

Explore Big Sur

Big Sur - a rugged and mountainous section of the Central Coast of California between Carmel Highlands and San Simeon, where the Santa Lucia Mountains rise abruptly from the Pacific Ocean. It is frequently praised for its dramatic scenery. Big Sur has been called the "longest and most scenic stretch of undeveloped coastline in the contiguous United States," a "national treasure that demands extraordinary procedures to protect it from development" and "one of the most beautiful coastlines anywhere in the world, an isolated stretch of road, mythic in reputation." The stunning views, redwood forests, hiking, beaches, and other recreational opportunities have made Big Sur a popular destination for about 7 million people who live within a day's drive and visitors from across the world.



Recommended Activities and Attractions along the Big Sur:

1. Take Hwy 1 North up the coast -amazing drive up Hwy 1
2. ***Optional Detour*** Turn right at **Mill Creek** onto Sur-Nacimiento Road, drive up to **Cone Peak Trailhead**
 - a. Park as close as possible to top of the mountain so the hike is limited, and views maximized!
 - b. 2-mile trail to summit
3. ***Optional Activity*** - Take the short hike to the top of **Cone Peak** -incredible views and picture opportunities, make sure you Hashtag #iTinereri!
 - a. **Cone Peak** is among the most dramatic coastal mountains in the lower 48 States. At 5,155 ft. high and less than 3 miles from the ocean, the average gradient from summit to sea is 33%, which is steeper than Mt. Whitney to Owens Valley (meaning this little known peak is far steeper and more prominent than many of the tallest peaks in the Rockies or Sierra Nevada!)
 - b. While you can make a day-hike out of it by driving up the gorgeous Sur-Nacimiento Road from Highway 1 to the Coast Ridge Road and take a 2 mile trail to the summit with 1300' of elevation gain (4 miles roundtrip), the more adventurous types do a Sea to Sky, starting at Kirk Creek Campground and up Vicente Flat Trail (23 miles roundtrip). You can camp at Vicente Flat 5 miles in. Another 2.5 miles up and you will connect with the Coast Ridge Road, take a left and then up the Cone Peak trail to the summit. You can camp on the summit, near the old fire lookout, which provides an amazing campsite with 360-degree views of the coast and mountains. Do not expect to be alone for this hike unless its winter or bad weather.
4. Next ***Optional Stop*** at **Limekiln State Park – Limekiln Falls**

5. Stop at **McWay Falls** -must stop here!! (see photo of waterfall into the ocean) -short hike to view falls
6. Next stop at **Partington Cove Trailhead** -get out and enjoy amazing views of the coast
7. Next must see is **Pfeiffer Beach** – this will be the finale of the Big Sur drive
 - a. Pfeiffer Beach is unique for its **purple sand** and **sun portal** rock. Photographers love coming here between December and January to capture the sun portal.
8. After Pfeiffer, continue north to **Soberanes Point** -check out the views
9. Next continue north to **Point Lobos** to **Hidden Beach** -awesome hidden beach
10. Continue north to Carmel-by-the-Sea
11. *Optional Stop* option of stopping at **Pebble Beach**, take some pictures, etc.
12. Make sure to Hashtag #iTinereri along the way!

Recommended Hotels:

There are lots of great hotel options right along the coast in Cambria and San Simeon. Due to some of the laws and regulations to try to protect the Big Sur coast from development, you won't find many chain hotels, instead you'll find quaint little hotels and lodges, but some of them are quite nice.

1. **Cambria Beach Lodge** - 6180 Moonstone Beach Dr, Cambria, CA 93428
2. **Moonstone Landing** - 6240 Moonstone Beach Dr #1804, Cambria, CA 9342
3. **Cambria Pines Lodge** - 1025 N Main St, Bishop, CA 93514
4. **Cambria Shores Inn** - 6276 Moonstone Beach Dr, Cambria, CA 93428
5. **Pelican Inn & Suites** - 6316 Moonstone Beach Dr, Cambria, CA 93428



Trip References / Info:

Big Sur – Cone Peak Hiking Trails:

