

## San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara...



**A. San Luis Obispo train station.** The present station was built in 1942 by the Southern Pacific Railroad in a Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style. The original depot was located just a bit south and was built in 1895 and demolished in 1971. Pictured: the UP #4141 sits in front of the old Southern Pacific water tower.

**B. Conoco Phillips refinery.** The ConocoPhillips Santa Maria Refinery was built on the Arroyo Grande mesa in the 1950s. The Santa Maria Refinery is considered to be part of the greater San Francisco Refinery that is composed of two facilities, the Santa Maria Refinery and the San Francisco area Rodeo Refinery, linked by a 200-mile pipeline. The refineries process mainly heavy, high-sulfur crude oil. The pile of bright yellow material is sulfur. Coke is hauled out by rail.



**C. Guadalupe.** The Union Pacific RR interchanges here with the Santa Maria Valley RR. Pictured: the Starlight meets the Santa Maria Valley Railroad.



**D. Abandoned AIROX oil shale mine.** The furnace, built in 1918, was used to extrude petroleum products from the shale. This site is just north of Casmalia.

**E. Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB):** north base Peacekeeper silos (to the West).

**F. VAFB: Old Atlas D ICBM "A" frame gantry.** To the East.



**G. VAFB: The 3-mile runway** is long enough for Space Shuttle landings as well as extremely large military aircraft. East.

**H. VAFB: Space Launch Complex (SLC) 2.** Delta IIs launch many NASA space exploration missions and telecommunications satellites. To the West.

**I. Santa Ynez River.**

**J. Surf/Lompoc station.**

**K. VAFB: SLC-3 (Atlas II).** To the East

**L. VAFB: SLC-4.** Was home to Lockheed Martin's Titan program. SpaceX Falcons may be coming here. To the East.

**M. VAFB: Liquid oxygen plant** originally built for the Shuttle program. East side.

**N. Honda Point.** Site of a naval disaster in 1923 where 7 ships ran aground by prematurely turning east thinking they were at the Santa Barbara channel.

## The Coast Line

### Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo Some Stats...

San Luis Obispo:  
Milepost (MP) 251.6  
Elevation about 220'

Santa Barbara:  
Milepost (MP) 367.4  
Elevation is just above sea level

Radio frequency: 161.550 (Channel 96)

Union Pacific Interchanges and Leads:  
Santa Maria Valley RR at Guadalupe  
Lompoc Industrial Lead near Surf  
White Hills Lead off Lompoc Industrial Lead

Most of this trackage operates with track warrants (TWC), with the balance being CTC. There is only one short stretch of double-track mainline from MP 365.0 to MP 368.7 at Santa Barbara. The route ranges in elevation from about sea level at Santa Barbara and Grover Beach to a highpoint of just over 400 feet at Devon (ten miles south of Guadalupe).

In addition to Union Pacific freight trains, this corridor is also used by Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner and Coast Starlight trains.



Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner at Santa Barbara

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## The Coast Line San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara



"The Gap", the last section of today's coastal mainline route to be put in place, was connected on the last day of 1901 near Gaviota. At the time, the combined population of both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties was about 35,000.

The Southern Pacific Railroad reached San Luis Obispo from the north in 1894. Today's track route from Santa Barbara south to Los Angeles was not completed until 1904 when the tunnels through the Santa Susana mountains were completed.

The roughly 116 miles from Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo is one of the country's most scenic rail lines, hugging the Pacific Ocean shoreline and cliffs for the majority of the route, and passing through beautiful countryside and farm land for the balance.

This section of the railroad has much of its route running entirely through Vandenberg Air Force Base, the country's premier space launch site for polar-orbiting satellites. Vandenberg is also an operational test site for Peacekeeper missiles and for the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Vandenberg also houses the Joint Functional Component Command for Space which controls all space operations for the United States.

- O. VAFB: SLC-6. Was to have been the Shuttle launch pad until the Challenger disaster happened. It's now home to the Boeing heavy lift vehicle, Delta IV. East.
- P. Point Arguello.



- Q. VAFB: Boat House and harbor. Rocket segments are brought ashore here. It was originally built to launch Coast Guard rescue craft in the 1920s. Pictured above.

- R. Jalama Beach County Park. A rather remote seaside park, but don't miss the Jalama Burger.

- S. Point Conception.
- T. Gaviota Pier (pictured at right).
- U. Refugio State Beach.



- V. Santa Barbara train station. The station was built in 1902 by the Southern Pacific Railroad in the Spanish Mission Revival Style. Pictured above, one of the Surfliners sits on the platform. Don't miss the large fig tree and the displayed Southern Pacific Business Car #142.