





The fairy-tale stretch of coast between San Francisco and LA is too often dismissed as 'flyover country.' But it's packed with beautiful beaches, historic lighthouses and tall redwood forests that hide magical waterfalls and hot springs, especially in bohemian Big Sur.

Get acquainted with central California's agricultural heartland while driving along inland highways. Lazily roll past vineyards and farms where you can taste the goodness of the land, from juicy strawberries to prickly artichokes to wine, including around Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

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.

Sequoia National Park Hiking amid giant sequoia trees
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