

BEHIND THE SCENES

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THIS BOOK

This 1st edition of *San Francisco Bay Area & Wine Country Road Trips* was researched and written by Sara Benson, Alison Bing, Beth Kohn and John A Vlahides. This guidebook was produced by the following:

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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'.

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OUR WRITERS



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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

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ALISON BING

Over 10 guidebooks and 20 years in San Francisco, author Alison Bing has spent more time on Alcatraz than some inmates, become an aficionado

of drag and burritos, and willfully ignored Muni signs warning that "safety requires avoiding unnecessary conversation."



JOHN A. VLAHIDES

John A. Vlahides co-hosts the TV series *Lonely Planet: Roads Less Travelled*, screening on National Geographic Channels International. John studied

cooking in Paris, with the same chefs who trained Julia Child, and is also a former luxury-hotel concierge and member of Les Clefs d'Or, the international union of the world's elite concierges. He lives in San Francisco, sings tenor with the Grammy-winning San Francisco Symphony, and spends free time biking SF and skiing the Sierra. For more, see JohnVlahides.com, twitter.com/JohnVlahides.

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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.

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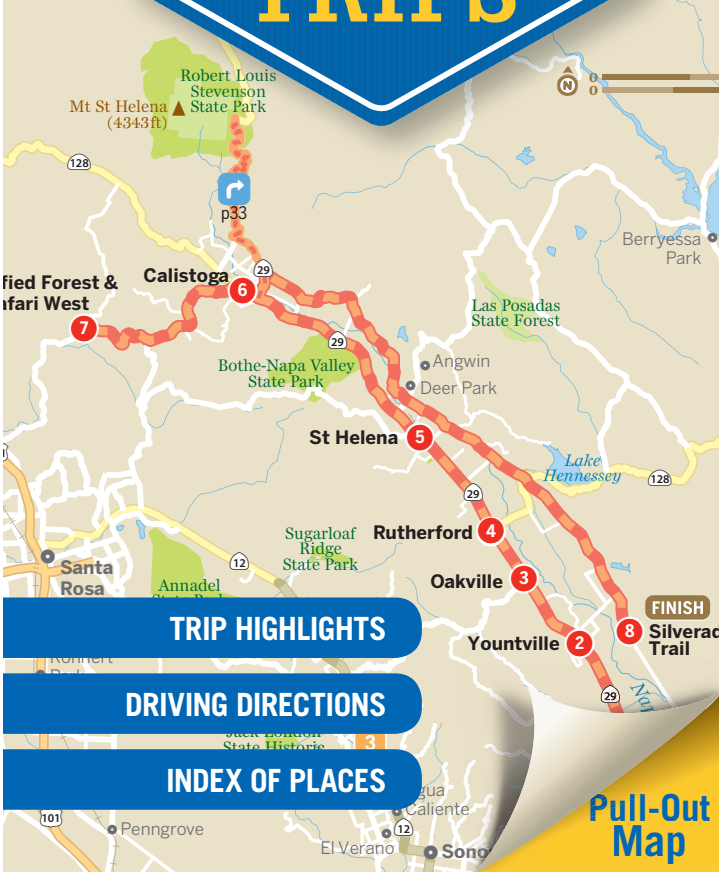
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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA & WINE COUNTRY ROAD TRIPS



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



San Francisco, Marin & Napa Loop

Loop your way around the Bay Area, drinking in the sights of hilly San Francisco, the stunning wild vistas of Marin and the world-renowned wineries of Napa Valley and Sonoma County.

4-5 DAYS
253 MILES/407KM

GREAT FOR...



BEST TIME TO GO

April to October for dry and warmer days.

ESSENTIAL PHOTO

Views of Alcatraz, the Pacific Ocean, the Golden Gate Bridge and shimmering San Francisco unfold from Conzelman Rd.

BEST BIG TREES

Feel small under the rocketing redwoods of Muir Woods.

1 San Francisco » 2 Marin Headlands

The Drive » Aim north over the turret-topped Golden Gate Bridge, pausing to stroll around the Marin-side Vista Point area. Exit at Alexander Ave and bear left before swinging back under the highway to ascend the bayview ridge of Conzelman Rd. It's 2 miles to Hawk Hill, located just before the road becomes one-way.

2 Marin Headlands » 3 Sausalito

The Drive » Continue north along the oceanview bluffs of Field Rd, joining westbound Bunker Rd (signed San Francisco) after passing the Marin Headlands Visitor Center. Pass through the timed one-way tunnel and turn left onto Alexander Ave towards Sausalito.

3 Sausalito » 4 Muir Woods

The Drive » Follow Hwy 101 north to Hwy 1, passing a stretch of Richardson Bay packed with funky houseboats. Ascend a mostly residential section of two-lane Hwy 1, and after 3 miles follow signs to Muir Woods via Panoramic Hwy.

4 Muir Woods » 5 Bolinas

The Drive » Head southwest on Muir Woods Dr (signed Muir Beach/

Stinson Beach) and rejoin Hwy 1/ Shoreline Hwy, winding north along this scenic and curvy Pacific Ocean byway. Trace Bolinas Lagoon, where waterfowl prowl at low tide and harbor seals often frolic, and take the first left after the lagoon. Go left onto Olema-Bolinas Rd into central Bolinas.

5 Bolinas » 6 Point Reyes

The Drive » Return to Hwy 1 and continue 12 miles north through Olema Valley. Just past Olema, drive 23 miles west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd (towards Inverness), following the 'lighthouse' signs. Raptors perch on fence posts of historic cattle ranches, and the road bumps over rolling hills as it twists towards the sea.

6 Point Reyes » 7 Glen Ellen

The Drive » Retrace Sir Francis Drake Blvd to Hwy 1 north through the tiny village of Point Reyes Station. Soon after go right onto Point Reyes-Petaluma Rd for 19 miles to Petaluma, stopping en route at Marin French Cheese. At the railroad crossing, go right on Lakeville St, which becomes Hwy 116. Drive to Arnold Dr, turn right onto Petaluma Ave and pick up Hwy 12 north.

7 Glen Ellen » 8 Napa

The Drive » Double back south on Hwy 12 and then east on Hwy 12/121. Make your way north on Hwy 29, exiting at Downtown Napa/First St. Follow the signs to the Oxbow Public Market.

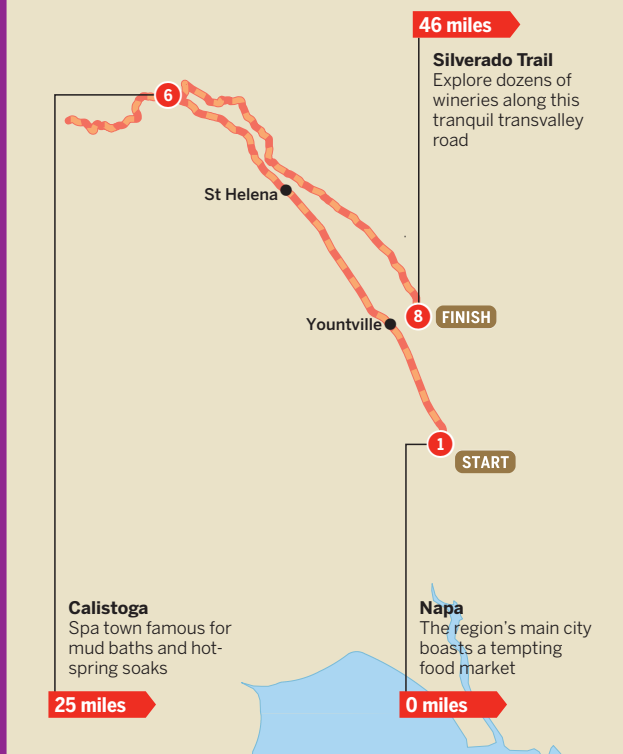
8 Napa » 9 Napa Valley

The Drive » Leaving Napa, take picturesque Hwy 29 (St Helena Hwy) 12 miles north to Oakville, driving past the Napa Valley foodie destination of Yountville.

9 Napa Valley » 10 San Francisco

The Drive » Continue south on Silverado Trail to Napa, picking up southbound Hwy 121 (Sonoma)/ Hwy 29 (Vallejo) and turning right as it merges into westbound Hwy 12 (Sonoma). Stay on Hwy 121 until Hwy 37, and take it west. From Hwy 101, it's 20 miles back to San Francisco via the Golden Gate Bridge.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



Napa Valley

The birthplace of modern-day Wine Country is famous for regal cabernet sauvignons, château-like wineries and fabulous food. Expect to be wined, dined and tucked between crisp linens.

2-3 DAYS
76 MILES/122KM

GREAT FOR...



BEST TIME TO GO

May for a pre-summer lull, and September and October to experience 'the crush.'

ESSENTIAL PHOTO

Three...two...one! Get ready for an eruption at Old Faithful Geyser.

BEST SPLURGE

If you can get a table, tantalize your taste buds at Thomas Keller's French Laundry.

1 Napa » 2 Yountville

The Drive » From Napa, Yountville is 9 miles north on Hwy 29, a divided four-lane road surrounded by vineyards and framed by low hills.

2 Yountville » 3 Oakville

The Drive » Go north to Oakville via another 4 miles of vineyard vistas on Hwy 29, which slims to two lanes just outside of Yountville. Tracks for the Napa Valley Wine Train line the west side of the road.

3 Oakville » 4 Rutherford

The Drive » Rows of grapevines recede into the distance as you continue 2 miles north on Hwy 29.

4 Rutherford » 5 St Helena

The Drive » St Helena is another 4 miles north on Hwy 29, though you may be slowing to a crawl before hitting the first stoplight in the center of town.



BATHE IN MUD IN CALISTOGA



SPRINGTIME IN NAPA VALLEY

5 St Helena » 6 Calistoga

The Drive » Trees begin to reappear on the landscape, breaking up the vineyard views as you head 8 miles north on Hwy 29.

6 Calistoga » 7 Petrified Forest & Safari West

The Drive » Backtrack east on Hwy 128 and go 4 miles west on forested and curvy Petrified Forest Rd.

7 Petrified Forest & Safari West » 8 Silverado Trail

The Drive » Return east back to Calistoga and drive 1 mile south on Hwy 29/128 and 1 mile north on Lincoln Ave to the Silverado Trail. Journey 21 miles southeast along lovely Silverado Trail, lined with row after row of grapevines.



History & Culture



Food & Drink



Outdoors

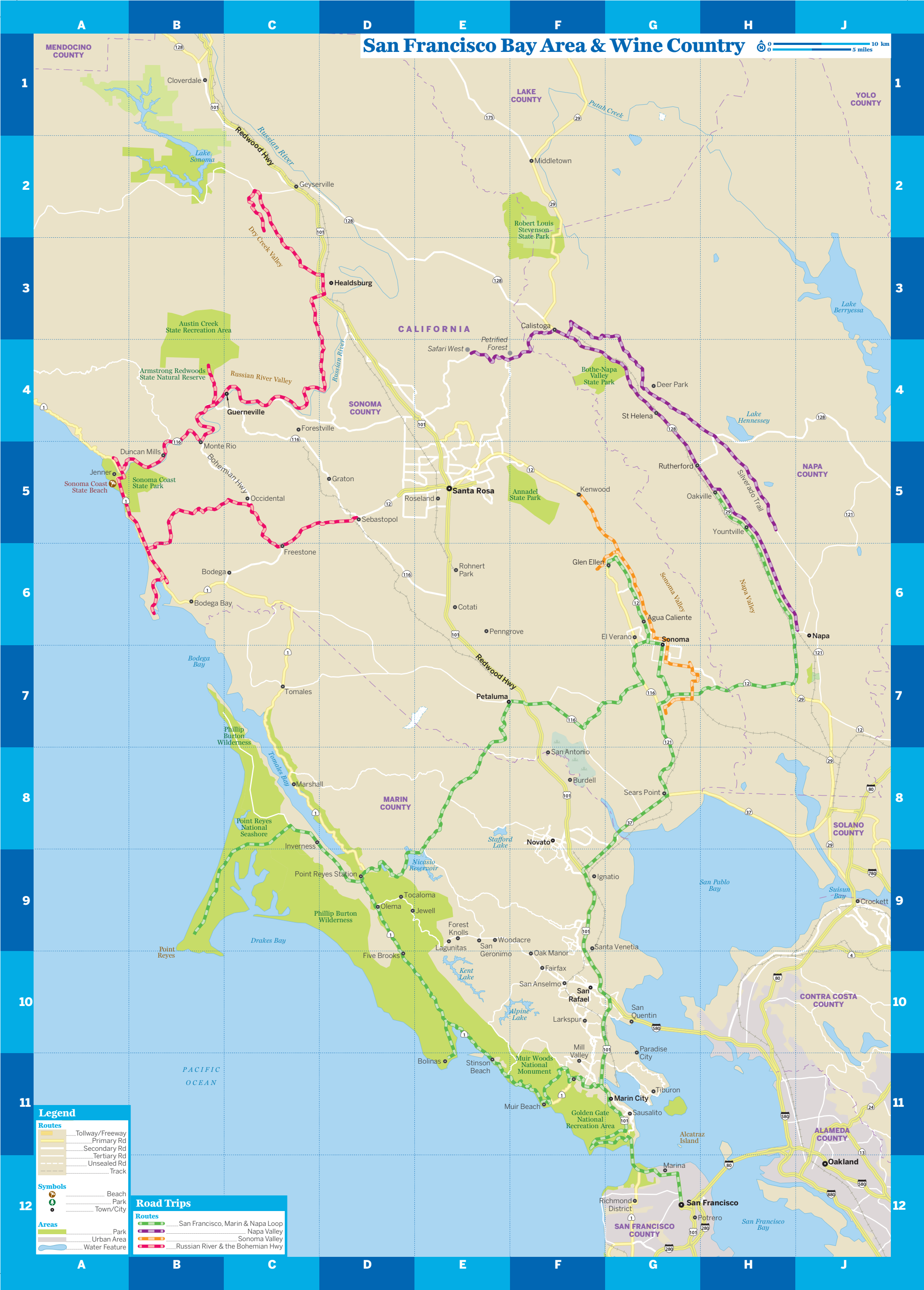


Family

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