



“Surf City” Santa Cruz, California Outdoor Adventure 3-day Itinerary Ideas

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Santa Cruz County is a veritable Mecca for outdoor enthusiasts. From riding the waves in Surf City to hiking among coastal redwood trees, in Santa Cruz County the fun only begins at the beach.

GETTING HERE: Arrive at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and drive approximately 70 miles/113 km south to Santa Cruz County (recommended: drive via Scenic Highway 1 – Pacific Coast Highway)

DAY ONE

Ready for a thrill? Opt for sky diving with the only drop zone in California that offers a beach landing. (you can even leave your shoes at home!)

Explore the hundreds of miles of hiking trails along coastal terraces, mountain meadows and majestic redwood groves in one of the 14 state parks in Santa Cruz County. One popular path is the Skyline to the Sea Trail at Big Basin Redwoods State Park, California’s oldest state park. The 30-mile trail threads its way along a lush, riparian corridor from the mountains to Waddell Beach.

Give your clubs a workout at one of Santa Cruz County’s golf courses.

End the day in one of Pleasure Point’s cafes and quaint bistros after a day at the beach, where local surfers mix effortlessly with visitors.

Overnight in Santa Cruz County



DAY TWO

After breakfast, stroll along West Cliff Drive to Steamer Lane in Santa Cruz, one of the nation’s greatest surf spots. Opt for a surfing lesson with a local surf school and experience the rush of the waves.

Are you an early riser? Grab your binoculars and head over to Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Reserve, a habitat for nearly 300 species of birds. Birders also shouldn’t miss the Wetlands of Watsonville, or a visit to the Wetlands Nature Center. Free guided walks are offered at the Wetlands of Watsonville on Sundays.

Explore the coastline of Santa Cruz by renting a kayak at the Santa Cruz Harbor for a gorgeous adventure and a little exercise. Kayak excursions at sunset are an amazing way to end the day.

Overnight in Santa Cruz County

DAY THREE

See the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains from a different perspective with a redwood canopy tour at heights up to 150 feet off the ground. These sky-high adventures include ziplines, bridges and tree-top platforms.

Watch the “Wednesday Night Sailboat Races” April through October at Harbor Beach. Relax with a glass of wine at one of the harbor’s eateries and settle in for the colorful regatta, or catch a ride from a harbor boat and be part of the action.

Depart Santa Cruz County





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