

# **TOP DOWN: THE ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP**

# San Francisco to San Luis Obispo



Part five of our Seattle to San Diego journey swings south from San Francisco along the peninsula's Pacific shores to magical Carmelby-the-Sea. While our original route passed through Big Sur, extensive bridge damage from winter storms has required a detour via Paso Robles back to the coast, where the visual riches of San Simeon and the culinary spoils of San Luis Obispo await.

#### NATURE BREAK Half Moon Bay

Follow California Highway 1 as it slips south out of San Francisco and make a sweet morning out of hiking the wide, beautiful beaches of Half Moon Bay: Cowell Ranch State Beach and Half Moon Bay State Beach. Replenish with super local goods at the Saturday Coastside Farmers' Market.



# **MILE 130**

# **BEAUTY AND BEASTS**

Carmel-by-the-Sea

Start with a stroll of ever-charming Carmelby-the-Sea. Then leave the Pacific behind for the hillside retreat of Carmel Valley Ranch. home to alluring extras such as wine education classes and wellness sessions with horses, not to mention an excellent spa and restaurant. Rates start at \$350.



# MILE 236 ......

#### HISTORY DETOUR Paso Robles

After a series of devastating winter storms, the road through Big Sur is closed, making a Highway 1 journey south impossible for now. Take a speedy detour inland on U.S. Route 101 to reach Paso Robles, a fine excuse to visit the exquisite

Mission San Miguel.



# **MILE 324**

#### EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY

San Luis Obispo

Bed down at the sweetly urbane Granada Hotel & Bistro, and spend the next day exploring. Start at Scout Coffee, grab cute swag at Ambiance boutique, taste excellent local wines at The Station, and go fresh and wood-fired at Ember restaurant in nearby Arroyo Grande.



LEG 5 of 8

## **MILE 281**

# **INSTAGRAM HEAVEN**

Hearst Castle

Return to the coast just south of Cambria for a foray north to Hearst Castle, the eve-popping mansion that media magnate William Randolph Hearst built. Try to decide which is more spectacular: the art, the architecture, the swimming pool, or the ocean views.



DETOUR WORTH TAKING Slow down in Paso Robles to explore its burgeoning culinary scene. Check out Tablas Creek Vineyard, Bristols Cider House, BarrelHouse Brewing Co., and the Paso Robles Distillery Trail for liquid pleasures





**NUMBER OF YEARS CLINT EASTWOOD** SERVED AS MAYOR OF CARMEL



**BATHROOMS** IN HEARST CASTLE'S CASA GRANDE

**OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRD SPECIES** CALL HALF MOON BAY HOME



**3 HOT SPRINGS POOLS** OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN PASO ROBLES

