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# Bob Watson Photography

*Reflecting The Spirit of Nature*

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## *November 1, 2022 Newsletter - No. 131*

You may access all 131 of my Monthly Newsletters by clicking on my Blog.

## SOUTHERN BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA

## (Click On Any Image To Enlarge)

Sunset and spring wildflowers (California Poppies and Lupines) at Big Sur, California Coastline

Sunset at Vista Point, Big Sur, California

In previous Newsletters, I talked about my spring trip to visit and photograph the southern deserts of California. During the latter part of my spring trip, I returned to Big Sur on the coast, one of my favorite places. I decided to drive about 250 miles from where I was in the deserts to visit the southern portion of Big Sur, which starts at San Simeon, CA. This was all new terrain for me, since on 3 previous occasions I had concentrated mostly on the first 40 miles of the northern part of Big Sur.

In fact, two (2) of my previous Newsletters have been devoted to Big Sur. Links to each is as follows:

Monthly Newsletter No. 1

Monthly Newsletter No. 87

I think it's worth reviewing how Big Sur got its name. Historically, the name Big Sur, was derived from an unexplored and unmapped wilderness area along the Pacific Ocean coast, south of Monterey, Ca. It was referred to as "El Pais Grande del Sur", which meant "the big country to the south".

Today, Big Sur refers to the region comprising the rugged Santa Lucia Mountains along approximately 90-miles of California's Pacific Ocean coast, between Carmel and San Simeon. California's coastal Highway 1 follows this rugged coastline, and is touted as the longest and most scenic stretch of undeveloped coastline in the contiguous United States, and one of the most

beautiful coastlines in the World. The spectacular natural grandeur of the rocky pacific coastline and the meeting of the rich vegetation of the Santa Lucia mountains make for stunning scenery.

Having never visited the southern part of Big Sur, I was anxious to explore and photograph. I wasn't disappointed in the least, and indeed was just as thrilled as I had been with the northern part. I traveled as far as 40-miles north from San Simeon, but spent most of my time within the first 25-miles. All of the scenery was dramatically outstanding.

A surprising bonus to this southern part of Big Sur was the proliferation of spring wildflowers. I observed many miles of wildflowers near the coastline. Figuratively, I thought I'd died and gone to heaven.

As an added treat, there was a large Northern Elephant Seal Rookery just a few miles north of San Simeon. I plan on devoting a future Newsletter to these unique animals.

In my previous Newsletter No. 87, I closed by stating that I didn't know when, but I planned to return. Once again, I hope to return someday.

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