



Touring > Driving Itineraries

GREAT PARKS OF THE WEST

Explore the contrasts of western USA - from neon to nature!

This great 24-day itinerary can be altered to accommodate any travel schedule. It includes LA, Las Vegas, the Rocky Mountains, Canada, San Francisco and a number of stunning national parks.

DAY 1: LOS ANGELES TO LAS VEGAS

Check out the Los Angeles landmarks of Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive and Sunset Boulevard. In the early afternoon, set off in your car for the vast Mojave Desert. Experience wonderful stretches of unique landscape. Slowly the lights will grow to intensity until you finally reach the craziest of all oases - Las Vegas! Driving time: Approximately 4.5 hours (435 km).

DAY 2: LAS VEGAS - HIT THE STRIP

Put on some comfortable shoes and hit The Famous Strip. It's a great way to get your bearings and absorb Las Vegas' magic! Start at the north end and head south. You'll pass the spectacular themed hotels that are more like amusement parks - some are as big as two Australian blocks! Most large hotels offer multiple restaurants, clubs, cinemas, theatres, casinos and shops - not to mention extravagant decors reminiscent of Paris, Monte Carlo, Venice, New York, Egypt and Ancient Rome. Don't be shy. Go explore!

Here are a few must-do's:

WHAT: The Volcano

WHERE: The Mirage Hotel (main entrance), The Strip

WHEN: Every 15 minutes from 6pm to midnight

PRICE: FREE

This explosive action is set in a lagoon - with towering palm trees and cascading waterfalls! When the volcano erupts, it spews smoke and fire 30 metres above the water. Look out!

WHAT: Visit a Casino

WHERE: The Strip

Las Vegas offers more than 50 casinos!

Choose one for your first taste of gaming fun.

Break up your evening with a visit to one of the

WHAT: Fountains of Bellagio

WHERE: The Bellagio Hotel, The Strip

WHEN: From 3pm

PRICE: FREE

A visual feast of over 1,000 specially lit fountains "dancing" to music ranging from Pavarotti to Sinatra.

WHAT: Visit a Casino

WHERE: The Strip

Las Vegas offers more than 50 casinos!

Choose one for your first taste of gaming fun.

Break up your evening with a visit to

one of the many talented lounge acts, which are free in most casinos.



DAY 3: MEET THE LOCAL FAUNA

In Las Vegas, even animals are presented to onlookers in larger-than-life fashion! Animal lovers will adore these incredible pit stops.

WHAT: Secret Garden of Siegfried and Roy
WHERE: The Mirage (near the Dolphin Habitat), The Strip
PRICE: Admission, US\$10, children under 10, FREE
 This mystical garden is home to six rare animal breeds, including the White Lions of Timbavati. Admission includes entrance to the Dolphin Habitat.

WHAT: Dolphin Habitat
WHERE: The Mirage (near the Secret Garden), The Strip
PRICE: Admission, US\$10, children under 10, FREE
 The 2.5 million-gallon Dolphin Habitat is home to eight Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. Admission includes entrance to the Secret Garden of Siegfried and Roy.

WHAT: Flamingos and Penguins
WHERE: The Flamingo Hotel, The Strip
PRICE: FREE
 Enjoy a taste of Africa and the Antarctic in the middle of the desert! See flamingos and penguins in this unique outdoor setting.

WHAT: Lion Habitat
WHERE: The MGM Grand, The Strip
PRICE: FREE
 A see-through tunnel runs through this wonderful habitat, allowing lions to prowl above and below you! The space is adorned with stone, indigenous trees and four separate waterfalls. Don't miss this one.

WHAT: Bird Man of Las Vegas
WHERE: The Tropics Lounge, Tropicana Hotel, The Strip
PRICE: FREE
 World-renowned animal trainer, Joe Krathwohl, is known as the birdman of Las Vegas. In this show,

his rare and exotic birds perform amazing feats including hoop diving, talking, singing, dancing, and even upside-down juggling acts.



WHAT: Shark Reef
WHERE: Mandalay Bay Hotel, The Strip
PRICE: Adults, US\$13.95, children 4-12, US\$9.95, under 4s, FREE
 Shark Reef transports visitors to a deep ocean of fantastic sights, sounds and encounters. See more than 2,000 animals representing 100 different species in 1.6 million gallons of water.

DAY 4: SHOP 'TILL YOU DROP

WHAT: Explore the Stores

There are many entertainment options in Las Vegas, but shopping is definitely a favourite with the visitors. The city offers all sorts of shopping outlets - from megamalls, to unique boutiques, to resort shopping promenades. Whether you're a bargain-hunter or label-devotee, you'll find it in Las Vegas! Contact us for your Shop Las Vegas Card. This entitles you to gifts and discounts from many Las Vegas shopping outlets.

WHAT: Hit the Town
WHERE: Rumjungle, Mandalay Bay Hotel

Frequented by chic locals and savvy out-of-towners, this place is sure to impress. Savour

specially blended rum drinks, get carried away by the rhythm of the drums, or simply soak up the seductive atmosphere of a unique Caribbean indulgence.

DAY 5: ENJOY THE HIGH CULTURE

WHAT: Visit Italy
WHERE: The Venetian Hotel

Enjoy a stroll around this magnificent building soaking up the architecture and attention to detail. Sip an espresso in St Marks Square and relax during a gondola ride through the complex's real canals.

What: Guggenheim Hermitage Museum
Where: The Venetian Hotel
When: 9:30 am - 8:30 pm daily
Price: US\$15 adults
 Visit Las Vegas's very own Guggenheim Museum and view some of the most prestigious exhibitions from the world's best artists past and present.

WHAT: The Fine Art Gallery of Bellagio
WHERE: The Bellagio Hotel

Modeled after the town of the same name in northern Italy, there is nothing fake about this hotel. It's got real marble, real plants and real class! Visit the magnificent conservatory and botanical gardens, where the displays change seasonally, before spending time in the Gallery. Originally home to over US \$300 million worth of art, this space now serves as home to visiting exhibitions.

WHAT: Barry Manilow
WHERE: Las Vegas Hilton
WHEN: Wednesday - Saturday
PRICE: US\$85-145
 See musical legend Barry Manilow in his show Music and Passion.



DAY 6: LAS VEGAS TO GRAND CANYON

Leave the madness of Las Vegas behind and head for tranquillity. Head out to Hoover Dam and Lake Mead (which was created when the Colorado River was dammed). Lake Mead National Recreation Area offers a wealth of things to do and places to go year-round. Its huge lakes cater to boaters, swimmers, sunbathers, and fishermen. While its desert rewards hikers, wildlife photographers, and roadside sightseers, continue onto one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the breathtaking Grand Canyon.
Driving time: Approximately 5.5 hours (390 kilometres).

DAY 7: GRAND CANYON TO LAKE POWELL AND BRYCE CANYON

Visit Glen Canyon Dam before crossing the Colorado River and taking in the incredible sight of towering red walls and the turquoise waters of Lake Powell. Enjoy a leisurely cruise through this amazing landscape. Continue on to Bryce Canyon National Park, where canyons form a series of horseshoe-shaped amphitheatres. Erosion has carved colorful limestone into thousands of spires, fins, arches and mazes.
Driving time: Approximately 4.5 hours (270 kilometres).

DAY 8: BRYCE CANYON TO SALT LAKE CITY

Drive to Salt Lake City, the centre of Mormon culture and religion - and host of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.
Driving time: Approximately 9 hours (620 kilometres).

DAY 9: SALT LAKE CITY TO GRAND TETONS AND YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Be sure to make a stop at Jackson, Wyoming to take a peek at the Old West before moving on to the Grand Tetons. These breathtaking peaks in the Rockies are mirrored in the still clear waters of Jackson Lake. Continue on to Yellowstone National Park, home to one third of the worlds geysers.
Driving time: Approximately 7.5 hours (430 kilometres).

DAY 10: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Spend the entire day exploring the fascinating Yellowstone National Park. Apart from the incredible geological phenomenon (there are more geysers and hot springs here than in the rest of the world combined), other treasured features of the park include the colourful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, fossil forests, and the size and elevation of Yellowstone Lake. Cultural sites dating back 12,000 years are evidence of human history in the park. More recent history can be seen in the historic structures and sites that represent the various periods of park administration and visitor facilities.

DAY 11: YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK TO MISSOULA

Keep your eye out for wildlife during today's journey, particularly for wild herds of roaming buffalo. See the Mammoth hot springs, mud paintpots, fumaroles and "Old Faithful" before continuing on to Missoula.
Driving time: Approximately 8 hours (640 kilometres).

DAY 12: MISSOULA TO GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Drive on through the Rocky Mountains to the magnificent Glacier National Park. The park contains an unusual diversity of terrain: windswept peaks, rolling grasslands, forests and alpine tundra. Wildlife ranges from marmots to mountain lions, bald eagles to grizzly bears, all living in the unique landscape carved by millions of years of glacial activity.
Driving time: Approximately 5.5 hours (300 kilometres).

DAY 13: GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TO BANFF

Cross over the border into Canada. Pass through Calgary, home of the world's largest rodeo, and on to breathtaking Banff. Marvel at Bow Falls - you can even raft down the Bow River! If you prefer to stay dry, stroll through the charming village and its magnificent setting before moving on to majestic Banff.
Driving Time: Approximately 8 hours (530 kilometres).

DAY 14 & 15 BANFF- COLOMBIA ICEFIELDS - JASPER

Take a break from driving and enjoy a day of taking in Banff's gorgeous sights. Welcome to the photographer's paradise! Look out for bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, moose and grizzly bears. Stop at glacier-fed Lake Louise. The beautiful turquoise colours will take your breath away. Visit Athabasca Glacier for a ride on the specially-designed Snocoach. Then drive on to Jasper.
Driving time: Approximately 4.5 hours (290 kilometres).

DAY 16: JASPER TO KAMLOOPS

Head across the Great Divide to Mt. Robson, the highest point in the Canadian Rockies. Take in more magnificent scenery in Kamloops.
Driving time: Approximately 6 hours (500 kilometres).

More details and information available on the www.visitlasvegas.com.au website or phone (02) 9356 2266

DAY 17: KAMLOOPS TO VANCOUVER

Follow the Trans-Canadian Highway to Vancouver. Explore the city, Stanley Park, colourful Robson Street, Chinatown and elegant Gastown.

Driving time: Approximately 6 hours (370 kilometres).

DAY 18: VANCOUVER ISLAND

A ferry ride across the Strait of Georgia will take you to the charming city of Victoria situated on scenic Vancouver Island. Visit the Butchart Gardens, 50 acres of glorious flowerbeds.

DAY 19: VANCOUVER TO SEATTLE AND PORTLAND

First stop today should be Seattle to check out the highlights of the city and some key landmarks such as the jet-age "Space Needle". Then head on to Portland, crossing the mighty Columbia River.

Driving time: Approximately 4 hours 45 mins (280 kilometres).

DAY 20: PORTLAND TO EUREKA

Head south through Oregon's heartland and the Willamette Valley and down the Smith River through the ancient forests of Redwood and Douglas Fir. Continue on to enjoy the spectacular Northern California coastal scenery to Eureka, the historic logging village.

Driving time: Approximately 9 hours (670 kilometres).

DAY 21: EUREKA TO SAN FRANCISCO

Pass the "Avenue of the Giants", an impressive forest of ancient redwood trees growing proud and tall, through the Californian vineyards and over the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco.

Driving time: Approximately 6 hours 45 mins (440 kilometres).

DAY 22: SAN FRANCISCO

Check out Fisherman's Wharf, Union

Square, Golden Gate Park, Twin Peaks and catch a boat over to Alcatraz for a walking tour through the legendary Federal Prison.

DAY 23: SAN FRANCISCO TO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Explore San Francisco's Chinatown before heading out to the magnificent valley of Yosemite National Park. The park ranges from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet and features alpine wilderness, three groves of Giant Sequoias and the glacially carved Yosemite Valley with impressive waterfalls, cliffs and unusual rock formations.

Driving time: Approximately 3 hours (210 kilometres).

DAY 24: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK TO LOS ANGELES

Travel through the foothills where California's goldrush began and on to Los Angeles.

Driving time: Approx 7 hours 15 mins (500 kilometres).



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