



# visit California

California is one of the most diverse states you could visit. City breaks, coastal road trips, desert escapes, wine country immersions, wellness retreats and mountain adventures... When you're ready, California offers your clients a wide variety of trip types. The best part? There's no need to narrow it down to just one trip. You can easily mix and match many different experiences in one incredible itinerary.

California is also the ultimate road trip destination. Home to some of the world's most renowned thoroughfares, including coastal Highway 1 and the terminus of historical Route 66, the majestic views and rich history found on these iconic trips draw thousands of visitors to the Golden State every year. In addition to these classic, "bucket list" trips, California offers travelers seemingly endless adventures. Visitors can explore the wild "Lost Coast" in the state's most northern counties, stargaze beneath dark skies on a road trip through the desert, walk amongst four types of volcanoes on a journey to Lassen Volcanic National Park, marvel at the untouched scenery of the Eastern Sierras along Route 395, and discover California's missions along the famous El Camino Real, spanning from San Diego to San Francisco.

Make your way across California's 400,000 miles of roadways, 840 miles of coastline and 127 national and state parks, choosing the freedom of travel on your own terms, discovering historic landmarks and monuments, as well as hidden gems and hot spots along the way.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to shelter-in-place restrictions throughout the world, preventing travel and separating many of us from loved ones. For most updated travel information please visit <https://www.visitcalifornia.com/latest-covid-19-coronavirus/>.

## VISIT CALIFORNIA

Lindsey Cody, *Travel Trade Manager*

555 Capitol Mall Suite 1100 Sacramento CA 95814

E: [lcody@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:lcody@visitcalifornia.com) | T: 916.233.0245 | W: [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)



CALIFORNIA

## GEOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

California has a Mediterranean-type climate characterized by general sun and warmth with rain mainly in the winter. Climate varies greatly based on elevation and distance from the ocean. Rainfall varies from 80 inches in Del Norte County (North Coast) to as low as 3 inches in Imperial County (Desert).

There are five main climatic zones that exist in the state:

**COASTAL:** This area contains most of the state's population. The population varies greatly up and down the coast.

**DESERT:** Characterized by great variations in temperature, both daily and annual, along with very little rainfall.

**FOOTHILL:** 1,000 to 3,000 feet in elevation with climate similar to valley regions but with more rain and less fog.

**MOUNTAIN:** This is the sole region for heavy snow, accented with fairly cold winters and bright, sunny summers.

**VALLEY:** Characterized by high temperatures and low humidity in the summer and low temperatures and high humidity in the winter. Both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys exhibit this type of climatology.



## TRANSPORTATION

California has four major gateways – Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), San Francisco International Airport (SFO), John Wayne Airport (SNA), San Diego International Airport (SAN) and over 140 other airports that support seasonal and year around flights.

### **VISIT CALIFORNIA**

Lindsey Cody, *Travel Trade Manager*

555 Capitol Mall Suite 1100 Sacramento CA 95814

E: [lcody@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:lcody@visitcalifornia.com) | T: 916.233.0245 | W: [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)





## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Alcatraz Island  
Cabrillo  
California  
Castle Mountains  
Barstow, CA  
César E. Chávez  
Channel Islands  
Death Valley  
Devils Postpile  
Eugene O'Neill  
Fort Point

Point Reyes  
Pony Express  
Port Chicago Naval Magazine  
Presidio of San Francisco  
Redwood  
Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front  
San Francisco Maritime  
Santa Monica Mountains  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
Tule Lake  
Whiskeytown  
Yosemite

Golden Gate  
John Muir  
Joshua Tree  
Juan Bautista de Anza  
Lassen Volcanic  
Lava Beds  
Manzanar  
Mojave  
Muir Woods  
Old Spanish  
Pinnacles



### VISIT CALIFORNIA

Lindsey Cody, *Travel Trade Manager*

555 Capitol Mall Suite 1100 Sacramento CA 95814

E: [lcody@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:lcody@visitcalifornia.com) | T: 916.233.0245 | W: [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)





## CALIFORNIA ROAD TRIP IDEAS

Endless sunshine, world-class theme parks, incredible outdoor experiences- California is the ultimate road trip destination. For more road trip itinerary inspirations, check out Visit California Road Trip Hub: <https://www.visitcalifornia.com/road-trips/>.

## PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY, SOUTH

Imagine the sun on your face and wind in your hair as you cruise “the PCH.”

Santa Barbara—“The American Riviera” is a poster child for the California good life, with sunny days, an inviting wine country, and outdoor adventures on land and sea.

Ventura—Hit the beach in this sun-and-surf town, or explore microbreweries, tasty eateries and a vibrant live music scene.

Santa Monica—Hang out at the beach or lively pier with its amusement park, cruise along the oceanfront, or do some shopping in this idyllic beachfront city.

Long Beach—With its beaches, lively waterfront, a legendary ocean liner, and a busy dining and shopping scene downtown, Long Beach blends big city sophistication with resort town fun.

Huntington Beach—Beach culture thrives here. Bicycle down an oceanfront path, play volleyball, and, of course, surf alongside the landmark pier.

Laguna Beach—This artsy town is a coastal paradise—from its bright hillside cottages to its downtown streets—coming together at the edge of a sparkling blue sea.

San Diego – From sandy beaches, diverse neighborhoods, burgeoning culinary offerings and craft beer to its world-famous zoo, this sunny city is one of California’s must-sees.

### **VISIT CALIFORNIA**

Lindsey Cody, *Travel Trade Manager*

555 Capitol Mall Suite 1100 Sacramento CA 95814

E: [lcody@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:lcody@visitcalifornia.com) | T: 916.233.0245 | W: [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)



CALIFORNIA

## ROUTE 66

Learn why this historic highway inspired a chart-topping hit in 1946 and see why millions drove it in search of the California dream.

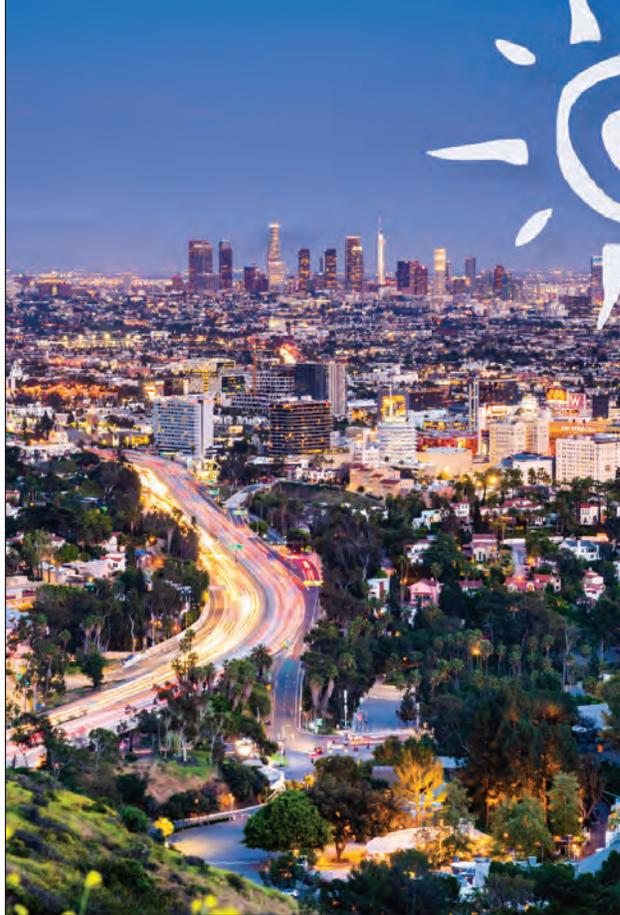
**Santa Monica**—Hang out at the beach or lively pier (with its amusement park), cruise along the oceanfront, or do some shopping in this idyllic beachfront city.

**Hollywood**—Bask in the presence of film and TV legends both past and present while you explore iconic film- and movie-star-focused museums, theaters, and attractions.

**Pasadena**—Drive the leafy streets, lined with elegant mansions of every shape and style, walk through exquisite gardens, or take your time and shop and dine Old Pasadena.

**AutoClub Speedway**—Witness some of the world's best racecar drivers at this legendary Fontana speedway, delivering all kinds of thrills for high-speed action fans.

**San Bernardino**—Two museums offer a peaceful—and riveting—interlude in this Inland Empire city, whether it's celebrating the area's natural environment or exploring Egyptian history or contemporary art.



## GOLDEN CHAIN HIGHWAY ROAD TRIP

Travel back to the Gold Rush era on Highway 49, where charming mining towns are surrounded by panoramic vistas of the Sierra Nevada foothills. Here are some key stops:

**Nevada City**—This forest-wrapped hamlet of handsome Victorian-era homes and tree-lined streets is one of the Gold Country's prettiest towns.

**Empire Mine State Historic Park**—Learn about one of California's oldest, largest, deepest, longest, and richest gold mines.

**Auburn**—Experience Gold Rush history, sensational food and wine, and outdoor adventure in a town that attracts mountain bikers, hikers, and horseback riders.

**Marshall Gold Discovery State Park**—Here, in a stretch of the snowmelt-fed American River that slides past the tiny town of Coloma, a sawmill employee named James Marshall first discovered glints of the precious metal in the river's silt.

**Plymouth**—A number of Amador County wineries near Plymouth have been creating award-winning vintages in unpretentious wine country dating back to the 1850s.

**Columbia State Historic Park**—Experience the Gold Rush in living, breathing color as costumed docents lead tours of this carefully preserved Mother Lode town. (They also live and work here in a variety of period-appropriate shops and trades.)

CALIFORNIA

### **VISIT CALIFORNIA**

Lindsey Cody, *Travel Trade Manager*

555 Capitol Mall Suite 1100 Sacramento CA 95814

E: [lcody@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:lcody@visitcalifornia.com) | T: 916.233.0245 | W: [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)





## AMAZING VIEWS

Tall trees, towering waterfalls, and fascinating geological formations provide a scenic backdrop on this tour.

**Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks**—Famous for giant sequoias, soaring mountains, deep canyons, and roaring rivers, this tandem set of parks has plenty to see.

**Yosemite National Park**—California's first national park features unforgettable natural beauty. Its towering granite domes and roaring waterfalls are legendary.

**Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve**—Explore the haunting tufa towers that trim the edges of this one-million-year-old lake on the eastern side of the towering Sierra.

**Emerald Bay**—Look down on the astounding blue-green waters of this South Lake Tahoe bay and you can see why Mark Twain dubbed Lake Tahoe "the fairest picture the whole earth affords."

**Lassen Volcanic National Park**—The lively sulphur vents, splattering mud pots, high peaks, thundering waterfalls and boiling springs in this national park prove that our planet is truly a living entity.

**Mount Shasta**—This perennially snow-capped behemoth will dominate your view, rising from the surrounding flatlands in perfect, cone-shaped majesty.

**Avenue of the Giants**—A drive down this 31-mile-long stretch of redwoods is a guaranteed jaw-dropper.

## WILD NORTH COAST

Head north from San Francisco to experience solitude and a slower pace of life, with stops in Point Reyes, Mendocino, and Trinidad.

**Point Reyes National Seashore**—Point Reyes is loaded with amazing discoveries, including remarkable wildlife, deep forests, dramatic sea cliffs, and remote beaches.

**Mendocino**—This walkable North Coast village is a natural magnet for artists. Browse the shops or stroll along the bluffs, especially at sunset.

**Fort Bragg**—Visit the iconic beach covered in colorful sea glass, take the steam train through towering redwood forests, or refuel with a plate of artisanal cheese and a glass of Pinot Noir.

**Avenue of the Giants**—This narrow road snakes along one of California's most beautiful greenbelts, a prehistoric forest featuring towering, 2,000-plus-year-old trees.

**Trinidad**—With picture-perfect headlands colliding with a teacup harbor, this seaside enclave makes a great base for exploring the Redwood Coast or discovering quiet beaches.

**Redwood National & State Parks**—This spectacular network of national and state parks has dozens of walking paths among soaring coast redwoods, which grow over 350 feet high.

**Crescent City**—Explore California's northernmost lighthouse stations or wander the waterfront in town to see sea lions and elephant seals.

### **VISIT CALIFORNIA**

Lindsey Cody, *Travel Trade Manager*

555 Capitol Mall Suite 1100 Sacramento CA 95814

E: [lcody@visitcalifornia.com](mailto:lcody@visitcalifornia.com) | T: 916.233.0245 | W: [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com)

