



Exploring Big Sur from Monterey

Big Sur is one of the most breathtaking places on the Central Coast. While the region experienced a winter that severely affected the destination, visitors are still able to access some of the best Big Sur has to offer. Travelers are able to experience Big Sur and the 26 miles of coastline all the way down Highway One to Big Sur Ranger Station. They are also able to hike the Pfeiffer Canyon Trail to the south side. As of July 18, Paul's Slide has been cleared, opening up additional access in the destination. Visitors are now able to access 35 miles of the southern section of Big Sur from Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge to Gorda via Nacimiento-Fergusson Road from Highway 101. Iconic attractions, hotels, restaurants and shops on both the north and south side of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge closure including Big Sur Village are open and welcoming guests!

FAQs:

How far south can we travel?

Visitors can access Big Sur and 26 miles of coastline all the way to the Big Sur Ranger Station. Travelers are also able to hike the Pfeiffer Canyon Trail to access businesses south of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge closure. Visitors are now able to access 35 miles of the southern section of Big Sur from Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge to Gorda via Nacimiento-Fergusson Road from Highway 101. You can stop at your favorite spots for a bite to eat, enjoy a sunset that's unforgettable and sleep under the stars.

How do I access the Pfeiffer Canyon Trail?

Visitors wishing to use the trail to access the south side of Big Sur must park at Andrew Molera State Park for a fee of \$10. There, guests will be able to board a shuttle run by [Sur Transportation](#) to all the restaurants and hotels in the Big Sur north area by purchasing a shuttle pass and will be transported through Big Sur Village to the Pfeiffer State Park Camp Store. The shuttle pass is \$5 per person per day (cash only), and children under 12 are free. The shuttles will run from 12 PM to 7 PM seven days a week on both sides of the trail. In order to use the shuttle, visitors must purchase the pass at Andrew Molera State Park. There is no overnight parking available at Andrew Molera State Park.

The trail will give visitors access to a number of businesses south of the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge closure. Visitors are encouraged to be courteous to residents who are using the trail to bring in groceries, attend school and who rely on the trail for their daily routines.

The Pfeiffer Canyon Trail is less than a mile long with a 500 foot elevation gain. Visitors should be prepared for a hike with narrow, steep inclines and rugged terrain. The trail is not recommended for those with limited mobility or those who are unable to engage in mild exercise. Closed toe shoes are recommended. The trail is open to visitors at 12 PM daily and closes a half an hour before sunset.

Is there transportation on the south side of the bridge closure?

Once visitors reach the south side of Big Sur using the Pfeiffer Canyon Trail, a shuttle will be available to transport guests to Nepenthe Restaurant and back. Visitors will be able to board the shuttle at the Loma Vista Shell Station (.25 miles from trail). Big Sur Adventures is also renting electric bikes at Loma Vista, next to the Big Sur Bakery for self-guided tours along Highway One.

Can we drive to the southern section?

Visitors are able to access a portion of the southern section of Big Sur via Nacimiento-Fergusson Road from Highway 101 from the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge to Gorda. Visitors are encouraged to exercise caution when driving along Nacimiento-Fergusson Road as it is narrow and very windy and should only be traveled during daylight hours. While the road is paved and maintained, RVs and heavy vehicles are not recommended. It is also a remote road with no cell service, gas stations or other public services.

Can we hike other established trails?

Yes! There are great hiking options listed below:

[Garrapata State Park and Beach](#)

Garrapata State Park is a beautiful coastal park and beach with various hiking trails and an endless amount of photo opportunities. Currently, only the lands on the west side of Highway 1 are open to the public.

[Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park](#)

Visitors can hike and explore the Redwood Deck Trail, Nature Trail, River Path, Warden's Path and Liewald Flat Trail.

[Point Lobos State Natural Reserve](#)

This gem is a must-see with incredible hiking trails and beach access. You can often view sea otters and seals during hikes along the coastline.

[Point Sur Lighthouse](#)

Enjoy a three-hour walking tour overlooking the Pacific Ocean with exploration of the Lighthouse and historic homes and buildings. Tours are available Saturday and Sunday at 10am and Wednesday at 1pm.

Can we camp?

Yes! Below is a list of campgrounds that are open and ready to accept visitors.

[Big Sur Campground and Cabins](#)

This unique property offers both campsites and rustic cabins available for rent. The property also offers a small camp store, basketball hoops, kid's playground and soft serve ice cream.

[Fernwood Resort](#)

Cozy rooms and tent cabins are available near the Big Sur River. There is also an onsite bar, restaurant, gift shop and general store.

[Kirk Creek Campground](#)

Kirk Creek Campground is situated on an open bluff 100 feet above the ocean, among several Monterey Pines. Each of Kirk Creek's 34 sites has a view of the magnificent Big Sur coast.

[Limekiln State Park](#)

The park features breathtaking views of the Big Sur Coast, the beauty of the redwoods, the rugged coast and the cultural history of limekilns. The park has 24 campsites.

[Nacimiento Campground](#)

Nacimiento Campground is a small campground with 8 sites that are first come first serve along the side of a mountain trout stream approximately 11 miles east of Kirk Creek on the Nacimiento-Ferguson Road.

[Plaskett Creek Campground](#)

Plaskett Creek Campground offers family campsites in a country park-like setting under a scattered canopy of large Monterey Pines and Monterey Cypress. The campground has 44 sites.

[Ponderosa Campground](#)

Ponderosa Campground has family campsites along a mountain trout stream under a canopy of beautiful trees located on Nacimiento-Fergusson Road. The campground has 23 sites available.

[Riverside Campground and Cabins](#)

This riverside retreat offers camp sites and rustic cabins. The property also hosts a small camping store for guests.

[Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park](#)

Beginning July 1, visitors once again will be able to use the campground and all four day-use lots. The large campground accommodates hikers, bikers, car campers and RVs.

**Please plan ahead if you are traveling in an RV. There are limited turn-around locations. Also, for the safety of travelers, RVs and heavy vehicles are not recommended on Nacimiento-Fergusson Road.*

Are there other lodging options?

Yes! Below is a list of hotels that are open:

[Big Sur Lodge](#)

Nestled deep in the redwood forest of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, [Big Sur Lodge](#) has long been a haven for travelers in search of peace. Guests can enjoy a stay here in one of the 62 cottage-style rooms. Join us at our hand hewn Redwood Bar that overlooks Big Sur River. Our chef is offering the best meats from our on-site smoker, salads and handmade pizzas.

[Big Sur River Inn](#)

The historic Big Sur River Inn has been a staple in the heart of Big Sur Village since 1932. Surrounded by the towering redwoods and along the Big Sur River, the inn provides the perfect escape and opportunity to unwind along the river while listening to the peaceful sounds of nature.

[Glen Oaks Big Sur](#)

Rustic and elegant, Glen Oaks Big Sur offers guests a cozy and comfortable retreat in the redwoods and along the Big Sur River. Visitors can stay in a Fireside Lodge, the Oak Tree Cottage or a cabin in the Redwood Grove. The dreamy Big Sur Cabin has two fire pits plus a pair of outdoor clawfoot soaking tubs.

[Ripplewood Resort](#)

One of Big Sur's oldest resorts and a favorite among families, Ripplewood Resort features 17 rustic cabins, a general store and café. Some of the cabins have private decks that are perched over the Big Sur River, so you can be lulled to sleep by the tranquil sounds of the flowing water.

[Treebones Resort Big Sur](#)

This unique property is a premier glamping resort, blending the natural experience of outdoor camping with more luxurious amenities.

What restaurants are open?

[Big Sur Roadhouse](#)

In keeping with the Big Sur ethos, the seasonal menu is filled with locally sourced organic ingredients for a delicious California cuisine.

[Nepenthe Restaurant](#)

Perched on the edge of the continent, high above the Pacific and watched over by the majestic Santa Lucia Mountains, they have long been a meeting place for poets, artists, travelers and vagabonds alike. Sit on the terrace and enjoying the Ambrosia Burger or broiled Shrimp BLT.

[Restaurant at the Big Sur River Inn](#)

Renew your spirit at the full service restaurant and bar at Big Sur River Inn.

[Rocky Point Restaurant](#)

Spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean as you sit perched cliff-side; either inside through panoramic windows, next to a cozy fireplace or outside on the open deck. Catch a glimpse of playful sea-otters, dolphins, seals and whales.

While many businesses north of the Big Sur Ranger Station are open as well as a number of businesses south of the bridge closure, we encourage you to plan ahead and contact your destinations in advance to ensure a smooth arrival experience.

Is there public transportation available to and from Big Sur?

Monterey-Salinas Transit offers daily bus service to and from Big Sur through Labor Day. The modified Line 22 Big Sur – Monterey service runs from Monterey all the way down to Big Sur Ranger Station with

stops along the way including Bixby Bridge and Big Sur Village. Please visit mst.org for more information.

Where do I park when I visit Big Sur?

For those visitors who are not hiking the Pfeiffer Canyon Trail and staying in Big Sur Village, parking is available in designated parking spaces and areas at your destination. For those enjoying the parks, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park has day use parking available and Garrapata State Park has turnout areas for vehicles. Please do not illegally park along Highway 1. The MCCVB kindly encourages visitors to plan ahead.

How can we get to the Hearst Castle and beyond?

Travelers will still be able to take advantage of a portion of the *Highway 1 Road Trip* from here to Hearst Castle and beyond using Highway 1, however, you will need to take a detour via Highway 68 to Highway 101 to continue south. There are several things to see and do when you take the undiscovered Highway 101 route. Below are just a few highlights along the Highway 101 detour:

- [National Steinbeck Center](#) in Salinas
- [Pinnacles National Park](#) in Salinas Valley
- [San Antonio Mission](#) in Jolon
- [Wine Tasting Rooms](#) in Salinas Valley

Please note, until Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge in Big Sur is repaired, visitors will not be able to drive all the way from Monterey to Los Angeles on Highway 1 without using a detour.

Travel Tip:

For guests and visitors planning to travel to Big Sur, we encourage you to stay alert and be mindful and respectful to those Caltrans and other public service and safety workers who are working diligently to restore the destination after the winter weather impacts. Please use turnouts and legal parking areas and pull over when appropriate.

For more information on the road conditions and what to see and do in Big Sur, please visit SeeMonterey.com.