

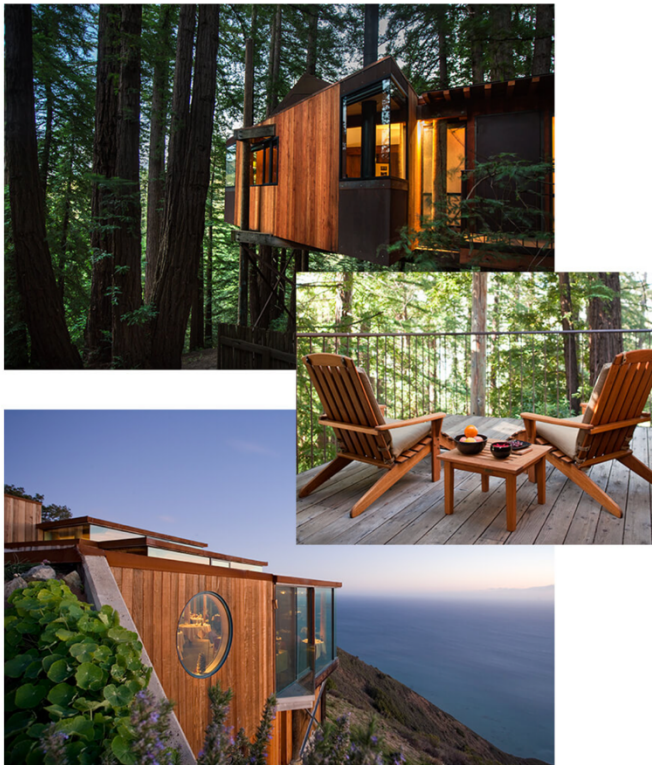
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## Everything You Need to Know to Plan a Weekend in Big Sur

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Immortalized by writers like Jack Kerouac and Henry Miller for its isolated, wild beauty, Big Sur is a place that can leave the most traveled among us awestruck and speechless. Take our advice: Give yourself at least a long weekend, which allows enough time to soak in the thundering surf of the Pacific, the stillness of the redwoods, the magical fog that envelops the area during early morning hikes. We recommend starting in San Francisco and working your way down, which will take you past iconic Northern California beach towns like Santa Cruz and Carmel, plus plenty of spots to pull over and survey the craggy, jagged coastline—on the mend after some particularly devastating storms and mudslides last spring. The town itself is making a strong recovery, especially since the completion of the rebuilt Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge, which means innkeepers are excitedly welcoming visitors back after months-long absences. All the lodging below is up and running, and although some of the hiking trails are still closed, check out the California State Parks' [site](#) for regular updates. And if you have more time to spare, this is our take on how to do a full [coastal road trip](#).

### - WHERE TO STAY -



Photos Courtesy of Kodiak Greenwood

#### Post Ranch Inn

From a room here, perched on a 1,200-foot cliff, there are only two things to see: the wild Santa Lucia mountains and the Pacific. In fact, it's hard to believe you're not looking at the whole damn thing. And while the surrounding natural beauty is a given, the hotel also has a lot to offer indoors. The restaurant, Sierra Mar, has a fantastic, four-course, prix fixe menu, offering unfussy entrees like duck confit with local huckleberries and parsnips, and housemade pappardelle with pesto and pickled yucca blossoms. The spa, meanwhile, is the reason most people come here in the first place. It offers specialized treatments like Reiki, vibrational resonance, and too many other transporting services to list here. So it's with good reason that booking one of the 39 rooms usually requires reserving well in advance (and no kids allowed).

## - WHERE TO EAT -



### *Sierra Mar*

The whole set-up over at Sierra Mar, the restaurant at Post Ranch Inn is meant to ensure that you'll have the best possible views over the course of your meal. Set on a cliff above the surf, there are floor-to-ceiling glass walls and the tables are positioned at various heights so there's truly no bad seat in the house. The four-course prix fixe menu changes daily but is a mix of Asian, French, and Mediterranean, drawing from much of the area's fresh produce. Expect beautifully plated dishes like carrot cavatelli, seared king salmon with smoked split pea, and a tart apple salad topped with Big Sur chèvre. Both lunch and dinner are open to outside guests but require advance booking.



*Photos Courtesy of Kodiak Greenwood*

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