



## Best Viewing Locations in Each City

### Sacramento - Prologue

- **Corner of 19th and L Streets** - final turn before finishing straight. Excellent viewing spot.
- **Corner of Ninth Street and N Street** - will be able to see start from a distance, close-up of riders taking a hard right turn N Street.
- **Finish line is at 11th and L Street.** Watch from the the Capitol Mall side of L Street. This area will be crowded, however.
- **South side of Capitol Park between 10th and 15th streets.** Riders will be able to get up a head of steam along the race's longest straightaway, and it will be probably be one of the least-crowded sections of the course.
- **Between 8th and 9th streets on south side on Capitol Mall.** Good view of the start.

### Davis – Stage 1 Start

- **Central Park – The Heart of the Start!** Come to Central Park on C Street between 3rd and 5th Streets to be at the center of the action. This is the official starting line where the gun will be fired at noon to signal the beginning of the 2009 Tour of California, Stage 1. Along the west side of Central Park on B Street you will be able to view the team vehicles and riders. Bring your camera as you get up close and watch the riders warm up in preparation for their ride. Each rider will also sign in on the elevated stage on the south end of the pavilion. The park will be a place for food, fun activities for kids and a large outdoor TV on which to view the television broadcast of the stage.
- **The Four Corners of the Parade Route** – The peloton will take two non-competitive laps through downtown Davis starting on C Street at 3rd Street. The first turn will be at C and 2nd Streets. The second turn will be at 2nd and F Streets. The third turn is at F and 5th Streets and then the riders will turn south on C Street from 5th to complete the same lap a second time. The views will be great along these streets as well as at any of the four corners. The big bonus downtown is having the chance to see the riders go by twice before they leave town!
- **UC Davis – Go Aggies on the Neutral Lap** – Join the Aggies on Russell Boulevard between Howard Way and California Avenue on the Russell Intramural Fields of UC Davis. This is a nice grass field with plenty of space to stretch out and enjoy the view of the peloton consisting of 125+ riders as they leave downtown Davis. This section is still part of the neutral lap which means slower speeds and a better opportunity to see your favorite riders in action.
- **“Zero K” – Russell Boulevard & Arthur Street.** This is one place for serious fans because it marks the end of the neutral lap and the commencement of racing for Stage 1. The competition starts here and the peloton will kick into high gear all along Russell Boulevard as they embark on the 107 mile (173 km) Stage 1 ride to Santa Rosa.
- **Downtown Winters – A Sprint!** The riders leave Davis and cover twenty flat miles straight into downtown Winters. Railroad Avenue between Grant Avenue and Putah Creek Road will offer a great chance to see if any riders make a move to compete in the first in-stage sprint of the competition before the peloton begins its climb toward the Berryessa hills.

### Santa Rosa – Stage 1 Finish

- **The Stage 1 Finish Line!** At Third Street and Santa Rosa Avenue in Courthouse Square may seem like an obvious choice, but the excitement and adrenalin – of the roaring spectators and the speeding cyclists – is palpable and unbeatable as the riders sprint for their first Stage win.
- **B Street at the base of Fourth Street:** Watch as the peloton builds speed on the long, straight sprint down Fourth Street before they make a sharp right turn onto B Street on their way to Railroad Square. The bonus of this location: viewers will see the riders pass four times because they enter the circuit at Fourth and Brookwood, but the three-loop course does not officially starts until they pass the finish line on Third Street for the first time ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of the circuit beyond this point).
- **Wilson Street between Third and Fifth Streets:** Enjoy the charm and festive atmosphere of Santa Rosa’s Historic Railroad Square. Drink some coffee, sip some wine, participate in the festivities, and feel the swoosh of the peloton as it races by four times! Walk, ride your bike, or get a ride from one of Rickshaw Rudy’s pedicabs to make it back over to Courthouse Square in time for the awards ceremony. Fun!
- Not a fan of crowds? The three-mile Stage One circuit offers many locations to watch the race without being in the heart of the crowds in Courthouse Square. You can watch the race while picnicking under the trees of the sloping City Hall lawn on Sonoma Ave. Or help out by watching the race and securing drive-ways along tree-lined Third Street between E and Brookwood. Or hang out on the steps of City Hall or at the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition (where there will be free bike valet) and watch the peloton maneuver the corners from D Street to First Street, then onto Santa Rosa Ave. Or find a spot at West Ninth and Wilson Street to watch the riders position themselves around the turn for the straight-away down Wilson to Third... There are many great viewing possibilities around the course where you’re guaranteed at least three opportunities to ring your cow bell!
- **Howell Mountain:** While this places you well away from Downtown Santa Rosa, with really no chance of getting back in time to see the finish, Howell Mountain will be an exciting climb and descent. We predict some serious attacks out there!

For more information on Santa Rosa’s Tour-related activities and timelines, and to obtain maps of the men’s Stage One Finish circuit, and the Amgen Tour of California’s Women’s Criterium course, visit [www.srcity.org/toc](http://www.srcity.org/toc).

## Sausalito – Stage 2 Start

- TBA

## Santa Cruz – Stage 2 Finish

- **Intersection of Bay and High Streets-** watch the cyclists speeding down the final downhill of Stage 2
- **Intersection of Bay and Mission** - excellent viewing to follow the cyclists coming down the hill and along Mission Street
- **In front of Santa Cruz High on Walnut Street** - at the crest of Walnut, watch the cyclists come from Mission and head into the heart of downtown
- **Front Street Hill (the hill between 3rd street and Pacific)** - get a view of the cyclists coming down south down Center Street and watch the sweeping left turn up Front Street to the finishing stretch
- **On the Finishing Stretch in front of MAH** - watch the final exciting sprint to the finish and stop by the cycling exhibit in the MAH atrium

Best Bike Routes:

- While surfing and skating tend to define Santa Cruz County's sporting reputation, the area is also a veritable mecca for mountain bikers. Santa Cruz County's parks offer countless trails geared for bikes. Winding single tracks through shaded redwoods, and climbing roads with stunning vistas of the Monterey Bay provide a full range of trails for all skill levels. South county's rural paths lure road bikers through scenic coastal routes.
- Between Natural Bridges State Beach and the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, a two and a half mile scenic path overlooking the bay skirts along West Cliff Drive. The path is popular for jogs, bike rides and romantic strolls. Along the route, you'll find the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum housed inside the Mark Abbott Memorial Lighthouse. And be sure not to miss the surfer statue, dedicated to surfers everywhere. Just off the point from the lighthouse, fearless surfers ride the waves at Santa Cruz's legendary surf spot, Steamer Lane. Nearby, novice surfers test their mettle at Cowell Beach.

### San Jose – Stage 3 Start

- **Start: San Fernando and Almaden**
- **Plaza de Cesar Chavez**
- **Market St at Santa Clara Street**
- **2nd at Santa Clara Street**
- **Taylor and 2nd Street**

According to our City cycling expert in the San Jose Department of Transportation, these are the best places to ride :

- **Coyote Creek Trail** - ride south starting at trailhead at bend in Gassmann Dr, just west of Stonegate Elementary School
- **Los Gatos Creek Trail**- ride south starting at trailhead on west side of Meridian Av, south of Curci Rd
- **Guadalupe River Trail** - ride north on west bank trail, starting at Children's Discovery Museum
- **Piedmont Road (northern part becomes Evans Rd)** - Penitencia Creek Rd to Park Victoria Rd
- **17th Street** - Santa Clara St to Hedding St

### Modesto – Stage 3 Finish

- View the race **on the corner of Coldwell and Sycamore**. With their tires mere inches apart, see the riders make that very tight hairpin turn onto Sycamore and down the narrow tree lined street. Watch them pick up speed as they fly by Graceada Park.
- For the birds-eye view **find a spot on the second floor of the Bank of America** parking garage on 16th street, between J and I streets. Or in the parking garage on 11th street, across from the Fat Cat Lounge.
- **The front of the Stanislaus County Library**, on I street between 16th and 15th will offer some great viewing from the steps and the nice wide porch areas. You will see the riders as they speed toward you and make a turn onto I street.
- **The McHenry Museum steps and lawn**, on the corner of 14th & I streets will provide an opportunity to see the tight group of riders hitting speeds in excess of 60 miles per hour as they explode toward the finish line.
- **There are several restaurants** along the route downtown that have sidewalk café seating...excellent opportunities to enjoy a culinary race day special, warm drinks and watch the thrilling action.
- **From Bacchus Food & Spirits & The Harvest Moon Café** on I street between 13th and 11th street you will see the riders come screaming down I street for a dramatic finish.

- Riders will continue to speed around the course for two additional laps in a Circuit Race as they make an intense right turn from I Street onto 11th Street. At that corner, **the Firkin & Fox** has outdoor seating on both I and 11th streets.
- Sitting outdoors at **Tresetti's World Café on 11th street**, watch the heart pumping action as the riders continue their intense sprint for the finish line.

## Merced – Stage 4 Start

Virtually every street and corner offers excellent views of the start of Stage 4 of the Amgen Tour of California in Merced. The tree lined avenues, the wide creek meandering through town and the City's historic buildings provide beautiful backdrops to the racing excitement. Among the best views:

- **N and 18th Streets:** The starting point of Stage 4 will be filled with frenzied fans watching the start of this epic race. Set in front of the Merced Civic Center with its stately palms, the street will be festooned with banners, arches and signs. In the background, a huge screen will show the televised start, up close and personal.
- **N Street, between 18th and 21st Streets:** The riders will be finishing up the first part of the downtown loop, and the historic Merced County Courthouse will dominate the background. The three-story building, topped with a stately dome, was built in 1875. And if the Courthouse gives fans a feeling of déjà vu, it's probably because it was designed by Albert A. Bennett, the architect of the California State Capital, which was the backdrop for the Tour of California Prologue in Sacramento.
- **M Street, between 18th and Bear Creek:** After making the loops through the downtown (Main and 18th Streets, between K and M Streets, which offer terrific views of the racers close up), the riders hit the first straightaway of the race – 3/4s of a mile down M street. This gives riders an opportunity to test their legs a bit more before heading out of town. There are plenty curbs for people to line along this stretch, with the City's mammoth U.S. flag in Applegate Park signaling the turn onto North Bear Creek Drive. (Due to narrow shoulders, the best place to watch the North Bear Creek Drive leg of the race is from across the creek on W. 28th Street.)
- **South Bear Creek Drive:** Merced has consistently been named a Tree City USA, and South Bear Creek Drive shows why. The teams will be riding under the canopy of hundreds of Valley and live oak trees that line the road. Running parallel to the road is one of the City's many Class I bike paths, providing plenty of viewing opportunities for the public, especially those who arrive on two wheels. Bear Creek is like the Tour of California, which spans the Golden State from the Golden Gate to the Gold Country. Bear Creek starts in the Gold Country of the Mariposa foothills, cuts across the Valley floor through Merced, and its waters join the San Joaquin River, which end up pouring out through the Golden Gate. Racers will be riding upstream as they loosely follow the creek from Merced to Mariposa.
- **Bear Creek and McKee Road:** Here is where the riders start burning rubber, as the timed portion of the race officially begins. Watch as the riders continue along South Bear Creek Drive, jockeying for position to give their team the advantage. The almond orchards in this part of the county should be blossoming at this time, providing a scenic, and fragrant, backdrop to the riders, along with views of the snowy Sierra Nevada.
- Stage 4, the so-called "Alpine Stage" of the Tour of California, offers plenty of other viewing opportunities. **Any place along Highway 140** offers great views of the racers as they begin their climb to the Sierras. The loop through historic Mariposa, gives fans another chance to see their favorites up close. And any turnout along Highway 49 between Mariposa and Oakhurst will offer fantastic racing, breathtaking scenery and loads of mountain air.

## Clovis – Stage 4 Finish

- **Old Town Clovis – Pollasky Avenue (between First & Bullard) – [www.clovisoldtown.com](http://www.clovisoldtown.com).** Charming, historic turn of the century Old Town Clovis offers a small town atmosphere combining the richness of the past with the amenities of today. Fine dining, comfortable cafes and coffee shops, treasure filled antique stores and gift shops, and an eclectic variety of specialty shops dot the landscape of the beautifully maintained cobblestone streets. Old Town Clovis will also be the site of the Amgen Tour of California Lifestyle Festival, featuring a health & fitness expo, cancer awareness education, cycling gear, entertainment, food & beverages, and activities for the whole family. There is no better place to experience the spectacle of race day than in Old Town Clovis.
- **Cottonwood Park – Clovis Avenue (between Alluvial & Herndon) – [www.visitclovis.com](http://www.visitclovis.com).** This beautiful park features natural landscaping with lots of Cottonwood Trees, a creek, lots of grassy areas perfect for picnicking and even a bike trail in case any race fans wish to warm up in anticipation of the cyclists arrival. While in the area enjoy unique offerings such as Rosetti’s Biscotti House where you can taste a little of the old world in every bite of these home baked Italian desserts (a perfect finish to a picnic in the park).
- **Clovis Botanical Garden / Dry Creek Trail – Clovis Avenue (between Nees & Alluvial) – [www.clovisbotanicalgarden.com](http://www.clovisbotanicalgarden.com).** While waiting for the race action, visitors can explore an acre of the beautiful native flora and other plant life uniquely suited to the climate in the San Joaquin Valley. The Garden is bordered by the Dry Creek Bike Trail and Park providing activities for the whole family.
- **Friant Cove on the San Joaquin River – Friant Road & North Fork Road [www.sjrc.ca.gov/parkway\\_visit.html](http://www.sjrc.ca.gov/parkway_visit.html).** Opened in 2007, Friant Cove provides access to recreation on the San Joaquin River as well as a prime viewing location as the cyclists enter into Fresno County and begin their descent down Friant Road into Clovis. Friant Cove is open 7 days a week, and provides a hand-carried canoe launch, fishing, picnic tables, and restroom. Race fans can also enjoy Friant amenities from the hearty hometown offerings at the Dam Diner (named in honor of Friant Dam) to sampling foothill libations at the Friant Tavern.
- **Trinity Presbyterian – Willow Avenue.**

Top 5 Things To Do in Clovis (and surrounding area) in February, while viewing the Tour of California

- Experience the Charm of Old Town Clovis
- Stroll through a Beautiful Garden (Clovis Botanical Garden and the Shinzen Japanese Garden):
- Take a Drive in the Country on the Blossom Trail and Wildflower Trail
- Play in the Snow (Sierra National Forest, Sierra Summit, Shaver & Huntington Lake and Kings Canyon National Park)
- Visit Simonian Farms

## Visalia – Stage 5 Start

Visalia welcomes the Amgen Tour of California and the International field of professional cyclists!

- **The Heart of the Start** - In the heart of Downtown Visalia, the official start is located at the intersection of Church Street and Acequia Avenue. This is also where the stage for the rider’s official sign-in is located. Visitors and spectators will enjoy the opportunity to experience “autograph alley” in the rider sign in area. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the up close and personal opportunity with photographs as well!

- **Team Talk** - The team areas will be located just south of the intersection of Acequia Avenue and Bridge Street (just east of the sign in stage near the convention center) in the City parking lots. This is a must visit locale as the team mechanics will be busy preparing the riders machines for the long days journey to Paso Robles (134 miles!) Riders may also be available for autographs here as well.
- **Best Lap** - There will be a parade lap of the Main Street area that encompasses the following streets; Acequia, Bridge, Main, Court, Center and Floral. Downtown Visalia is unique as it still captures that small town atmosphere while offering a wide variety of retail and commercial businesses as well as a global offering of restaurant options. Any corner in this entire parade area offers the opportunity to see the world class field of professional cyclists (but a hint; the corner of Court and Main offers a dual direction opportunity!).
- **Main Street USA** - Main Street is also the route for the entire peloton and race caravan to begin to traverse Visalia for the exit to the actual start of the day's race.
- **Get Outta town:** The exit route will take the race caravan through the following residential and commercial streets; Main, Conyer, Tulare and Akers. Once at Akers and Whitendale, the race is on!

## Paso Robles – Stage 5 Finish

- **The Booster Bleachers** are the best spot in Paso Robles to view the race, hands down. Where else can you view the finish sprint with 200 like-minded screaming fans ringing cowbells mere feet from the best cyclists in the world? To book your spot, [click here](#).
- **Anywhere on Spring Street between 1st and 12th Streets** for the finish sprint. If you can't find parking, go to the Paso Robles Event Center (fairgrounds) and hop a complimentary shuttle, they will drop you off near the course and bring you back to your car afterward. Allow plenty of time to get to the course. Here is a [parking map](#).
- **C.W. Clarke Park on Centre Street in Shandon** would make a great gathering place – there is parking nearby and the kids can play while you wait for the riders to pass right by.
- **The corner of Niblick Road and River Road**, good parking in the Albertson's Center or Walmart parking lots.
- Seek out wineries and vineyards along the race route through Paso Robles Wine Country hosting watch parties. For a list, go to [www.pasowine.com](http://www.pasowine.com)

## Solvang – Stage 6

The Stage 6 Solvang Individual Time Trial provides a unique opportunity to see each rider individually as they come out of the starting line chute and traverse the scenic 15-mile course around the Santa Ynez Valley--returning back to downtown Solvang's finish line--only one block from the start. Here are some of our local favorite places to watch each rider as they "race the clock" for the time trial win.

- **Starting Line--Mission Drive at First Street**
- **Alisal Hill**--one block out of the starting gate, riders take a sharp left turn and ascend Alisal Road--a prime vantage point in downtown Solvang.
- **Ballard Canyon Road**--the top of the road is the highest point of the time trial course is 965 feet at the top (mileage point 8.74)
- **Final Turn before the Finish Line**--corner of Atterdag Road & Copenhagen Drive in downtown Solvang
- **Finish Line**--Copenhagen Drive & First Street--incredibly exciting!

Plus, Viewing Packages including the Starting Line Tent, souvenirs, refreshments as well as the VIP Hospitality Tent at the Finish Line. Details here: [www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com/viewingpackages.php](http://www.tourofcalifornia-solvang.com/viewingpackages.php)

### **Santa Clarita – Stage 7 Start**

- To be announced

### **Pasadena – Stage 7 Finish**

- **West Drive adjacent to the Finish Line and Rose Bowl Stadium**- The ultimate spectator location where you will see the peloton six times and the dramatic finish with the world-famous Rose Bowl stadium in the background. While waiting for the peloton, be sure to checkout the Lifestyle Festival, Kid Zone, food and entertainment. Expect large crowds!
- **Seco Street (between West Drive & Linda Vista Drive)**- With a sweeping view of the Arroyo Seco & Rose Bowl, this spectator location will offer a view of the peloton making it's way uphill on the circuit.
- **Holly Street Bridge (between Linda Vista & Grand Avenue)**- A narrow Bridge that spans across the Arroyo Seco, the Holly Street Bridge was constructed in the early 20th century and is considered to be a mini replica of the Colorado Street Bridge which towers behind this excellent spectator location. Watch the peloton race past six times from Linda Vista to Grand Avenue. While you're there, make sure to take in the panoramic view of the Arroyo Seco, Rose Bowl Stadium, Colorado Street Bridge, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the distance.
- **Arroyo Terrace (between Grand and Scott Place)**- A quiet residential neighborhood may just be the best kept secret with a beautiful view tucked behind a canopy of trees. Through the trees you'll have a picture-perfect view of the peloton as it passes six times with the famed Rose Bowl in the distance. As this is a short residential block, please be respectful of the neighbors!
- **Rose Bowl Drive (between Rosemont & Arroyo Blvd.)**- Rose Bowl Drive, while a short climb, has a steep grade and is an excellent viewing location where you'll be able to see the cyclists racing up the hill.
- **Washington Blvd. (between Arroyo Blvd. & Rosemont)**- Is Rose Bowl Drive too crowded? Then walk a few hundred yards north to Washington Blvd. where you'll see the peloton make its way downhill back from whence it came!
- **Linda Vista (between Highland Drive & Salvia Canon)**- Making its way into the City, the peloton will pass through this stretch of Linda Vista just once. At Salvia Canon, the cyclists will pick up speed going southbound down the hill... a ride that's not for the faint of heart! From here, the Finish Line and Lifestyle Festival on West Drive are a short distance and a quick walk to catch the peloton as it passes through five more times.

### **Rancho Bernardo – Stage 8 Start**

- To be announced.

### **Escondido – Stage 8 Finish**

- To be announced.