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by Matthew Jaffe
 Escape to Cambria
 Savor ocean, pines, and great pie on a three-day coastal
 California weekend



Rising from a rocky shoreline into hills covered by Monterey pines, Cambria has a spirit shaped equally by ocean and forest.

Midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, this Central Coast town boasts several miles of coastline and, especially in

spring, is bordered by rolling hills green enough to evoke the Welsh origins of its name. The village itself sits deep in a knoll between wooded slopes. Quaint but not cloyingly so, it has 19th-century cottages set in lush gardens while a lawn-bowling green commands a prominent place on a main street named Main Street.

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Back when this area was busy with whaling, mining, and logging, Cambria was known as Slabtown. Rugged as the town was, the name referred not to tombstones but to the slabs of rough wood used in building construction. These days Cambria's trees and mountains are cherished rather than bought and sold, and the

town makes an ideal base for anyone looking for a weekend filled with long beach walks or hikes into the hills. Browsing, not brawling, is the main village pursuit, and shops and galleries feature many of the local artists and craftspeople who have settled here. It's no wonder they chose Cambria — a place where beauty and inspiration are never very far away.

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