

SoCal Road Trip 2026

Listening Guide · Playlists + Podcasts + Audiobooks

Colin + Nicole · March 29 – April 5 · Apple Music + Audible

Playlist 1: Oakland → San Simeon

Sunday 3/29 · ~4.5 hrs · Bay vibes into coastal bliss

Search: "**SoCal Road Trip Day 1**" in Apple Music or build from below:

Bay Area Send-Off

- **Tower of Power** — "What Is Hip?" *Oakland funk legends*
- **Green Day** — "Basket Case" *East Bay punk energy*
- **E-40** — "Choices (Yup)" *Bay Area hip-hop classic*
- **Sly & the Family Stone** — "Everyday People" *Oakland → on the road*
- **Journey** — "Lights" *SF anthem for the rearview*

Highway 1 / Central Coast

- **Jack Johnson** — "Better Together" *coastal cruise perfection*
 - **Donavon Frankenreiter** — "Free" *surf rock mellow*
 - **Fleetwood Mac** — "Dreams" *PCH forever*
 - **Tom Petty** — "Free Fallin'" *California classic*
 - **The Beach Boys** — "God Only Knows" *timeless*
 - **Iron & Wine** — "Naked as We Came" *Big Sur energy*
 - **Bahamas** — "Lost in the Light" *golden hour driving*
 - **Lord Huron** — "The Night We Met" *moody coastline*
 - **Vance Joy** — "Riptide" *upbeat + breezy*
 - **Sublime** — "Doin' Time" *ease into SoCal*
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Playlist 2: San Simeon → Newport Beach

Monday 3/30 · ~5 hrs · SLO + Santa Barbara + SoCal arrival

Morning / SLO + Santa Barbara

- **Phantom Planet** — "California" *the O.C. anthem — you're heading there*
- **Sheryl Crow** — "All I Wanna Do" *SB vibes*
- **America** — "Ventura Highway" *literally on the route*
- **Best Coast** — "Boyfriend" *California garage pop*
- **CAAMP** — "Lavender Days" *chill morning*
- **Slightly Stoopid** — "Closer to the Sun" *coastal reggae*

Afternoon / Arriving Newport

- **The Offspring** — "Self Esteem" *OC punk, windows down*
 - **No Doubt** — "Just a Girl" *Anaheim energy*
 - **Dirty Heads** — "Lay Me Down" *beach vibes*
 - **Weezer** — "Island in the Sun" *warm + fuzzy*
 - **Ziggy Marley** — "Beach in Hawaii" *poolside at Lido House*
 - **Stick Figure** — "Smokin' Love" *reggae sunset*
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Playlist 3: Split Day Vibes

Tuesday 3/31 · OC cruising, Huntington Beach, record shops

- **Mac DeMarco** — "Chamber of Reflection" *vinyl shop soundtrack*
- **Tame Impala** — "Let It Happen" *record store energy*
- **Khruangbin** — "Time (You and I)" *groovy + chill*
- **Ty Segall** — "Manipulator" *garage rock for digging crates*
- **Chicano Batman** — "Black Lipstick" *East LA psych-soul*
- **Allah-Las** — "Tell Me (What's On Your Mind)" *LA surf rock*
- **Mild High Club** — "Homage" *breezy afternoon*
- **Men I Trust** — "Tailwhip" *dreamy driving*
- **Turnstile** — "Holiday" *HB skate vibes*
- **The Marias** — "...baby one more time" *LA indie mood*

Playlist 4: Newport → San Diego

Wednesday 4/1 · Padres vs Giants 1:10 PM · Petco Park

- **Switchfoot** — "Meant to Live" *SD's own*
- **blink-182** — "All the Small Things" *SD punk legends*
- **Slightly Stoopid** — "2am" *Ocean Beach reggae*
- **P.O.D.** — "Alive" *SD nu-metal throwback*
- **The Greyboy Allstars** — "Tenor Man" *SD jazz-funk*
- **Pinback** — "Fortress" *SD indie staple*
- **Jason Mraz** — "I'm Yours" *Oceanside chill*
- **Dispatch** — "The General" *outdoor ballpark energy*
- **Nahko** — "Warrior People" *upbeat + conscious*

Pregame walk: arrive early, explore East Village + Gaslamp near Petco

Playlist 5: San Diego Chill

Thursday 4/2 · Torrey Pines + La Jolla + SD explore

- **Kaytranada** — "Glowed Up" *morning groove*
 - **Bonobo** — "Kerala" *nature walk soundtrack*
 - **Tycho** — "Awake" *ambient bliss at Torrey Pines*
 - **FKJ** — "Vibin' Out" *La Jolla Cove sunset*
 - **Poolside** — "Harvest Moon (Neil Young cover)" *daydream fuel*
 - **Washed Out** — "Feel It All Around" *hazy afternoon*
 - **HOMESHAKE** — "Every Single Thing" *lo-fi stroll*
 - **Norah Jones** — "Come Away with Me" *dinner mood*
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Playlist 6: Mexico Day Trip

Friday 4/3 · Valle de Guadalupe + Ensenada · Wine + tacos

Crossing South

- **Los Lobos** — "La Bamba" *classic border crossing*
- **Calexico** — "Crystal Frontier" *desert border vibes*
- **Manu Chao** — "Bongo Bong" *international road trip*
- **Nortec Collective** — "Tijuana Bass" *Tijuana electronic pioneers*

Valle de Guadalupe / Ensenada

- **Natalia Lafourcade** — "Hasta la Raiz" *Mexican folk beauty*
 - **Mon Laferte** — "Tu Falta de Querer" *Chilean-Mexican powerhouse*
 - **Cafe Tacvba** — "Eres" *GOAT Mexican rock*
 - **Los Angeles Azules ft. Natalia** — "Nunca Es Suficiente" *cumbia + wine*
 - **Chicano Batman** — "Magma" *psych-soul in the vineyard*
 - **Cuco** — "Lo Que Siento" *dreamy bilingual*
 - **Julieta Venegas** — "Me Voy" *fun + catchy*
 - **Celso Pina** — "Cumbia Sobre el Rio" *accordion cumbia king*
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Playlist 7: SD → Encinitas → Ojai → Oakland

Sat 4/4 – Sun 4/5 · Coast north, Ojai overnight, home

Encinitas + Coast

- **Bob Marley** — "Three Little Birds" *morning send-off*
- **Rebelution** — "Safe and Sound" *Encinitas reggae*
- **Trevor Hall** — "The Lime Tree" *Encinitas artist*
- **Pepper** — "Give It Up" *SoCal ska-punk*

Ojai + Mountains

- **Fleet Foxes** — "Mykonos" *Ojai mountain air*
- **Bon Iver** — "Skinny Love" *evening in the valley*
- **The War on Drugs** — "Red Eyes" *driving into golden light*
- **Big Thief** — "Masterpiece" *Ojai folk energy*
- **Phoebe Bridgers** — "Kyoto" *Cali indie queen*
- **Hozier** — "Work Song" *warm evening*

Home Stretch: 101 North

- **The Eagles** — "Take It Easy" *classic highway song*
 - **Creedence Clearwater Revival** — "Have You Ever Seen the Rain" *101 north*
 - **Counting Crows** — "A Long December" *coming home*
 - **The National** — "Bloodbuzz Ohio" *reflective highway miles*
 - **Vampire Weekend** — "A-Punk" *energy for the last stretch*
 - **Wilco** — "California Stars" *the perfect closer*
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Podcasts for the Drive

Apple Podcasts · Free · Download episodes before you leave

California-Specific

- **Desert Oracle Radio** — Weekly road trip through weird California — lost mines, mysterious lights, strange history. Perfect for the drives between stops.
- **The California Report Magazine** — KQED deep-dives into CA culture, people, and places. Short episodes, perfect for short legs.
- **99% Invisible** — Bay Area design podcast by Roman Mars. Architecture, urban planning, hidden design everywhere.

Fun + Thoughtful

- **Radiolab** — Science + philosophy + storytelling. Mind-bending episodes you'll talk about over dinner.
 - **Conan O'Brien Needs a Friend** — Hilarious interviews. Great for long stretches when you need to laugh.
 - **Song Exploder** — Artists break down how they wrote iconic songs. Pairs perfectly with a music road trip.
 - **Heavyweight** — Jonathan Goldstein helps people revisit moments from their past. Funny + emotional.
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Audiobooks

Audible or Apple Books · Download before departure

Best for Couples

- **The Dutch House** — **Ann Patchett** — Narrated by Tom Hanks. Family, memory, a house that haunts. Universally loved by couples.
- **The Rosie Project** — **Graeme Simsion** — Romantic comedy about a genetics professor finding love. Laugh-out-loud funny, sweet.
- **People We Meet on Vacation** — **Emily Henry** — Two best friends, annual road trips, will-they-won't-they. Literally about a trip.

Thought-Provoking

- **Talking to Strangers** — **Malcolm Gladwell** — Full-cast audiobook production. Fascinating social science you'll debate at dinner.
- **American Gods** — **Neil Gaiman** — A literal road trip across America. Mythology meets modern life. Full cast narration.
- **A Short History of Nearly Everything** — **Bill Bryson** — Science + humor. Makes everything interesting. Great for long drives.

Pro tip: Download everything before you leave. Cell service is spotty on the Central Coast and in Baja.

skincheese.com/socal · Apple Music links open in Safari on iPhone