

# The Original RoadTrip: California's Central Coast After Dark



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7 Day Nightlife Itinerary traveling from Los Angeles to San Francisco

## **DAY 1**

***Arrive at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and drive approximately 65 miles / 105 km, 1 hour, 15 minutes to Ventura County.***

***Begin your nightlife journey through California's Central Coast in Ventura County with a variety of options.***

Central Coast wine tasting begins in Oxnard, just an hour north of L.A., at Herzog Wine Cellars, the nation's largest producer of kosher wines and home to award-winning Mediterranean-inspired seasonal cuisine at Tierra Sur Restaurant. Savor the Ventura County Wine Trail, which includes a stop at the newly opened and very picturesque Rancho Ventavo Cellars Tasting Room at Oxnard's Heritage Square. Nestled in the heart of historic downtown Oxnard at Heritage Square, La Dolce Vita offers the best in fine Italian cuisine. Visit Capistrano's for an exquisite night on the town. Choose from an array of fancy cocktails before settling down to listen to contemporary dance music or live jazz. The elegant-yet-dim surroundings offer a great vibe. [www.VisitOxnard.com](http://www.VisitOxnard.com)

Since the revitalization of Ventura's downtown Cultural District -- and with the lively and ever-changing scene in Ventura Harbor Village -- there are now more ways than ever to be entertained. An abundance of first-class restaurants, ranging from refined to casual, is guaranteed to please, while unique breweries and tapas bars will introduce you to new delights and pairings made in heaven. If theater is your cup of tea, take in a stimulating play. For lovers of live music, Ventura is a mecca. Whether you'd rather sit back and laugh during a comedy show, or grab a martini and hit the dance floor, good times are in store. [www.ventura-usa.com](http://www.ventura-usa.com)

***Overnight in Ventura County.***

## **DAY 2**

***Drive 28 miles / 45 km, 30 minutes on Hwy 101 for your evening outing in Santa Barbara County.***

If the song "I Love the Nightlife" applies to you, then Santa Barbara County is your kind of place. No matter what mood or occasion, you'll find the perfect hot spot here. From bustling Irish pubs and lively sports and beach bars to mellow music venues and hip, sophisticated cocktail lounges, you'll find the area packed with welcoming watering holes. And it couldn't be easier to hit the town; many of the bars, lounges and music clubs are clustered on downtown's lower State Street, within easy walking distance of each other. The sizzle continues up State Street and on nearby side streets with a slew of go-to bars, along with restaurants with happenin' bar scenes. Look for happy hour specials, pool tables and theme

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nights such as karaoke to recharge your inner American Idol. If it's live music you're craving -- whether its folk, rock, country, indie, Irish or pop -- you'll find your music mojo here.

If you are looking for a quieter evening, after dinner take in a show in Santa Barbara's historic arts district at one of the many theatres, including The Granada Theatre or Lobero Theatre. The Granada is where art and history converge, a grand theatrical tradition that adds immeasurably to the spirit of the city. The Granada is a year-round, multi-purpose venue for music, theatre, dance, opera, musicals, films, lectures and conferences. Docent tours are available, as well. The Lobero is California's oldest, continuously operating theatre. Founded in 1873 and rebuilt in 1924, it is recognized as one of Santa Barbara's architectural jewels and a State and City landmark. [www.SantaBarbaraCA.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.com)

If you are spending time in Santa Barbara's wine country, you won't want to miss the PCPA (Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts) productions of live, professional plays, musicals and comedies performed under the stars at Solvang Festival Theater, a 700-seat venue in the half-round. The PCPA is located in downtown Solvang, within easy walking distance of hotels and restaurants. Numerous overnight packages and dinner specials are available for both individuals and groups.

[www.SolvangUSA.com](http://www.SolvangUSA.com)

***Overnight in Santa Barbara or Solvang.***

## **DAY 3**

***Leaving from Solvang, drive 67 miles / 108 km, 1 hour, 6 minutes on Hwy 101 to San Luis Obispo County. The drive is 40 miles / 64 km, longer from Santa Barbara.***

San Luis Obispo offers visitors so many experiences once the Central Coast sun goes down! Adults and children will enjoy the abundance of small theaters we have throughout the area, including the Great American Melodrama in Oceano. With sawdust covering the floor and cozy cabaret tables, it's not-to-be missed fun for everyone. If more traditional after-dark activities are what you are looking for, consider partaking in a tasting tour through downtown Paso Robles. With over 10 downtown wine tasting rooms and a number of local bars, adult visitors will find that wine country doesn't close when the sun goes down! And we can't forget the colorful nightlife of San Luis Obispo, a classic college town and a main street filled with restaurants and bars, many featuring live music. Oh, these are the days! For more information, visit [www.SanLuisObispoCounty.com](http://www.SanLuisObispoCounty.com).

***Overnight in San Luis Obispo.***

## **DAY 4**

***Your next stop is Monterey County, 143 miles / 230 km, 2 hours, 20 minutes from San Luis Obispo.***

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It feels like a British or Australian pub crawl when walking Alvarado, the main street of Monterey. Within two blocks, The Mucky Duck, Britannia Arms, The Crown and Anchor, Peter B's Brewpub and Characters Sports Bar & Grill combine to offer dozens of beers and ales, micro-brews, live music on weekends, karaoke, and live soccer from the U.K. with fish 'n' chips, bangers, and other traditional pub fare.

In the same area, The Hippodrome features 12,000 square feet with 13 bar stations, four dance floors, state-of-the-art visual and lighting effects, go-go cages, and a reputation as the best nightclub for Monterey nightlife. A more refined Lallapalooza offers a martini menu featuring over a dozen variations of the house cocktail, and an exotic drink menu offers your favorite cocktail or the Cellar Master's choice of wines by the glass.

Cannery Row also fosters a lively nightlife, starting with The Lounge at the Sardine Factory. Schooners at the Monterey Plaza proudly serves its award-winning "Best Margarita" and "Best Specialty Drink" in Monterey County, premium spirits and California's finest wines. Those wanting smaller entertainment venues will enjoy clubs like the Wave Street Studio. For live theater, there are more small theaters with locally acted productions than any other small town in America. Pick up a free copy of the *Coast Weekly* at any newsstand to find the most up-to-date activities and entertainment. [www.seemonterey.com](http://www.seemonterey.com)

## ***Overnight in Monterey.***

### **DAY 5**

***Continue north 47 miles / 76 km, 52 minutes to Santa Clara County.***

Lizarran Restaurant located in historic downtown Gilroy offers flamenco shows, guitarists and other special entertainment throughout the summer in their lovely outdoor courtyard. [www.gilroyvisitor.org](http://www.gilroyvisitor.org)

Dance the night away every Thursday evenings starting in July in downtown Morgan Hill. Come out and enjoy some great local bands! Enjoy a fabulous dinner at one of the many quaint restaurants open late for downtown visitors. [www.morganhilldowntown.org](http://www.morganhilldowntown.org)

## ***Overnight in Santa Clara County.***

### **DAY 6**

***Drive 40 miles / 64 km, 45 minutes to Santa Cruz to complete your nightlife adventure on California's Central Coast.***

A myriad of entertainment choices await at local nightclubs. Kuumbwa Jazz Center and The Catalyst in downtown Santa Cruz are just some of the local hot spots for live entertainment.

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At the beach, a free summertime concert series is performed at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on Friday nights, and Capitola's Wednesday Night Twilight Concerts in Esplanade Park also takes place during the summer.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Full Moon Madness Astronomy Night, hosted each year at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, offers a moonlit guided tour of the redwoods. Moon gaze through telescopes and enjoy music and a multimedia presentation about the park's nocturnal critters.

And during a certain time of the year, Big Basin Redwoods State Historic Park is transformed into a forest decorated in the spirit of Halloween, and the saga of the Missing Arm of William Waddell, an early pioneer, is told. This half-mile guided walk is slightly haunting and very silly! Music, storytelling and other family-friendly activities are featured. [www.santacruzcounty.travel](http://www.santacruzcounty.travel)

***Overnight in Santa Cruz.***

## **DAY 7**

***To depart out of San Francisco International Airport, drive 61 miles / 98 km, 1 hour, 11 minutes from Santa Cruz.***