

Lunch, BBQ & Casual Eats

Midday options all down the 101 — sit-down, tacos, burgers & Santa Maria tri-tip

Plenty of choice for the middle of the drive, from a proper Paso lunch to counter tacos. **Don't miss Santa Maria-style tri-tip** (oak-grilled, a Central Coast institution) if you time it right around ~4.5 hrs in. Most have dog-friendly outdoor seating.

Paso Robles & Atascadero

Fish Gaucho TOP PICK

1244 Park St, Paso Robles, CA 93446

Standout California-Mexican — excellent seafood, top-tier margaritas, deep agave list. Pet-friendly patio off the square.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Thomas Hill Organics

1313 Park St, Paso Robles, CA 93446

Farm-to-table — grass-fed beef, fresh fish, garden-driven plates. Dogs welcome on the heated patio.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

The Hatch Rotisserie & Bar

835 13th St, Paso Robles, CA 93446

Wood-fired rotisserie chicken + Southern-leaning comfort food downtown. Polished-casual local favorite.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Sylvester's Burgers CASUAL

6455 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422

Beloved local burger joint — char-grilled patties, dog-friendly outdoor seating, easy off-101.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

San Luis Obispo

Firestone Grill TRI-TIP SANDWICH

1001 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

THE iconic SLO counter stop — nationally-known Santa Maria-style tri-tip sandwich over red oak. Always busy, casual.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Novo Restaurant & Lounge CREEKSIDE

726 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Eclectic global menu on a shaded deck over SLO Creek — one of the most-loved dog patios on the coast.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Woodstock's Pizza CHEAP + FAST

1000 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Cal Poly-classic pizza by the slice, right across from Firestone. Ultra-casual.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Santa Maria-style BBQ (the famous tri-tip)

Jocko's Steak House RIGHT OFF 101

125 N Thompson Ave, Nipomo, CA 93444

No-frills tri-tip legend between SLO and Santa Maria — arguably the most famous on the coast. Tiny detour off 101, worth it.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Shaw's Steakhouse & Tavern

714 S Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Authentic Santa Maria BBQ since 1953 — red-oak-grilled tri-tip, the definitive local institution.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Far Western Tavern

300 E Clark Ave, Orcutt, CA 93455

The other legendary Santa Maria-style house — tri-tip, bull's-eye steaks, Old West room.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Buellton, Solvang & Santa Barbara

Industrial Eats STANDOUT

181 B Industrial Way, Buellton, CA 93427

Wood-fired pizzas, house-butchered meats, communal tables, big dog-friendly open-air setup. Casual-but-great.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

La Super-Rica Taqueria LEGENDARY

622 N Milpas St, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Julia Child's favorite taqueria — handmade tortillas, order at the window, covered outdoor seating works with dogs.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Santa Barbara Shellfish Co.

230 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Counter seafood at the end of the wharf — clam chowder, crab, fish tacos; open-air dog-friendly deck over the water.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Sources: [Firestone Grill](#) · [Jocko's](#) · [Industrial Eats](#) · [La Super-Rica](#)

Each stop links to [Apple Maps](#) (preferred) and [Google Maps](#) — both search the same verified address, so they land on the same pin. [skincheese.com/toro](#) · v3 · verified Jul 2026. Dog rules & hours can change — a quick check on arrival is smart.