

Side Quests & Pit Stops

Gas, clean bathrooms & quirky detours — the fun stuff between food stops

Two 2026 heads-ups: the sparse stretch is **Salinas → Paso Robles (~100 mi)** — top off at King City either direction. And both **Gaviota rest areas + the northbound Camp Roberts rest area are CLOSED**, so King City fuel/restrooms and Buellton/Solvang carry the load. (RIP Pea Soup Andersen's — closed and pending demolition.)

Good gas stations

Shell / Plaza Gas & Diesel LAST EASY FILL N

5920 Travel Park Cir, Gilroy, CA 95020

Right off 101 at Leavesley Rd by the outlets. Big plaza — diesel, car wash, wall of food. Best fuel-up before the quiet stretch.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Chevron ExtraMile — King City THE KEY STOP

1 Broadway Circle, King City, CA 93930

Right at the exit, easy on/off. The most reliable fuel + clean-restroom stop in the Salinas–Paso gap. Starbucks + fast food at the same interchange.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Chevron ExtraMile — Santa Maria

1155 E Betteravia Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93454

Southern-stretch anchor off 101. Large, modern, In-N-Out + drive-thrus + restrooms right there.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Quick bathroom breaks

Camp Roberts Southbound Rest Area THE ANCHOR

US-101 South, ~8.5 mi N of San Miguel, Bradley, CA 93426

Reopened 2025 — clean, modern, grassy pet-relief areas. The bathroom stop in the sparse middle. (Northbound side still closed — use King City heading home.)

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Madonna Inn IMMACULATE

100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

~2 min off 101. Famously spotless restrooms (the men's room waterfall urinal is a sight itself). Bakery/deli + dog-friendly grounds.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Shell / Plaza — Gilroy

5920 Travel Park Cir, Gilroy, CA 95020

Northern bathroom stop paired with fuel; clean, staffed, room to walk the dogs.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Fun sights & quirky detours (all close to 101)

Mission San Miguel Arcángel 1 MIN OFF

775 Mission St, San Miguel, CA 93451

One of the best-preserved CA missions with original 1820s frescoes. Leashed dogs OK on the grounds/gardens (not inside).

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Madonna Inn — waterfall urinal 2 MIN OFF

100 Madonna Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Over-the-top pink kitsch palace; the legendary rock-cave waterfall urinal in the men's room. Dog-friendly grounds.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Bubblegum Alley 5 MIN OFF

733 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

70-ft alley walled in decades of chewed gum. Gross, iconic, photogenic. Outdoor — leashed dogs fine.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

OstrichLand USA DOGS WELCOME

610 E Hwy 246, Solvang, CA 93463

~2 min off 101. Feed 100+ ostriches + emus from a bowl on a stick. Leashed dogs explicitly welcome — a rare feed-the-animals stop for the pups.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Solvang Danish Village 10 MIN OFF

Copenhagen Dr, Solvang, CA 93463

Windmills, half-timbered bakeries (aebleskiver!), a Viking ship + a giant troll. One of the most dog-friendly downtowns around — water bowls, patios welcome dogs.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Nojoqui Falls County Park SEASONAL

3250 Alisal Rd, Solvang, CA 93463

~10 min off 101. Short shady walk to a 100-ft limestone waterfall; leashed-dog park with picnic lawns. Flow is seasonal (trickle in late summer) — check trail status.

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Old Mission Santa Barbara 5 MIN OFF

2201 Laguna St, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Twin-towered 1786 "Queen of the Missions" with a rose garden + ocean views. Dogs welcome on the outer grounds/rose garden (not the museum).

➤ [Apple Maps](#) [Google Maps](#)

Sources: [Camp Roberts / Gaviota status](#) — Noozhawk · [OstrichLand USA](#) · [VisitSolvang — dogs](#) · [Mission San Miguel](#)

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.