

Bicycle Tours in USA: Big Sur Bike Tour (TourzPlus)

OVERVIEW

A storied region along California's western edge boasting a rich history, Big Sur is a rugged expanse of coastline and mountains which has been called "the greatest meeting of land and sea." From Carmel to San Simeon, cycling the breathtaking 90-mile stretch of coastline is a must-do for any adventurous cyclist. With the wind at your back, you'll be transported to a higher level of euphoria as you find the rocky Pacific coast and Santa Lucia mountains commanding for your attention. Come join us for our Big Sur Bike Tour.

Learn more about what is included and what to expect on your TourzPlus tour at the [TourzPlus Tour Style](#) page.

HIGHLIGHTS

Soaking in the dramatic coastline where land meets rugged sea among towering coastal redwood, visiting Monterey, Carmel, Cambria & Paso Robles, cycling the famed Seventeen-mile drive past Pebble Beach and down the Pacific Coast Highway, enjoying 4 different hotels on this point-to-point itinerary.

TOUR FACTS

Tour Style	■ TourzPlus: Learn more about our TourzPlus tours at https://www.experienceplus.com/choosing-the-best-tour/styles/tourzplus
Includes	5 nights lodging, double occupancy; meals as noted in itinerary; non-optional activities as outlined in itinerary; ride-friendly snacks and beverages throughout each day; hybrid or alloy road bike rental – carbon road bike or E-bike available for an upgrade fee (\$100 for carbon; \$200-300 for e-bike); professional trip leader(s); van support & portage service; reusable water bottle, wool socks & luggage tags.
Countries	USA
Begin/End	San Jose / Paso Robles
Arrive/Depart	San Jose International Airport (SJC)
Total Distance	411 km (255 miles)
Avg. Daily Distance	69 km (43 miles) per riding day
Tour Level	➤➤➤➤

Please Note: We may have small itinerary changes to this trip after you download this PDF document. If you have booked this trip and there are major changes, including changes to towns or activities, we'll email you directly. However, you should always be sure to refer to the [online itinerary](#) for the most up-to-date trip information including arrival and departure tips before you depart for your trip:

<https://www.experienceplus.com/bike-tours/usa/big-sur-BSA>

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DATES & PRICES

DAILY RIDE SUMMARY

Day	Distance/Gain	Terrain	Day Level	Notes
1	69km / 854m (43mi / 2800ft)			
2	101km / 2378m (63mi / 7800ft)			
3	39km / 305m (24mi / 1000ft)			
4	87km / 1098m (54mi / 3600ft)			Today's ride is an optional loop ride
5	64km / 1280m (40mi / 4200ft)			
6	51km / 793m (32mi / 2600ft)			

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Meet San Jose

Highlights Monterey to Big Sur

After meeting in San Jose, your guides will then shuttle you to our starting location in Monterey. Today's route takes us along 17-Mile Drive through famous Pebble Beach to Carmel-by-the-Sea, then south along Highway 1 for our journey along the coast. You'll pass over the iconic Bixby Bridge and into the welcoming embrace of Big Sur, eventually arriving at our lodging for the night, Glen Oaks. We'll enjoy a team dinner this evening at a nearby restaurant perched on the cliffs overlooking the Pacific.

DAY 1

Distance 69 km (43 mi)

Gain 854 m (2800 ft)

Meals Dinner

Lodging ■ Glen Oaks Big Sur

Big Sur to Ragged Point

Highlights Summit of Nacimiento

Today we dive into the heart of Big Sur, witnessing the raw and rugged beauty on offer at every twist in the tarmac. The route is long and challenging, with three categorized climbs along Highway 1 and small rolling terrain in between. After a stop on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, you can choose to tackle the daily Bighorn Ride on the out and back spur to the summit of Nacimiento Ferguson Road. 7 miles up, 7 miles down and a perfect 10 in our book. Today's destination is the Ragged Point Inn, perched on a cliff over the ocean with no shortage of memorable vistas. Every room has a full or partial ocean or mountain view to compliment the crashing sound of waves that are ready to lull you to sleep.

DAY 2

Distance 101 km (63 mi)

Gain 2378 m (7800 ft)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging ■ Ragged Point Inn & Resort

Ragged Point to Cambria

Highlights Elephant seals, Hearst Castle

There's no rush this morning as we have a shorter course to tackle on mostly flat terrain to the quaint town of Cambria. We recommend you stop along the way to see an elephant seal rookery to witness these massive marine mammals that were once hunted almost to extinction. Thankfully today their population has rebounded. Enjoy an optional stop at Hearst Castle if you're interested in learning about the history and fame of this media magnate. Our lodging for the next two nights is in Cambria at the Pelican Inn, a hotel with a view of Moonstone Beach. Take the time to get settled and kick the legs up before taking a walk of the town to check out the shops and cafés. Dinner tonight is often a favorite of the week.

DAY 3

Distance 39 km (24 mi)

Gain 305 m (1000 ft)

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging ■ Pelican Inn & Suites

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Rest Day or Optional Ride

Highlights Morro Bay, Cambria, Moonstone Beach

We will spend an additional day exploring the regions around Cambria, so cyclists may choose to join an optional bike ride down the coast to Morro Bay, stroll the charming shops of Cambria or Moonstone Beach or schedule a massage at a day spa. If you came for the riding and seek another dose of that ride-fueled endorphin rush, then follow your guide up Old Creek Road before a technical descent of Santa Rosa Road back to the hotel. Dinner tonight is on your own, so cyclists may choose any one of the great restaurants within walking distance of the Pelican Inn.

DAY 4

Distance 87 km (54 mi)

Gain 1098 m (3600 ft)

Meals Breakfast

Lodging ■ Pelican Inn & Suites

Cambria to Paso Robles

Highlights Wine region and tasting

Today we travel inland, heading away from the coast and into the wine region of Paso Robles. To get there, we spin along a beautiful creekside country road - but the cost of this beauty is one of the steepest grades in all of California. Then it's on to our feedzone stop at a winery, a great place to stretch and rest the legs followed by a descent past countless rows of vines into the town square. A tasting is included today if you're interested in sampling some local wines. Our lodging tonight is at Hotel Cheval. Explore their beautiful grounds and be sure to stroll through town before we reconvene for a final team dinner at one of the highest-rated restaurants around.

DAY 5

Distance 64 km (40 mi)

Gain 1280 m (4200 ft)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging ■ Hotel Cheval

Last Ride

Highlights Peachy Canyon Loop, Depart San Jose

The final day of the tour heads deep into the Paso Robles wine country on one of the prettiest cycling roads anywhere: Peachy Canyon, with its winding curves through vineyards and walnut groves. We then return to Paso Robles to shower, pack up, and grab a bite to eat in town. A final van transfer will deliver you back to our meeting location in San Jose.

DAY 6

Distance 51 km (32 mi)

Gain 793 m (2600 ft)

Meals Breakfast, Lunch