



SOUVENIR

In a barn overlooking the ocean, Sheila Hillman found her calling making natural soaps from the ingredients of the region. **Big Sur Country Soap** now offers dozens of varieties, including the citrusy Cedar Lemon Farm Scrub (above).

From \$7.50. bigsursoap.com



PACIFIC TIME

BY SERENA RENNER

Countless writers, painters, and musicians share a common muse: the 90-mile stretch of California coastline known as Big Sur. Here, chiseled mountains slide into churning seas, chefs serve inventive cuisine, and a resurgent arts scene is growing amid the redwood trees.

LODGES

These two hideaways make it easy to unplug, relax, and experience nature.

1. GLEN OAKS BIG SUR

Retro furniture, bright textiles, and in-room yoga mats characterize the Glen Oaks motel. Guests who book the Big Sur Cabin (above) can stargaze from an outdoor clawfoot tub.

From \$225. (831) 667-2105. glenoaksbigsur.com

2. POST RANCH INN

The oceanview cottages and cliff-edge infinity pools here are the stuff of dream honeymoons. At the Sierra Mar restaurant, chef John Cox recently debuted a Taste of Big Sur menu that celebrates the coast with dishes such as red abalone marinated in kelp.

From \$675. (831) 667-2200. postranchinn.com

CULTURE

The Henry Miller Memorial Library is a bookshop-cultural center dedicated to the bohemian author who once called Big Sur home. It has become a hot spot for concerts by the likes of Gillian Welch and Arcade Fire and a Thursday night summer film series held in the redwood grove.

48603 Hwy. 1, (831) 667-2574. henrymiller.org



DINING

The **Big Sur Bakery and Restaurant** serves house-made granola, ginger scones, and seasonal fruit strudels in a cabin built in 1937. Wood-fired pizzas, with toppings such as squash and prosciutto, stand out on the dinner menu, and the blackberry shortcake (above) is a dessert favorite. Occasional summer barbecues are worth a pit stop.

47540 Hwy. 1, (831) 667-0520. bigsurbakery.com



TOUR

On a craggy rock in north Big Sur, the **Point Sur lighthouse** has beamed through furious fog, rain, and wind since 1889. Volunteers lead moonlit tours from late April through October that allow visitors access to the lighthouse tower, old housing quarters, and a blacksmith shop.

Listen up for stories of shipwrecks along the way. Mile marker 54.1 on Hwy. 1, (831) 625-4419. pointsur.org

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT, RALPH A. CLEVENGER/CORBIS; DANI VERNON; ERIN KUNKEL; DOUGLAS PEEBLES; TARA DONNE