

# Condé Nast Traveler



## 9 West Coast Road Trips to Take This Year

With air travel largely on pause, it seems everyone is turning to the classic [road trip](#) this summer. For those on the West Coast, that means picking between sun-drenched drives through southern California's deserts, wooded escapes in the Pacific Northwest, or long weekends driving deep into Oregon on the Columbia River Highway. We've even got routes that will take you into Mexico and Canada, too (perfect for easing your way back out there once international travel is on the table again).

However you slice it, there's no shortage of things to see and do—nor incredible drives to take—and now is the perfect time to cross a few of the West Coast's best routes off your list. Below, our nine favorite West Coast road trips. Plus, where to eat, sleep, and find the best photo opps along the way.

Remember to read up on [state travel restrictions](#) before hitting the road; the same goes for crossing international borders. It's also a good idea to check with any sights, restaurants, or hotels you want to visit beforehand, as hours and operations are subject to change at any time.



## **Pacific Coast Highway: San Francisco to Los Angeles**

Is there a more iconic road trip than taking Highway 1 south from **San Francisco** along California's coast? We can't think of one. On this route, you'll hug the winding coastline, with pitstops on the Monterey Peninsula, Big Sur, and along the Central Coast. Take a long weekend to enjoy the ocean views (and wine) this drive has to offer.

**Where to stop:** In Big Sur, stop for a picture of the Bixby Bridge, one of the tallest concrete bridges in the world. The kitschy Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo is another chance for a photo; or, pull off in Paso Robles and do a **self-guided tour** through the area's nearly 50 wineries.

**Where to eat:** In Monterey, make a reservation at Aubergine within **L'Auberge Carmel**. Chef Justin Cogley doles up multi-course tasting menus that focus on local fish, and there's a 2,500-bottle wine cellar full of California and French wines that you should absolutely sample. Down south, make sure to pull over for fish and chips at the no-frills Malibu Seafood.

**Where to stay:** There's **Post Ranch Inn**, the splashiest place to stay in Big Sur thanks to its swoon-y cliff-top location, or **Glen Oaks Big Sur**, where you can have a mid-century modern room for night two of your road trip. In Santa Barbara, the **Hotel Californian** is a refreshing hideaway right on the coast, with ocean views, a great on-site restaurant (Blackbird), and a Moroccan spa to counteract hours spent in the car.