ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

# By Harley along Highway 1

*Big Sur's curves above the ocean, at ease: short rides and many stops.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Length | 10 days, 9 nights |
| Distance | 750 km, 7 driving days |
| Behind the wheel | 12 h 30 min |
| Travellers | 2, 1 room, 1 car |
| Hotels | Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars) |
| Flights | Amsterdam – San Francisco (SFO), Los Angeles (LAX) – Amsterdam |

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| **Santa Barbara** | Days 7–8 | **16** |
| **Los Angeles** | Day 9 | **18** |

# Day by day

| DAY | DATE | NIGHT | KM | DRIVE | °C |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | San Francisco | 20 | 20 min | |
| 2 | | San Francisco | | | |
| 3 | | Monterey | 180 | 2 h 50 min | |
| 4 | | Big Sur | 50 | 1 h | |
| 5 | | Big Sur | | | |
| 6 | | San Luis Obispo | 170 | 3 h | |
| 7 | | Santa Barbara | 150 | 2 h 30 min | |
| 8 | | Santa Barbara | | | |
| 9 | | Los Angeles | 150 | 2 h 20 min | |
| 10 | | Flight home from LAX | 30 | 30 min | |

**750 km · 12 h 30 min behind the wheel · on average 110 km a driving day**

*Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.*

# The route




Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

## ON THE ROAD

| | |
|---|---|
| **Day 1** | Land at San Francisco (SFO), drive to San Francisco · About 20 km (10 mi), 20 min |
| **Day 3** | San Francisco, drive to Monterey · About 180 km (110 mi), 2 h 50 min |
| **Day 4** | Monterey, drive to Big Sur · About 50 km (30 mi), 1 h |
| **Day 6** | Big Sur, drive to San Luis Obispo · About 170 km (110 mi), 3 h |
| **Day 7** | San Luis Obispo, drive to Santa Barbara · About 150 km (90 mi), 2 h 30 min |
| **Day 9** | Santa Barbara, drive to Los Angeles · About 150 km (100 mi), 2 h 20 min |

# Well prepared

### ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

### Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

### Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

### Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

### Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

### Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

### National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

### Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

### Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

### Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

### Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

# Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

**DON'T FORGET**

# Notes



DAYS 1–2

# San Francisco CA

*Across the Golden Gate Bridge*

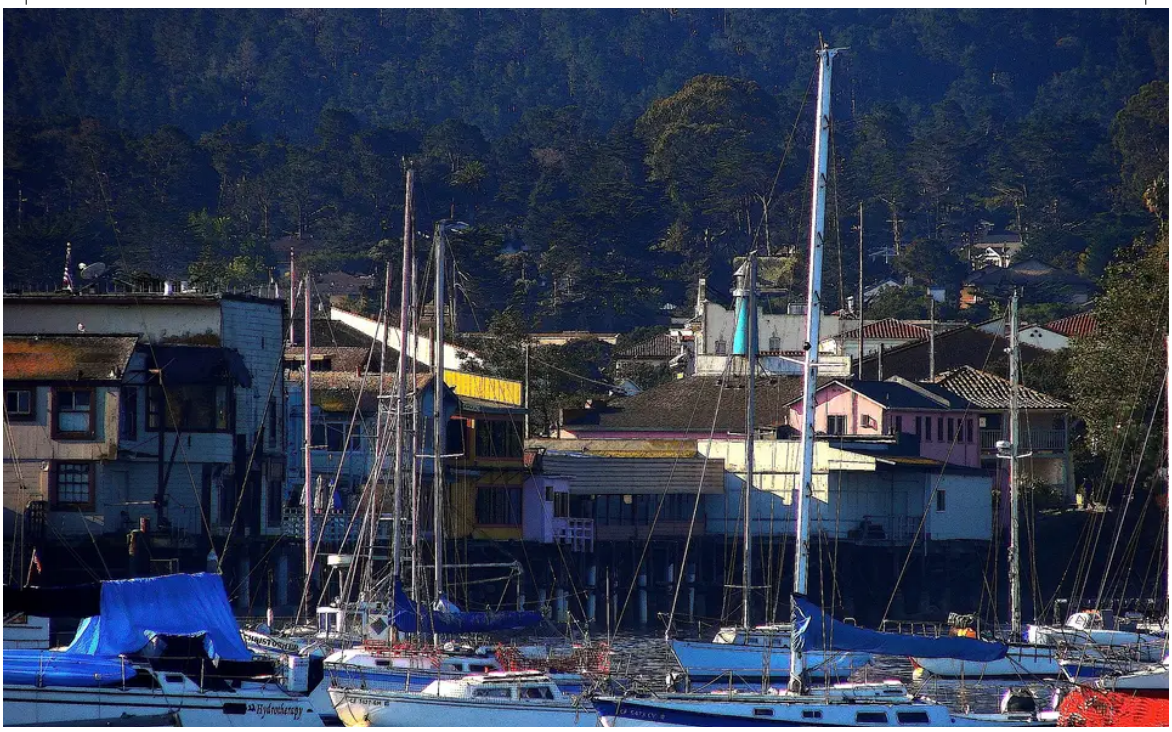
Land at San Francisco (SFO), drive to San Francisco: about 20 km (10 mi), 20 min

**2 nights**

## HOTEL

- [ ] Inn at Union Square · 3★
  440 Post St
- [ ] Chancellor Hotel on Union Square · 3★ — roughly €120
  433 Powell St
- [ ] White Swan Inn · 3★ — roughly €150
  845 Bush St
- [ ] Petite Auberge · 3★ — roughly €190
  863 Bush St
- [ ] Hyatt Place San Francisco/Downtown · 3★ — roughly €190
  701 3rd St

## NOTES



DAY 3

# Monterey CA

*17-Mile Drive*

San Francisco, drive to Monterey: about 180 km (110 mi), 2 h 50 min

**1 night**

## HOTEL

- [ ] Spindrift Inn · 3★ — roughly €270
  652 Cannery Row
- [ ] Victorian Inn · 3★ — roughly €200
  487 Foam St
- [ ] Stage Coach Lodge · 3★ — roughly €130
  1111 Tenth Street
- [ ] Hampton Inn Monterey · 3★ — roughly €220
  2401 Del Monte Ave
- [ ] Ramada by Wyndham Monterey · 3★ — roughly €120
  2058 N. Fremont Street

## NOTES



DAYS 4–5

# Big Sur CA

*Bixby Bridge and the curves along the cliffs*

Monterey, drive to Big Sur: about 50 km (30 mi), 1 h

2 nights

BIG SUR · DAYS 4–5

## HOTEL

- [ ] Big Sur Campground and Cabins · 3★
  California 1
- [ ] Big Sur River Inn · 3★
  46800 Highway One

## NOTES



DAY 6

# San Luis Obispo CA

*Hearst Castle and the elephant seals*

Big Sur, drive to San Luis Obispo: about 170 km (110 mi), 3 h

1 night

## HOTEL

- [ ] Lofted Bedroom Teal Tiny Home with Creek Views · 3★
  2994 South Higuera Street
- [ ] Peaceful Tiny Home Loft and Sauna · 3★
  2994 South Higuera Street
- [ ] The BEST Tiny Home Loft and Private Yard · 3★
  2994 South Higuera Street
- [ ] La Quinta by Wyndham San Luis Obispo · 3★ — roughly €130
  1845 Monterey St.
- [ ] TownePlace Suites by Marriott San Luis Obispo · 3★ — roughly €170
  1301 CALLE JOAQUIN

## NOTES



DAYS 7–8

# Santa Barbara CA

*The Santa Ynez wine country*

San Luis Obispo, drive to Santa Barbara: about 150 km (90 mi), 2 h 30 min

**2 nights**

## HOTEL

- ☐ Avania Inn of Santa Barbara · 3★ — roughly €210
  128 Castillo St
- ☐ Harbor House Inn · 3★ — roughly €300
  104 Bath Street
- ☐ Pacific Crest Hotel Santa Barbara · 3★ — roughly €130
  433 Corona Del Mar Drive
- ☐ Marina Beach Hotel · 3★ — roughly €240
  21 Bath St
- ☐ The Eagle Inn · 3★
  232 Natoma Avenue

## NOTES



DAY 9

# Los Angeles CA

*Malibu, and return the bike*

Santa Barbara, drive to Los Angeles: about 150 km (100 mi), 2 h 20 min

**1 night**

LOS ANGELES · DAY 9

## HOTEL

- [ ] FOUND Hotels, Santa Monica, Series by Marriott · 3★ — roughly €200
  12311 Santa Monica Blvd
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Los Angeles LAX/Century Boulevard · 3★ — roughly €150
  5933 W Century Blvd
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express Hollywood Walk of Fame by IHG · 3★ — roughly €220
  1921 N Highland Avenue
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express West Los Angeles by IHG · 3★ — roughly €350
  11250 Santa Monica Blvd
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE · 3★ — roughly €190
  901 W Olympic Blvd

## NOTES

# What it costs

| DAY | PLACE | HOTEL | TOURS | CAR | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | San Francisco | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 2 | San Francisco | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 3 | Monterey | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 4 | Big Sur | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 5 | Big Sur | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 6 | San Luis Obispo | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 7 | Santa Barbara | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 8 | Santa Barbara | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 9 | Los Angeles | €160 | – | €170 | **€330** |
| 10 | Flight home from LAX | – | – | €170 | **€170** |

| | |
|---|---|
| Flights | €1,700 |
| Hotels | €1,440 |
| Excursions | €0 |
| Car hire | €1,700 |
| **Total** | **€5,290** |
| | €2,650 a person |

*An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.*

# Notes

# About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.roundtrip.expert/tours/harley-highway-1/

## PHOTOS

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| | |
|---|---|
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## MAP AND TYPE

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