

Forget That Highway 1 Road Trip Down the Coast Of California This Summer

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Big Sur is effectively cut off from the rest of the state after winter storms destroyed a bridge.



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Thinking about heading to California to take a road trip down Highway 1 through Big Sur this summer? Think again. Not only did extreme winter storms force Caltrans to condemn the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge that connects Big Sur to Monterey County in the north, but it also shut down the road that serves as the southern entry point to the community after mudslides made it too dangerous to pass.

But while you might not be able to drive straight down Highway 1 until the new bridge is finished this September, you can still enjoy the beauty of California's coast. If you're driving down from San Francisco, the towns of Carmel and Monterey as well as the iconic Bixby Bridge are still accessible. But if you're driving up from the Los Angeles area, Highway 1 is still closed for mudslide removal at Ragged Point—about 16 miles north of Hearst Castle—so you'll have to follow this Highway 101 detour to access the Monterey Peninsula.

While the Ventana Inn remains closed due to the bridge and road closures, they have a sister resort, **Carmel Valley Ranch**, located 20 miles north of Big Sur that is open to guests currently.