



Grand Tour of California: San Francisco to Los Angeles

11 days | 13 days with San Diego extension

From San Francisco's Painted Ladies and Yosemite National Park to Monterey's Cannery Row and star-studded Los Angeles, there's plenty to love about California. Marvel at the Golden Gate Bridge. Visit the vineyards of Napa Valley. Drive along the stunning coastline of Big Sur, and see what makes the Golden State one of a kind.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 food tasting
- 4 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Golden Gate Bridge
- Bridalveil Fall
- Half Dome and El Capitan
- Monterey's Cannery Row
- Big Sur
- Hearst Castle
- Old Mission Santa Barbara
- Hollywood Sign

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and dirt paths, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15-35

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San Francisco → 3 nights

Day 1: Arrival in San Francisco

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to California! Arrive in San Francisco and transfer to your hotel. Then, meet your fellow travelers at an included welcome dinner.

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of San Francisco

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Today's guided tour introduces you to the sights and tastes of San Francisco, "the City by the Bay."

- Pass the iconic Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, epicenter of the counter-cultural movement
- Visit Golden Gate Park and enjoy stunning views of the Golden Gate Bridge, a marvel of engineering
- See the Palace of Fine Arts, as well as the Pacific Heights and Nob Hill neighborhoods
- Drive through North Beach and see the iconic Coit Tower atop Telegraph Hill
- Stroll through Chinatown, the largest outside of Asia, and stop at the bakery that's credited with inventing the fortune cookie
- Watch a demonstration to learn how the cookie is created and enjoy a tasting
- End in Ghirardelli Square and enter the factory store to sample some of the decadent chocolate

Enjoy a free afternoon strolling along Fisherman's Wharf or add an excursion.

+ Alcatraz Island

Day 3: Free day in San Francisco

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day exploring San Francisco at your leisure or add an excursion.

+ Sonoma & Napa Valley Wine Tasting

Yosemite Region → 2 nights

Day 4: Yosemite National Park via Muir Woods National Monument

Included meals: breakfast

Visit Muir Woods National Monument to see the towering redwood trees. Then, travel through the Central Valley, taking in the scenery on the way to Yosemite.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Yosemite Valley

Included meals: breakfast

Learn about the Yosemite Valley's history and geology on a guided sightseeing tour with a park ranger.

- View Bridalveil Fall, named for the ethereal mists that surround the cataract
- Drive up Inspiration Point for phenomenal photos of Half Dome and El Capitan, icons of the Yosemite Valley
- Take in the sights at the historic Tunnel View overlook, offering one of the most famous views of the park
- Enjoy free time to explore the park's many natural wonders, including the breathtaking Giant Sequoia trees of the Mariposa Grove

Monterey → 1 night

Day 6: Transfer to Monterey

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Drive from Yosemite to Monterey, a coastal city brimming with rich history and cultural diversity.

- Drive through the scenic areas of Pebble Beach and Carmel-By-The-Sea
- Spend free time exploring Cannery Row, a waterfront street made famous by author John Steinbeck

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Santa Barbara Region → 2 nights

Day 7: Santa Barbara Region via Hearst Castle

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Drive down the Pacific Coast Highway and along the scenic Big Sur coastline, stopping to visit Hearst Castle. Here, you'll take a guided tour of the storied hilltop mansion of publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst. Then, continue on to the Santa Barbara region and sit down for an included dinner.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Santa Barbara

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, get to know the city of Santa Barbara, "The American Riviera."

- Visit Old Mission Santa Barbara, a Franciscan mission established in 1786

- See Stearns Wharf, an iconic wooden pier in the Santa Barbara Harbor
- Pass the historic County Courthouse, a Greek Revival-style building decorated with beautiful interior murals
- View El Presidio, a former Spanish military outpost in downtown Santa Barbara

Take time to explore Santa Barbara at your leisure or add an excursion.

+ Santa Barbara Wine Country

Los Angeles → 2 nights

Day 9: Transfer to Los Angeles & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Continue on the Pacific Coast Highway as you travel to Los Angeles, stopping to enjoy free time for lunch at a West Hollywood farmers' market.

This afternoon, immerse yourself in lively L.A. on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Pass Rodeo Drive as you make your way through glamorous Beverly Hills
- Stroll through Hollywood, passing Grauman's Chinese Theatre and the star-studded Walk of Fame
- View the iconic Hollywood Sign from the Hollywood and Highland Center, a bustling entertainment complex

Day 10: Free day in Los Angeles

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Spend a free day exploring Los Angeles or add an excursion.

Tonight, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner.

+ Warner Bros. Studio Tour

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home, or continue on to explore San Diego.

+ San Diego extension

Discover what makes San Diego “America’s Finest City.” From its pristine beaches to the historic downtown, this coastal California hot spot delights at every turn.

San Diego → 2 nights

Day 11: San Diego via La Jolla

Included meals: breakfast

Continue on to San Diego, stopping in the seaside town of La Jolla along the way. In the afternoon, get an introduction to “America’s Finest City” on a panoramic tour.

- Pass through Balboa Park, a 1,200-acre urban cultural park and location of the world-famous San Diego Zoo
- Explore Coronado Island, a peninsula city with small-town coastal charm
- Visit the historic Gaslamp Quarter and admire the neighborhood’s beautifully restored Victorian buildings
- See the Cabrillo National Monument, which commemorates Portuguese explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo’s landing at San Diego Bay

Day 12: Free day in San Diego

Included meals: breakfast

Explore San Diego on your own or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ USS Midway Museum & Harbor Cruise

Flight Home

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.com/CAL | 1-800-597-0350

Day 2: Alcatraz Island

\$65 (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Embark on a short ferry ride from the Embarcadero Pier for an up-close look at the infamous "inescapable" federal penitentiary at Alcatraz Island. Enjoy a self-guided audio tour of this iconic American landmark and uncover its intriguing history, including details of the great 1962 escape. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Begin with a self-guided audio tour of the USS Midway, the longest-serving U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, narrated by sailors who lived or worked on the ship. See over 60 locations throughout the museum during your visit, from the engine room to the control tower. Then, drive to the north side of the harbor, where you'll enjoy free time for lunch before heading out on an afternoon cruise on the San Diego Bay.

Day 3: Sonoma & Napa Valley Wine Tasting

\$99/\$109* (7 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

With over 600 wineries between Napa and Sonoma Valley, California's wine country stands out among the world's renowned viticulture areas. Cross over the Golden Gate Bridge as you make your way to a vineyard in Napa Valley for a tour and wine tasting. Later, head to Sonoma Valley to tour another local vineyard, followed by wine tastings. Please note: The order of the day's events are subject to change.

Day 8: Santa Barbara Wine Country

\$69/\$79* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Travel through the Santa Ynez Valley outside of Santa Barbara, a wine region famous for its pinot noir. On the road, stop in the charming town of Solvang and soak in its Dutch-influenced art and architecture, including a replica of Copenhagen's famous Little Mermaid statue, honoring Hans Christian Andersen. Later, pay a visit to two local certified organic and biodynamic vineyards, which helped inspire the movie "Sideways." You'll enjoy tours and wine tastings at each.

Day 10: Warner Bros. Studio Tour

\$95/\$105* (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Bring the magic of Hollywood to life at one of Los Angeles' busiest and most iconic motion picture and television studios: the Warner Bros. Studio. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look at backlots and soundstages that serve as the backdrops for classic films and today's hit TV shows—and you may even see actual filming! You'll also have the chance to explore the Picture Car Vault and The Archive, which holds a massive collection of props, cars, and costumes from past movies and shows. Finally, pay a visit to Stage 48: Script to Screen for a self-guided tour. Here, you'll see everything from the writer's lounge to the Legacy Room, learning more about the different components of the entertainment production process as you go.

Extension excursion options

Day 12: USS Midway Museum & Harbor Cruise

\$79/\$89* (6 hours, departs in the morning)

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms