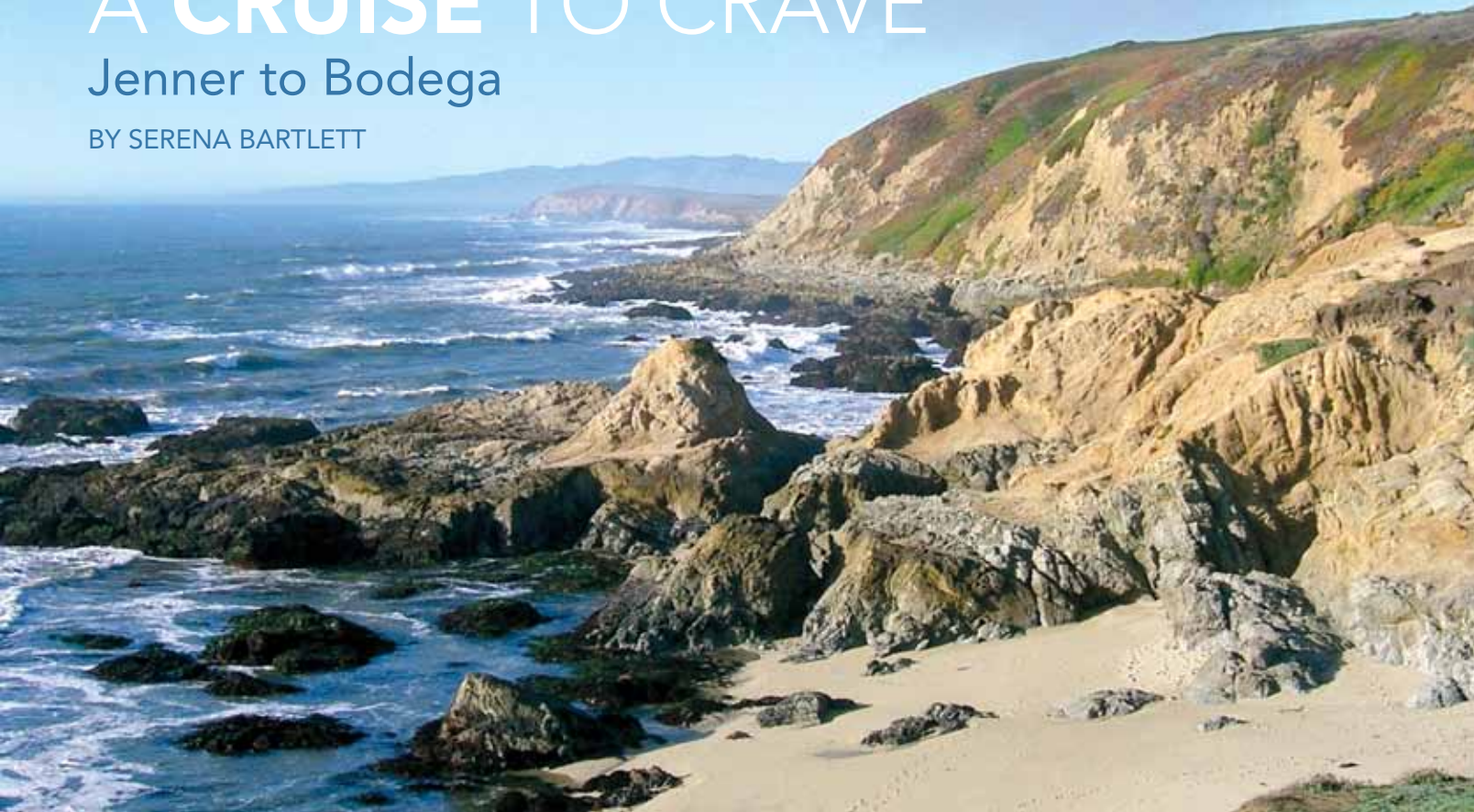


A CRUISE TO CRAVE

Jenner to Bodega

BY SERENA BARTLETT



Few and far between are the moments when road traffic feels like a gift. Do you remember the last time you enjoyed the surrounding scenery so much that you were actually *glad* to be delayed on the highway? Well, besides having a good friend in the seat next to you, a great way to create a truly memorable road trip (especially while being slowed by fellow drivers) is touring the narrow squiggle of Highway 1 between Bodega Bay and the tiny hamlet of Jenner. It's this short section of the wildly beautiful Northern California coast that inspires this first Edible Road Trip, one made all the better by slow summer traffic. So don't hurry, take the time to soak up magnificent ocean cliff views and let life's pace relax for a long weekend—or just an afternoon away from your normal routine.

JENNER INN

Begin your weekend trip with a restful night's sleep at the northern gateway of Bodega Bay. Jenner Inn and Cottages is a family-owned complex comprising lodges, a restaurant, and a series of riverside cabins with fantastic views and gracious Jacuzzi tubs. There isn't much else in this cozy coastal

town: A community center hosts events for locals, a gas station sells all the necessities, and a quaint roadside deli makes lunches for hungry road-trippers. The couple who run the Inn are committed to environmental and community initiatives, their values evidenced by the Thanksgiving fair trade coffee brewed each morning, the organic food prepared by the Inn's modest kitchen, and other green details like the use of nontoxic cleaning supplies.

Ask for the Avalon or Waterfront rooms, and be sure to arrive before sunset, so you can watch as the peach- and turquoise-streaked sky fades into a velvet canvas covered with twinkling stars. Sip a Russian River wine—perhaps a Porter Creek Pinot Noir or Wild Hog Zinfandel—and don't be surprised to hear some tiny chirps from cheerful coots: cute birds that like nesting under the decks.

Next day, you'll wake situated at the mouth of the Russian River, ideally perched for a morning walk and a day of eating excursions. A breakfast of fluffy scrambled eggs and fresh-baked scones, served at the Inn's main house (complimentary for overnight guests), will give you a boost before taking to the Kortum Trail.

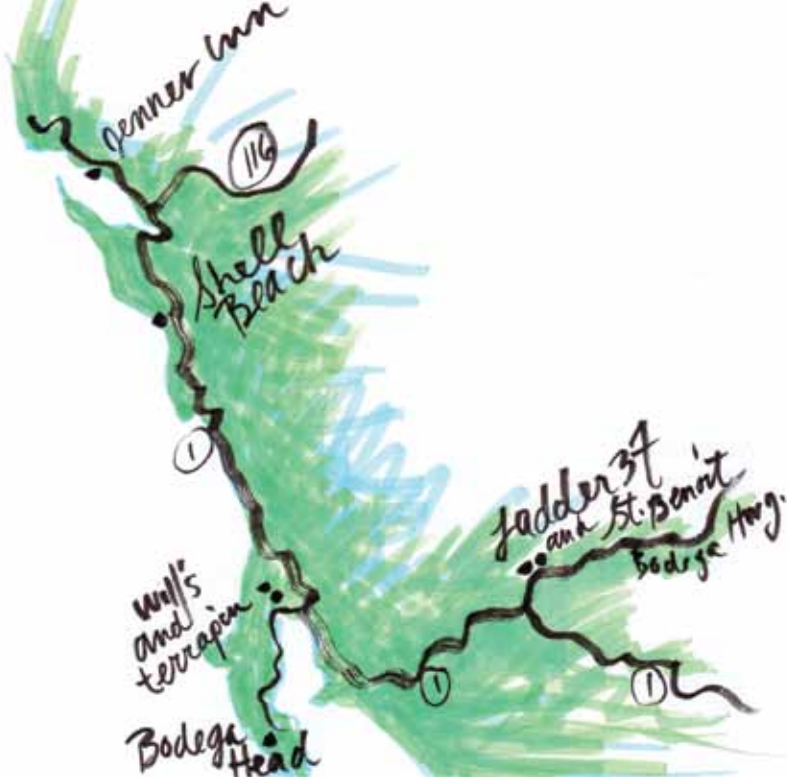
KORTUM TRAIL

Starting from directly in front of the Jenner Inn, follow Highway 1 south and you'll find a row of beaches and coves with names like Schoolhouse Beach, Miwok Beach, Salmon Creek Beach and Portuguese Beach, which cumulatively make up Sonoma Beach State Park.

Round several sharp turns, heeding your urge to stop and deliver a sandy soliloquy. Shell Beach is a good place to park—it's the third beach south from Jenner. The Kortum Trail, which leads along the coastal bluffs from Wright's Beach up to Goat Rock, passes through Shell Beach at about the two-thirds point of its 13 miles. Follow the narrow, dirt trail in either direction, retracing your steps, since there's no loop. Make time before getting back on the road for a tide pool perusal. Carefully descend the wooden-planked stairwell at the far end of the parking lot, passing boulders of greenish serpentine and clumps of sea grass on the way. At the black sand beach, look downward at the colorful anemones and starfish in the rock-ledged pools. The quiet volcanic cliffs look as though Cookie Monster rose from the Pacific Ocean and took a bite out of the land, leaving the last few crumbs for the waves to wash over.

BODEGA BAY HEAD

If you can't get enough of the gorgeous surroundings, make one more stop before heading into Bodega by following the narrow band of land for a quick visit to Bodega Head. To get there, turn right on Eastshore Road and follow it until it dead ends. The surf at the head is rough and powerful, but it never deters the multitude of birds and mammals that call this special place home; rather, it lures them. In the distance, you can see each wave flushing through the tide pools, fanning tangles of kelp to and fro as it drains back into the next wave.



BODEGA BAY FISHING TOURS

Catching the late morning charter from one of several fishing charter services in town, including Will's Bait and Tackle and Bodega Bay Sport Fishing Center, is the friendliest way to experience the bountiful fishing this area is known for. Rock Cod season opens June 13 this year.

TERRAPIN CREEK RESTAURANT

Have Will put your catch on ice and head two doors down to Terrapin Creek Restaurant, a sustainably run and delicious restaurant among a string of over-rated eateries lining Bodega Bay. Sample an array of inventive and well-prepared appetizers like celery root flan, smoked trout rillette, local oysters and burdock "sashimi." Save room for an entrée of house-made pasta or duck breast, then indulge in a show-stopping finish of fig galette or chocolate tart. The restaurant focuses on regional foods, and the menu is simple rather than overly ambitious, but there are offerings to please picky children and grumpy old men alike, and a wine list that satisfies even the most discerning tasting room manager.

From the restaurant, follow Eastshore Road back toward Highway 1 and veer left at the signs for Bodega/Bay Highway. A few meandering miles further along Highway 1, turn left onto the Bodega Highway and follow it into the town of Bodega (if you stay straight, you'll be on Valley Ford Road/Highway 1). Take in the scenery, have a coffee at Brew, the local coffee house, and forget about the big city way of life, at least for the rest of the day.

ST. BENOIT YOGURT

While you're exploring Bodega and its many goats, keep your eye out for lone cows chewing their cuds—they might be the bovines responsible for St. Benoit artisan yogurt, produced nearby. Tours of the ranch and yogurt making

facilities are not currently offered on a regular basis, but you can enjoy their delicious yogurts, packaged in reusable clay containers, which are available at the Bodega General Store.

BODEGA FIREHOUSE COMMUNITY DINNERS

Ladder 37, otherwise known as the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department, is a busier hub than most firehouses in Sonoma, not because there are record numbers of fires in Bodega, but because the tri-tip, polenta, pancakes and homegrown sounds of local bands light up this meeting place at least once a week. In this small town of 300, the firehouse is where locals come to dine, converse and entertain one another. After your day of savoring fine flavors, the cherry on top is a truly local experience like the delicious gatherings hosted here. Check the schedule online and join them—everyone is welcome!

As you head away from the town of Bodega, along the winding roads dotted by peacefully grazing cows and their calves, take one final moment to remember the area's wild beauty, hiking trails, fishing, deliciously prepared locally sourced foods, and the glimmering sunlight, trapped under the rolling ocean-chilled fog that dapples everything it touches.

Jenner Inn

10400 Hwy 1, Jenner, 800.732.2377, www.jennerinn.com

Kortum Trail and Bodega Bay Head

www.sonoma-coast-state-park.com

Bodega Bay Fishing Tours

Will's Bait and Tackle—1580 Eastshore Road, 707.875.2323, www.bodegabayfishing.com

Bodega Bay Sport Fishing Center—In the Porto Bodega RV Park and Marina, 707.875.3344, www.bodegabaysportfishing.com

Terrapin Creek Restaurant

1580 Eastshore Road, 707.875.2700, www.terrapincreekcafe.com

St. Benoit Yogurt

www.stbenoit.com

Bodega Firehouse Community Dinners

17184 Bodega Hwy, 707.876.9438, www.bodegafire.org

DIRECTIONS:

This tour can be traversed in either direction or connected as a loop with the help of Bohemian Highway. I like to begin with a restful night at the Jenner Inn—the mist on the surface of the Russian River is an especially charming wake-up scene for a day full of delicious adventures. To travel north to south, get to Jenner from San Francisco by taking Highway 101 north, 116 west at Rohnert Park, turning onto the Bodega Highway at Sebastopol, then Highway 1 north to Jenner. To travel south to north, take Highway 101 to 116, exiting 116 at Stony Point Road. Follow Stony Point to Roblar Road, where a row of tall palm trees marks the left turn onto Roblar. Roblar Road ends at Valley Ford Road; turn right on Valley Ford and follow until it merges with Highway 1. Continue on Highway 1 to Bodega Bay.



THE CHANGE

If everyone on the planet consumed like an American, we would need five earths to sustain us.



We would only need three earths if we all consumed like Europeans.



Still, that's two more earths than we have.



Contrary to popular belief on Wall Street, we're not going to consume our way out of this mess. We might eat ourselves out of it, though. One of the most delicious steps toward living more lightly on the planet is eating seasonal, locally grown food from small family farms.

A greener lifestyle is not reserved for the fortunate few who can afford solar panels, hybrid cars, or organic designer jeans. "Green" means being conscious of the resources you consume and the ripple effects of your choices. "Green" means turning off your lights, taking a bus, shortening your shower time, choosing tap water, and eating local, seasonal food - not just on Earth Day, but every day.

The farmers market is the perfect place to practice being green. Join us by eating the change you want to see in the world.



NOVATO (TUES. 4-8, MAY-SEPTEMBER)

FAIRFAX (WED. 4-8, MAY-SEPTEMBER)

MARIN CIVIC CENTER (SUN & THURS. 8-1, YEAR ROUND)

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