

SAN FRANCISCO TO LOS ANGELES

California Dreamin'

Driving Distance: 900 Driving Miles
Driving Time: 23 Hours Approx
Recommended Trip: 10 Days

- Days 1/3 Check in to your hotel and take a few days to explore the sights of San Francisco. Take the cable car to Fisherman's Wharf, Ghirardelli Square, formerly a chocolate factory - now an area of landscaped plazas with award-winning restaurants and Pier 39's shops, seafood and sea lions. Catch a boat from here to visit Alcatraz, formerly the infamous island fortress and prison, now a fascinating tourist attraction. Union Square is the key to shopping districts while San Francisco's Chinatown is always a popular attraction.
- Day 4 Collect your motorhome today and drive over the Golden Gate Bridge to tour the world class wineries of the Napa and Sonoma Valleys. Take our tip and book the Wine Dinner Train excursion aboard the elegant Napa Valley Wine Train.
- Day 5 Travel east to the state capital. Explore the restored historic district of Old Sacramento with its clapboard buildings, wooden boardwalks and fine restaurants. Perhaps take a paddle steamer cruise or visit the huge State Railroad Museum, widely regarded as the finest in North America with an extensive collection of locomotives, cars and exhibits. 40-minute roundtrip rides by steam train are often available in summer from the restored Central Pacific depot nearby.
- Day 6 Travel south through the increasingly dramatic scenery of the Sierra Nevada high desert country past glacial lakes to the pretty lakeside resort of Bass Lake on the southern edge of Yosemite Park.
- Day 7 A full day to explore the Yosemite Valley awaits you! Enter by Mariposa with its giant redwoods to discover the incredible natural beauty of this famous park. See Bridal Veil Falls, alpine meadows, giant Sequoia trees and snow capped 10,000 ft mountain peaks dominating the valleys. Perhaps ride the Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad at Yosemite's south gate, a 4-mile steam powered logging train excursion through the Sierra National Forest.

- Day 8 Travel west through the San Joaquin Valley to the coast at Monterey. Keep a look out for seals and whales as you drive along the 17 mile drive past Cypress Point, Seal Rock and famous Pebble Beach. Enjoy shopping in Carmel or explore John Steinbeck's Cannery Row but do not miss the superb Monterey Bay Aquarium and Monterey's own Fisherman's Wharf, formerly a centre of the whaling and sardine industries and today lined with shops and seafood restaurants.
- Day 9 Leaving Monterey take the privately owned 17-Mile Drive through the Del Monte Forest and Pebble Beach. A small entrance fee (currently \$8.00 per car) provides stunning views of landmarks such as Bird Rock, home to countless seabirds; the 250-year old Lone Cypress, and the sinister Ghost Tree, bleached white by wind and spray. Golfers will wonder at classic courses with famous names like Spyglass Hill, Cypress Point, and Pebble Beach itself where The Lodge is well worth a visit. Leave the area via Carmel Gate and make time to stop at the quaint village full of boutiques, galleries and speciality shops. Keep a look out for whales and seals as Highway 1 takes you through spectacular coastal scenery past Big Sur. Perhaps take a tour of Hearst Castle at San Simeon before continuing to the classy seaside town of Santa Barbara with its Spanish Mission and sandy beaches.
- Day 10 Spend a leisurely day before departing south bound for Los Angeles. Return your motorhome and enjoy a safe journey home.