

## Pacific Sense

Patrick's Point, California, U.S.

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October 28, 2017 by [Scott Gilbertson](#)

I smelled the Pacific way before it was actually possible to have smelled the Pacific. We were climbing one of the five hundred ridges<sup>1</sup> we had to climb to get through the Trinity Alps when I swear the air changed, suddenly it was wetter, salty and with a slight hint of fish. Or it was my imagination looking for something other than the endless loop then running through my head: are the house batteries really going to get us there (the alternator was was still dead).



Whatever the case, eventually we made it over the last ridge and then we really could smell the ocean and the Pacific in this region has a very different smell than say, the Atlantic we left eight months ago.

I didn't really have any goals or lists of things to do on this trip, but, that said, making it all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific does have a certain feeling of accomplishment to it.

Here's some meaningless stats:

- Miles driven: 5866 (give or take 50 miles<sup>2</sup>)

- Day on the road: 209
- Gallons of gas: I have no idea<sup>3</sup>

The anticlimatic part was that we made it all the way to the Pacific, but when we arrived we couldn't see it. As is typical up this way, the ocean was wrapped in a blanket of thick fog. After setting up camp we hiked down into the gloom of fog and spent the evening on the beach. The one place that will always feel like home to me.











This is what it looks like all the time around here.

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1. It's possible there were not that many. [↵](#)
2. our odometer is currently broken so this is an estimate based on Google Maps, hence the possible variation. [↵](#)
3. I had this in a spreadsheet for a while so I could calculate our MPG, but I haven't kept up with it. [↵](#)

#### 5 Comments



Mary Idiaquez November 08, 2017 at 11:49 a.m.

What an adventure! Beautiful children!



gwen macallister November 09, 2017 at 1:53 p.m.

Beautiful pictures. This is my favorite landscape on the planet— oh, how I love the Pacific. Congrats on

the coast to coast journey.



[Scott](#) November 09, 2017 at 5:28 p.m.

@Mary - Thank you!

@gwen- I've missed the Pacific. I've come to really like the gulf though, especially Appalachicola area.



Drew November 15, 2017 at 2:02 p.m.

I love that Santa Cruz sweatshirt!



[Scott](#) November 15, 2017 at 2:36 p.m.

@Drew-

Corrinne found that back in Athens. I hadn't seen one since I was a kid.