



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**West Cliff
Drive Bicycle
Path**
California



West Cliff Drive Bicycle Path

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The West Cliff Drive Bicycle Path is just over 3 miles long, but, with its gorgeous backdrop of ocean waves and dramatic cliffs, you'll wish it was longer. The fairly flat, paved trail winds its way along the southern coastline of Santa Cruz. Beginning at the [Santa Cruz Riverwalk](#) and the [Santa Cruz Coastal Rail Trail](#), the trail travels west along the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, popular seaside amusement park, and the Santa Cruz Wharf—a tourist hub offering dining and shopping opportunities, fishing, boating, and beach access. (Cyclists must dismount their bikes along this busy stretch.)

Continuing west along the south side of West Cliff Drive, you'll reach Lighthouse Field State Beach about a mile after the Wharf. The beach is home to a surfing museum in addition to the historic lighthouse. Here, you'll also find

Steamer Lane, a popular surfing spot, and a prime place to view sea lions on the offshore rocks.

The trail ends at Natural Bridges State Park with its picturesque namesake rock formation. Along the park's beach, be sure to look for sea birds, whales, seals and otters. And, at low tide, explore the tide pools for sea stars, crabs and sea anemones. If you're in the area between mid-October and late January, you'll also be treated to the spectacular sight of thousands of monarch butterflies that migrate here during the winter and rest in the park's eucalyptus grove.



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States: California

Counties: Santa Cruz

Length: 3.4miles

Trail end points: Santa Cruz Riverwalk at Beach St to Swanton Blvd & W Cliff Dr (Santa Cruz)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at a number of locations along the trail, including free parking at Pyramid Park (2226 W Cliff Dr), Michell's Cove Beach (1056 W Cliff Dr), across the street from Lighthouse Field State Beach (700 W Cliff Dr), and at the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum (701 W Cliff Dr).

Paid parking is available at the Santa Cruz Wharf by the eastern end of the trail and at the western end of the trail at the National Bridges State Park (204 Swanton Blvd, Santa Cruz). Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



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Google

Map data ©2026



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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