

Self-Guided – Palomar Mountain Observatory

This route takes you on some twisty roads. If you do not have experience riding twisty mountain roads, that's ok. Coordinate with your group to ensure that turns are posted, ride at a speed that is comfortable to you and make sure to use the turnouts if another vehicle comes up from behind.

Lunch recommendations: (1) Visit Beach Hut Deli (next to the hotel - <https://beachhutdeli.com>) and purchase a sandwich to eat in the picnic area at the Observatory. (2) If you'd like to visit a biker hangout, have lunch at Josie's Hideout Saloon (open Friday-Sunday only - <https://www.josieshideout.com>).

Google Maps link: <https://goo.gl/maps/GSeUKTVzqVJe576EA>

Google Maps links with a stop at the Hideout Saloon:

leg 1 (Hotel to Hideout Saloon): <https://goo.gl/maps/1LHhfPEuUPDpgktb8>

leg 2 (Hideout to Hotel): <https://goo.gl/maps/69N4mUFUXy1QJMbs7>

Stop 1: Rincon Travel Plaza, 33740 Valley Center Rd Unit 1, Valley Center

Gas and pit stop about 1.5 hrs (57 miles) into the ride.

Stop 2: Palomar Observatory

The picnic area on the far side of the parking lot to the left as you enter. The visitor center has bathrooms, exhibits and a small gift shop. Should the Observatory grounds be closed due to COVID, there is nearby Palomar County Park (21818 Crestline Road, Palomar Mountain) with picnic area and vault restrooms. The Henshaw Scenic Vista Observation Site is on the left side of East Grade Road. This is a nice spot to stop for a photo op. There is a "scenic vista ¼ mile" sign on the right side (past the mile marker 2.2 sign – left side of road). After the "scenic vista ¼ mile" sign there is a speed limit sign with the limit painted on the ground – start slowing (if you have not already done so) as the turn into the vista point is approximately 350 feet away.

Stop 3 (optional lunch stop): Josie's Hideout Saloon

This is a biker hangout. Parking is along the street - make sure to back in.

Stop 4: Barona Station, 1054 Barona Rd, Lakeside, CA 92040

Gas and pit stop. This gas station is about 132 miles into the ride and about 75 miles from the Rincon Travel Plaza stop.