

Girl Camper

Going places. Doing things.

FALL 2024

EPIC FALL ROAD TRIPS



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Port San Luis

Next up was Port San Luis and the Flying Flags Avila Beach campground, which flat-out is one of the most unique campgrounds I've ever stayed at. Located literally on a cliff overlooking the ocean, the campground offers RV sites, tent camping, cottages, and Jupes tents. It was easy to back the van into a large full hook-up spot halfway up the bluff, which had absolutely stunning views. Flying Flags is part of Highway West Vacations, a collection of really special properties, including hotels, lodges, cabins, glamping and RV resorts located across the country. I had also booked a stay at their Buellton campground for this trip, and once I saw Avila Beach, I was happy I did. A communal area with a large fire pit, corn hole, ladder golf and plenty of seating to watch the sunset was fun to hang out in. It was a short walk to the pier to have a seafood dinner and watch the sea otters. Downtown Avila, just minutes away, was utterly charming, with loads of cute shops, cafés and wine bars. And once again, the van fit in a parking space on the street with no problem!

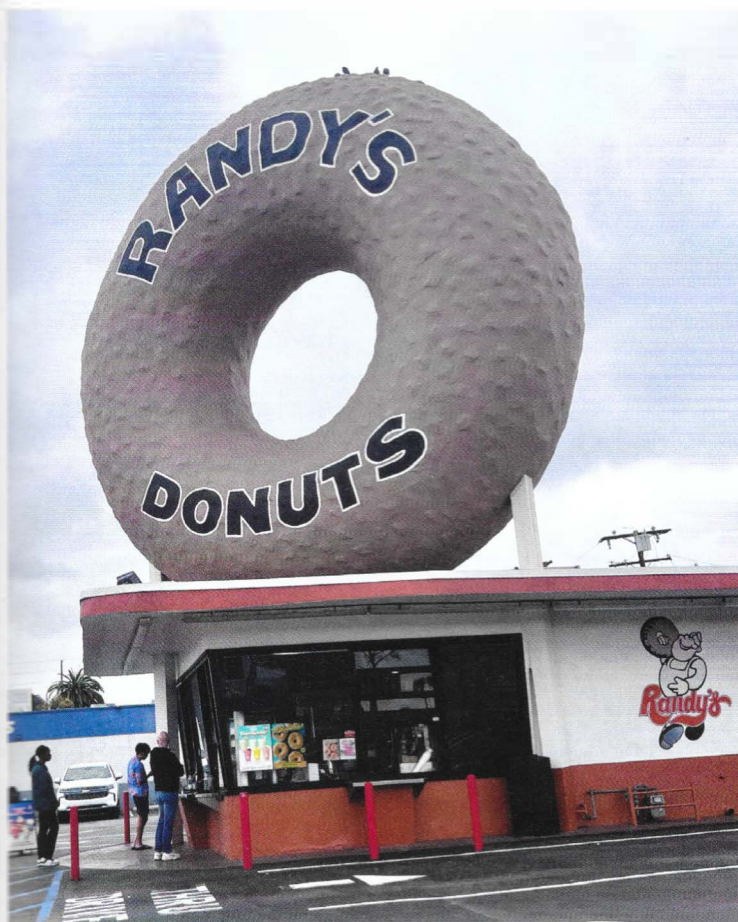
Buellton

Anyone who loves the movie *Sideways* has to pay a visit to Buellton in Santa Ynez Valley, where part of the popular film was shot, but that's just one of many reasons to visit this gorgeous Central Coast town.

Here, I stayed at another Flying Flags campground, this one quite different from Avila Beach, but equally lovely. When I rolled into town, it was too early to check in so I made my way to the amazing Mendenhalls's Museum of Gasoline Pumps & Petroliana (see page 74) and explored a bit of the town, which is also famous for split pea soup, of all things. When I finally checked in, I found this Flying Flags had a wine shop to rival any at home, to be expected in wine country, I suppose, plus a campground as clean and charming as could be.

The campground offers adorable themed cabins and cottages (surfer, National Park, wine, ranch, etc.), Jupes tents, safari tents, vintage trailers (from Airstreams to canned hams, plus all traditional RV types of sites. There are two pools and bocce courts to play in, plus an on-site restaurant. Adjacent to the campground is sister property, the Sideways Inn, with another lounge to enjoy, plus the Santa Ynez Sausage Company food truck, serving fantastic fare out of an Airstream.

When I finally had to face the fact that it was time to turn in my van, I made one final pit stop in the neighboring town of Solvang, the Danish capital of America. The village, which looks like a movie set complete with windmills, made me wish I had more time to explore, but I consoled myself with Danish pancakes and a promise to myself to return. Which is how the end of every road trip should make you feel.



ABOUT ROADSURFER

Roadsurfer was founded in Germany in 2016 as an RV rental platform. Since then, the company's reach has expanded to all over Europe, plus the U.S. and Canada, with more than 5,000 vehicles in 70 stations. Perks include unlimited mileage, mint condition vans, and a free second driver. Also included are two camping chairs and a kitchen box with essential gear, including pots and pans. Add-ons, like bedding or a bike rack, are reasonably priced. Currently, Class B and Class C vans are available in the U.S., with the brands (Winnebago or Thor) and size of RV depending upon what's available when you book. The company's website is a breeze to navigate and pick-up and drop-off were seamless.

IF YOU GO

Roadsurfer, roadsurfer.com

Big Basin Redwoods State Park, parks.ca.gov

Seven Gables Inn, thesevengablesinn.com

Flying Flags Avila, flyingflagsavilabeach.com

Flying Flags Buellton, flyingflags.com