



- HIGHLIGHTS
- ITINERARIES
- LOCAL EXPERTS
- EASY-TO-USE MAPS

# Discover California

Experience the best of California



# Discover California

Contents



Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



## The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



## Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there

### Local Knowledge

Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



## Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



## If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous attractions

These icons help you quickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking



Sleeping

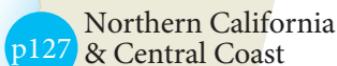


Information

This edition written and researched by

Beth Kohn,

Bridget Gleeson, Andrew Bender, Sara Benson,  
Alison Bing, Nate Cavalieri, Andrea Schulte-Peevers,  
John A Vlahides



**p127 Northern California  
& Central Coast**

**p199 Napa & Sonoma  
Wine Country**

**p91 San  
Francisco**

**p237 Yosemite & the  
Sierra Nevada**

**San Diego  
& the Deserts**

**Los Angeles**

**p277**

**p51  
p323  
Disneyland &  
Orange County**

**Northern  
California &  
Central Coast**

Highlights .....130

- Redwoods
- Santa Barbara
- Point Reyes
- Mendocino
- Lassen Volcanic National Park
- Monterey

**Napa & Sonoma  
Wine Country**

Highlights ..... 202

- Napa Valley
- Wine Tasting
- Historic Sonoma
- Wine Train
- Old Faithful Geyser
- Culinary Institute of America at Greystone

**Los Angeles**

Highlights .....54

- Hollywood
- South Bay Bicycle Trail
- Getty Center & Getty Villa
- Griffith Observatory
- Venice Beach Boardwalk
- La Brea Tar Pits & Page Museum

**San Francisco**

Highlights ..... 94

- Golden Gate Park
- California Cuisine
- Alcatraz Island
- Vintage Trains & Cable Cars
- North Beach
- Mission District

**Yosemite & the  
Sierra Nevada**

Highlights .....240

- Yosemite National Park
- Lake Tahoe
- Hunt for Gold
- Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
- Mono Lake
- Bodie State Historic Park

# Contents

## Plan Your Trip

### San Diego & the Deserts

Highlights ..... 280

- Balboa Park
- San Diego Zoo & Safari Park
- Old Town San Diego
- Joshua Tree National Park
- Palm Springs
- Death Valley National Park

### Disneyland & Orange County

Highlights ..... 326

- Disneyland
- Disney California Adventure
- Bowers Museum of Cultural Art
- Huntington Beach
- Laguna Beach
- Newport Beach

This Is California .....	6
California Map .....	8
California's Top 25 Experiences .....	10
California's Top Itineraries .....	32
Month by Month .....	42
What's New .....	46
Get Inspired .....	47
Need to Know .....	48

## On the Road

### Los Angeles ..... 51

Highlights .....	54
Best... ..	58
Walking Tour .....	60
Long Beach .....	83

### San Francisco .... 91

Highlights .....	94
Best... ..	98
Walking Tour .....	100

### Northern California & Central Coast .. 127

Highlights .....	130
Best... ..	134
Itineraries .....	136
Marin County .....	138
Marin Headlands .....	138
Sausalito .....	142
Tiburon .....	144
Muir Beach .....	145
Stinson Beach .....	146
Point Reyes Station ..	146
Point Reyes National Seashore .....	148

North Coast & the Redwoods .....	151
Berkeley .....	151

# Contents

## On the Road

Bodega Bay.....	152
Sonoma Coast State Beach.....	153
Salt Point State Park.....	153
Mendocino.....	154
Humboldt Redwoods State Park & Avenue of the Giants.....	158
Ferndale.....	159
Eureka.....	163
Arcata.....	165
Redwood National & State Parks.....	166
Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.....	167
Klamath.....	168
Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.....	168
Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.....	169
<b>Lassen National Park &amp; Northern Mountains</b> .....	<b>169</b>
Lassen Volcanic National Park.....	170
Mt Shasta.....	171
Mt Shasta City & McCloud.....	171
<b>Central Coast</b> .....	<b>173</b>
Pescadero.....	173
Año Nuevo State Reserve.....	175
Santa Cruz.....	175
Monterey.....	178
Carmel-by-the-Sea.....	183
Big Sur.....	185
Point Piedras Blancas.....	189
San Luis Obispo.....	189
<b>Santa Barbara</b> .....	<b>191</b>



### Napa & Sonoma Wine Country..199

<b>Highlights</b> .....	<b>202</b>
<b>Best...</b> .....	<b>206</b>
<b>Itineraries</b> .....	<b>208</b>
<b>Napa Valley</b> .....	<b>212</b>
Napa Valley Wineries.....	212
Napa.....	214
Yountville.....	217
St Helena.....	219
Calistoga.....	221
Around Calistoga.....	224
<b>Sonoma Valley</b> .....	<b>225</b>
Sonoma Valley Wineries.....	226
Sonoma & Around.....	227
Jack London State Historic Park.....	231
<b>Healdsburg &amp; the Russian River</b> .....	<b>232</b>
Russian River Area Wineries.....	232
Healdsburg.....	233
Dry Creek Valley.....	234



### Yosemite & the Sierra Nevada ..... 237

<b>Highlights</b> .....	<b>240</b>
<b>Best...</b> .....	<b>244</b>
<b>Itineraries</b> .....	<b>246</b>
<b>Lake Tahoe</b> .....	<b>248</b>

Tahoe Ski & Snowboard Resorts.....	248
South Lake Tahoe & Stateline.....	249
Western Shore.....	251
Tahoe City.....	251
Truckee & Donner Lake.....	253
<b>Yosemite National Park</b> .....	<b>254</b>
<b>Sequoia &amp; Kings Canyon</b> .....	<b>263</b>
Kings Canyon National Park.....	264
Sequoia National Park.....	265
<b>Eastern Sierra</b> .....	<b>266</b>
Mono Lake.....	266
Mammoth Lakes.....	268
Manzanar National Historic Site.....	270
Alabama Hills.....	271
<b>Gold Country</b> .....	<b>271</b>
Nevada City.....	272
Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.....	273
Sacramento.....	273



### San Diego & the Deserts.....277

<b>Highlights</b> .....	<b>280</b>
<b>Best...</b> .....	<b>284</b>
<b>Itineraries</b> .....	<b>286</b>
<b>San Diego</b> .....	<b>288</b>

## In Focus

## Survival Guide

<b>Palm Springs</b> .....	<b>306</b>
<b>Joshua Tree National Park</b> .....	<b>313</b>
<b>Route 66</b> .....	<b>316</b>
Los Angeles to Barstow .....	316
<i>Mojave National Preserve</i> .....	316
<b>Death Valley National Park</b> .....	<b>317</b>



## Disneyland & Orange County ..... 323

<b>Highlights</b> .....	<b>326</b>
<b>Best...</b> .....	<b>330</b>
<b>Itineraries</b> .....	<b>332</b>
<b>Disneyland &amp; Anaheim</b> .....	<b>334</b>
<b>Orange County Beaches</b> .....	<b>344</b>
Huntington Beach .....	344
Newport Beach & Around .....	345
Laguna Beach .....	348

<b>California Today</b> .....	<b>352</b>
<b>History</b> .....	<b>354</b>
<b>Family Travel</b> .....	<b>362</b>
<b>Way of Life</b> .....	<b>366</b>
<b>The Arts</b> .....	<b>369</b>
<b>California Cuisine</b> .....	<b>373</b>
<b>Beaches &amp; Outdoor Activities</b> .....	<b>378</b>
<b>Land &amp; Wildlife</b> .....	<b>383</b>

<b>Directory</b> .....	<b>388</b>
Accommodation .....	388
Business Hours .....	389
Climate .....	389
Customs .....	390
Discount Cards .....	390
Electricity .....	391
Food .....	391
Gay & Lesbian Travelers .....	391
Health .....	392
Insurance .....	392
Internet Access .....	392
Legal Matters .....	393
Money .....	393
Public Holidays .....	394
Safe Travel .....	395
Telephone .....	396
Time .....	396
Tourist Information .....	396
Travelers with Disabilities .....	397
Visas .....	397
<b>Transport</b> .....	<b>398</b>
Getting There & Away .....	398
Getting Around .....	399
<b>Behind the Scenes</b> .....	<b>405</b>
<b>Index</b> .....	<b>406</b>
<b>How to Use This Book</b> .....	<b>414</b>
<b>Our Writers</b> .....	<b>416</b>



# This Is California

Everyone heads to the Golden State to find fame and fortune – but you can do better. Come for the landscape, stay for sensational food, and glimpse the future in the making on America's creative coast.

**California is older than it seems.** Coastal bluffs and snow-capped peaks created over millennia of tectonic upheavals threatened to shake California right off the continent. And after unchecked 19th-century mining, logging and oil drilling threatened to undermine its ancient natural splendors, California's pioneering environmentalists rescued about 2.5 million acres of old-growth trees. Conservation initiatives by John Muir and his Sierra Club created Yosemite National Park and Redwood National & State Parks, and though Unesco named them World Heritage sites, visitors call them simply breathtaking.

**Every time they sit down to eat, Californians have nationwide impact.** Since California produces most US fresh produce and specialty meats, minor menu decisions go a long way. Californians are taking trendsetting stands on mealtime moral dilemmas: certified organic versus spray-free, grass-fed versus grain-finished, farm-to-table versus urban-garden grown, veganism versus humanely raised meats. But no matter what you order, it's likely to be local and creative, and it better be good – Californians compulsively share their dining experiences via social-media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Yelp, all created here. For a chaser, try a stiff drink: California produces the nation's most prestigious wines, and has more breweries than any other state.

**Californians are once again getting by on their wits.** From the Gold Rush to the dot-com bubble, California has survived booms and busts – and the current US recession is no different. Trends are started here not by moguls in offices, but by a motley crowd of surfers, artists and dreamers concocting the out-there ideas behind skateboarding, interactive art and biotechnology. The Creative Class research institute predicts that California has the talent and technology to stage another economic comeback – and if you linger in California galleries and cafes, you may actually see the future coming.

“Trends are kick-started here by a motley crowd of surfers, artists and dreamers.”

