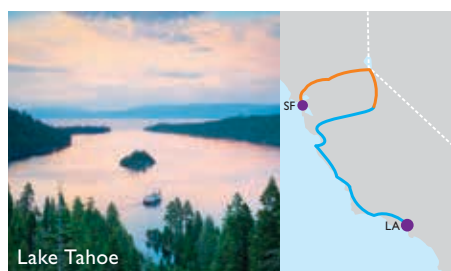


Mix and match your California dream holiday

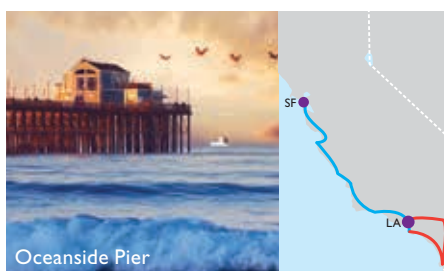
Combine your favourite itineraries to customise your own California road trip. Here are some popular options:



Highway One + Northern California 12+ days

San Francisco, Sonoma County, Napa Valley, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, Monterey, San Simeon, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles.

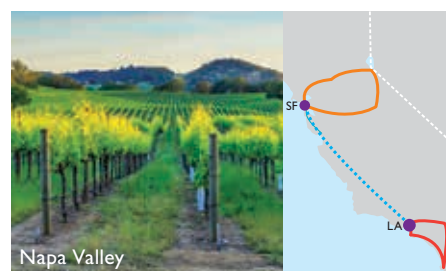
Explore famous wine regions, rugged mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe and the world-famous Yosemite National Park before making your way down one of the most iconic scenic drives in the world: Highway One.



Highway One + Southern California 12+ days

San Francisco, Carmel, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Anaheim, San Diego, Palm Springs, Los Angeles.

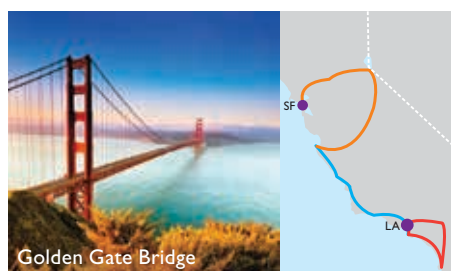
Combine the magical Highway One scenic drive with the laidback beaches of Southern California. The buzzing bay city of San Diego will surprise – why not take a day trip over the border to Mexico for a 'two-nation vacation'? Explore the retro cool of Palm Springs and its vast deserts before heading to Los Angeles.



Top and Tail 14+ days

San Francisco, Sonoma County, Napa Valley, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, San Francisco – Fly – Los Angeles, Anaheim, San Diego, Palm Springs, Los Angeles.

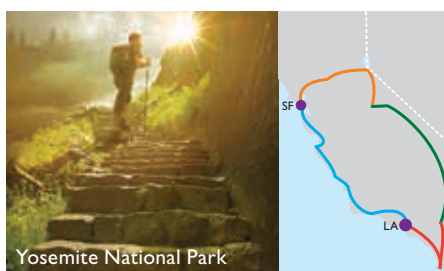
For a lesson in contrasts, link the northern and southern itineraries with a quick flight. Sample chardonnay in Napa and brews in San Diego; hike the lush green forests of Yosemite and the boundless deserts near Palm Springs; and discover the best of the two metropolises, from the undulating hills of San Francisco to the sprawling expanse of Los Angeles.



The Ultimate Road Trip 16+ days

San Francisco, Sonoma County, Napa Valley, Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Anaheim, San Diego, Palm Springs, Los Angeles.

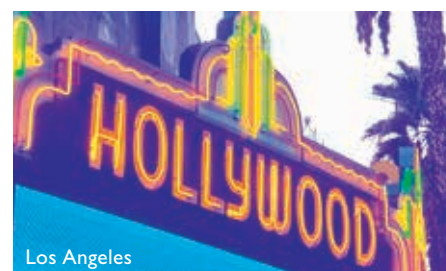
It's the California dream – all of the iconic sites in one grand road trip. Tick off the full list of must-see and must-do experiences. While 16 days is certainly doable, we suggest setting aside three weeks to allow time to discover hidden gems along the way as well.



California In-depth 20+ days

San Francisco, Carmel, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Anaheim, San Diego, Palm Springs, Death Valley, Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, Sacramento, Sonoma County, Napa Valley, San Francisco.

You'll leave no stone unturned on the ultimate Californian experience. This 20-plus-day itinerary highlights all of the iconic sites while revealing national parks and wild landscapes. Keen hikers may want to extend their trip to explore more of the many walking trails that wind across California's rugged inland.



Thank you for planning your California journey with us.

Let us make your dream a reality by taking care of all of your travel needs.

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- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Sightseeing
- ✓ Car hire
- ✓ Rail journeys
- ✓ Group touring
- ✓ Cruise
- ✓ Stopover accommodation
- ✓ Insurance



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The Ultimate **TRAVEL PLANNER** California



ULTIMATE GUIDE

for exploring California

From world-famous theme parks and awe-inspiring national parks to show-stopping entertainment and the tastiest culinary delights in iconic cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, California is the place to make your travel dreams come true. Use our handy guide to create your perfect California holiday.

When to travel

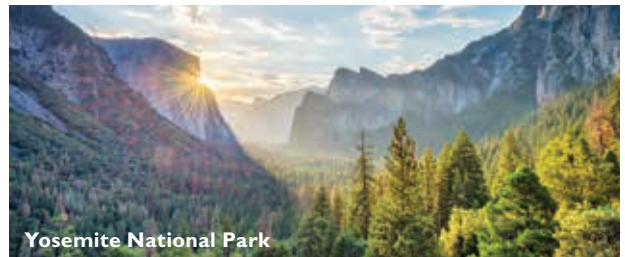
- ... California is a year-round destination. The best time to visit comes down to what you want to see and do. You can laze on the beaches in summer or hit the slopes in winter.
- ... California has a Mediterranean-like climate. The average daily high hovers around 21°C, but can occasionally spike to 27°C or more in summer.



Huntington Beach

What to see

- ... California is home to more national and state parks than any other US state. Don't miss the redwood forests in the north, Joshua trees in the Southern California desert, or the most awe-inspiring park of all the US: Yosemite National Park.
- ... Full of some of the most famous icons and attractions in the world, from the Hollywood sign and Golden Gate Bridge, California's must-see icons checklist is extensive.
- ... California is the ultimate melting pot of family fun, with theme parks and museums galore. Disneyland, Universal Studios Hollywood and LEGOLAND are just the beginning.



Yosemite National Park

Getting around by car

California is a compact state and driving is the easiest way to get around and see more of each destination at your pace. Whether it's cruising with the top down in a convertible or navigating rugged roads in a 4WD, some of the most unforgettable moments of your trip will be behind the wheel.

GREAT FOR

- ... The thrill and spontaneity of exploring the road less travelled.
- ... The freedom to travel at your own pace, whether meandering or direct.
- ... No timetables – simply set your GPS, switch on your playlist and go!
- ... Cover ground from A to B with no need to return a hire car to your starting destination.
- ... Why not cruise the California coast on a motorcycle for something completely different?

KEEP IN MIND

- ... You'll be driving on the right-hand side of the road.
- ... In most cases, persons hiring a car must be at least 25 years of age, have a valid driver's licence and a credit card for a security deposit.

- ... Your car should match your needs, such as having ample boot space to carry large suitcases.
 - ... Check if your accommodation provides free or paid parking.
 - ... When budgeting, make sure you allocate funds for fuel.
- Hot tip:** You can turn right on a red light after coming to a complete stop.



Big Sur coastline

Choose your California experience

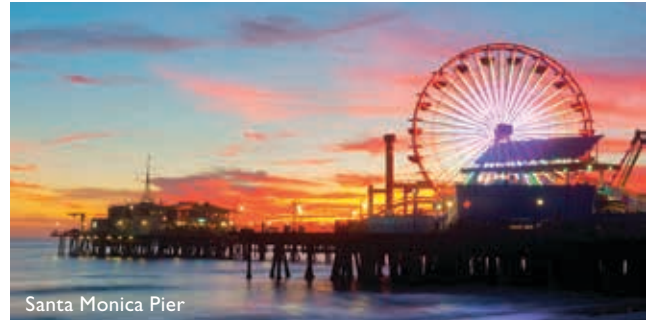
While there are myriad experiences on offer in California for all travellers, we've highlighted just a few of our favourites for families, foodies and nature lovers to help you plan your perfect getaway.

Family fun

California is the ultimate melting pot of fun. Beyond Disney and dinosaurs, superheroes and princesses, the Golden State calls to curious clans eager to discover a host of quirky, nostalgic and natural wonders. The beauty of the state is its range of family-friendly outdoor experiences and close proximity of attractions. Whether your family members are entertainment seekers, prefer to tackle back-road trails in a national park or something in between, California is made for family holidays.

- ... Disneyland (and adjacent California Adventure Park) is where the worlds of Disney, Pixar, Star Wars and Marvel come to life.
- ... Universal Studios Hollywood is your chance to step into a fantasy world of movie magic and mega attractions.
- ... Ride the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel on the famous Santa Monica Pier.
- ... From swooshing and swooping rides to interactive animal experiences, SeaWorld San Diego makes a big splash.
- ... In San Francisco, walk from Fisherman's Wharf along The Embarcadero to the new Exploratorium for hands-on science-focused amusements.

- ... Ride the beachfront carousel at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.
- ... LEGOLAND entertains all ages with over 60 rides, shows and interactive-experiences.
- ... Some of the biggest museums around the state offer free admission for kids (such as SFOMA and Los Angeles' LACMA) or even free admission for the whole family, including the Getty Center and The Broad in LA.



Santa Monica Pier

Nature lovers

If there was ever a box of chocolates – and all of them delicious – it's the rich collection of natural treasures, fascinating historic sites and one-of-a-kind destinations protected as part of California's expansive state park system. The 280 sites include an astounding mix of wild beaches, fascinating Gold Rush mines, lush forests, booming falls and expansive deserts. Below is a cherry-picked selection of must-sees.

- ... Take in the views from Glacier Point in Yosemite. It's the best place to see the park's most famous landmarks all at once.
- ... Lake Tahoe boasts some of the country's best ski resorts, where local pint-size boardriders often grow up to become gold medal winners.
- ... Zip-line through the redwood trees in Sonoma County, keeping an eye out for the plethora of wildlife in the branches and down below.
- ... Join a ranger-led night sky program in Joshua Tree National Park for a guided tour of stars, planets, constellations and glittering galaxies.
- ... Soak in a natural bubbling hot spring in Mammoth Lakes. Finding them requires a bit of a treasure hunt, so be sure to ask for directions at the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center.



Joshua Tree National Park

Culinary cheer

When you go to California, go hungry. Amazing and innovative chefs work with farms and artisanal food purveyors to source the best local and fresh ingredients in order to create magic on your plate.

- ... San Francisco has some of the nation's best produce at their fingertips. With more three Michelin-starred restaurants than New York, chefs in the 'City by the Bay' create plenty of edible magic. One stop where you'll definitely find something delicious to graze on is the Ferry Building Marketplace. Here, permanent booths sell local delicacies like crusty sourdough and artisanal cheese.
- ... Los Angeles doesn't just attract celebrities from the screen; it's a melting pot for celebrated and up-and-coming chefs, too. Choose to dine at Curtis Stone's Maude and Gwen restaurants; Chef Ben Ford's airy downtown eatery, Ford's Filling Station; and ultra-fancy, Patina.
- ... With the Pacific Ocean at its doorstep, San Diego redefines waterfront dining. Bordering Mexico, San Diego also claims the freshest and most authentic Mexi-Cali cuisine in the state.
- ... While on the road in California, you won't go more than an hour without seeing an In-n-Out Burger. This local chain has a true cult following for its simple menu of burgers, fries and shakes.



Ferry Building, San Francisco

A graphic featuring a stylized map of California. The left side of the map is light blue, and the right side is light yellow. The text "Plan your dream" is in a dark blue sans-serif font at the top left. Below it, "CALIFORNIA" and "HOLIDAY" are written in a large, bold, dark blue sans-serif font. A small black circle with the word "Redding" next to it is located in the upper right area of the map. In the bottom right corner, there are green pine trees.

Plan your dream

● Redding

CALIFORNIA

HOLIDAY

FROM LOS ANGELES	DISTANCE	BY CAR
Anaheim	43km	30 mins
Santa Barbara	154km	1 hr 30 mins
Palm Springs	172km	1 hr 40 mins
San Diego	195km	1 hr 50 mins
San Luis Obispo	304km	3 hrs 5 mins
San Simeon	371km	3 hrs 50 mins
Death Valley	419km	4 hrs
Monterey	514km	5 hrs 10 mins
San Francisco	613km	6 hrs 15 mins
FROM SAN FRANCISCO		
Napa Valley	95km	1 hr 5 mins
Sacramento	140km	1 hr 30 mins
Lake Tahoe	302km	3 hrs 15 mins
Yosemite NP	312km	3 hrs 50 mins
Mammoth Lakes	452km	6 hrs 15 mins
Monterey	183km	1 hr 55 mins
San Simeon	387km	3 hrs 50 mins
San Luis Obispo	373km	3 hrs 30 mins
Santa Barbara	523km	5 hrs 10 mins
<div>KEY</div> <div><div></div> HIGHWAY ONE CLASSIC</div> <div><div></div> NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEMS</div> <div><div></div> SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIGHLIGHTS</div> <div><div></div> CALIFORNIA'S GREAT OUTDOORS</div>		



CREATE YOUR OWN ITINERARY

CITY START AND STOP POINTS

LOS ANGELES Recommend spending 3–6 nights	<div>... Los Angeles claims the bright lights and big-city allure of California's largest metropolis. Here, A-list celebrities really do walk the sidewalks, with triple-shot macchiatos in one hand and mobile phones in the other.</div> <div>... Don't miss discovering inviting neighbourhoods, incredible museums and shopping hot spots, such as Downtown, Silver Lake and Beverly Hills. And when the sun sets, LA comes to life in a whole new light, with clubs thumping to the beat of the latest indie band or DJ, and rooftop restaurants, bars and pools drawing chic crowds. It's also when searchlights arc through the night sky, announcing the latest premieres on the silver screen.</div>
SAN FRANCISCO Recommend spending 3–6 nights	<div>... It may measure less than 130sqkm, but San Francisco justly ranks as one of the greatest cities in the world.</div> <div>... Famous for grand-dame Victorians, classic cable cars, dynamic diversity, a beautiful waterfront and a soaring crimson bridge, the 'City by the Bay' truly has it all.</div> <div>... Trend-defining cuisine ranging from Michelin-starred dining to quirky food trucks; world-renowned symphony, ballet, theatre and opera; and almost boundless outdoor adventures, San Francisco justifiably stands out as one of the ultimate must-sees on any traveller's wish list.</div>



HIGHWAY ONE CLASSIC

Recommend spending 2–6 nights

SAN FRANCISCO Start point	<div>... Drive: 1 hour and 55 minutes to Monterey.</div>
MONTEREY, CARMEL & BIG SUR 1–2 nights	<div>... See incredible ocean life at Monterey Bay Aquarium.</div> <div>... With streets straight out of storybooks, the ever-charming hamlet of Carmel makes you sigh at every turn.</div> <div>... Big Sur is arguably the world's most unforgettable coastal route. This 144km-long stretch of redwood trees and fog-trimmed waterfront draws you in with magical allure.</div> <div>Drive: 2 hours and 35 mins to San Simeon</div>
SAN SIMEON Stop for the day or stay for a night	<div>... Meet the 15,000 elephant seals that visit the Seal Rookery every year.</div> <div>... Hearst Castle is an extraordinary temple of opulence with a 165-room castle, 51ha of terraced gardens, fountains and pools, and wraparound ocean views.</div> <div>Drive: 50 minutes to San Luis Obispo</div>
SAN LUIS OBISPO Stop for the day or stay for a night	<div>... San Luis Obispo has undeniable appeal, with buzz-worthy farm-to-table restaurants, celebrated wine country and historic sites.</div> <div>... Thursday evenings year-round, the place to be is Higuera Street, home to a farmers' market with the soul of a street party.</div> <div>Drive: 1 hour and 40 minutes to Santa Barbara</div>
SANTA BARBARA 1–2 nights	<div>... Red-tiled rooftops, birdsong harmonising with the ocean breeze, islands and whale spouts on the horizon – the charms of Santa Barbara tempt at every turn.</div> <div>... State Street is synonymous with shopping. Start at La Cumbre Plaza and then hit La Arcada, a quaint shopping area of tiled walkways lined with quirky boutiques, art galleries and restaurants.</div> <div>... Check out The Funk Zone. A narrow band of warehouses has become an enclave of urban wine-tasting rooms, artist studios, surfboard makers and bohemian restaurants.</div>
LOS ANGELES End point	<div>... Drive: 1 hour and 30 minutes to Los Angeles</div>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEMS

Recommend spending 4–9 nights

SAN FRANCISCO Start point	Drive: 1 hour and 5 minutes to Napa Valley
NAPA VALLEY & SONOMA 1–2 nights	<div>... California's most famous wine regions, Napa and Sonoma, are about an hour's drive north of San Francisco and boast rolling hills planted with some of the most coveted grapes in the world.</div> <div>... Napa Valley reigns as the land of grand estates, expansive tasting rooms, quaint towns and elegant lodgings, many found along the celebrated Silverado Trail.</div> <div>... Sonoma County tends to have a more intimate and rustic feel, especially as you head further north towards the Russian River.</div> <div>Drive: 1 hour and 10 minutes to Sacramento</div>
SACRAMENTO Stop for the day or stay for a night	<div>... Uncover history about California's capital at the Old Sacramento landmark.</div> <div>... Explore Downtown and Midtown for a taste of urban cool, with microbreweries, gastropubs and trendy boutiques.</div> <div>Drive: 2 hours to South Lake Tahoe</div>
LAKE TAHOE 1–2 nights	<div>... Blue as topaz and surrounded by majestic peaks, this High Sierra gem straddling the California-Nevada border is a bucket-list destination.</div> <div>... Summer brings out the water toys – sailboats, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks and almost anything else that floats.</div> <div>... Winter and spring snow allows visitors to carve it up at world-class alpine resorts.</div> <div>Drive: 3 hours and 15 minutes to Yosemite</div>
YOSEMITE 2–4 nights	<div>... Famous for its plunging waterfalls and massive granite domes, this unparalleled parkland attracts four million visitors each year.</div> <div>... In the list of the world's 20 tallest waterfalls, Yosemite Valley scores three spots for Yosemite Falls, Sentinel Fall and Ribbon Fall.</div>
SAN FRANCISCO End point	Drive: 3 hours and 50 minutes to San Francisco



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIGHLIGHTS

Recommend spending 5–11 nights

LOS ANGELES Start point	Drive: 30 minutes to Anaheim
ANAHEIM 2–4 nights	<div>... The home of 'The Happiest Place on Earth', Disneyland Resort. Providing magical experiences for the young and the young at heart since 1955.</div> <div>... Head downtown to explore Anaheim Packing District, a newly restored, multi-level food hall with live music and events.</div> <div>Drive: 35 minutes to Huntington Beach</div>
HUNTINGTON BEACH Stop for the day or stay for a night	<div>... Southern California's beach culture thrives along this city's curvy shoreline, where you can play volleyball, bicycle along oceanfront paths and, of course, surf.</div> <div>Drive: 1 hour and 30 minutes to San Diego</div>
SAN DIEGO 2–4 nights	<div>... Whether you're stand-up paddleboarding on Mission Bay, kayaking into sea caverns along La Jolla's idyllic shores, savouring a refreshing shave ice in Balboa Park or dining and dancing after dark in the lively Gaslamp Quarter, there's always something to do in San Diego.</div> <div>... Microbrewing has caught on big time, with more than 85 craft breweries in San Diego, so don't miss having a cheeky pint at the bar.</div> <div>Drive: 2 hours and 10 minutes to Palm Springs</div>

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HIGHLIGHTS

PALM SPRINGS Start point	<div>... Fed by underground springs, the desert comes alive here sporting a cool, mid-century modern vibe and countless ways to relax.</div> <div>... The region still has plenty of retro hipster swagger but also next-gen energy, with hot new restaurants, luxury lodgings, and fabulous shopping.</div> <div>... Plus, there's the beauty of the California desert all around. Step away for a moment and gaze up at a million stars.</div>
LOS ANGELES End point	Drive: 1 hour and 40 minutes to Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES Start point	Drive: 1 hour and 40 minutes to Palm Springs
PALM SPRINGS 2–4 nights	<div>... There are two great day trips to take from Palm Springs: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is only one hour and 45 minutes away, while Joshua Tree National Park is an easy 50-minute drive.</div> <div>... Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is California's largest, a wild and remote place, with much of it accessed via unpaved roads or on foot. Look for Native American pictographs along Smuggler's Canyon Trail and desert bighorn sheep on the cliffs.</div> <div>... Joshua Tree National Park is one awesomely weird place. Think boulders and buttresses, rugged mountains, gold mining ruins and desert plains dotted with the oddball trees. Climb up granite monoliths at this rock-climbing hot spot or simply roam the well-trodden trails and marvel at the 'hairy' Joshua trees. On moonless nights, almost any spot in the national park is good for stargazing.</div> <div>Drive: 4 hours and 45 minutes to Death Valley National Park</div>
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK 1–2 nights	<div>... The largest national park outside of Alaska, Death Valley is an almost unfathomable place. The park's 1.3 million hectares encompass mountain-size sand dunes, below-sea-level salt flats, mysterious singing rocks and colourful sandstone canyons.</div> <div>... Mosaic Canyon is one of the scenic highlights of Death Valley and its marbled narrows are suitable for all ages. The trail shows off plenty of colorful slick rock and polished marble as it winds up a narrow, high-walled canyon.</div> <div>Drive: 4 hours and 15 minutes to Mammoth Lakes</div>
MAMMOTH LAKES 1–2 nights	<div>... Mammoth Lakes is primed for serious outdoor lovers; you can take to the slopes of signature Mammoth Mountain in winter and then hit the trails when the snow melts.</div> <div>... Even if you're not a hiker, it's easy to enjoy the high-country spectacle of the surrounding Sierra Nevada by riding to the Mammoth Mountain summit (3,369m) by scenic gondola, which runs from mid June to September.</div> <div>Drive: 1 hour and 30 minutes to Yosemite National Park</div>
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK 2–4 nights	<div>... The park's must-see landmarks – Half Dome, Clouds Rest, Yosemite Falls and many more – will keep your camera busy.</div> <div>... Take Glacier Point Road (about an hour's drive) for views of the domes and glacier peaks, or stop off for an easy, family-friendly hike at one of roughly a dozen trails.</div> <div>... Highway 120 closes in the winter due to snowfall, so be sure to plan your route. Highway 140, known as the 'all-weather highway', ensures the park is accessible 365 days a year.</div>
SAN FRANCISCO End point	Drive: 3 hours and 50 minutes to San Francisco