

There are a few areas where you may need to do some extra planning due to recent changes or conditions that aren't yet in the Guide. Always check ahead for camping and/or lodging. Prices, availability, etc. all change from time to time.

Day #1- Some people have had trouble reserving a campsite at Mission Bay. I have always been able to camp there, although I have, at times, had to rent a regular RV type campsite since their tenting section was closed for the season. However, there are motels in the area if that doesn't work for you.

Day #7- Newport Dunes has really raised prices. Check ahead and consider alternatives.

Day #8- A lot of people are using a new route going N. on Harbor Dr. from Anaheim to Whittier. I've driven it, but I haven't hiked it yet. It shows up on Google Maps for walking, but the original route still works too.

Day #18- At step #9, the Guide leads you off the trail back to Carpinteria Ave. and on to the Motel 6. However, you can continue on down the coastal path to Carpinteria S.B. for a more scenic route. From there, you can stay at the S.B. or head slightly inland to a motel.

Day #27- Recently, hikers going over Cuesta Grade have run into a locked gate when trying to follow the Railroad tracks. It may be best to follow the alternate directions in the box at step #9 in the Guide.

Day #30- There is a lot of road work going on near the entrance to San Marcos Rd., making it impossible to cross the highway. The best approach that was recommended to me is crossing under the highway on 10th Street (near the Western States Inn) and walk to Cemetery Road. Turn left and follow it back to the Highway. Walk alongside the Highway to San Marcos Road and turn right. You are now at step #4.

Nacimiento Lake and Lake San Antonio to Lockwood and Ft. Hunter Liggett is the route I prefer. It is a little tougher to plan than it used to be

since Lake San Antonio Campground has been without potable water and their camp store is closed. However, it offers a scenic route with a fair amount of shade for much of the route. Traffic can be a problem on the narrow, curvy road, especially on weekends. Listen for cars and be sure you are on the outside of a curve so cars can see you further ahead. Call ahead for the latest info.

Some people take a different route out of San Miguel and go through Bradley. It is flat, shorter, not much shade and many people prefer it. It's pretty easy to Google. Decide for yourself.

Day #36- There is a B&B next door to Mission Soledad. If you stay there, you don't have to go to the City of Soledad. (You do need to plan ahead on groceries.) When you leave the next morning, you would continue on Ft. Romie Rd towards Gonzales and Chualar. For info on the B&B, contact:

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Day #55- There is a new route into Petaluma. At step #4, Continue onto San Antonio Rd. (Don't turn left) This will segue into a hike/bike path which crosses under 101 and continues on as a frontage road. It eventually becomes Petaluma Blvd and leads into downtown Petaluma.

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