



Highway 1 Talking Points

UPDATED OCTOBER 2024

HIGHWAY 1 IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ICONIC ROADWAYS, CARVING 650 MILES OF STUNNING SEA CLIFFS ON THE EDGE OF A CONTINENT.

- California's coastal highway is a national treasure.
- The geological conditions of the roadway create an unrivaled experience with endless vistas overlooking the Pacific Ocean, redwood trees, wildlife, historic towns and cultural capitals.
- Just one iconic vista along the highway at Bixby Bridge has become prone to traffic congestion and unsafe behavior by motorists and pedestrians blocking the roadway.
 - As of September 2024, parking is prohibited on Old Coast Road at the bridge to improve safety, with enforcement subjecting illegally parked cars to fines.
 - There are numerous safe and legal turnouts and marked vista points along the highway with space to park. If an area is full, drivers can easily find another breathtaking view and more space just around the next curve.
- Being perched on the edge of a continent also makes the area prone to endure coastal weather events and the effects of climate change.
 - Portions of Highway 1 have always needed to be temporarily closed for repairs following heavy rainfall that cause rockslides and erosion over the road.
 - A temporary 7-mile closure on Highway 1 in Southern Monterey County is impacting travel and will persist into 2025. Highway 1 remains fully open in San Luis Obispo County, including the southern gateway to Big Sur.
- Visitors can rest assured this bucket-list road trip can always be a part of their trip. Conditions and closures are rapidly evolving, so it's important travelers always check current conditions before hitting the road.
- The entirety of Highway 1 takes over 10 hours to drive, so even through temporary closures, there is plenty to see and do.
 - Road-trippers should still explore the stretches of roadway that are open, supporting all of the fantastic businesses and attractions that have been affected by temporary closures, such as Hearst Castle and Treebones Resort in the south.
- If part of Highway 1 is temporarily closed, alternative routes will take travelers onto Highway 101 or other scenic drives, allowing them to go around the temporary closures and explore new communities, vistas and activities.
 - Highway 101 also offers an abundance of amazing offerings for anyone needing to detour, from the world-class wine region of Paso Robles to the charming towns of Soledad and Salinas, to the spectacular scenery of Pinnacles National Park.
- The state's transportation agency, Caltrans, has long been assessing Highway 1 and the rest of the state's transportation system as part of its Climate Resilience Improvement Plan and climate change adoption. This includes new policies and practices for engineers working in coastal environments, as well as for stormwater management and drainage designs.