



Bicycle to the Bear Valley Inn

While working on the Beds, Bikes and Breakfast promotion with CABBI a common concern is how to bicycle safely from one's home or another starting destination to a B&B. This is where local area bike maps can come in very handy.

Many bicycle trips are made on roads that one might not choose if they were going to drive an automobile to the same destination. Think about your own neighborhood. You know the back way to get to the local school, grocery store or neighborhood park and this would be your route if you were bicycling and walking, but not necessarily if you were driving your auto.

Make the trip easy on yourself and spend an enjoyable weekend away from San Francisco at the Point Reyes National Seashore. Arrange with the innkeeper at the Bear Valley Inn to ship out a box of casual clothes, your favorite book and some toiletries during the week before your trip. They will be waiting for you in your room when you arrive.

Here is an example of how to get from the Ferry Building in San Francisco to the Bear Valley Inn in Olema (a 35 mile trip – 21 miles by bicycle) one way. Bicycle route signs have recently been installed along this route. There are many twists and turns but it is a great way to see some beautiful neighborhoods in Marin on your way to the Point Reyes National Seashore. From the Larkspur Ferry to Fairfax is approximately 7 miles. From Fairfax to the Bear Valley Inn it is close to 14 miles. It is a good idea to have your Marin County Bicycle Map handy as a reference. This map is available at local shops or you may order it ahead of time from the Bear Valley Inn in Olema. 415-663-1777.

- Take the Larkspur Ferry (<http://www.goldengate.org/>) to Marin County. Bicycles are allowed on these boats and it is a great ride across San Francisco Bay with great views of Alcatraz and Angel Island.
- Once in Larkspur as you leave the Ferry Terminal get on the bicycle path on the south side of Sir Francis Drake. This path will take you under Highway 101 and lead you around by the rowing center and around a business park and housing area.
- The path will end and you will be on South Eliseo Street. Go up the hill and down the other side. At the lights (intersection with Bon Air) cross over onto the bike path that goes along Corte Madera Creek.
- Cross at College Ave and continue behind College of Marin on the Class One path. Please use caution on this section of path as it is narrow and is used by pedestrians and others bicycling or walking their dogs.

- You will come out at an intersection behind a post office in Ross. Take a left on Lagunitas Road. It is fun to visit the Marin Art and Garden Center (just up Lagunitas across Sir Francis Drake) where you can take a break and enjoy the lovely gardens.
- Take a right onto Shady Lane. Follow this to Bolinas Avenue.
- Take a right on Bolinas Avenue and then the next left on San Anselmo Avenue.
- Go through San Anselmo (there are two bike shops on San Anselmo Ave – Caesar’s and Paradigm) there are also some good places to get coffee or a bite to eat.
 - In San Anselmo there is a transit option to Olema from the bus stop on Red Hill). The West Marin Stage Coach (which runs on weekdays only) runs four times per day each way) (<http://www.marin-stagecoach.org/>)
- Near the end of town take a left to stay on San Anselmo Ave. This will parallel the busier street to your right – Center.
- Continue straight onto Lansdale into Fairfax.
- At Pastori take a right and then a quick left onto Center. Albertson’s supermarket will be on your right.
- Continue on Center through downtown Fairfax. You will pass Sunshine Bicycles.
- Take a left on Fairfax Bolinas Road (Fairfax Roasters in on the corner – a great cup of coffee!)
- Take a right on Park Road by the Police Station. This will turn into Sequoia. At the T intersection take a left and then a quick right onto Manor. At Olema Road take a left and stay on this road until it intersects with Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (Good idea to consult your Marin County Bicycle Map at this time – available in local shops and directly from the Bear Valley Inn)
- After taking a left on Sir Francis Drake proceed up and over White’s Hill and across the San Geronimo Valley. You will go by Spirit Rock center and the San Geronimo Golf Course before entering the towns of San Geronimo, Forest Knolls, and Lagunitas.
- After leaving Lagunitas you will come to a bicycle bridge (Inkwells Bridge) on your right that crosses a creek. If the conditions are dry this is a very nice route that will take you into Samuel P. Taylor State park on a dirt road. If muddy, you may opt to stay on Sir Francis Drake until you get to the Park Headquarters (2.5 miles).
- At Samuel P. Taylor State Park take the paved Cross Marin Trail. About 3.5 miles along the path will end after you go under Sir Francis Drake Blvd.. At this point take a left up to Sir Francis Drake and go up over the hill.
- 1.8 miles further you will reach the intersection of Highway 1 and Sir Francis Drake. The Olema Inn is on your right. Take a right on Highway 1 and go one block to Bear Valley Road.
- Take a left on Bear Valley Road and the first right into the driveway of the Bear Valley Inn. You will see our bear on a bicycle weathervane!

From the Bear Valley Inn there are many great rides in and around the National Seashore. There are two fine restaurants and a deli within walking distance and Point Reyes Station is a short two mile bicycle ride up Highway 1. The folks at the Bear Valley Inn can also help you continue your bicycling trip to other CABBI certified bicycle-friendly inns. Just let us know how we can help you plan your trip!

The 21 mile ride has two climbs (over White's Hill and the hill before Olema on Sir Francis Drake). Riding conditions include on road riding, bicycle lanes and shoulders, residential streets and separated bicycle paths. Be prepared for changing weather conditions since due to the coastal influence and the many microclimates and possibility of fog it can be much cooler as you near the coast.

It is recommended that your bicycle be in good working condition, that you wear colors that are visible in daylight hours and use lights and retro reflective equipment if riding at dusk or in the dark and that you wear a bicycle helmet.