

California Treasures



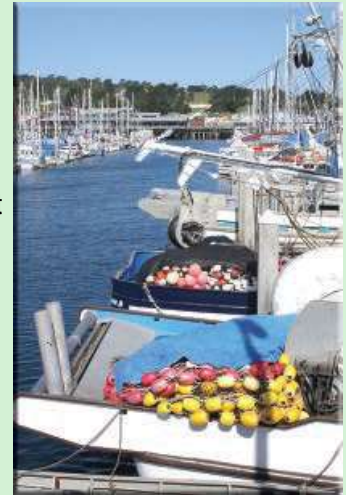
Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Skyline

14 Days / 13 Nights

Roundtrip from San Francisco

Highlights:

- San Francisco
- Monterey, Aquarium, Pacific Coast
- Hwy 1, Big Sur
- Joshua Tree N.P.
- Palm Springs
- Los Angeles, Universal Studios
- Las Vegas Strip
- Death Valley, Mono Lake



Monterey Bay harbor

A California Adventure.

Experience the lively contrast between nature and culture as we travel through the heart of America's most multifaceted state, California. Discover the architecture, nightlife, and shopping of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Alternately, explore the quiet, untouched beaches of Monterey and Big Sur. View the natural splendors of famous national parks—from the lush meadows of Yosemite to the stark salt flats of Death Valley. Join us as we journey to the grandest highlights of this beautiful state.



Best Kept Secrets Revealed.

California is filled with hidden gems only offered on small-group tours like ours. Taste freshly picked fruit from an open-air market, grab a cookie from a small town's favorite bakery, or take a swim in a cool mountain lake. With a close group of like-minded travelers, share the excitement of well-known destinations while delighting together in unexpected surprises—an exceptional dinner in a small country restaurant, the sighting of rare wildlife, happening on a superlative winery hidden on a back road, or chance encounters with everyday Californians who reveal California's history and culture. In the privacy and comfort of our small group tours you may cultivate lifelong friendships.

A Wide Variety of Activities.

Upbeat westcoast cities offer shopping, galleries, romantic harbors, Hollywood Star Walk, Universal Studios, Las Vegas casinos and shows, and more. In equal measure we immerse you in the West's most scenic natural areas-- vast expanses of protected land at Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks, numerous state parks, and on the pristine Pacific coast. After a wild carnival ride or performance in L.A., spend an evening relaxing in a hot tub at one of our choice hotels. Or you may choose an optional whale watching tour, then capture a perfect picture of wildflowers on a beach where you can walk peacefully until the sun sets. Let us take you there. We'll worry about the details while you enjoy this amazing state.



Big Sur coastline



Elephant seals near San Simeon



Joshua tree

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The grandeur of the Pacific Ocean, shown left, stands in stark contrast with the otherworldly desert of the Great Basin, protected in Death Valley National Park, seen below. Sights like the towering Sierra Nevada jutting upward from a desert landscape, or the pristine waterfalls at Yosemite will leave an everlasting impression on visitors.

California is simply a traveler's paradise, filled with exciting outdoor adventures, astonishing natural beauty, and plenty of culture, history, and entertainment.

Day 1: Welcome to San Francisco, California's most famous harbor city. Meet at the hotel, dine together, receive travel documentation.

Day 2: Santa Cruz – Monterey, Drive along the Pacific coastline; stop at wilderness sanctuary on way to Santa Cruz. Optional entertaining activities on the Boardwalk, California's oldest amusement park, directly on the beach. On to the Wharf in Monterey. 2 nights in Pacific Grove.

Day 3: 17-Mile Dr. – Carmel Mission See Monterey Bay by day; take 17-Mile Drive. Stop at Pebble Beach to mingle with millionaires. Visit the lovely grounds of Carmel Mission. Optional evening activities include a whale watching tour or the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Day 4: Pacific Hwy 1 - San Luis Obispo Drive highway 1 along a beautiful stretch of the Pacific coast. Walk down to an elephant seal colony. Overnight in coastal town San Luis Obispo, a beach paradise.

Day 5: Pismo Beach – Solvang – Los Angeles Morning stroll through Pismo Beach, then visit to Danish town of Solvang. Stop at mission in Santa Barbara. Evening in Santa Monica. Two nights in Los Angeles.

Day 6: Beverly Hills – Hollywood – Universal Studios, Walk through warm and rich Beverly Hills and Hollywood. In afternoon, optional visit to Universal Studios or the Paul Getty Museum.

Day 7: Palm Springs – San Jacinto Mountain – Desert Hot Springs Visit to Palm Springs, a wealthy vacationer's dream. Then a longer walk in Indian Canyons. Gondola ride into the San Jacinto mountains. Night at resort in Desert Hot Springs.

Day 8: Joshua Tree National Park – Las Vegas, Joshua Tree National Park is today's main attraction, where we make several unique cactus and cliff stops, then picnic. On to Las Vegas where we spend two nights. Endless entertainment opportunities.

Day 9: Explore Las Vegas, with its incredible architecture, world-class restaurants, casinos, optional shows, carnival rides, games, and shopping.

Day 10: Death Valley – Lone Pine Day trip to Death Valley, pictured right. Stop at several points of interest, including visitor center. Walk through colorful, sculpted, desert landscapes.

Night in small town of Lone Pine.

Day 11: Mono Lake - Markleeville See granite boulder landscape at Alabama Hills, famous backdrop for western movies and television shows. On to Mono Lake, where unique calcium carbonate spires called tufa emerge at the water's edge.

Night near Markleeville.

Day 12: Lake Tahoe – Placerville – Mariposa Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake in America. Stops at various viewpoints. Next, visit to gold mining town of Placerville. Night in Mariposa.

Day 13: Yosemite N.P. – San Francisco Today's highlight is Yosemite National Park. Begin with a walk among giant Sequoia trees at Mariposa Grove. Stop at visitor center with Native American museum; hike to waterfalls. Return to San Francisco, goodbye dinner.

Day 14: Journey home or continued travel on your own.



Death Valley National Park, Dunes