CALIFORNIA’S BEST TRIPS
35 AMAZING ROAD TRIPS

This edition written and researched by

Sara Benson
Nate Cavalieri
Beth Kohn
Welcome to California
California Classic Trips
California Highlights
If You Like...
Need to Know
City Guide

ON THE ROAD

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Beth Kohn A lucky long-time resident of San Francisco, Beth lives to be playing outside or splashing in big puddles of water, and there’s always a California atlas stashed in her red pickup truck in case a back road looks particularly promising. An author of Lonely Planet’s Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Mexico and California guides, you can see more of her work at www.bethkohn.com.

My Favorite Trip 20 Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway Who can get enough of those hot springs and mountain views?
OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

Sara Benson
After graduating from college, Sara jumped on a plane to California with just one suitcase and $100 in her pocket. She has bounced around the Golden State ever since, including in the Sierra Nevada, where she worked as a seasonal park ranger. The author of over 50 travel and nonfiction books, Sara also coordinated Lonely Planet’s California guide. Follow her adventures online at www.indietraveler.blogspot.com, www.indietraveler.net and @indie_traveler on Twitter.

My Favorite Trip
Highway 49 Through Gold Country
I explored the last lonely stretches of a California highway I’d never driven before. Eureka!

Nate Cavalieri
Born and raised in rural Michigan, Nate Cavalieri has a sentimental soft spot for the piquant cow pastures, political radicals and sleepy one-stoplight towns of Northern California. One of his favorite trips traced the stunning Feather River and into the exotic wilds of the northeastern corner of the state. He authors guides for Lonely Planet on the US, Central America and the Caribbean, writes about music and maintains several fictional twitter accounts about professional cycling. He lives in Oakland. Look him up at www.natecavalieri.com.

My Favorite Trip
Route 66
Driving California’s Mother Road – windows down, radio blasting, endless blue skies all around – offered the most iconic road trip experience.

Read more about Sara at:
www.lonelyplanet.com/members/Sara_Benson