The Best Detour You Will Ever Take - Accessing Highway 1 in SLO CAL

Travelers can easily get from Highway 1 in SLO CAL to Monterey and back onto Highway 1 via the “Best Detour Ever.” Before you leave SLO CAL, be sure to stop and enjoy our SLO CAL detour activity suggestions listed on the back of this sheet.

Explore the inland towns and cities that you’d otherwise miss, and enjoy your Highway 1 detour. The detour from Ragged Point to Monterey will take approximately 30 minutes longer than the original Highway 1 route, but the fun and scenic stops listed on the back, may make you take your time.

Driving Directions from Ragged Point to Monterey

1) Drive South on Highway 1.
2) Turn left onto CA-46 E/Green Valley Road.
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? Swing south through Cayucos and Morro Bay for fun activities and stunning views before heading east to reach US-101 North.

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

Questions? Call the Visit SLO CAL office at (805) 541-8000
Find an interactive map, additional details and trip ideas at SLOCAL.com/Getting-Here
Don’t Miss These SLO CAL Sights

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 silly seals are a classic Highway 1 wildlife experience!

3) Hearst Castle + Zebras: Take a tour of William Randolph Hearst’s glamorous showcase of art, architecture and gardens with panoramic views of unspoiled coastline and rugged mountains. 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 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, a historic pier and 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.