

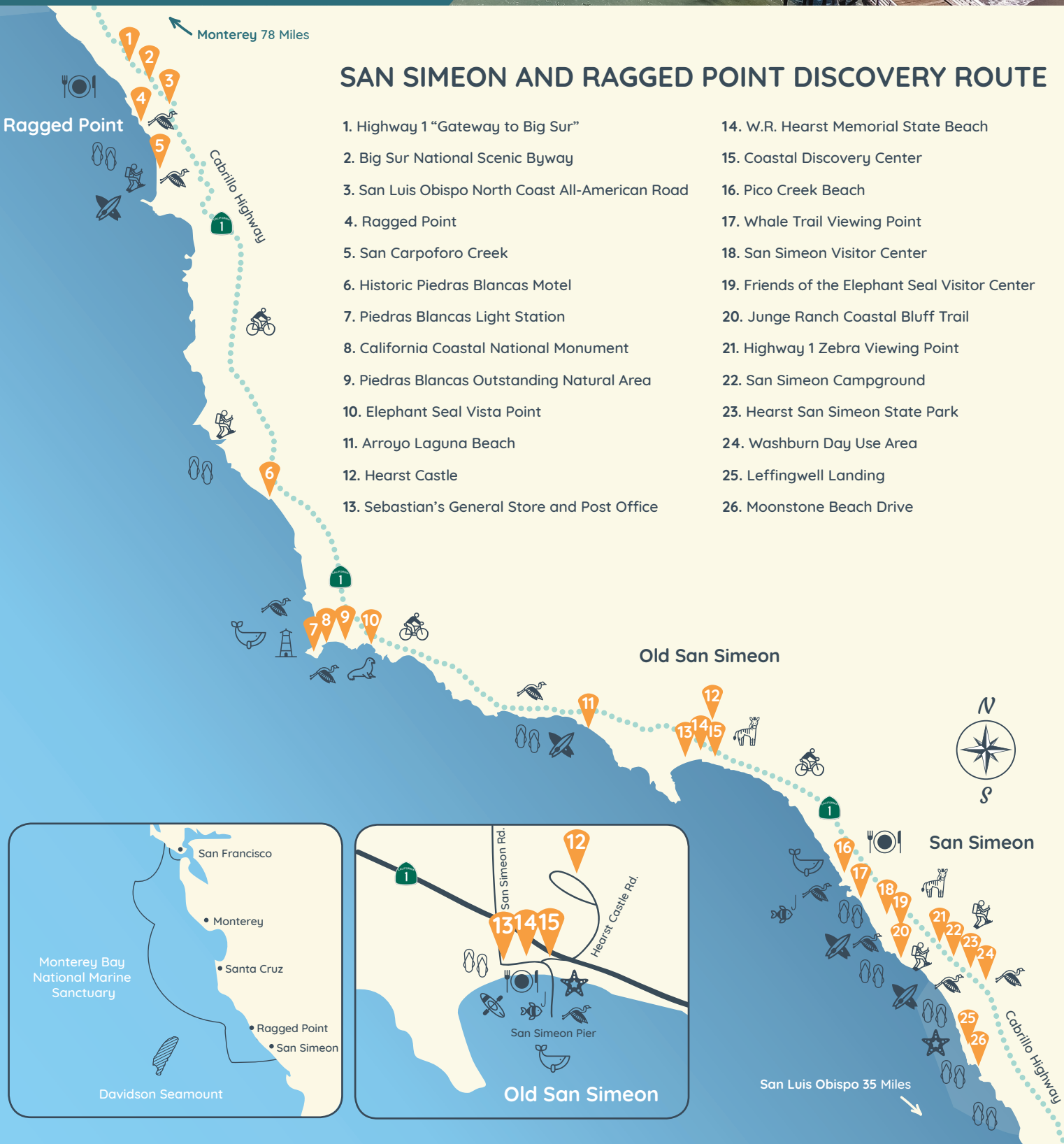
SAN SIMEON

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Unspoiled Beauty

SAN SIMEON AND RAGGED POINT DISCOVERY ROUTE

1. Highway 1 "Gateway to Big Sur"
2. Big Sur National Scenic Byway
3. San Luis Obispo North Coast All-American Road
4. Ragged Point
5. San Carpoforo Creek
6. Historic Piedras Blancas Motel
7. Piedras Blancas Light Station
8. California Coastal National Monument
9. Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area
10. Elephant Seal Vista Point
11. Arroyo Laguna Beach
12. Hearst Castle
13. Sebastian's General Store and Post Office
14. W.R. Hearst Memorial State Beach
15. Coastal Discovery Center
16. Pico Creek Beach
17. Whale Trail Viewing Point
18. San Simeon Visitor Center
19. Friends of the Elephant Seal Visitor Center
20. Junge Ranch Coastal Bluff Trail
21. Highway 1 Zebra Viewing Point
22. San Simeon Campground
23. Hearst San Simeon State Park
24. Washburn Day Use Area
25. Leffingwell Landing
26. Moonstone Beach Drive



San Simeon's rich and diverse history

dates back to the early 1800s. Old San Simeon experienced a population boom during the mid 1850s, as it quickly became known as a prosperous whaling community. In the 1900s, William Randolph Hearst started construction of Hearst Castle. Today, San Simeon maintains its character as a remote coastal town, steeped in majestic scenery and history.

1800s

- 1836** San Miguel Mission divided into three ranchos: Piedra Blanca, Santa Rosa and San Simeon
- 1848** Gold discovered in California
- 1850** California became the 31st state of the United States of America
- 1852** A whaling station was established at San Simeon Point
- 1852** Mercantile built at San Simeon Point
- 1862** George Hearst, self-made millionaire, discovered part of the Comstock Lode, North America's largest silver deposit
- 1863** William Randolph Hearst was born in San Francisco
- 1865** George Hearst bought 45,000 acres of the Piedra Blanca Rancho
- 1875** Piedras Blancas Light Station completed by the U.S. Government
- 1878** George Hearst built the San Simeon wharf for transportation of goods from his Rancho
- 1878** Mercantile moved to present location
- 1878** First class hotel built in San Simeon and Stage Line was established in Cambria
- 1886** Senator George Hearst increases his Piedra Blanca Rancho holdings to 270,000 acres
- 1893** Shore whaling at San Simeon comes to an end

1900s

- 1914** The Sebastian brothers purchase the old mercantile and rename it to Sebastian's General Store
- 1919** Construction on Hearst Castle begins
- 1932** San Simeon State Beach opened as a day-use facility
- 1937** California Highway 1 completed between San Simeon and Monterey
- 1938** Davidson Seamount recognized as one of the largest known seamounts in U.S. waters
- 1941** On December 23, the *Montebello* was attacked by a Japanese submarine and sank approximately 6 miles off the coast of San Simeon
- 1947** Construction of Hearst Castle stopped
- 1948** An earthquake strikes Piedras Blancas Light Station
- 1949** The first order Fresnel lens was loaned to Cambria Lions Club
- 1951** William Randolph Hearst passes away
- 1951** The Hearst Corporation creates William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Park
- 1957** San Simeon Pier is constructed
- 1957** Hearst Corporation donates castle to State of California as a Historical Monument
- 1965** Highway 1, along Big Sur coast, is declared the first State Scenic Highway
- 1966** Highway 1 in Big Sur is designated an American National Scenic Byway
- 1971** State Department of Parks and Beaches takes ownership of William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Park
- 1972** Cavalier Plaza opens
- 1972** California Coastal Trail established, extending 1,200 miles of coastline through 15 counties
- 1990** Elephant seals begin arriving on beaches between Point Piedras Blancas and Point San Simeon
- 1992** NOAA designates Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary encompassing 276 miles of shoreline
- 1997** Friends of the Elephant Seal becomes a non-profit organization

2000s

- 2000** Friends of the Elephant Seal receive national Environmental Hero Award
- 2001** Highway 1 from San Luis Obispo northward is designated as an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration as part of the National Scenic Byway Program
- 2001** Piedras Blancas Light Station transferred management from U.S. Coast Guard to the Bureau of Land Management
- 2003** San Simeon Earthquake—the most destructive earthquake to hit the U.S. at this time
- 2005** Hearst Ranch Conservation Project transfers approximately 80,000 acres to the State of California
- 2006** The Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay opened for visitors, providing information about history and natural resources
- 2008** Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary expanded to include Davidson Seamount
- 2013** Replica of historic 50 foot water tower erected at Piedras Blancas Light Station
- 2017** President Obama invokes the Antiquities Act of 1906 to expand the California Coastal National Monument to include Piedras Blancas

