

HIGHWAY 1 - BIG SUR

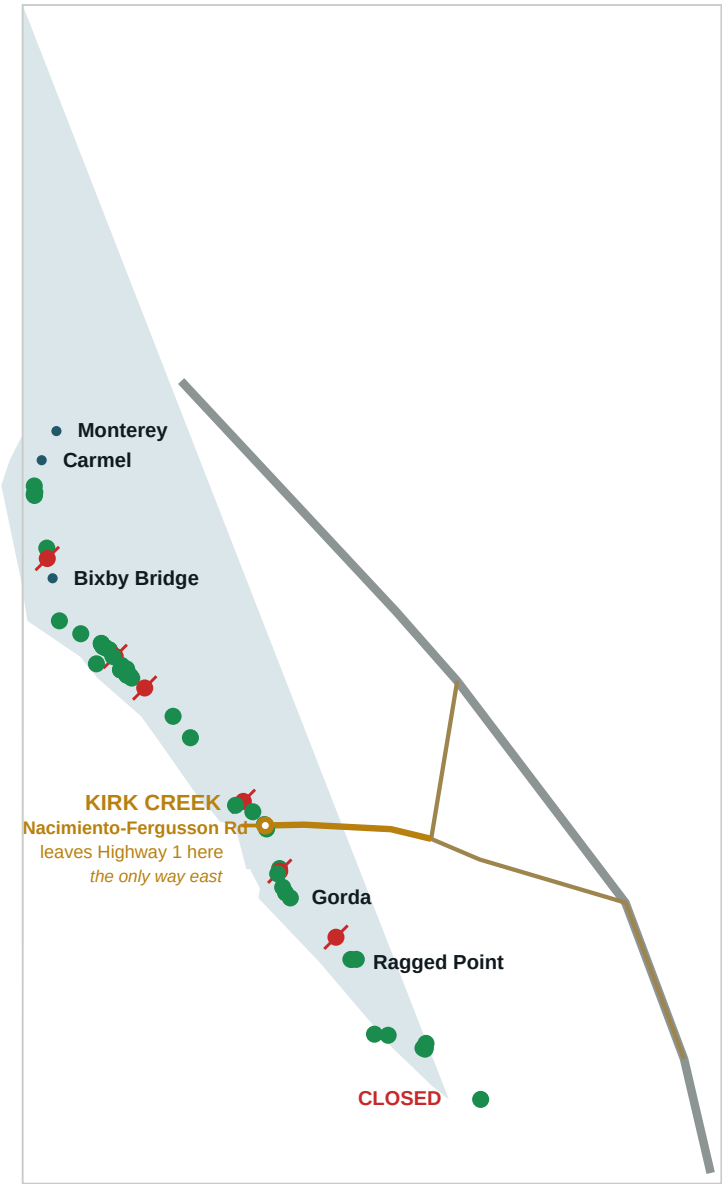
Getting in, and what is open

OPEN END TO END

Reviewed 2026-10-06

Highway 1 is open end to end - you can drive Carmel to San Simeon. Expect one-way traffic control at work zones all along the coast: round the clock at Rocky Creek Bridge, at the slide

Check Caltrans 1-800-427-7623 before setting out



LEGEND

- Highway 1, open
- US 101, the long way round
- Highway 1, closed
- Open - fuel, charging, a bed or day use
- Nacimiento-Fergusson, over the range
- Closed, private, or rebuilding

BEFORE YOU DRIVE, ASK SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS

Emergency	911	Caltrans highway conditions	1-800-427-7623
California State Parks reservations	800-444-7275	Los Padres National Forest	805-434-1996
Monterey County OES	831-796-1905	Monterey County Sheriff	831-755-3700
CAL FIRE BEU	831-333-2600	Fort Hunter Liggett	831-386-2513
Caltrans D5 - Big Sur / Nacimiento	805-549-3138	Caltrans D5 - Big Sur / Nacimiento (alt)	805-549-3318

SOMEWHERE TO STAY

North to south. Ring ahead: most of this coast has no signal, and when the road shuts the beds go quickly.

- **Hyatt Carmel Highlands**
831-620-1234
www.hyatt.com
- **Big Sur River Inn**
831-667-2700
www.bigsurriverinn.com
- **Riverside Campground & Cabins**
831-667-2414
www.riversidecampground.com
- **Glen Oaks Big Sur**
831-667-2105
frontdesk@glenoaksbigsur.com
- **Big Sur Lodge**
855-238-6950
www.bigsurlodge.com
- **Ventana Campground**
855-391-8683
www.ventanacamping.com
- **Deetjen's Big Sur Inn**
831-667-2377
www.deetjens.org
- **Lucia Lodge**
no number recorded
www.lucialodge.com
- **Kirk Creek Campground**
805-434-1996
www.recreation.gov
- **Treebones Resort**
877-424-4787
treebonesresort.com
- **Ragged Point**
805-927-4502
www.raggedpointinn.com
- **Tickle Pink Inn**
831-624-1244
www.ticklepinkinn.com
- **Big Sur Campground & Cabins**
831-667-2322
www.bigsurcamp.com
- **Ripplewood**
831-667-2242
ripplewoodbigsur.com
- **Fernwood**
831-667-2422
www.fernwoodbigsur.com
- **Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park**
CLOSED 831-667-1112
www.parks.ca.gov
- **Post Ranch Inn**
800-527-2200
reservations@postranchinn.com
- **New Camaldoli Hermitage**
CLOSED
contemplation.com
- **Limekiln State Park**
831-643-6036 bookings 800-444-7275
www.parks.ca.gov
- **Plaskett Creek Campground**
CLOSED 805-434-1996
www.recreation.gov
- **Gorda**
no number recorded
gordaspringsresort.com

FUEL AND CHARGING

There is very little of it. Fill up before you think you need to.

- **Carmel Highlands**
fuel, store
 - **Ripplewood**
food, fuel, lodging, store
 - **Gorda**
charging, food, fuel, lodging, restrooms, store
- **Big Sur River Inn fuel**
fuel
 - **Tesla Supercharger**
charging
 - **Ragged Point**
food, fuel, lodging, restrooms

Longest run with no fuel: 33.4 miles straight line, Ripplewood to Gorda.
The drive is further than that. This is not a road to gamble a quarter tank on.

WORTH STOPPING FOR

Day use, viewpoints and the things people drive this road to see.

- **Carmel Mission**

OPEN, on its own current hours page, read in a browser at about 9:25pm PDT on 5 October 2026: 'Monday and Tuesday: CLOSED / Wednesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. / Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. / Sunday: 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.'

- **Point Lobos State Natural Reserve**

OPEN. State Parks' own page for the reserve, read in a browser at 5:20am PDT on 6 October 2026: 'RESERVE HOURS 8 am - 7 pm', 'No Vehicles or Pedestrians may enter the Reserve after 6:30 pm', and no closure notice. Car park fills early; parking on the Highway 1 shoulder is allowed where it is legal.

- **Garrapata State Park**

OPEN for day use, on State Parks' own page, read in a browser on 6 October 2026: 'This park is open for day use: 8:00 a.m. to sunset.' The Soberanes Canyon Trail is open; the Rocky Ridge Trail is closed.

- **Rocky Point Restaurant**

NOT ON THE MAP, BY INSTRUCTION, UNTIL A REOPENING IS ANNOUNCED. The restaurant has been shut since 2020. Esperanza Carmel bought the property in November 2021 and are working with Monterey County and the California Coastal Commission on redevelopment; no reopening date has been set - the owner's own site, esperanzacarmel.com/rocky-point, which is the right authority for it. THE GROUNDS THEMSELVES ARE OPEN: the gates are

CLOSED

- **Point Sur State Historic Park**

OPEN BY GUIDED TOUR ONLY, as always: the docents' own site lists lighthouse and naval facility tour times, read 6 October 2026. Meet at the gate on Highway 1; ring (831) 625-4419 to confirm a tour.

- **Andrew Molera State Park**

OPEN: campground and day use open on State Parks' own page, read 6 October 2026. The trails east of Highway 1, the Old Coast Road and the East Molera Trail stay closed.

- **Pfeiffer Beach**

OPEN, on the Forest Service's own page, read in a browser on 6 October 2026: 'Site Open'; 'The beach is open 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.' Down Sycamore Canyon Road; vehicles only on the road itself.

- **Henry Miller Memorial Library**

OPEN, on their own site, read in a browser on 6 October 2026: 'The Library is open again - and Highway 1 is open in both directions!'

- **Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park**

OPEN: 'The day use areas, restrooms, and the Partington Cove trail are all now open to the public', State Parks' own page, read 6 October 2026. McWay Falls overlook open; the trails east of Highway 1 stay closed.

- **Esalen Institute**

OPEN, BY RESERVATION ONLY, on their own word, read in a browser at 5:20am PDT on 6 October 2026: 'we welcome visitors with advance reservations for workshops and massages to our campus in Big Sur.' There is no casual visit; the gate is for guests.

- **Mill Creek Day Use Area**

OPEN. The Forest Service's current closure order (05-07-51-26-11) stops at the eastern edge of Highway 1 here, so this site is outside it; its old site page still carries a closure line from 31 August that nothing current supports. Picnic tables and a rocky beach; the Mill Creek trail inland stays closed by the order.

Day use only - no camping

- **Sand Dollar Beach**

OPEN. The Forest Service's current closure order (05-07-51-26-11) stops at the eastern edge of Highway 1 here, so this site is outside it; its old site page still carries a closure line from 31 August that nothing current supports. The car park is on Highway 1; the beach is down the stairs. Day use only, no camping. Respect the water - the undertow here is real.

Day use only - no camping

- **Jade Cove**

OPEN. The Forest Service's current closure order (05-07-51-26-11) stops at the eastern edge of Highway 1 here, so this site is outside it; its old site page still carries a closure line from 31 August that nothing current supports. A pullout and a steep trail; hunt jade below the high-tide line only, by hand.

Day use only - no camping

- **Willow Creek Picnic Ground**

OPEN. The Forest Service's current closure order (05-07-51-26-11) stops at the eastern edge of Highway 1 here, so this site is outside it; its old site page still carries a closure line from 31 August that nothing current supports. Willow Creek Road and the trail inland stay closed by the order.

Day use only - no camping

- **Salmon Creek Falls Trail**

CLOSED: the Forest Service's own page for the trail reads 'Trail Temporarily Closed', and Forest Order 05-07-51-26-11 (in force to 31 January 2027) runs its closed area along the trail's northern edge down to the trailhead and closes the Salmon Creek Station road (24S05) there. Read 6 October 2026. The falls are a few minutes' walk from Highway 1; stay off the trail until the Forest Service reopens it.

Roadside parking only - no car park

CLOSED

- **Ragged Point**

OPEN, on its own posted hours, read in a browser at about 9:20pm PDT on 5 October 2026: 'The Ragged Point Restaurant is open for breakfast from 8 to 11 am, lunch from noon to 4 pm, and dinner from 5 to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday.' They suggest ringing 805-927-5708 to confirm and reserve.

- **Piedras Blancas Light Station**

OPEN BY TOUR, on its own site, read in a browser on 6 October 2026: 'Tours are available year-round on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. All tours begin at 9:45 a.m.' Reservations are required.

- **Elephant Seal Vista Point**
OPEN, read in a browser at about 9:20pm PDT on 5 October 2026: 'Viewing areas are open every day. There are no fees or reservations required.' State Parks agrees: 'The viewing areas are open to the public year-round'.
Day use only - no camping
- **Hearst Castle**
OPEN. hearstcastle.org, read in a browser at 9:20pm PDT on 5 October 2026: 'OPEN FOR TOURS'; ReserveCalifornia showed Grand Rooms tours on Wednesday 7 October every twenty minutes from 9:00am to 3:40pm with seats left. Book ahead.
Tours by reservation
- **Coastal Discovery Center**
OPEN Thursday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, on its own page, read in a browser on 6 October 2026. At W.R. Hearst Memorial State Beach, by the pier.
- **Sebastian's General Store**
OPEN, on its own posted hours, read in a browser at about 9:20pm PDT on 5 October 2026: 'Hours of Operation Daily 11am-5pm'.
- **San Simeon Pier**
OPEN, on State Parks' standing page for W.R. Hearst Memorial State Beach, read in a browser at about 9:20pm PDT on 5 October 2026: 'Operating Hours Dawn to Dusk', with pier fishing described and no closure notice. Nothing speaks to the pier itself today.
Day use only - no camping

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This sheet is a planning aid, not an authority. Road status, fuel and opening hours on this coast change faster than any map. Nothing here is a promise that a road is open or that a pump is working - if an agency and this sheet disagree, the agency is right. Positions checked against OpenStreetMap; operator details checked against their own sites; some entries come from people who live on this coast and are marked as such on placenameguide.com.