

# Los Angeles to San Francisco

## Highways and Byways

Driving Distance:    Approx 1400 Driving Miles  
Driving Time:        Approx 35 Hours  
Recommended Trip:  20 Days

- Day 1            Arrive in Los Angeles, check into an hotel, relax and adjust to the time change.
- Day 2            Well rested. Pick up your motorhome and explore the various attractions this city has to offer. For example, visit Disneyland or the Universal Studios. In the evening, take a stroll along Sunset Boulevard and experience Hollywood or explore the secrets of Chinese cuisine when having dinner in Chinatown.
- Day 3            On your last day in L.A., take a drive along the eastern section of Mulholland Drive, a 12 mile route known for its many beautiful homes and parks up on the hillside, and later relax on one of the many famous beaches like Venice or Malibu Beach.
- Day 4            Today you will start your tour. Driving along the Pacific Ocean to San Luis Obispo, you will go through grass-covered hills and mountains with beautiful views of the hills to the east. On your way you might want to stop at Santa Barbara and visit the Spanish-style county courthouse, or you can enjoy the beautiful Nojoqui Falls Park with its main attraction, the ribbonlike waterfalls. Once you arrive in San Luis Obispo, check into the local KOA, your host for the night.
- Day 5            Continue your tour following the famous Highway 1, an officially designated All-American Road for its austere, windswept cypress trees, fog-shrouded cliffs, and crashing surf of the Pacific Ocean. Watch for peregrine falcons and other nesting birds at Morro Bay. In Monterey you will find the old cannery buildings of Cannery Row, immortalized by John Steinbeck, now housing boutiques and art galleries. For the next two nights you will be staying at the Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay KOA.
- Day 6            On your day in Santa Cruz you can visit Henry Redwoods State Park, or go along West Cliff Drive, a famous scenic road that skirts the shoreline and leads to Natural Bridges State Park with its sandstone arches. Again, your host for tonight will be the Santa Cruz/ Monterey Bay KOA.
- Day 7            Leave early today for your next destination – Yosemite National Park. Check into the Yosemite/Mariposa KOA, where you will be staying for the following two nights. Get a first impression of the natural sights of Yosemite National Park. You might want to check with the visitors' center about all the various points of interest.
- Day 8            Have you selected your favorite sights to visit? Follow Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road from Mariposa to Tuolumne. This designated National Scenic Byway lets you observe a great diversity of flora and fauna as well as craggy mountains and ruffling meadows. Be sure to stop at at least one of the many impressive waterfalls and you definitely will have to see Grizzly Giant, the oldest known sequoia with a base diameter of nearly 31 feet (10 meters) which climbs more than 200 feet (70 meters) into the sky. Again, you'll spend the night at the Yosemite/Mariposa KOA.

- Day 9 Today your route will lead you along a National Scenic Byway again. But first, we suggest you go from Jackson to Woodfords and enjoy the pine-covered mountains of the Eldorado Forest as well as series of pristine lakes along the way. After that, stop at Lake Tahoe, one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, one of the highest (6225 ft./2100 m) and deepest (1645 ft./ 550 m) in all of North America. Drive along Eastshore Drive, the National Scenic Byway offering breathtaking views of the Lake Tahoe Basin, while the visitors center brings you closer to the pioneer and Indian history of the area. On the northeastern corner the Ponderosa Ranch is located. Visitors who can remember the *Bonanza* series will particularly enjoy touring the Cartwright ranch house. The next two nights you will be staying at the Lake Tahoe KOA
- Day 10 Although best known for its gambling establishments, this western resort boasts several other attractions. If you can not spend the whole day gambling, you could visit the Nevada Museum of Arts featuring regional art, or the Wilbur D. May Museum, with its many eccentric collections. Or else, take a short drive north to explore the Pyramid Lake Scenic Byway, the only of 14 National Scenic Byways located entirely within a tribal reservation, which takes you around one of the largest desert lakes in the world. Again, tonight you will be staying at Lake Tahoe KOA
- Day 11 On today's drive you have the chance to explore the western shore of Lake Tahoe. Don't miss the spectacular view of Bridal Veil Falls, a waterfall plunging down the side of a pine-forested mountain. Until Pollock Pines you again will be following a road rising up to 7382 feet and allowing many great views over the rugged peaks of the Sierra Nevada. Your host tonight will be the Placerville KOA.
- Day 12 Take all day to go back in time to the gold-rush days. South of Placerville you will find many towns where the gold-rush history is well preserved. Or visit Sacramento, where the old gold-rush days are recalled in the restored buildings of Old Sacramento Historic District. Once more, your host tonight will be the Placerville KOA.
- Day 13 On your way to your next destination, visit the Marine World Africa USA in Vallejo. In this combination of wildlife park and oceanarium the animals, accompanied by their trainers, wander freely throughout the grounds. Check into the San Francisco N/Petaluma KOA.
- Day 14 Today you can explore the wilderness of Point Reyes National Seashore with its earthquake trails leading along the San Andreas Fault. Later in the day head for the famous Napa valley and try some Californian wine on a wine testing tour. Again, your host tonight will be the San Francisco N/ Petaluma KOA.
- Day 15 Take the route along the ocean to Mendocino. A rocky coastline, the deep blue ocean, quaint resort villages and occasional stands of redwood characterize this section. Relax on Manchester State Beach and check into the Manchester Beach/Mendocino KOA, your host for the next two nights.
- Day 16 Drive east today to Lake Mendocino, which offers great opportunities for fishing, boating, sailing, swimming and jet skiing. At the adjacent wildlife habitat try to spot black-tailed deer, gray fox or wild turkey. Again, tonight you will be staying at the Manchester Beach/Mendocino KOA.

- Day 17 Take a different way back and follow the road through Cloverdale and Napa and enjoy the semi-wooded mountain terrain, which slowly merges into Napa Valley and its famous vineyards. Once you arrive in San Francisco, check into the hotel where you will be staying for the remainder of your vacation. To get a first impression of the city, go to the Coit Tower, which offers a glorious view of the Bay and Golden Gate Bridge. At Fisherman's Wharf, try some seafood in one of the multiple restaurants and fast-food stalls.
- Day 18 Take a city tour on a Cable Car or a boat ride to the prison island of Alcatraz, which closed in 1963 and now attracts visitors for a glimpse of its unhappy past and superb view of the bay. In the evening enjoy an oriental dinner in Chinatown, the oldest Chinese settlement outside of China.
- Day 19 Visit the Golden Gate Bridge, reddish-orange symbol of San Francisco, completed in 1937 which is more than 3 miles long. Other sights to visit might include Lombard Street, the cannery, Embarcadero and Twin Peaks.
- Day 20 Return your motorhome and enjoy a safe trip home.