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Photograph by Tai Power Seeff

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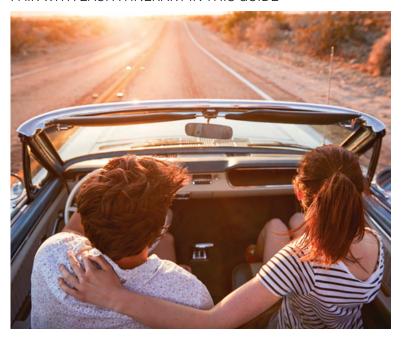
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Your Road Trip Soundtrack

CHECK OUT OUR CUSTOM SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS THAT PAIR WITH EACH ITINERARY IN THIS GUIDE



HOW TO LISTEN

Scan these codes within the Spotify app to listen to each playlist



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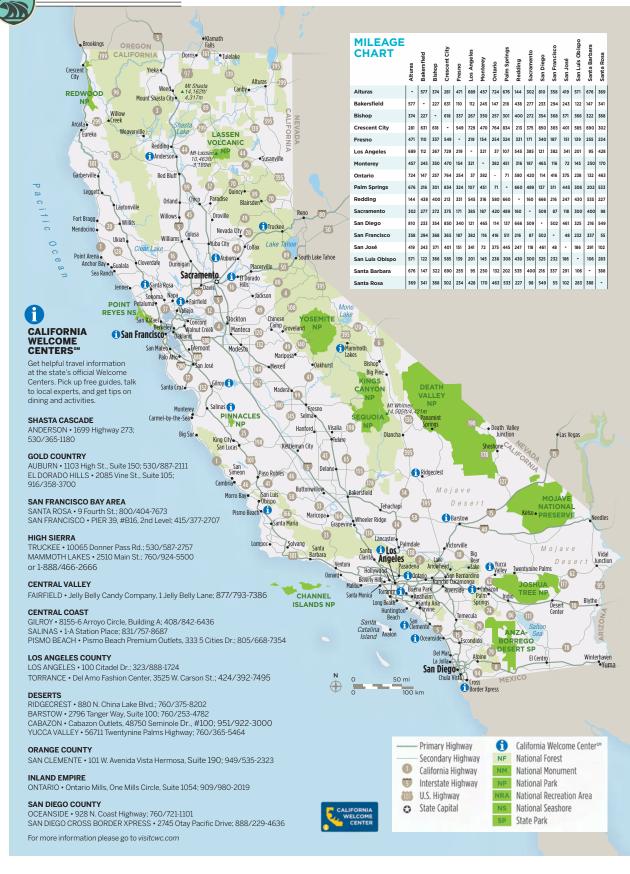
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Hold your phone's camera over this smart code for a digital version of this guide.

ROAD TRIPS 2022



IF YOU'RE HAPPY & YOU KNOW IT

...hit the road to San Diego and show it. With miles of coastline, majestic mountain ranges and unique neighborhoods to explore, you'll find plenty of stops and spots across this beautiful beach city to kick your trip into a happier gear.

A visit to San Diego just feels good. And so will you.







8 TIPS FOR TIMING YOUR TRIP Make the most of off-season travel

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How to maximize your positive impact, wherever you go

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24 WHAT TO PACK Elevate your journey with the right gear for the road

independent stores



HOW TO PLAN AN ECO-FRIENDLY TRIP

GO EASY ON THE ENVIRONMENT—AND BOLSTER THE PLACES YOU VISIT—WITH THESE FOUR TRAVEL TACTICS

1) Embrace "slow travel."

Slow travel (aka mindful travel) is an approach that emphasizes connecting to local people, environment, and culture. Traveling this way makes a vacation more meaningful, and it's good for the places we visit.

Think of it as traveling deeply rather than widely. Drop the rigid bucket list and stop trying to score the most Insta-worthy shots. Stay longer at a single destination rather than rushing around to cover ground. You'll have more time to immerse yourself in local culture and nature, and you'll develop a deeper appreciation and respect for the region.

Adopting a slow-travel mindset naturally leads to a lower-impact visit. When done right, your vacation could actually help to protect the place you're visiting.

2) Choose eco-conscious accommodations.

Search out hotels that have been designed. constructed, or renovated using eco-friendly techniques, or lodgings that commit to green practices like conserving water or reducing waste. Ecofriendly accommodations are often certified by an independent third party like LEED, Green Seal, Green Key, or Energy Star. California has hundreds of eco-friendly hotels, including SCP Seven4One Hotel in Laguna Beach, Mendocino's Stanford Inn by the Sea. San

Diego's Hotel Indigo. Healdsburg's h2hotel, and San Francisco's Orchard Garden Hotel.

3) Drive greener.

Consider renting a hybrid or electric vehicle. Most major car rental companies offer eco-conscious vehicle options, and since 2021, Hertz is leading the pack in electric vehicles. They're adding 100,000 Tesla Model 3 sedans to their rental fleet; many of them are already on the road. Driving an electric car reduces carbon dioxide emissions-find charging stations at chargehub.com.

4) Pledge to be a good visitor.

We all want to be conscientious visitors, but sometimes we don't

know how. That's why we launched the California Responsible Travel Code, which encourages visitors to help protect the state's natural resources and local culture (visitcalifornia.com /respect).

Destinations like Big Sur, Truckee, Lake Tahoe, and Sonoma County have their own visitor codes or pledges on their websites. Common themes include "leave no trace," "stay on marked trails," and "spread kindness."

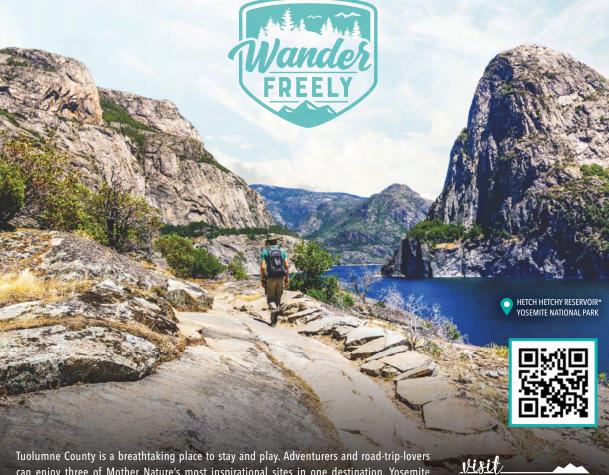
Before your trip, gather your travel companions together and commit to a visitor pledge. If you're road-tripping with kids, designate them as pledge monitors. They'll make sure everyone in the car honors their commitment to a sustainable vacation.





"When done right, your vacation could actually help to protect the place you're visiting."





can enjoy three of Mother Nature's most inspirational sites in one destination. Yosemite is a one-of-a-kind experience that's surrounded by towering trees and some of nature's best sights. Historic Gold Country awaits with opportunities to pan for gold or partake in shopping, live performances and more. Plus, adventure abounds through hiking, biking or horseback riding in the unforgettable High Sierra. **VisitTCToday.com/RoadTrips**









TIPS FOR **TIMING YOUR TRIP**

OFF-PEAK TRAVEL, MIDWEEK STAYS, AND EVEN EARLY-MORNING **OUTINGS CAN HELP YOU AVOID** THE CROWDS—AND SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIES



WINE COUNTRY

For your best chance at VIP treatment at Napa Valley and Sonoma County's top tasting rooms, visit from January to March. These guieter months are what the locals call "mustard season." when the vineyards are blanketed in brilliant yellow flowers and a new growing cycle begins. It's the easiest time of year to score lastminute tasting reservations.



NATIONAL PARKS

Want to see a soulful landscape that most visitors never get to witness? Visit Yosemite and Sequoia and Kings Canyon on non-holiday dates from October-March. It's easier to get lodging reservations, and you won't bump elbows at popular overlooks. In Joshua Tree or Death Valley, schedule a December or January visit. Winter nights offer amazing stargazing and cool-weather camping.





In destinations like Lake Tahoe, Mammoth Lakes, and Big Bear, businesses are often overwhelmed with visitors during summer and winter. But that's not true in the shoulder months (March to May and September to November). Schedule an off-season trip to help to sustain a yearround economy. Plus: It's easier to find hotel deals in October than in January.



BEACHES

California's coastline has dependably mild weather year-round, so why limit yourself to summer days at the beach? Los Angeles and San Diego often see warm days in February. You'll have the same brilliant sunshine and soft sand as in July, but with easier access to parking and sunset-over-waves vistas. Note: If getting in the water is a priority, you're better off sticking to summer.

3 REASONS TO TRAVEL MIDWEEK

Why you should think beyond the weekend getaway

1. SAVOR **ALONE TIME**

If you want to lounge solo by a hotel pool on a balmy afternoon or have scenic hiking trails all to yourself, opt for a Tuesday instead of Saturday.

2. NAB A SOUGHT-AFTER TABLE

Boost your odds of getting into a buzzy restaurant by requesting a midweek reservation for 7:30 p.m.—a nearimpossible feat on a Saturday.

3. SCORE **HOTEL PERKS**

Many hotels offer discounted rates Sunday through Thursday nights, or they'll throw in free perks like complimentary parking or a free extra night.



Buckle Up

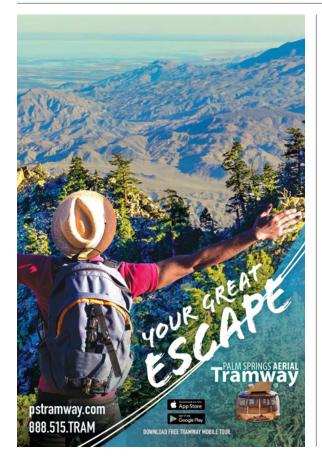
And Choose Your Road!

In California we believe "Buckled in is Where We Are Most Free." Choose Redding to stay a few days while road tripping along the scenic byways across eight counties leading to one of 14 national designations and state parks. Every road leads to a lake, river, waterfall, vineyard, volcano or stunning view. You choose your road trip, we'll supply the freedom; because in California we believe in pushing the odometer more than the speedometer.

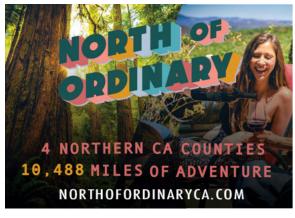
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REGENERATIVE TRAVEL 101

ADD MEANING AND PURPOSE TO YOUR VACATION BY STRIVING FOR A NET-POSITIVE TRIP

ant to take sustainable travel to a higher level? On your next vacation, go regenerative and leave your destination better than you found it.

"Regenerative tourism is travel that not only does no harm, but also protects and enhances," says Dr. Gregory Miller, executive director of the Center for Responsible Travel, a nonprofit in Washington, D.C.

Regenerative travelers seek out "tour operators and accommodations that focus on stewardship of natural and cultural resources," Miller says. They also support regenerative farms, wildlife care centers, conservation organizations, and land trusts—groups that focus on restoration.

"California has been in the vanguard of sustainability. It's not just 'let's put a fence around it and maintain whatever is left.' A place can only get to true sustainability if we improve the vitality of plants and animals, improve the cultural and historical features."

Regenerative tourism is a win for visitors, too. You'll engage more deeply with your destination when you participate in these positiveimpact travel experiences:

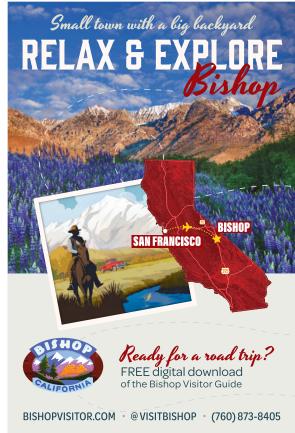
Join an Eco-Tour

Conservation-minded tours can be an important first step toward regeneration. Marine scientist Ida Kaller-Vincent, who leads kayaking, birding, and whale-watching tours with Ocean Connectors in San Diego, says eco-tours help visitors to understand and appreciate threatened landscapes—and that often leads to action.

"You don't protect what you don't love, and you don't love what you don't know," she says. "When you connect with nature on an eco-tour, there's a shift in how you see things."

FROM TOP: SORAYA MATOS/COURTESY BE LOVE FARA











"Research shows that when you give back, you'll have a higher level of trip satisfaction," says Jessica Blotter, CEO of Kind Traveler.

Ocean Connector's ecotours have a major side benefit: Tour fees pay for marine education programs for youth in underserved communities.

Naturalists lead eco-tours throughout the state. In Lee Vining, join a Mono Lake Committee walking tour to learn about the ancient lake's vital ecosystem. In Mendocino, explore the Big River Estuary by canoe. In Carlsbad, visit Agua Hedionda Lagoon to learn about sensitive coastal wetlands. At Terranea Resort, kavak the Palos Verdes Peninsula coastline while you help clean up the kelp forest.

Visit California's Regenerătive Farms

California has more than 70,000 farms, but some are doing a lot more than growing the food we eat. Regenerative

farmers and vineyard managers restore and care for their land through practices like fertilizing with compost, selective grazing, and minimized plowing.

Marissa LaMagna, founder of Bay Area Green Tours, says regenerative farming is difficult work with a big payoff. "It's really a labor of love," she says. "But these farmers are working toward the future, creating a natural ecosystem, and making their farms sustainable."

Since 2008, LaMagna's nonprofit has led farm tours where "you learn what it means when you go to a farmers' market or u-pick farm, and why it's important to support the local food economy. And you get to really connect with the land."

You can support farmers by touring their fields or booking a farm stay. Visit Tablas Creek Vineyard in Paso Robles, which

produces biodynamic wines with the aid of cover crops, compost, owl boxes, and grazing sheep and alpacas. Tour Vacaville's Be Love Farm to learn about its practicesminimized tilling, composting, and planting perennial crops. Or explore Moorpark's Apricot Lane Farm, star of the 2019 documentary The Biggest Little Farm, where more than 200 varieties of fruit and vegetables grow on land that was nearly fallow two decades ago.

Help Local Nonprofits

Jessica Blotter, CEO of Kind Traveler, says, "Most travelers want their travel dollars to have a positive effect on the destinations they visit." That's why her company's booking platform partners with more than 100 charities. When you book a hotel through Kind Traveler, you'll donate \$10 to organizations like Charlie's Acres Farm Sanctuary in Sonoma, Surfrider San Luis Obispo, and Newport Beach's Ocean Institute.

If you're a DIY traveler, making a positive impact can be as simple as picking up trash or volunteering a few hours at local nonprofits. In Huntington Beach, join Surfrider Foundation's harbor and beach cleanups. In San Jose, sort and box food at Second Harvest Food Bank. In Lake Tahoe, help to build trails with Truckee Donner Land Trust or join the League to Save Lake Tahoe's bike trail cleanups.

No matter how you go about it, Blotter says that doing good on vacation results in feeling good, too. "Research shows that when you give back, you'll have a higher level of trip satisfaction."





PLWRERS ASECAMP:

San Diego Zoo

Feel what it's like to be wild! Wildlife Explorers Basecamp is a world of immersive play and adventure for Wildlife Explorers of all ages. Get ready to explore!



Scan QR code to learn more.





11 DESERVING DESTINATIONS

IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT CALIFORNIA IS A PIONEER IN GREEN INITIATIVES AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS. HERE ARE 11 DESTINATIONS THAT ARE DOING THEIR PART TO HELP.

EUREKA The city has 14 parks, including the 67-acre Seguoia Park and its Redwood Sky Walk, a series of bridges and platforms 100 feet above the forest floor • The Eureka Waterfront Trail offers six miles of wildlife education and recreation along Humboldt Bay • An active port, Eureka's restaurants serve locally harvested seafood including oysters, salmon, and crab

TRUCKEE & LAKE TAHOE Take Care Tahoe ambassadors roam the lake's trails and Truckee's historic downtown to promote responsible recreation • Truckee has more than 50 electricvehicle charging stations and 93

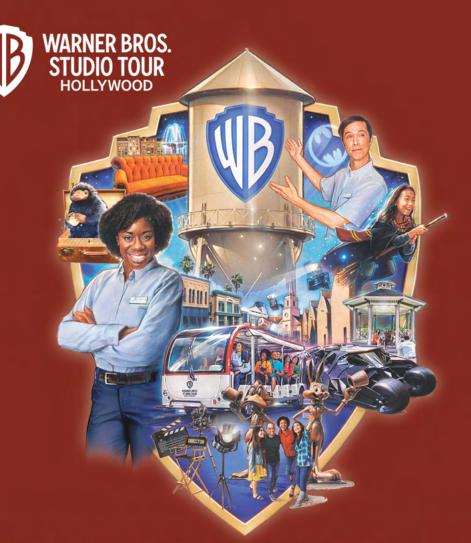
miles of bike paths, street lanes, and routes • TART Connect is North Lake Tahoe's free shuttle service, which allows people to leave their cars behind and ride to dining and attractions • South Lake Tahoe is adding paved paths to connect existing trails, including the new South Tahoe Greenway • The Keep Truckee Green program places solar-powered compacting trash bins throughout Truckee's historic district

SONOMA COUNTY Sonoma County Winegrowers is the world's most sustainable winegrowing region, with 99 percent of the county's vineyards certified as sustainable • Benziger Winery was the first in

the county to become certified biodynamic • Silver Oak Winery's Alexander Valley and Oakville production facilities are LEED Platinum certified . The Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport is 100 percent solar powered



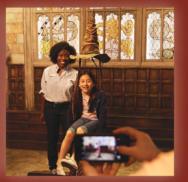
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SACRAMENTO As America's Farmto-Fork Capital. Sacramento has more than 25 regional farmers' markets, including the state's largest certified farmers' market • The Golden 1 Center Arena's farm-to-fork food program sources meat and produce locally • Many of Sacramento's more than 50 breweries send their used mash to livestock farms for animal feed • The city has the country's greenest cityvehicle fleet, with more than half of its 2,300 vehicles running on green, low-carbon energy • The SAFE Credit Union Convention Center is LEED Silver certified

SAN FRANCISCO
San Francisco
Municipal
Transportation Agency
(MUNI) operates the largest
fleet of zero-emissions electric
trolley buses of any U.S. transit
system • Bay Area Rapid Transit

(BART) trains are 100 percent electric • The city is ranked as the No. 2 best large U.S. city for biking • In 2007, San Francisco became the first U.S. city to ban single-use plastic grocery bags • The city's composting program collects more than 500 tons of food scraps per day and turns them into fertilizer

MONTEREY The Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program has educated diners about sustainable seafood choices since 1999 • Monterey County hosts 13 weekly farmers' markets • Salinas Valley's Scheid Family Wines uses wind turbines to power its operation and 120 surrounding homes • Ventana Wildlife Society works to protect the California condor. a bird that was nearly extinct but now can be seen soaring over Big Sur and Pinnacles National Park • More than 90

businesses are part of Monterey County's Green Business Program

BIG BEAR The Southern California Mountains Foundation Program connects people to public lands through education, stewardship and environmental citizenship • The Care for Big Bear campaign inspires residents and visitors to care for the natural environment Volunteers keep Big Bear Lake's shoreline and beaches clean through the Adopt-a-Shoreline program • The Adopta-Trail program maintains clean trails in national forest lands

LOS ANGELES
L.A. has more electric vehicles and more Energy Star-certified buildings than any other
U.S. city • The Los Angeles
Convention Center, The Broad art museum, the J. Paul Getty







Museum, and The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures are all LEED certified . L.A. has ranked as America's No. 1 solar city for six of the past seven years • By 2028, L.A. will plant 90,000 trees citywide • It is the first city to repurpose plastic bottles to repave its streets · L.A. uses the nation's first hybrid-electric street sweepers

GREATER PALM

SPRINGS Greater Palm Springs' wind farm in San Gorgonio Pass contains more than 4,000 windmills and provides enough electricity to power the entire region • The Coachella Valley Water District recycles more than 2 billion gallons of wastewater annually • Sunline Transit Agency fuels

- its buses by low-emission compressed natural gas or noemission hydrogen and electric
- · The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens composts all human and animal food waste on site

• Two Bunch Palms is North America's first carbon-neutral spa resort

IRVINE This masterplanned city has 300-plus miles of on-road bike lanes, 50-plus miles of off-road trails, and 16,500 acres of parks and dedicated open space • It's home to the historic Irvine Ranch, a National Natural Landmark featuring 50,000 acres of protected land laced with hiking and equestrian trails • Irvine has one of the highest percentages of solar-powered homes among U.S. cities • In 2021, it became the third California city to pledge carbon neutrality by 2035

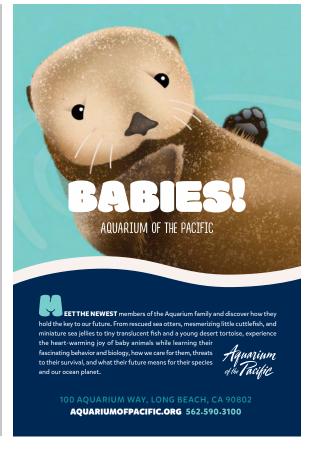
SAN DIEGO San Diego International Airport has the world's first LEED Platinum-certified commercial

airport terminal . In 2021, the San Diego Trolley opened its expanded UC San Diego Blue Line with nine added stations • More than 5,000 farms are spread throughout the county, with dozens of farmers' markets held each week • San Diego Zoo Global is one of the world's largest animal conservation organizations · San Diego County has more than 120 hiking trails throughout its parks, coastlines, and forests











SHOP LOCAL TO GIVE BACK

DIRECTLY SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITIES

ART & MAKERS

JUNK GIRLS

San Luis Obispo

This whimsical spot is owned by two assemblage artists who scour garage sales and junkyards to give discarded objects new lives as furniture, jewelry, and art. Among the treasures are lamps made from tractor grills, working clocks made from broken ones, and rings made from silver spoons. junkgirls.com

CRAFTED

San Pedro

Get your handcrafted goods at this Port of Los Angeles emporium, home to more than 100 individual artisans. Stroll through a maze of makers' shops housed in a lofty 1940s warehouse to browse, buy, or take an artmaking class. craftedportla.com

BESPOKE

Truckee

Seamstress and ecostylist Heather River curates "functional art"—clothing, jewelry, stationery, and home decor-handmade by independent artisans. Feel good knowing that your purchase supports Truckee's art scene and helps artists make a living. bespoketruckee.com

SF MERCANTILE

San Francisco

Nothing is mass produced at this "anti-souvenir" shop. The Haight Street boutique sells keepsakes made by Bay Area artisans—California poppy coin purses, surfing bear onesies, sea otter bamboo dinnerware, and cable car pillows. sfmercantile.com





SACRAMENTO SHOP AT ATRIUM 916

Sacramento

Old Sacramento's eclectic cafe features upcycled art from local creatives. Unwanted magazines, tires, and takeout containers find new purpose as paper sculptures, paintings, and fashion. sacramento.shop

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

KILLER DANA

Dana Point

Like many hometown surf shops, this 30-year-old store plays a big role in preserving Dana Point's rich culture by holding contests, demos, movie nights, and art festivals. You can also buy or rent skimboards, wetsuits. beach chairs, and more. kdsurfshop.com

BENNETT'S **HONEY FARM**

Fillmore

Check out a working beehive at this Ventura County honey farm. At the 100 percent solar-powered facility, you can sample raw and unfiltered honey or shop organic products such as candles, lotion, and lip balm. bennetthoney.com

CHILDREN'S BOOK WORLD

West L.A.

Since 1986, CBW has been stimulating young minds with picture books, fairy tales, young adult novels, and stories that inspire. The shop overflows with 80,000 volumes and offers free puppet shows, musical acts, and a book recycling program. childrensbookworld.com

MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM STORE

Monterey

Browse sustainable products like bamboo utensils and stainless steel straws as well as upcycled goods-earrings made from surfboard resin, wallets made from plastic





bottles, and bags made from repurposed netting. shop.montereybay aguarium.org

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Mendocino

Your kids will put down their phones to pore over this shop's robotics kits, ant farms, telescopes, volcanobuilding sets, and other brain-tickling goods. Want your kids to get excited about nature? Buy them their first pair of binoculars. outofthisworldshop.com

APPAREL & HOME

EMPORIUM WESTERN STORE

Bakersfield

For more than a century, this Central Valley institution has been the go-to for pointy-toed boots and silver belt buckles. Shopping for a cowboy hat? Choose one from the 2,000-plus inventory, then have the store manager steam it so the brim curls just the way you like it. emporiumwesternstore.com

BOSWORTH & SON

Geyserville

Four generations of Bosworths have worked or still work—at this 1911 general store. Poke around to find the perfect Stetson hat, locally produced honey, or just the right hardware. bosworthandson.com

OLDE IVY ANTIQUES

Carlsbad

In days gone by, it wasn't called recycling—each generation simply passed on their most intriguing stuff to the next. Japanese glass fishing floats? Wooden juggling pins? You'll find them—plus more modern coastal decoramidst the offerings of the 22 booths in this antiques mall. oldeivyantiques.com

SEASIDE GALLERY AND GOODS

Newport Beach

Local artists, designers, and entrepreneurs came together to create this small collective and community gathering place. They sell an array of housewares and apparel and host workshops for everything from charcuterie-board-building to ukulele-playing. seasidegalleryandgoods.com

THREAD SPUN

Encinitas

Browse this boutique's fair-trade home goods, ethically sourced jewelry, and sustainable apparel with the knowledge that everything is made by independent designers. Thread Spun's house brand is made in San Diego by women who arrived in the U.S. as refugees. Ten percent of all profits go to charity. threadspun.co

REAP & SOW

Oceanside

This family-run business makes eco-conscious living fun. The owners source wellness, personal care, and household products that are free of ingredients you can't pronounce, and everything is plasticfree and zero-waste. shopreapandsow.com

CACHE CREEK LAVENDER

Rumsey

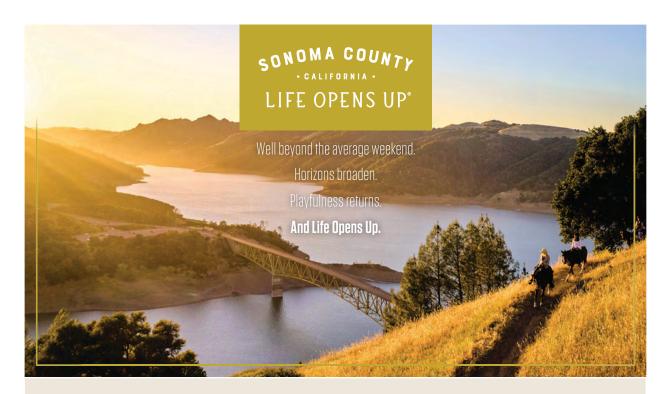
This family-run farm harvests small-batch organic lavender to make essential oils, bath salts, and soap as well as culinary goods like salt and tea. Browse the inventory or just wander around and inhale the heady aromas. cachecreeklavender.com

PETALUMA SEED BANK

Petaluma

You don't need a green thumb to enjoy browsing this shop's colorful art and garden decor. But the big draw is the more than 1,000 varieties of heirloom, non-hybridized seedsincluding rainbow-colored tomatoes and rare Italian squashes. rareseeds.com /petaluma-seed-bank





VISIT PETALUMA

Begin your wine country adventure in historic
Petaluma where riverfront charm meets Hometown
USA. Enjoy boutique and antique shopping, hike and
bike amazing trails, and discover a foodie paradise.
Make Petaluma your home base and explore the
coast, wineries, and redwoods.
707/769-0429 · VisitPetaluma.com

THE INN AT THE TIDES

This seaside destination is a place to relax and breathe. Set along the Sonoma Coastline, 86 guest rooms, two restaurants, a warm swimming pool, spa and meeting facilities, provides an ideal sanctuary for rejuvenation and relaxation.

707/875-2751 • InnAtTheTides.com

MARIN FRENCH CHEESE CO.

The country's oldest cheese company, Marin French Cheese Co. has been handcrafting award-winning soft-ripened cheeses with California milk since 1865. Stop by to try cheese, enjoy our Café and Shop, and picnic by the pond. Open 7 days a week. 707/762-6001 • Marin French Cheese.com

SAN FRANCISCO NORTH/PETALUMA KOA CAMPGROUND RESORT

All styles of camping for all styles of fun. RV, Tenting, Cabins and Tiny Houses. Pool, Hot Tub, Bounce Pillow, Rock Wall, Petting Farm, Bocce, Dog Friendly. Near everything. 707/763-1492 • PetalumaKOA.com

CHARLES M. SCHULZ MUSEUM

Step inside the world of Charles M. Schulz, creator of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the *Peanuts* Gang! See original *Peanuts* comic strips up close, explore Schulz's studio, watch animated specials in the theater, and enjoy exhibitions and activities for all ages.
707/579-4452 • SchulzMuseum.org

WINEGROWERS OF DRY CREEK VALLEY

Ideally situated in northern Sonoma County, just 70 miles from San Francisco, Dry Creek Valley welcomes visitors to explore 70+ wineries offering signature Zinfandels, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and more, anchored by the charming town of Healdsburg.
707/433-3031 • drycreekvalley.org













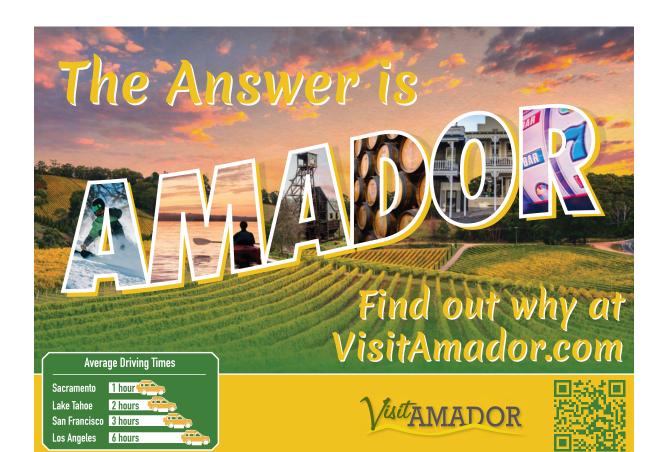
SONOMA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA.

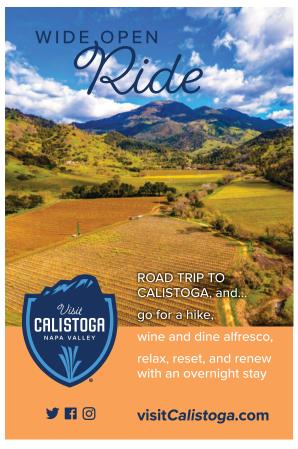
LIFE OPENS UP

Isn't it about time for a road trip to Sonoma County? Come explore our stunning natural landscape and discover unique experiences designed to renew, revive and restore.











GILROY

Gilroy is the "Garlic Capital of the World" and home to popular attractions including Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park, Gilroy Premium Outlets, 30+ wineries, hiking and biking trails, championship golf courses, and an eclectic variety of restaurants, boutiques, and breweries in Gilroy's historic downtown.

visitgilroy.com | 408/842-6436





MORGAN HILL

Take a sip at one of California's original premium wineries, pick heirloom stone fruit right from the tree, vibe downtown over alfresco cuisine from a Michelin-Star chef, and pedal or pack your way through abundant open space like Northern California's largest State Park, Henry W. Coe. There, that's more like it!

visitmorganhill.org | 408/915-7659

SANTA CRUZ

Surf's up in Santa Cruz County! California's iconic beach town is not only graced with 29 miles of coastline, but coastal redwood forests too. Known for its classic west coast vibe, fresh air trails, boutique wineries, farm-to-table experiences, and sun-drenched beaches, Santa Cruz County is the perfect spot to unwind.

visitsantacruz.org | 800/833-3494



ROARING CAMP RAILROADS

See California's giant redwood trees from two historic railroads. Ride steam trains to Bear Mountain or Beach Trains to Santa Cruz. Visit an 1880s logging town in Felton, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains between San Francisco and Monterey Bay. Trains run daily.

roaringcamp.com | 831/335-4484



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Drives Drives

GRAB A COMPANION, CHOOSE AN ITINERARY, AND EMBARK ON AN EPIC GOLDEN STATE ADVENTURE

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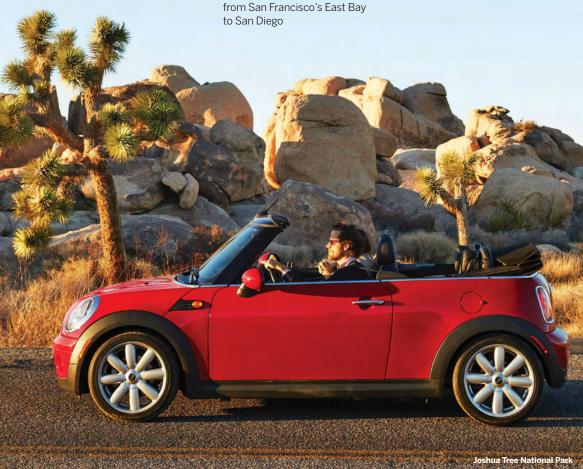
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50 A GEEK'S GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA

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54 shasta CASCADE LOOP

The northernmost part of the state delivers a bewitching array of natural wonders





WINTERS to MENDOCINO • 150 MILES • 3-5 DAYS

WINE TO WAVES

Wind along Highway 128 from the San Joaquin Valley's farms to Napa and Sonoma's vineyards. Then let the Navarro River guide you through towering redwoods to Mendocino's craggy headlands.

WINTERS

Sleepy farm town? No way. Main Street brims with eateries, so kick off this trip with a full belly. Start with a Mayan mocha at Steady Eddy's and move on to huevos rancheros at Putah Creek Cafe. Walk it off at Putah Creek Nature Park, then stock up on snacks at Winters Fruit Tree.

ST. HELENA

Follow curvy Highway 128 across the Vaca Mountains to this wine-centric town, 40 miles west. At Hall St. Helena, learn how organic farming results in topshelf Cabernet. Drink up mountaintop vistas and crisp Chardonnay at Pride

Mountain Vineyards, then splurge on a sophisticated dinner at Acacia House.

CALISTOGA

Roll eight miles north and catch a whiff of sulfur from Calistoga's spas. Detour onto Lincoln Avenue to soak in mineral-rich mud or bliss out with a massage. Stroll past Victorian storefronts, survey Ca'toga Gallery's Venetian-style art, and tour Schramsberg Vineyards' caves, filled with bottles of bubbly.

GEYSERVILLE

Highway 128 winds past numerous wineries before arriving at this laid-back hamlet. Admire Geyserville Avenue's 27 outdoor sculptures. Sip Bordeauxstyle blends at Mercury Wine or taste IPAs at Corner Project Ales. Swim in two pools at Francis Ford Coppola Winery and marvel at the movie memorabilia.

CLOVERDALE

Mendocino

Philo

Boonville

Just 10 minutes away, Cloverdale embraces hipster hangouts and vintage Americana. Order a matcha latte at Plank Coffee. Dine on Trading Post's comfort food or Hamburger Ranch's old-school burgers. Rest up at the 1880s Old Crocker Inn.

BOONVILLE

The road swoops into Boonville, famous for its quirky vibes. Book a wine-and-cheese tasting at Pennyroyal Farm and get acquainted with adorable goats. Drink fruit-forward gose and play disc golf at Anderson Valley Brewing Company's 30-acre beer park. Swing by Paysanne for artisan ice cream.

PHILO

Cloverdale

Geyserville

Take off your sunglasses as the road tunnels into shady redwoods. Walk among the trees at Hendy Woods State Park, then savor a bon vivant's lunch at The Bewildered Pig. Taste Pinot Noir among Handley Cellars' colorful folk art.

Calistoga

St. Helena

AREA OF DETAIL

Winters

MENDOCINO

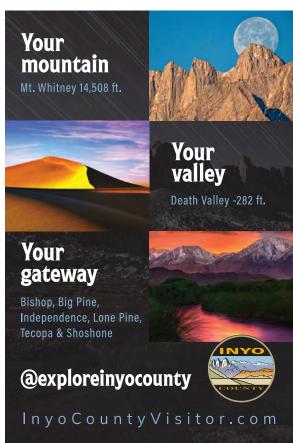
Meet up with the coast and trace Highway 1 along the bluffs to artsy Mendocino. Walk among the graceful Victorians, shop for gifts at Highlight Gallery, and linger over lunch at Goodlife Cafe. Then heed the ocean's call and wander the wavesculpted headlands.



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HIGH SIERRA ESCAPE

Gaze in wonder at Yosemite's thunderous waterfalls, soaring granite cliffs, and titanic sequoias on this jaw-dropping drive. Then cross the Sierra Nevada's crest to discover strangely beautiful tufa formations and a wealth of alpine lakes and peaks.

FRESNO

Kick things off at this gateway to the Sierra. Explore the flourishing art scene—survey Fulton Street's murals and the Fresno Art Museum's collections. Attend a concert at the 1928 Warnors Theatre, or see the Fresno Philharmonic perform. Dip into farm-tofork culture at Heirloom.

OAKHURST

Follow Hwy. 41 north into the sun-kissed foothills. Pick up maps and local intel at Yosemite Madera County Visitors Center, then cruise to pine-studded Bass Lake. Rent a kayak, paddle to the rope swing, and plunge into crystal-clear waters. Zip back to town for brick-oven pizza and IPAs at South Gate Brewing Company.

FISH CAMP

Ease into the pines as you zigzag north on Hwy. 41's curves. Stop to board the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad and chug through conifer-clad woods, then savor sweet dreams at Tenaya Lodge.

YOSEMITE **NATIONAL PARK**

You'll need at least two days to revel in Yosemite's mind-boggling scenery. Start with a walk among the Mariposa Grove's giant sequoias. Steer your car north through dense forest to Tunnel View's dazzling vista of domes, waterfalls,

and pinnacles. In Yosemite Valley, picnic by the Merced River at Sentinel Beach. Keep pushing east on Hwy. 120 toward Tuolumne Meadows' wildflowers, but be sure to stop for a swim in blue Tenaya Lake.

LEE VINING

The most thrilling stint comes next-a precipitous 3,000-foot descent over Tioga Pass. Waiting at the bottom of this spine-tingling drive is U.S. 395, the village of Lee Vining, and the 700,000-year-old Mono Lake. Walk the shoreline trail from the Old Marina site past otherworldly tufa formations. Before departing town, score fish tacos at Whoa Nellie Deli.

JUNE LAKE

Only 15 minutes south, detour for a drive around the June Lake Loop—you'll

see four alpine lakes and uncountable summits from your windshield. To get closer to the beauty, hike to the aspen-lined Parker Lake. Refuel with cheesy goodness at June Pie Pizza.

MAMMOTH LAKES

Swing south on U.S. 395 for another 20 miles to the Eastern Sierra's largest resort town. Head to Mammoth Mountain to bike on zippy single-track. Ride the shuttle bus to Devils Postpile National Monument to marvel at an astounding lavacolumn formation and shimmering Rainbow Falls. Celebrate your adventures with cocktails at Shelter Distilling, pho at Noodle-Ly, and some rest at the Westin Monache Resort.



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SACRAMENTO

The capital city blends Gold Rush heritage with culinary panache, and you'll find both in walkable tree-lined neighborhoods. Meander along Old Sacramento's wooden sidewalks, then steer your wheels across the American River on I-80.

NEWCASTLE

Cruise the Placer Wine & Ale Trail's grasslands, peppered with vineyards. Pull in at Hillenbrand Farmhaus Brewery, a farm growing hops and fruit for farm-to-bottle beers. Pair one with a tri-tip sandwich from the on-site food truck.

AUBURN

Gain elevation as your car climbs into the Sierra foothills to this adventurous town. Tour the Placer County Museum inside a golden-domed courthouse, taste Auburn Alehouse's pilsner and Ikeda's pie, then roll south along Hwy. 49's hairpin turns.

PLACERVILLE

Take a break from the twisty road to tour a real mine at Gold Bug Park and taste cheese at Jollity Farm Goat Dairy. Refuel with elevated comfort food at The Independent, then retreat for sweet dreams at Eden Vale Inn.

PLYMOUTH

Steer past sun-dappled vineyards in Amador Wine Country. Detour up Shenandoah Road to sip

robust Zinfandel and fruity Barbera at picnic-friendly Terre Rouge and hilltop Helwig Vineyards. In early summer, daylilies bloom at Amador Flower Farm.

SUTTER CREEK

Brake for laid-back sophistication at this tidy enclave: Nab a veggie wrap at Sina's Backroads Cafe, then walk-and-sip at Main Street's 10 tasting rooms. Browse antiques at Tigby Hill Vintage and artisan goods at Fine Eye Gallery.



VOLCANO

Slingshot east on Ridge Road to this sleepy town. Stock up on Kneading Dough Bakery's breads. Tour Black Chasm Cavern, a cave that's wowed visitors since the 1850s. Dine on mac 'n cheese at Volcano Union Pub + Inn, an 1880s boarding house, then zip back to Hwy. 49.

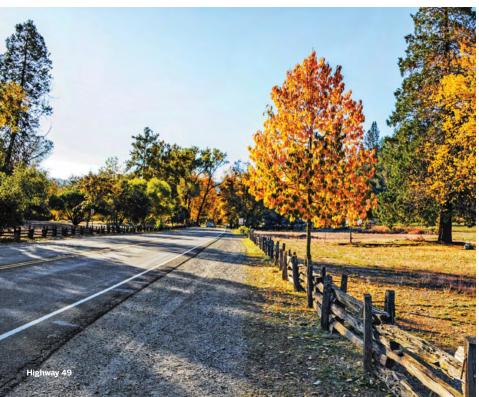
MURPHYS

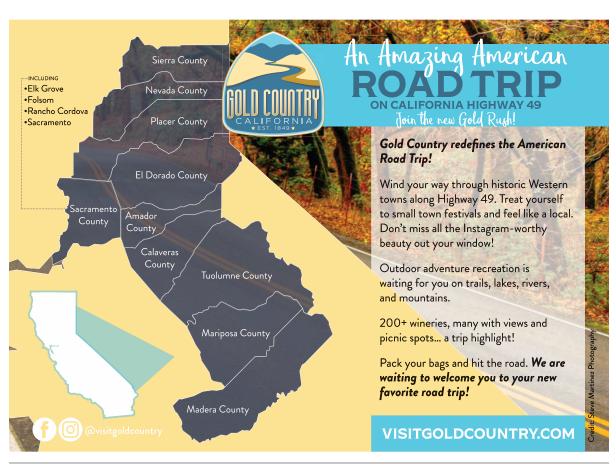
More curlicues await as you cross the Mokelumne River. Veer northeast to Murphys' manicured Victorians and shaded patios. Shop for adobo and saffron at The Spice Tin, sample olive oil at Marisolio, and swoon over Lavender Ridge's wine-and-cheese pairings.

COLUMBIA

Cross the 350-foot-high Parrotts Ferry Bridge to old-timey Columbia, which doubles as a state historic park. Shops evoke simpler times: Find handmade wares at Seven Sisters Soap & Candle Co. and time-traveling toys at Columbia Booksellers. Ride the stagecoach or walk the cobblestone streets (no cars allowed).











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SOCAL SPLURGE

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LAGUNA BEACH

Settle in to a cottage at The Ranch at Laguna Beach, then cater to your whims: Ride in a golf cart to Aliso Beach for a ceviche lunch. Plav nine holes on The Ranch's eco-friendly golf course. Head into town to browse coastal-inspired art at Pacific Edge and Las Lagunas galleries.

NEWPORT BEACH AND COSTA MESA

Wind upcoast past Crystal Cove State Park's sparkling strand, then veer inland, Let a pro curate your custom wardrobe at Fashion Island's Personal Shopping Style Suite. Track down the perfect accessories—Furla, Louis Vuitton, Moynat—at Costa Mesa's South Coast Plaza. Your modern French dinner awaits at Michelinstarred Knife Pleat.

LONG BEACH/ **CATALINA ISLAND**

Zoom 15 miles north to Long Beach and board

one of IEX Helicopters' choppers. Soar over the Pacific for 15 thrilling minutes to touch down on Catalina Island. A driver whisks you to Lover's Cove, where you hop on a private, semi-submersible boat to admire the marine preserve's colorful fishes.

LOS ANGELES

Zip over to Petrossian for caviar, then grab a cocktail at Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills' rooftop bar for cityscape views. Leave the world behind at Hotel Bel-Air, a Spanish Colonial gem that has housed movie stars and rock legends.

VENTURA

Head north on Highway 1 along Malibu's mansiondotted beaches and Ventura's endless seascape. Take a break at Ventura Harbor Village, a picturesque collection of shops and sailboats. Board the Dreamer for a harbor cruise, then stroll over to Le Petit Cafe's patio for a latte.

MONTECITO

Another 30 miles of beachfront driving delivers you to this bougainvilleadraped village. Join the ranks of American royalty with a stay at San Ysidro Ranch, where you can walk miles of private trails and book an in-room massage. Dinner is on the terrace at Stonehouse, famous for its 12,000-bottle wine cellar.

SANTA BARBARA

Spoil yourself with a bubbly brunch at Scarlett Begonia—mimosas paired with organic deviled eggsthen wander the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Skip over to Leadbetter Beach to savor a private picnic arranged by Santa Barbara Picnic Company. Cruise north 14 miles to The Ritz-Carlton Bacara. You'll have just enough time for tennis before winding down with a rosy Pacific sunset.



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GROUP DESERT GETAWAY

JOURNEY WITH YOUR PALS FROM LOS ANGELES TO THE DESERT'S WEIRD-AND-WONDERFUL LANDSCAPE ON THIS MULTIDAY TRIP

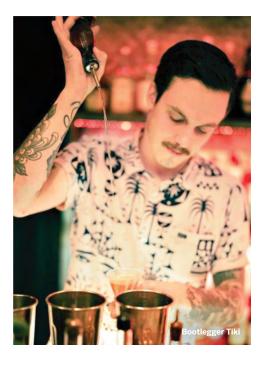
tart with a full day in Los Angeles: Fuel up with avocado toast at Lo/Cal Coffee, then swing by the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures to practice your acceptance speech for the film you'll someday star in. Zip over to the Arts District to explore a labvrinth of staircases and catwalks outside Walt Disney Concert Hall and nosh on Guisado's nopales tacos.

Rise early the next day for the 60-mile trek to Riverside, where Tio's Tacos serves breakfast chilaquiles amid whimsical outdoor art. Walk among the sublime succulents at UC Riverside Botanic Gardens, then continue east through Cabazon, home of "The World's Biggest Dinosaurs." Score a group photo with Dinny (an apatosaurus with

a gift shop in its belly) and Mr. Rex (a T. rex, obviously).

Arrive in Palm Springs and check in to the Kimpton Rowan Hotel, a sleek venue that's within walking distance of the city's hotspots. You'll need a few days to lounge by the rooftop pool, eat lobster-andeggs Benedict at Spencer's, sip mezcals at Tac/Quila, shop the Uptown Design District, and explore Palm Springs' tiki culture. Sip umbrella-topped drinks at Bootlegger, Tonga Hut, and The Reef.

Depart the citified desert and dip into its wild side at Joshua Tree National Park just 60 miles east. Start at the southern entrance and wind northward across vast washes bounded by muted purple hills. Take a walk to Mastodon Peak

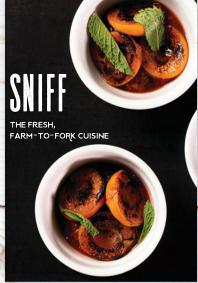












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"As you roll across miles of empty desert, take a detour to climb the sand at Kelso Dunes."

to see amazing rock formations. Pull over to admire the Cholla Cactus Garden's fuzzy flora and snap photos of graceful Arch Rock. As daylight wanes, head for 29 Palms Inn on the park's northeast border. Fall asleep in an adobe bungalow to the lonesome call of howling coyotes.

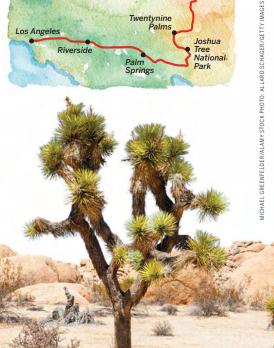
The next morning, explore Twentynine Palms' Oasis of Mara and learn how its lifegiving waters sustained the Serrano people and 19th-century cowboys, then admire desertinspired sculptures at 29 Palms Art Gallery. Sit down to a late breakfast of chorizo and eggs at Cactus Trails Cafe before swinging north to Mojave National Preserve, 90 miles distant. As you roll across vast miles of beautifully empty desert, take a brief detour to climb the silky sand mountains at Kelso Dunes. Exit the preserve at **Baker** and check the temperature on the 134-foot-high World's Tallest Thermometer.

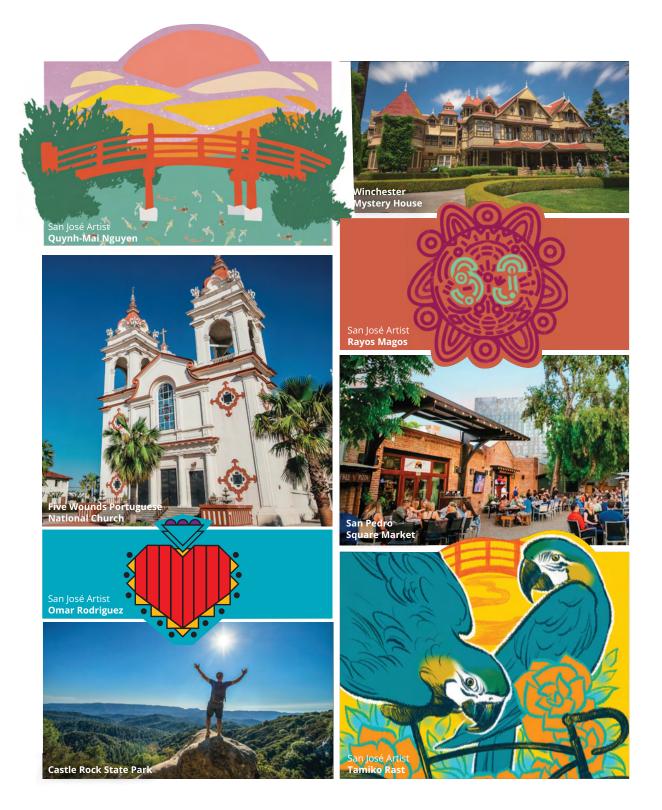
From Baker, **Tecopa** is only an hour away. Beeline to Tecopa Brewing Company for a pulledpork sandwich and whatever's on tap, then spend the night in a rustic cottage at Delight's Hot Springs. You'll have 24-hour access to steaming thermal pools and a star-studded night sky, but don't forget to sleep. Your morning destination is Furnace Creek at **Death Valley** National Park, and there's a lot to see along the one-hour drive. Make the Oasis at Death Valley your home for touring the park's surreal landscape: Marvel at mineral-tinted sediments at Artists Palette, walk across Badwater's sun-bleached salt flats, and watch a glowing sunset over Zabriskie Point's badlands.



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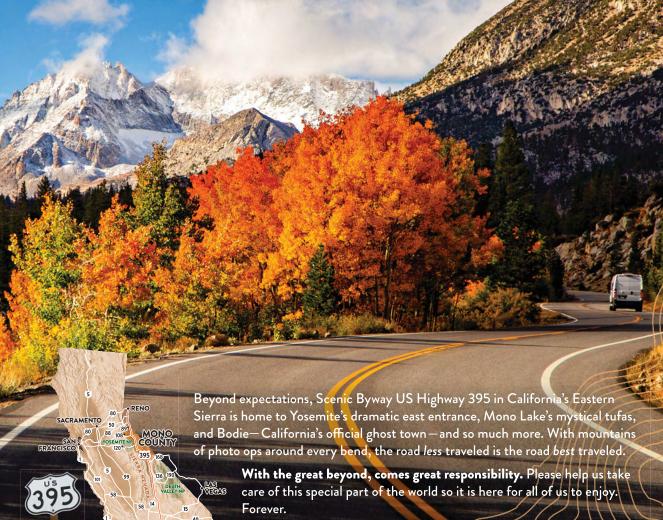


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- 24 Marin French Cheese Company
- 25 Mono County Tourism Commission

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f you have a travel companion with autism or sensory processing challenges, this thoughtful itinerary—inspired by the folks at Visit Visalia—will help you explore attractions from San Francisco's East Bay to San Diego with confidence. Each destination is a Certified Autism Center where staff members understand guests' needs and can help your family have a great trip.

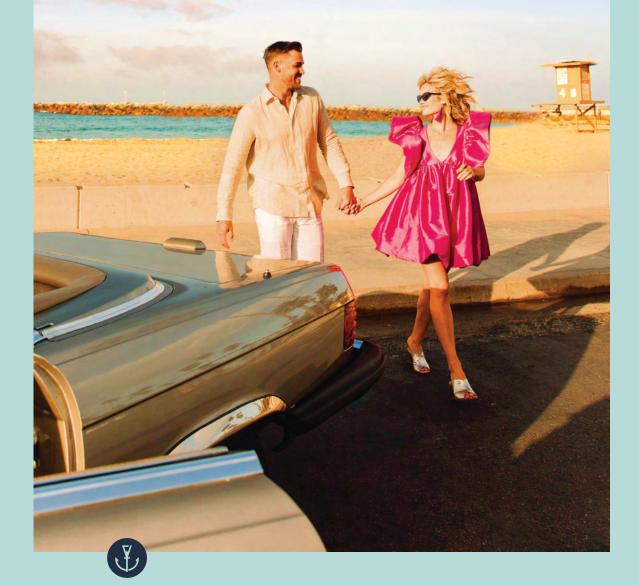
Kick off your adventure in Concord, 30 miles northeast of San Francisco. At Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, the whole clan can slide and surf on water rides. Float on four-person rafts on the Big Kahuna, or splash around in Breaker Beach's ocean-style waves. Want to chill out? Cruise down the mellow Kaanapali Kooler Lazy River.

Journey four hours south on Hwy. 99 to Visalia. Get last-minute travel tips at the Visit Visalia Welcome Center, California's first tourism organization to become a Certified Autism Center. Soak up some sunshine at Valley Oaks Golf Course, where your child can take one-on-one golf lessons, or splash around at Sequoia Springs within Visalia Adventure Park. Then head for a quiet room at Hampton Inn Visalia. The staff will provide an expedited check-in process and low-sensory space for breakfast the next morning.

For your next stop, zoom a little more than 150 miles south to the roller-coaster wonderland at Valencia's Six Flags Magic Mountain. Kids can soar, dip,



IN THIS CASE, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DESTINATION NOT THE JOURNEY.



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and swoop on rides and shake hands with Justice League and other comic-book heroes. Younger ones can choose their favorite of the Grand American Carousel's 46 colorful horses. Ready for some rest? Check in to Hilton Garden Inn Valencia.

The next morning, detour west to the coast to reach Santa Barbara. Ride the miniature train at the Santa Barbara Zoo, then explore the Australian Walkabout exhibit. Your family will stroll right past free-roaming kangaroos, emus, and wallabies. In the afternoon, head to East Beach to watch the volleyball players or a cottoncandy sunset, then tuck in for the night at Mar Monte Hotel.

Roll on for about two hours to Los Angeles so your musicloving kids can explore the Grammy Museum, California's first museum designated as a Certified Autism Center. See Rihanna's costumes, Janis Joplin's psychedelic 1965 Porsche, John Lennon's glasses, and Stevie Wonder's harmonica. Kids can record their own singing and rapping tracks and remix their own songs. Grab

> dinner at nearby Smashburger, then check in to JW Marriott L.A. Live.

For your trip's last leg, motor two hours south to Chula Vista and visit California's newest theme park, Sesame Place San Diego. Little ones can hop on themed rides, splish-splash at Big Bird's Beach, and snag a photo with Elmo and his furry friends. All ages will find this park appealing thanks to its mix of classic water-park fun, rides,

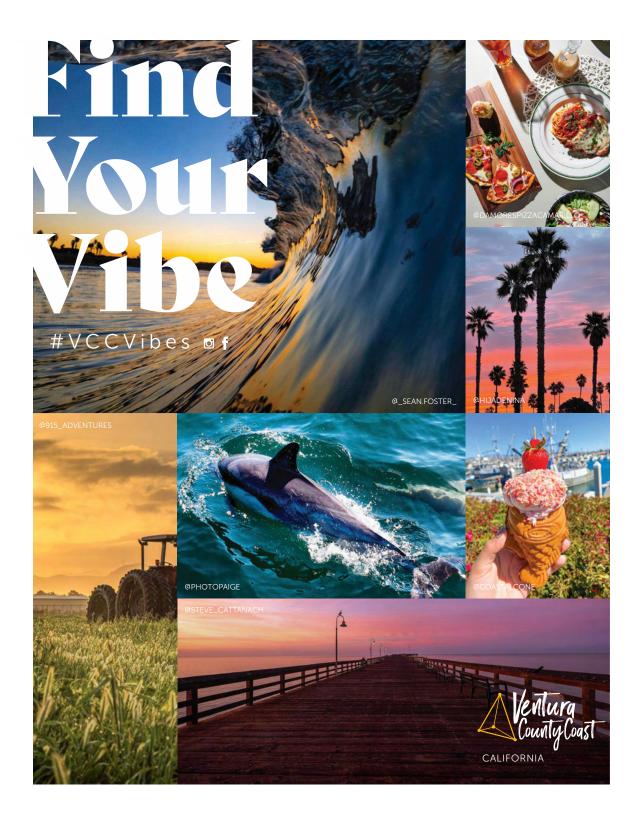


and timeless characters. Before your visit, download the park's sensory guide to plan activities that your child will enjoy.

Before you travel, register your autistic travel companion for an IBCCES Individual Accessibility Card to help expedite your trip. accessibilitycard.org









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Return of the Jedi



A GEEK'S GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA

FOLLOW THIS TOUR FROM NORTHERN REDWOOD GROVES TO SAN DIEGO'S COMIC-CON MUSEUM

alifornia's otherworldly North Coast qualifies as a true geek mecca given that three iconic science-fiction films—Return of the Jedi, The Lost World, and E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial—all shot pivotal scenes here.

George Lucas filmed in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, located in Del Norte County, and the speeder chase featuring Luke Skywalker took place in Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park in Humboldt County.

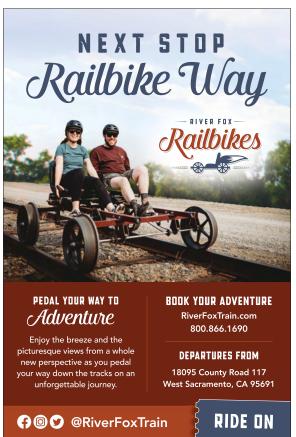
Steven Spielberg also capitalized on the region's unique landscapes. You can't visit the exact spot where E.T. made his final call home—it's located on private property—but you can retrace the steps of dinosaurs at both Sue-meg State

Park north of Trinidad and Fern Canyon in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

After exploring these film locations, make your way 250 miles south to Sonoma County, where a comic-strip icon is a major draw: Charles M. Schulz,

creator of the *Peanuts* gang, spent 30 years in **Santa Rosa** and his presence can be felt (and seen) at the Charles M. Schulz Museum, the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport, and in historic Railroad Square. Enjoy a pint of Pliny the Elder at the Russian River Brewing Com-











"Expect to encounter Black Panther and members of the Wakanda elite guards performing elaborate drills."

pany's Windsor location before bedding down for the night.

Wake up with a Milky Way blend at **Sebastopol**'s Retrograde Coffee and then head south on Highway 101. You'll cross the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco, a forwardlooking city that serves as the future home of Starfleet Command in the Star Trek universe. There's plenty to take in here, including the Walt Disney Family Museum and Lucasfilm headquarters, both in the Presidio, as well as the Cartoon Art Museum in Fisherman's Wharf.

There's so much to see along the vibrant Central Coast, but let's stay focused on caped crusaders and mystical beings. In Los Angeles County, head to Universal Studios Hollywood, home to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. After gulping down some Butterbeer, take a spin on Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey. In addition to some fantastic

comic-book shops, L.A. is also home to Icons of Darkness, the world's largest privately owned collection of science-fiction and horror-movie memorabilia.

As you continue south, Disneyland Resort in Anaheim is next. Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge encompasses 14 acres within Disneyland Park, and its two showcase rides-Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance and Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run-are true showstoppers. Avengers Campus, situated within Disney California Adventure Park. evokes the headquarters and training grounds featured in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Expect to encounter Black Panther and members of the Wakanda elite guards perform-

> The Wizarding World of Harry Potte

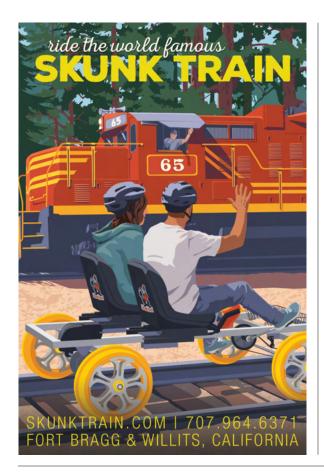


ing elaborate drills.

The final stop on this statelong tour is San Diego's Balboa Park, home of the new Comic-Con Museum. Getting a badge to attend the annual summer convention is nearly impossible. but the museum is an accessible alternative that attracts cosplay aficionados year-round. Suit up and explore, true heliever!









START AT THE WELCOME CENTER

Placer County's 1,400-square-mile landscape offers so much to explore that knowing where to go and what to see can be a challenge, whether you're after an adrenaline-filled adventure or a delicious, picture-perfect wine tasting. With local knowledge and a variety of tourist information, the California Welcome Center in historic downtown Auburn is the perfect place to start your journey.

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SHASTA CASCADE LOOP

UNTAMED AND UNCROWDED. THE NORTHERNMOST PART OF THE STATE DELIVERS A BEWITCHING ARRAY OF NATURAL WONDERS

hether you drive a 30foot RV or a two-seater coupe, this trip delivers far-flung adventure in California's least populated regions.

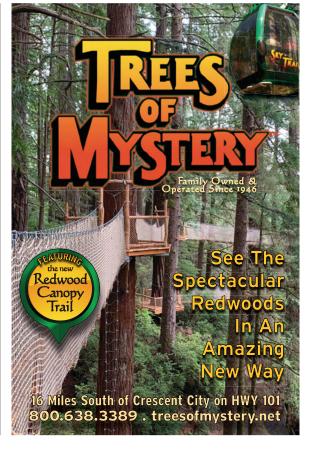
Start your trek in leafy Redding, the region's largest city. Survey the nature exhibits at Turtle Bay Exploration Park's eco-museum and traipse across the Sundial Bridge, a dramatic work of engineering that also keeps time.

Grab an award-winning espresso at local cafe Theory Coffee Roasters, then drive 20 miles east on Hwy. 44 to Shingletown's Wild Horse Sanctuary, where wild horses and burros roam. After a tour or a trail ride, continue to Lassen Volcanic National Park. a beautifully volatile land of geothermal features and a now-sleeping volcano. Visit the Loomis Museum to learn about Lassen Peak's 1914 eruption. Set up camp at Manzanita Lake and walk its tranquil shoreline trail at sunset.

Follow Hwy. 89 north 14 miles to Old Station, where JJ's Cafe serves the best vegetarian hash for 100 miles. Walk through a pitch-black lava tube at Subway Cave (in Stub Toe Hall, use a flashlight). Camp alongside Hat Creek, one of California's best fly-fishing









"Savor the view before pushing on to Castle Crags State Park, where towering granite pinnacles poke through the sky."

streams. Prefer a bed? Backtrack to Gordon's Rim Rock Ranch to sleep in a cozy cabin or motel-like room.

Keep heading north through a sea of pines to McArthur-**Burney Falls State Park** Marvel at 129-foot-high Burney Falls, a misty cataract that gushes 100 million gallons of

turquoise water every day.

Point your rig northeast on Hwy. 299-you're headed to California's quietest corner, where cowboys still ride the range. Drive 90 miles through boundless meadows and ranchlands, then sit down for burgers, fries, and local gossip at Auction Yard Cafe in Alturas. Take a



peek at the atmospheric Niles Hotel saloon, then wind uphill into the Warner Mountains. Sleep in the pines at Mill Creek Falls Campground and rise early for a walk to shimmering Mill Creek Falls.

Backtrack to Alturas and drive 60 miles west to Lava **Beds National Monument.** where volcanic tablelands are dotted with hundreds of lava tube caves. Duck. twist. and crawl your way through a dozen or more off Cave Loop Road, then camp at Indian Well Campground (bring binoculars

to scan for lazuli bunting).

Two hours of twists and curves brings you to Mount Shasta City, with its unimpeded vista of Mount Shasta's massive volcanic cone. Savor that view with a cappuccino at Seven Suns before pushing on to Castle Crags State Park, where towering granite pinnacles poke through the sky. Hike the challenging Crags Trail to Castle Dome's base or opt for a gentler walk alongside Root Creek.

As you drive past Lake Shasta, brake for one more natural wonder: Lake Shasta Caverns are studded with crystals, multi-colored fluted columns, and flowstone deposits cascading in miniature waterfalls. Take a guided tour—which includes a scenic boat ride across the lake—then cruise back to Redding and daydream about driving this loop all over again.





















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