this fabulous property “from another era”. Allow 2-3 hours depending on which tours you select. Reservations are highly recommended.

If you stayed in Ragged Point, then an early morning visit is ideal. If you are staying in Cambria, it’s only a short backtrack to Hearst Castle. From Morro Bay, you probably want to skip it, however you can stop at the Visitor’s Center without any fees.

<https://hearstcastle.org/>

- Continuing another 8.9 miles, at the stoplight, turn left onto Burton Drive in Cambria. Green sign “Burton Dr”.
- In 0.3 miles, turn left onto Patterson Place. Large hotel sign “**Cambria Pines Lodge**”. This is your overnight if staying in Cambria.

**Cambria Pines Lodge**

905 Burton Place  
Cambria, CA 93428  
805-927-4200

<https://www.cambriapineslodge.com/>

The Lodge features a variety of room types, most in scattered bungalows. Excellent bar with music, good restaurant. The Lodge is “up the hill” from downtown Cambria. Ask at the desk for directions. There are several restaurants and shops “downtown”. Both Linn’s Restaurants are famous for their pies.

## IF GOING ON TO MORRO BAY

- Continue on Hwy 1 for 19.4 miles.
- Take Exit 279A for **Main Street, Morro Bay**. Green sign “Exit 279A, Main St, →”.
- At the end of the ramp, turn right to onto Main Street and follow that downtown.

A couple of blocks west of Main Street is Embarcadero, a mile-long strip of shops and restaurants with a great view of the famous Morro Rock, actually a volcanic plug.



**Morro Rock. You can drive a little causeway to the base of the rock.**

### WHERE TO STAY:

There are a number of small motels downtown, but a favorite is the **Inn at Morro Bay**, which is about a mile out of town in Morro Bay State Park. Still with a great view of the “rock”.

**Inn at Morro Bay**  
60 State Park Road  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
805-772-5651  
[Innatmorrobay.com](http://Innatmorrobay.com)

**FROM HERE YOU CAN GO DIRECTLY TO LOS ANGELES (“On to La-La Land” Tour),  
DIVERT TO THE PASO ROBLES/SAN LUIS OBISPO WINE COUNTRY (“Paso Robles  
and San Luis Obispo Wine Country” Tour), OR DIVERT INLAND HEADING TO  
SANTA BARBARA (“The Last Great Driving Road in California” Tour)**