

INTRO GREAT PACIFIC COAST HWY

Riding along the coast has always had an appeal on a motorcyclist, maybe it's the additional sense of freedom when you're looking at the vastness of the ocean while you're riding your bike. In this particular case we're covering the entire west coast of the United States, from Seattle, Washington all the way to San Diego, California, which gets us from the Canadian border down to the border of Mexico. So we start our 1800 mile journey through 3 states in Washington and make our way south along the strikingly beautiful coast. Ocean Shores, Newport and Gold Beach; all of these places are directly at the ocean, where a Pacific Coast tour is supposed to be. We pass through the state of Oregon, enter California and ride the Avenue of the Giants, a scenic road lined with giant Redwood Trees, on our way to Shelter Cove. In Bodega Bay we're looking for winged attackers at the old Potter School House; Alfred Hitchcock couldn't have found a more suitable place for his 1963 movie "The Birds". A little further south the city of San Francisco is waiting to present its sights to you and we enter in style by riding our motorcycles across Golden Gate Bridge. Leaving this beautiful place behind another tidbit waits at the West Coast - our ride down Highway 1 along the breathtaking coastline of California. You'll encounter an epic ride through Big Sur which leads us to the central coast and into Southern California. Los Angeles is our last stop before we take ourselves on a quest for the wave: Southern California's beach towns are waiting and it's time to show off your surfing skills in Surf City USA, Huntington Beach. Not too far down the road, passing through further famous beach towns of 'The O.C', we reach San Diego as the southernmost destination of our U.S. west coast tour before we conclude our journey back in Los Angeles. You will be staying in lake view rooms at the highly desirable Lake Quinault Lodge in Olympic National Park, the Hillhouse Inn in eccentric Mendocino, the Park55 right in the epicenter of San Francisco and at the Horton Grand in San Diego's famous Gaslamp Quarter - it doesn't get any better than this!

DAY 1 - Arrival Day

Welcome to Seattle, Washington!

This is the official arrival day. Take a deep breath of northern air as step outside the airport terminal and catch the complimentary airport shuttle to your hotel which is located conveniently in downtown "there it is, your first sight of Seattle's famous Space Needle. Your tour guides will be in the lobby to help with the check-in process, get paperwork out of the way and to give you useful and important information about the upcoming adventure. During the initial tour briefing this evening, you will find out everything about your tour. After that you'll have time to enjoy a dip in the beautiful hotel pool, grab a bite to eat and have a drink. Get a good night's rest because tomorrow we begin the first part of an exciting journey.

Early Birds - if you're flying in a day or two early, we suggest you rent a car or pick up your motorcycle in advance and pay a visit to Neah Bay, the northernmost coastal town on the U.S. or take a ferry to Vancouver Island. You might even want to make it a little round trip, take the ferry across the coastal waters of British Columbia and Southern Alaska and drop into Vancouver; from here it's 140 miles back to Seattle.

DAY 2: Seattle to Lake Quinault

200 miles / 320 km

Today the actual tour begins; southbound we ride in the early morning on our quest to get to the Mexican border the most scenic way. Our first task today is catching the Bainbridge Island ferry which will take us across the Puget Sound in just about 30 minutes. Olympic National Park has a diverse and stunning world, a fog shrouded coast with booming surf and waves-manicured beaches, spectacular alpine country dotted with sparkling lakes, lush meadows, glaciers, and North America's finest temperate rain forest. We are very, very remote out here, in a place that not many people ever get to see. Now we're reaching the coast - the coast is where the land meets the sea, vibrating with life and energy. Arches and sea stacks; the roar of crashing waves; the calls of gulls, bald eagles, and black oystercatchers; dramatic sunsets; the vastness of the ocean and a myriad of other elements impress themselves upon you. At low tide you can walk toward the surf stopping at tide pools along the way. If you squat down and spend some time just looking, you will be amazed at what you see as your eyes start ferreting out objects that look like rocks, but which in fact are small sea animals. Slowly extending your horizon, you may see some raccoons feeding on shellfish that are reachable now that the tide is out and the danger of the surf is withdrawn. At Hoh we veer away from the coast and reach glacier-carved Lake Quinault - you're in a temperate rainforest right now! We finish this day with one of many tasty dinners to come and a nice glass of wine while looking out on the lake from one of Washington's greatest lodges that were ever built.

DAY 3: Lake Quinault to Tillamook

215 miles / 345 km

Today's ride will lead us into the next state on our tour. As we reach the Columbia River we're leaving Washington and enter the state of Oregon. We visit the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks, in the vicinity of the mouth of the Columbia River, which commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In Astoria we're visiting Fort Clatsop which was the encampment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the Oregon Country near the mouth of the Columbia River during the winter of 1805-1806. Located along the Lewis and Clark River at the north end of the Clatsop Plains the fort was the last encampment of the Corps of Discovery before embarking on their return trip east to St. Louis. Just a little further south we're passing through the town of Seaside which gained equal historical importance due to the fact that this is the location of the Lewis and Clark Salt

Cairn, where members of the historic expedition extracted salt from seawater. After so much history and information we're back on our iron horses winding our way down the Oregon Coast Highway, past Tillamook Bay to Newport where we stay for the night.

DAY 4: Tillamook to Gold Beach**245 miles / 390 km**

Across Yaquina Bay the road now hugs the coast again and we're presented with magnificent vistas from Yaquina Head, Oregon's tallest Lighthouse. We enter Siuslaw National Forest and the number of curves is beginning to increase which we all enjoy very much. Besides us and nature there are no touristic sights here; there is no Golden Gate Bridge or Grand Canyon as being out here is the attraction itself. Maybe it's the feel of being taken back to a simpler time, where life moved a little bit slower. Maybe it's the taken-care-of feeling you get as you cross over a covered bridge in a rainstorm. Maybe it's the seclusion of cuddling up to your better half, out of view from the rest of the world. Maybe it's all of those things and different ones for different people. It's all back to nature here at the Oregon Coast. As we reach Gold Beach we're riding a little scenic loop up the Rogue River before we check in at our hotel and get ready for some first class steak and seafood dining.

DAY 5: Gold Beach to Crescent City**60 miles / 100 km**

After breakfast we're heading over to Jerry's and get ready for an adventure of a different kind. At the mouth of the Rogue River we all board a Hydro Jet Boat which will then carry us about 50 miles up the river - have you ever managed to pass through rapids upstream? This is definitely a thrill not to mention the spins. Food will be included and you're almost guaranteed to see wildlife such as bears, otters, deer and eagles, osprey, herons and more. The river is broken up into sections with different permits required to travel each section. The further up the river the more wild it is. Some sections are inaccessible except by boat. Others like the section above the 52 mile mark is only open to raft and kayaks all limited number with permits. After we get back from this trip it almost seems a little tame to get back on our Harleys. Just a beautiful 60 mile ride later, after leaving Oregon and reaching the state of California, we're rolling into Crescent City and boy are we tired!

DAY 6: Crescent City to Mendocino**227 miles / 364 km**

There are unbelievably scenic motorcycle roads out here and if we'd have about 2 weeks more we still couldn't explore them all. Today we're getting a true feel of a real coastal ride after we depart from Crescent City and are also up for a real treat in terms of giant trees. Our southbound route takes us through different Redwood State Parks and touches Redwood National Park, our second National Park on this tour; needless to say that Pacific Coast Hwy is also called Redwood Highway up here. After about 64 miles we reach the pretty city of Eureka with its beautiful harbor and picturesque Victorian houses. We stop for an espresso and a small snack to take in the ambiance and then continue further to our highlight of the day - the Avenue of the Giants. Just after Eureka the road leaves the coast and cuts inland where we veer off and take a road through Humboldt Redwoods State Park called Avenue of the Giants. Now this is what we call an avenue! This world famous 31 mile scenic drive is by far the most outstanding display of these giant trees in the 500 mile redwood belt. Along the Avenue there are a number of sleepy small towns including Pepperwood, Redcrest, Weott, Myers Flat (with the Shrine Drive-Thru Tree) Miranda and Phillipsville. We stop to browse in quaint gift shops for our redwood memorabilia and to take in the tranquility of this mighty place. As the road connects back to the main Hwy 101 we are again heading towards the coast and along another fantastic and windy route we make our way to HWY 1 which starts right at the town of Leggett. Right here at Drive-Thru Tree Park we visit another sight on this tour; the name already gives it away: a tree to drive through. The enormous Chandelier Tree derives its name from the enormous branches balanced on either side of the trunk. These branches, which are the size of small trees, begin about a hundred feet up the trunk. Back on the road we head west toward the coast again. The number of curves increases and the route, now also named Shoreline Highway, is a thrill to ride. We cruise past Mac Kerricher State Park and reach Fort Bragg, the largest coast town between San Francisco and Eureka, located at the Mendocino Coast. Just a little further south greets the funky and eclectic little town of Mendocino which became infamous through its massive cultivation of Marijuana. Today Mendocino is the only town on the California Coast that is designated as a Historical Landmark. Established in the 1850's the architecture is reminiscent of Maine with its grand Victorians and quaint Saltbox cottages.

DAY 7: Mendocino to San Francisco**198 miles / 317 km**

After breakfast we're back on our iron horses soaring down the rugged coast like a flock of pelicans. As we cross the Russian River the road seems like a horizontal roller coaster and we're reaching Bodega Bay for the night. Here at this very town, a man named Alfred Hitchcock decided in 1963 that this would be the ideal location for his latest movie called "The Birds". See for yourself that he couldn't have found a more surreal spot for this film when you check out the over 150 year old Potter School House; an original relict from the movie shoot. Continuing on Highway 1 we're getting ready for another curvy rollercoaster ride on bikes. At Point Reyes we are leaving the ocean and cut inland which we use as a trigger to visit charming Sausalito before diving into San Francisco. This expensive piece of real estate offers its residents as well as visitors stunning views of the San Francisco skyline, Alcatraz Island and the Golden Gate Bridge. Clocks seem to tick a little different in Sausalito and the entire town appears to be in a very relaxed state of mind. There is an Italian restaurant that lures us to have lunch and their wood fire pizza is oh so good! Now let's hit the road and get the final piece of road done for the day; but it's not just any piece of road,

the track will lead us over the world famous Golden Gate Bridge. Don't forget to put a flower in your hair when you reach your hotel. As always when you're on tour with us, your place for the night is first class and located right downtown at Union Square.

DAY 8: Rest day in San Francisco

We spend the day in the beautiful and diverse city of San Francisco, nicknamed "The Paris of the West". Take today to go out and explore this incredible city, perhaps go for a walk down to Fisherman's Wharf, take a cruise out to see America's most notorious prison Alcatraz Island, and then maybe have lunch in Chinatown. There are many museums and world class shops located in downtown; whatever you do, don't forget a ride in one of the cable cars that are still making their way up and down the steep hills of San Francisco. No matter what you decide to do, enjoy this amazing city and all it has to offer. Then, in the evening, we cruise the San Francisco Bay. It is the perfect ending of a perfect day. Departing from Pier 43 ½ in the heart of Historic Fisherman's Wharf, sail past the San Francisco skyline and view the lively neighborhood of North Beach, the famous swimming clubs of Aquatic Park, the historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier, the San Francisco Maritime National Park, and numerous other exciting sights. On this relaxed 2 hour cruise, enjoy spectacular sunset views, live guitar music and hearty appetizers that include a variety of sandwiches, salads, fruit, and dessert. Cruise past the infamous island of Alcatraz, around Angel Island National Park and along the beautiful shorelines of Tiburon and Sausalito, as the sun sets over the Pacific Ocean. Don't miss incredible photo opportunities when sailing directly under the massive 4,200 ft span of the Golden Gate Bridge. Seen enough for today? Let's head back to the hotel and get some rest.

DAY 9: San Francisco to Monterey**123 miles / 197 km**

This morning we head out of town, stopping briefly at the top of Twin Peaks; another lookout point that offers a fantastic view overlooking San Francisco from the south. Now it's time to hit Pacific Coast Highway 1, to begin our upcoming, thrilling journey down the California coast. We head down PCH stopping occasionally to take pictures and enjoy the views. We take a break for lunch at a little sandwich bar just before Santa Cruz, overlooking the ocean. If you look closely you might even see whales just off the coast. Should it be foggy "which is heard of in the San Francisco area" we'll take another thrilling ride along Skyline Boulevard which leads us to the famous Alice's Restaurant, the gathering place of all motorcycle aficionados that come from anywhere up to 100 miles just to stop by, hang out, eat and talk to fellow riders. Then it's back on the road winding our way to Monterey. We should arrive early enough to take some time to explore Cannery Row or the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which is known as one of the best aquariums in the world. Our extra charming and cozy hotel of Spanish heritage is adobe style inspired and located close to Fisherman's Wharf in the heart of Old-Town Monterey - where else would you expect us to stay?

DAY 10: Monterey to Pismo Beach**145 miles / 232 km**

We start the day by riding a short distance into town; Clint Eastwood once was the mayor of Carmel for some time. He stills owns a lot of property out there and if we're lucky ... you never know! We'll take some time for a coffee and stroll up and down Ocean Ave, looking at some of the several art galleries and do some window shopping at the cute but expensive little shops. After spending a few thousand imaginary dollars it's time to get back on the road. What lies ahead is some of the best and most magnificent scenery the Pacific Coast has to offer. Today is Big Sur day! The scenery in Big Sur, California cannot be done justice by film or secondhand account. Riding the tremendous road through Andrew Molera and Pfeiffer state parks represents cliffs, rocks, redwoods and effervescent surf which create an epic backdrop for recreation and relaxed exploration. Big Sur is a powerful place, mystic and spiritual - this is why we give you time to explore all by yourself. Stopping at your personal favorite spot, you stare at the ocean for a while and see an eagle draw circles high above the cliffs. As she flies out over the ocean you get back in the saddle to continue your own journey through incredible Big Sur. Now the road drops down to sea level and we stop at the ever lazy sea elephants that are dozing in the afternoon sun. From here it's just a couple of minutes until we reach Hearst Castle where we go on a tour. After such an awe-inspiring day it's just adequate that we check in at an exclusive cliff-top hotel. During dinner at the hotel's great restaurant we're overlooking the Pacific Ocean where the beginning sunset dyes the vast, gigantic sea. Watching its reflections in every wave concludes another extraordinary day of our tour.

DAY 11: Pismo Beach to Redwood Beach**185 miles / 296 km**

The route takes us down PCH for the morning until we cut inland to experience a breathtaking back road that will lead us through strawberry fields and wineries to another little gem, hidden deep in the brush of the Los Padres National Forest. At Los Olivos we are very close to the Neverland Ranch, Michael Jackson's former retreat. Fifteen minutes down the road we get to Solvang, a Danish town in the Santa Ynez Valley. Besides the oh so yummy Danish pastries this town has something else to offer: an excellent collection of two-wheelers in the Solvang Vintage Motorcycle Museum which opens its doors just for us today. The collection is quite broad with something for everyone, ranging from a 1910 FN to the present, and across all makes. The emphasis is tilted toward racing motorcycles. At the museum, you will find names such as AJS, BMW, Ducati, Gilera, Matchless, Moto Guzzi, MV, Norton, Triumph, Velocette and Vincent. Keep your credit cards close - some of the models are up for sale. We're also near another sun drenched California city, Santa Barbara, where we ride our bikes right onto the pier and stop for a break. We know this place is hard to part from but we still have some riding to do. After we've recharged we continue

down the coast through Malibu and into the greater Los Angeles area. We visit the pier in Santa Monica and then check in at our close by hotel for the night.

DAY 12: Redondo Beach to San Diego**160 miles / 256 km**

It's your choice today: you can either have a relaxing beach or sightseeing day in Los Angeles or join your tour guide on a ride to San Diego and the Mexican border. To cover some miles we ride a little bit of freeway and about twenty miles down the road we exit and the surf begins: Long Beach, Seal Beach, Sunset Beach; we're back on PCH and pass through these famous beach enclaves until we hit the epicenter of surfing with 8.5 uninterrupted miles of beach life: Huntington Beach; officially decorated with the title Surf City USA. Here surfing is more than just a sport, it's a religion. Its vibrant Main Street, leading straight onto the pier, invites with excellent restaurants and shops. Besides that the city has a rich history in oil and even today you can still see some of the smaller pumps dot the city. At San Clemente the route leads onto the freeway and past the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton we're running into San Diego, our last stop and final destination of the tour. We ride across the Del Coronado Bridge and stop for lunch at the famous Hotel Del Coronado, located on an island in the San Diego Bay. San Diego's south end practically touches the border of Mexico and riding down Silver Strand Blvd you have now reached the southernmost point of the western USA in San Ysidro. If you glance over the fence you look into Tijuana. Our hotel is located in the popular Gas Lamp Quarter with tons of bars and restaurants to choose from.

DAY 13: San Diego to Los Angeles**220 miles / 352 km**

We've already been along the coast so today the route takes us inland and we explore San Diego's back country. Along rolling hills and perfect roads we are heading up Mt. Palomar which is a favorite weekend day trip for local motorcyclists. We have lunch in Temecula and then the freeway carries us to Los Angeles for the last remaining miles of our tour. Here we return our motorcycles and while our driver squeezes through rush hour traffic we relax in the transfer bus with a glass of cool champagne to start celebrating the completion of this amazing ride along the US west coast.

DAY 14: Los Angeles Departure**0 miles / 0 km**

Today is the day to pack your bags, filled with the experiences and memories of a fantastic tour along the Pacific Coast Highway / Highway 1 through the states of Washington, Oregon and California; it's time to head home. Have a safe journey and we hope to see you back for another motorcycling Sunride through the United States. Bon Voyage, Auf Wiedersehen, Adios, Arrivederci and See Ya!