

The Original Road Trip: California's Central Coast Hollywood on the Central Coast



7 Day Itinerary traveling from San Francisco to Los Angeles

DAY 1

Arrive at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and drive approximately 60 miles / 96 km, 1 hour, 10 minutes, to Santa Cruz County down HWY 101 South to HWY 17 West to HWY 1

While most visitors are drawn to Santa Cruz County for its beaches and redwoods, many are also attracted to the area because of its rich history of film projects. Despite today's adrenalin-charged, blockbuster action-adventure movies, lingering traces of films past maintain a small but loyal audience. Since it debuted in 1987, "The Lost Boys" has enjoyed a strong cult following. Visitors often ask where "the clubhouse" is and if they can visit the boardwalk where Harry Callahan, on suspension, yet again, from the Police Department, meets up with thugs in "Sudden Impact." In 2004, the centuries-old towering trees at Big Basin Redwoods State Historic Park were the setting for scenes in the feature film "Kinsey," starring Liam Neeson and Laura Linney. Over 135 film productions featured locations in Santa Cruz County including "Dangerous Minds," "Frog and Wombat," and of course, "Killer Klowns from Outer Space." www.santacruzcounty.travel

Spend the Night

DAY 2

Monterey next morning down Hwy 1 South, 45 miles, 45 minutes

Clint Eastwood's "Play Misty for Me," Tom Hank's "Turner & Hooch" and Marilyn Monroe's "Clash by Night" are just some of the nearly 200 Hollywood classics that have featured California's picturesque Central Coast as their backdrop. Though California is often associated with the film industry because it is home to star-studded Hollywood, one cannot overlook the leading role that Monterey County, and the Monterey Peninsula in particular, has played in films. "One Eyed Jacks," the only movie Marlon Brando ever directed, was filmed throughout the Central Coast region, including shots in Pebble Beach and Big Sur. The crashing waves, gnarled Cypress trees and white-sand beaches will undoubtedly attract directors and cinematographers to the region for years to come. Monterey Movie Tours, www.montereymovietours.com, a local tour operator, can take you to many of the sites and provide an in-depth narrative about movies on their daily scenic tour of the Monterey Peninsula. Relax in the comfort of a custom-designed coach and watch samples of the films that made this area famous. www.seemonterey.com

Spend the night

DAY 3

South on HWY 1 to Hearst Castle, 98 miles, 2.5 Hours – Built by renowned William Randolph Hearst – take a tour and feel like you are on a movie set – then continue South on HWY 1, to San Luis Obispo 46 miles, 1.25 hours

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San Luis Obispo County has provided the backdrop for countless commercials, television shows and films ranging from Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 epic "The Ten Commandments" to one of the popular "Pirates of the Caribbean" trilogy. The County has doubled for Maine and the Midwest, ancient Rome and America in the 21st century. Some highlights include:

- "Pirates of the Caribbean" (2007): During the very beginning of the film Captain Jack Sparrow slides down an Oceano Dunes State Park sand dune to land in the Pacific Ocean.
- "Pete's Dragon" (1977): Disney film crews built a 52-foot lighthouse on a bluff in the Montano de Oro State Park to film a story about a boy and his dragon friend.
- "Arachnophobia" (1990): Giant killer spiders invaded the quiet hamlet of Cambria in this film. Locations featured were Coast Union High school, Moonstone Beach, and Adelaida.

San Luis Obispo County details at www.sanluisobispocounty.com.

Spend the Night

DAY 4

Drive South on HWY 101 for 31 miles, 36 minutes to Santa Maria

In the Howard Hughes biopic "The Aviator," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, the eccentric pilot emerges unscathed after crashing his H-1 Racer into a beet field while setting the land-plane speed record. Today, Hughes' original H-1 is prominently displayed at the National Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C. But whatever happened to DiCaprio's H-1? It's now displayed at the Santa Maria Museum of Flight on California's Central Coast, where several cinema props have found a permanent landing. Among the museum's featured movie props are a full-scale Wright glider from "Winds of Kitty Hawk" and a large radio-controlled model airplane that flew in the "Flight of The Phoenix." Even the museum's main building is an original wooden hangar featured in the movie "The Rocketeer." However, there's much more than Hollywood at the heart of this little museum, which also houses a variety of planes, models, photos, memorabilia and exhibits. www.SantaMaria.com

Drive south on HWY 101 to Solvang, 36 miles, 39 minutes to Solvang on Santa Barbara County

Filmed on location throughout Buellton, Solvang and the Santa Ynez Valley, the movie "Sideways" premiered in late 2004 and won numerous awards including an Oscar and two Golden Globes in early 2005. Using the "Sideways" Tour map, take a self-guided tour along the path traveled by the films' two main characters, Miles and Jack. You won't want to miss wine tasting at the rustic Alma Rosa Winery, where you'll enjoy a wonderful pinot noir along with other varietals. Visit Ostrich Land, where you can get an up-close glimpse and even feed these beautiful large birds. As your day comes to an end and you've worked up an appetite, be sure to visit the Hitching Post or AJ Spurs, where Miles and Jack used to go for a hearty meal. Truly a memorable way to experience Hollywood on the Central Coast.

www.visitbuellton.com and www.SolvangUSA.com

Spend the night

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DAY 5

Take 246 West then Drive South Hwy 101/Hwy 1 along the Ocean to Santa Barbara, 45 miles, 1 hour

Now celebrating 100 years of filmmaking, Santa Barbara has been used as a location for films featuring stars from Charlie Chaplin to Steve Martin. Literally thousands of films have been produced here, from the short cowboy films of 1910 to major feature films of 2010. Film fans can walk in the footsteps of the stars at locations such as El Paseo, used as a location for Meryl Streep's character in "It's Complicated." Fans of that film should also climb the tower at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse for a breathtaking "beauty shot" view, also used in "It's Complicated." Non-actors too can tread the boards of Stearns Wharf, where Batman chased the Joker in the first feature-length Batman project, starring Adam West. Finally, walk downtown State Street, where film in Santa Barbara began 100 years ago with the comic short film "A Method in his Madness," in which a savvy con man discovers a way to drink his fill for free. www.filmsantabarbara.com and www.SantaBarbaraCA.com

Spend the night

DAY 6

Drive South on HWY 1 along the Ocean to Ventura, 27 miles, 30 minutes

Historic structures, harbors and marinas, beaches, ocean views, surrounding countryside (farms, barns and orchards), residential and business districts can all be found within Ventura itself. Several feature films have been shot here, including "Castaway," "Erin Brockovich," "Gulliver's Travels," "Little Miss Sunshine," "Starsky & Hutch" and "Swordfish." www.ventura-usa.com

The Fillmore & Western Railway Company, www.fwry.com in Fillmore, is also known as the "Home of the Hollywood Movie Trains." Passengers can ride the same train that transported "Seabiscuit," his owners and trainers on their movie trips around the country or ride behind the engine that pulled the train in "Rails & Ties." This attraction and area has hosted over 400 films and TV productions. "Oliver's Arrow," "Bedtime Stories," and "Water For Elephants" were recently filmed, as were TV shows like "Bones," "Numbers," "How I Met Your Mother," "CSI" and "Jericho."

Clark Gable, Carol Lombard, Charlie Chapin, Rudolph Valentino, Andrew McCarthy, Helen Hunt and Kirk Douglas frequented popular Hollywood Beach in Oxnard. The TV show "The Biggest Loser" has filmed several of their key events on Hollywood Beach. Besides being a star attraction, Hollywood Beach is excellent for swimming, sunning, sightseeing and viewing the Channel Islands offshore. Spend the day or the weekend in this picturesque setting. www.VisitOxnard.com

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DAY 7

***Continue South to LAX on HWY 101 for 72 miles, 1 hour and 10 minutes depending on traffic
Depart out of Los Angeles***

Of course arriving in Los Angeles you will be in one of the Movie Capitals of the world and there is much to learn and discover. Assistance is available through <http://www.lainc.us/>
You may also want to contact the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for information <http://www.hollywoodchamber.net/> .