





California Trips

Only California gives great American road trips a Hollywood ending. Ever since the early days of Spanish conquistadors and gold-rush pioneers, the eternal quest for fortune and fame has inevitably led to California's golden shores. But even gold will seem overrated once you've seen the platinum glint of the Pacific, and no movie star will ever be as big as California's mighty old-growth redwoods or giant sequoia trees.

Hang tight around curves that hug the coastline on legendary Hwy 1, stringing together sandy beaches, surf and seafood shacks; follow country lanes to famous Napa and Sonoma Valley vineyards. Honestly, there's no such thing as a wrong turn here.

In California, dreaming comes with the territory.

Classic Trip

39 Pacific Coast Highways 7–10 Days

The ultimate coastal road trip takes in beaches, redwood forests and more. (p489)

Classic Trip

10 National Parks 5–7 Days

Be awed by Sierra Nevada peaks, wildflower meadows, sequoias and waterfalls. (p503)

41 Disneyland & Orange County Beaches 2–4 Days

Meet Mickey Mouse, then surf the sun-bronzed ‘OC’ coast. (p515)

42 Palm Springs & Joshua Tree Oases 2–3 Days

Where palm trees shade hot springs and watering holes for wildlife. (p525)

43 Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway 3–5 Days

A rugged wilderness gateway to hot springs, hikes and ghost towns. (p533)

44 San Francisco, Marin & Napa Loop 4–5 Days

A taste of city, an eyeful of wildlife, plus the heady nectar of wine country. (p543)

45 Highway 49 Through Gold Country 3–4 Days

Head for the hills and California’s historic pioneer mining towns. (p553)



DON'T MISS

Kings Canyon Scenic Byway

Wind down into the USA’s deepest river canyon carved by glaciers to Road’s End in Cedar Grove, on Trip **40**

Point Arena

Ascend 145 corkscrew steps inside the tallest lighthouse in California that you can still climb to the top of, on Trip **39**

Alabama Hills

Where famous Western movies and TV shows were filmed outside of Lone Pine, just below Mt Whitney, on Trip **43**

Seal Beach

Slow way down for this old-fashioned beach town, squeezed between LA and the OC, where you can learn to surf by the weather-beaten wooden pier, on Trip **41**

Marin Headlands

Gawk at million-dollar views of San Francisco and the Pacific while exploring abandoned military bunkers tucked into hillsides, on Trip **44**