Take to the Open Road – Accessing Highway 1 in SLO CAL

Travelers can easily access the scenic Highway 1 in SLO CAL via US-101 from Los Angeles. Experience SLO CAL’s hidden gems and travel like a local while you enjoy our SLO CAL activity suggestions listed on the back of this sheet.

For those continuing north into Monterey County, an easy detour back to US-101 via CA-46 takes you to towns and cities that you’d otherwise miss.

Driving Directions from LA to Ragged Point

2) Take Exit for Highway 1 toward Morro Bay.
3) Follow Highway 1 to Ragged Point.
4) Return via Highway 1 South to CA-46 E/Green Valley Road (approx 30 min.).
5) Northbound travelers head east on CA 46 to US-101 North

Turn Over for a Detailed SLO CAL Map and Activities »»»

Find an interactive map, additional details and trip ideas at SLOCAL.com/Getting-Here
Don’t Miss These SLO CAL Sights

As you travel through SLO CAL along US-101 North and Highway 1, you’ll discover many unique sights along the coast - from historical attractions to modern hot spots.

1) Nipomo: Enter through the gateway to SLO CAL and you’ll find impressive golf courses, the historic Dana Adobe and beautiful Oso Flaco Lake.

2) Arroyo Grande: Relish the village vibes in Arroyo Grande as you stroll the swinging bridge, hunt for antiques and meander amongst roaming chickens. Wander out towards Lake Lopez for a fun-filled day of boating, hiking, ziplining and biking.

3) Oceano Dunes + Grover Beach: Lose yourself in the dunes as you roam over towering walls of sand on foot, board or four wheels then gather around a bonfire for a seaside sunset on the sand in Grover Beach for an unforgettable pitstop.

4) Pismo Beach: Come for the classic Cali vibes, stay for the clam chowder bread bowls, sweet surf spots and underwater caverns worthy of a kayak adventure.

5) San Luis Obispo: Walk the energetic downtown, explore Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, California’s 5th Mission and make your mark on Bubblegum Alley. Or take in breathtaking hikes and refresh with local craft brew.

6) Morro Bay: Catch glimpses of sea otters, seals, dolphins and whales by SUP or dig into salt water taffy, fresh fish by the pound and local oysters with views of Morro Rock and the bay.

7) Cayucos: Enjoy this iconic California beach town with miles of pet-friendly beach, surfing, a historic pier and a sweet stop at the utterly delicious Brown Butter Cookie Company.

8) Harmony: Don’t be fooled by its population of 18. Harmony packs in glassblowing, wine tasting and a creamery, making it the perfect recipe for a quick pit-stop.

9) Cambria: Stop along Moonstone Beach to watch the waves crash against the shore, or visit Main Street for a unique antiquing experience.

10) Hearst Castle + Zebras: Due to COVID-19, tours of William Randolph Hearst’s glamorous showcase of art, architecture are currently suspended. But view the historic castle from HWY 1 and be on the lookout for the infamous Hearst Castle zebras that roam just south of the property as you approach Cambria.

11) Elephant Seal Vista Point: Watch as hundreds of elephant seals mingle, molt and tend to their pups on the scenic beach below. These incredible seals are a classic Highway 1 wildlife experience!

12) Ragged Point: With million-dollar-views to spare, this landmark offers iconic Highway 1 shores and crashing waves. Stop by the Ragged Point Inn to find ‘The Portal to Big Sur,’ a unique wooden sculpture and perfect photo op.

Additional Highway 1 Sights

Edna Valley: Less than ten miles from the Pacific Ocean, you’ll find a dozen boutique wineries with award-winning pinot noir, buttery chardonnay and down-home hospitality.

Avila Beach: Take a tour of the Point San Luis Lighthouse, paddle amongst seals, sea otters and whales, relax on the pristine beach or let Fido frolic through the waves.

Los Osos/Baywood Park: Nestled around the south shore of Morro Bay, nature lovers are drawn to the gorgeous parks, scenic bay views and Morro Bay National Estuary, one of the best-preserved estuaries in central and southern California.

Montaña de Oro: Revel in more than 50 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails with spectacular ocean, mountain and valley vistas.
The Best Detour You Will Ever Take: Accessing Highway 1 in SLO CAL

Even with the closures north of San Luis Obispo County, the famous coastal views and Pacific adventures of Highway 1 are all open and accessible! Travelers can take the “Best Detour Ever” to easily loop around the closures from SLO CAL back to Highway 1 in Monterey.

Enjoy the “scenic route” by exploring the Central Coast’s inland towns and cities that you’d otherwise miss. The detour from Ragged Point to Monterey will take approximately 30 minutes longer than the original Highway 1 route, but the fun and unique stops listed here will have you taking your time.

Driving Directions from Ragged Point to Monterey

1) Drive South on Highway 1 through San Simeon (home of Hearst Castle) and the charming village of Cambria.

2) Turn left onto CA-46 E/Green Valley Road

3) Merge onto US-101 North

4) Take exit 327 towards CA-68/Monterey or continue North towards San Francisco

5) Merge onto Highway 1 S/CA-68 W

Have more time? Continue south through Cayucos and Morro Bay for fun stops, exciting adventures and stunning views before heading east on Highway 41 to US Highway 101 North near the unique town of Atascadero.

Turn Over for a Detailed SLO CAL Route Map & Suggested Activities »»»
Don’t Miss these Fun SLO CAL Sites

As you travel south along Highway 1 and through the detour, you’ll discover many unique sights along the way – from historical attractions to modern hot spots. Just south of Cambria, head east on Highway 46 through the scenic Paso Robles Wine Country before heading north on US-101.

1) Ragged Point + The Portal to Big Sur: With million-dollar-views to spare, this landmark offers iconic Highway 1 shores and crashing waves. Stop by the Ragged Point Inn to find ‘The Portal to Big Sur,’ a unique wooden sculpture and perfect photo op.

2) Elephant Seal Vista Point: Watch as hundreds of elephant seals mingle, molt and tend to their pups on the scenic beach below. These incredible seals are a classic Highway 1 wildlife experience!

3) Hearst Castle + Zebras: Due to COVID-19, tours of William Randoljph Hearst’s glamorous showcase of art, architecture are currently suspended. But view the historic castle from HWY 1 and be on the lookout for the infamous Hearst Castle zebras that roam just south of the property as you approach Cambria.

4) Cambria: Stop along Moonstone Beach to watch the waves crash against the shore, or visit Main Street for a unique antiquing experience.

5) Scenic Viewpoint on Highway 46: On a clear day, this pullout is the perfect place to take that jealousy-inducing vacation pic with views of Morro Rock in the distance.

6) Highway 46 Wineries, Vineyards & Distilleries: Paso Robles was recently named ‘Best Wine Country Town’ by Sunset Magazine and you can explore a wide variety of local establishments on the route there.

7) Paso Robles: Grab a beer at Barrelhouse Brewing or Firestone Walker Brewing on your way into Paso Robles. Stroll around the quaint downtown park filled with shops, art galleries, restaurants and tasting rooms.

8) Mission San Miguel Arcángel: Walk through California’s 16th mission that is considered by many to be the best preserved and most authentic of all the California Missions. Get a true taste of history at this historic landmark.

Additional Highway 1 Sights

Harmony: Don’t be fooled by its population size of 18, Harmony packs in glassblowing, wine tasting and a creamery making it the perfect recipe for a quick pit-stop.

Cayucos: Enjoy this iconic California beach town with miles of pet-friendly beach, surfing, kayaking, and a historic pier. Don’t forget to stop in at the utterly delicious Brown Butter Cookie Company.

Morro Bay: Catch glimpses of sea otters, seals, dolphins and whales by kayak or dig into salt water taffy, fresh fish by the pound and local oysters while enjoying views of Morro Rock and the bay.