





Central California Trips

THE FAIRYTALE STRETCH OF COAST BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND LA is too often dismissed as 'flyover country.' But it's packed with beaches, historic lighthouses and tall redwoods hiding forest waterfalls.

Get acquainted with central California's agricultural heartland while driving along inland highways. Roll past vineyards and farms where you can taste the goodness of the land, from juicy strawberries to wines to artichokes.

Further east rises the Sierra Nevada, uplifted along faultlines and weathered by glaciers, wind and rain. Soothe your soul with natural wonders, from Yosemite Valley to Lake Tahoe. Then drop into the foothills to trace California's Gold Rush history and take a dip in summertime swimming holes or crystal lakes.

Red o National Honey Bluff Forest Central Quincy Pyramid 99 Chico o Paradise Lake California Mendocino Downieville National Oroville o Reno Nevada Forest Fallon Trips Carson Grass City Valley Yuba South Clearlake Auburn City Lake Tahoe Placerville Walker Woodland o Markleeville 101 Sacramento Lake Santa Davis • Inyo Vacaville National Rosa Forest Fairfield O Creek 21 Murphys 24 20 Port Costa Stockton Yosemite National Park 0 Sausalito Berkeley San Francisco Oakland • Manteca • Modesto Pacifica ! Mammoth (14,246ft Turlock San Jose Los • Merced 5 Banos 25 Kings Canyon Gilroy Santa O Madera Watsonville Fresno Cruz Salinas Monterey Reedley Comoia 15 National Park King Visalia City Sequoia 198 Coalinga National 101 Porterville Forest Paso Lake PACIFIC Robles Isabella Point (1 OCEANPiedras Morro Blancas 16 Bakersfield O Kern San Luis Obispo O Taft Pismo Beach Santa

Big Sur 2 Days

Get lost at wild beaches and bohemian camps along coastal Hwy 1. (p153)

Along Highway 1 to Santa Cruz 2–3 Days

Cruise south from San Francisco past lighthouses, tidepools and monster surf. (p161)

Around Monterey & Carmel 2–3 Days

Putter around the idyllic peninsula fronting wildlife-rich Monterey Bay. (p169)

Around San Luis Obispo 2–3 Days Laid-back beach towns and outdoor adventures mix with break-out wineries. (p179)

Santa Barbara Wine Country 2–3 Days

Los Alamos

Lompoc o

Point

Conception

Spend a weekend in pastoral Foxen Canyon and the Santa Rita Hills. (p187)

Guadalupe o Maria 166 Ventucopa

101 17

Olivos

(33)

Santa

Barbara

Lake Tahoe Loop 2–3 Days Drive round 'Big Blue' to reach mountain-framed beaches and bays. (p197)

Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings
Canyon National Parks 5–7 Days
Be awed by Sierra Nevada peaks, wildflower
meadows, sequoias and waterfalls. (p205)

Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway 3–5 Days

A rugged wilderness gateway to hot springs, hikes and ghost towns. (p217)





Alabama Hills Where famous Western

movies and TV shows were filmed outside of Lone Pine, just below Mt Whitney, on Trip 20

DON'T

Pfeiffer Beach

Catch sunset shining

purple-tinged sand on

through a sea arch and dig down into the

Kings Canyon Scenic Byway

Wind down into the

USA's deepest river canyon carved by

glaciers to Road's End

Trip 13

South Yuba River State Park

Swim, hike and photograph the USA's longest covered wooden bridge, west of the 19thcentury mining town of Nevada City, on Trip 21

Kingsburg

A global melting pot of immigrants have farmed California's Central Valley. including the Swedes of Kingsburg, a whistlestop on Trip 25

Classic Trip Highway 49 Through Gold Country 3-4 Davs

Head for the hills and California's historic pioneer mining towns. (p227)

Ebbetts Pass Scenic Byway 2 Days 22 Cross the Sierra Nevada at heady elevations on hidden Hwy 4. (p237)

Feather River Scenic Byway 3-4 Days Cool off with a swim or paddle around sunny lakes and rivers. (p245)

Lazy Delta Dawdle 2 Days Ride the Sacramento River Delta on lazy backcountry explorations. (p253)

Highway 99 Through Central Valley 3 Davs

Country-and-western music, cow towns and farms fill California's sun-baked flatland. (p261)

