



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TOUR

April 9-17, 2016

Total cost: **\$1760 if 18-24 Paid Participants**

Total Cost: **\$1555 if 25 or more Paid Participants**

Single supplement: **\$850** (paid at time of registration)

Deposit: **\$550** (paid at time of registration)

Final Payment: **\$1,210/\$1,005 due by January 10, 2016**

Rider limit: **30**

Tour Leaders: Ralph Nussbaum and Pam Austin

Tour Rating: Intermediate/Advanced (Read Level of Difficulty below.)



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OVERVIEW:

This 425-mile tour showcases the very best California has to offer in the spring! Let's enjoy warm sunshine while it's still cold and wet in the northern latitudes and eastern longitudes. We will start our great adventure in San Luis Obispo. We will start cycling inland making our way to the wine center of Paso Robles where, of course, we will visit a winery. From there we head north to King City for a great day of cycling to Pinnacles National Park. From King City we make our way through the Los Padres National Forest to Carmel-By-the-Sea where we will stay two nights. We have a short 30 mile loop through Monterey including the world renowned 17 Mile Loop of the Monterey Peninsula with its incredible shoreline, stately mansions and incredible golf courses. Our last two days of the tour find us working our way down the stunning central California coast with its quaint little coastal villages of Lucia, Gorda and Cambria. We end our tour by enjoying Morro Bay with its gorgeous views and abundant wildlife. **See overview route map below.**

WHAT TO EXPECT:

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:

The ride is intended for riders with moderate biking skill levels or better. Everyone can ride at their own comfortable pace. Although none of the days are over 75 miles in length there is significant climbing every day and especially on the coast stretch from Carmel to Ragged Point. Although the route generally traverses lightly travelled rural roads, there are occasional stretches with no shoulder and/or significant traffic especially on CA-1 along the coast.

WEATHER:

Weather in the California in spring should be very warm and pleasant. Nevertheless riders should also be prepared for rain and chilly conditions.

MEALS:

This tour will provide both snacks and lunch on riding days. Breakfast and dinner are your responsibility; however some of our accommodations provide a complimentary warm breakfast.

LODGING:

Quality of lodging varies from basic to traditional motel chains such as Holiday Inn Express and Best Western. This tour includes the lodging in San Luis Obispo on the last day of riding.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY: (Mileages & Elevation gains are approximate – route may vary slightly due to unforeseen circumstances.)

Saturday, April 9– Orientation Meeting in San Luis Obispo

We meet the first night at the Holiday Inn Express – San Luis Obispo for an 8:00 PM briefing meeting. Folks may wish to get together for dinner informally beforehand.

Sunday, April 10 – San Luis Obispo to Paso Robles, 55 miles - 3500 ft. climbing

Unfortunately, we start the day with a short section (8 miles) on US-101. We checked with the locals and they all recommend that as the easiest and fastest way to get out into the countryside on our way to Paso Robles. Once off US-101, we are in the heart of the Paso Robles wine country. Our roads are quiet and winding as we follow the Salinas River to Templeton and from there through acres of vineyards to the Opolo Winery for lunch. The Opolo has won numerous international awards and lies in a beautiful setting. We end our day at a wonderful Holiday Inn Express in Paso Robles.

Monday, April 11 – Paso Robles to King City, 67 miles - 4,000 ft. climbing

Today our tour continues along the flank of the coast range as we pass Lakes Nacimiento and San Antonio. Then into the hills along very quiet backroads before plunging back down through vineyards to King City where we will spend two nights. Piece of trivia: J. Ernst Steinbeck, father of the novelist John Steinbeck was one of the first settlers of King City. John S. grew up in nearby Salinas.

Tuesday, April 12 – Pinnacles National Park Loop, 78 miles - 4400 ft. climbing

Today we ride a loop to Pinnacles National Park one of our newest national parks (achieved national park status in January, 2013). Located near the San Andreas Fault the pinnacles are a remnant of the Neenach Volcano which was split by the fault. The Pinnacles NP is the western portion which, over the past 23 million years, has moved about **200** miles to the north of the eastern portion!

Wednesday, April 13 – King City to Carmel-By-The-Sea, 68 miles – 3800 ft. climbing

Today we head for the coast! We leave the Salinas Valley and wend our way northwest mostly on very quiet county roads through the coast range through Carmel Valley (where we will have lunch at a lovely park) to Carmel-By-The-Sea. We may encounter some traffic as we near the coast but the shoulders are good.

Thursday, April 14 – Monterey Peninsula Loop, 26 miles – 1,300 ft. of climbing

We will be staying 2 nights in Carmel as well. We have the entire day to explore the Monterey Peninsula. Technically an off-day (no sag support) you can spend the day as you wish. We have put together a beautiful self-guided loop through Monterey and then along the incredible coast line with its abundant wildlife and the famed Monterey Aquarium. We then return to our hotel on the famous 17-Mile Drive with its stately homes and world renowned Cypress Point and Pebble Beach golf courses.

Friday, April 15 – Carmel to Ragged Point, 75 miles - 6,500 ft. climbing

This is our longest and toughest day but also one of the most beautiful! We start our ride through the Point Lobos State National Reserve and continue by one wayside with incredible views after another on this rugged stretch of the California coastline. We encounter the quaint villages of Big Sur and Gorda as we make our way to the first class resort of Ragged Point

Saturday, April 16 – Ragged Point to San Luis Obispo, 63 miles - 2000 ft. climbing

Our last day continues along the coast through San Simeon, Cambria and Morro Bay. One of the major attractions are the Elephant Seals which use this part of the coastline to breed, birth and rest. We will stop at San Simeon State Park which lies just below the Hearst Castle and have lunch at Morro State Park before heading back to the Holiday Inn Express in San Luis Obispo. Tonight's lodging is included in the tour so take it easy today and enjoy one more evening with newly made friends before heading home Sunday, April 17.

For more information contact Ralph at: RENussbaum@outlook.com or Pam at freeandflying@live.com



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