



Touring > Driving Itineraries

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEST

Travel from LA to San Francisco and Las Vegas and enjoy the Wild West along the way!

Shortened or lengthened, this 24-day itinerary can be tailored to suit any travel time. It offers a fabulous cross-section of experiences including beaches, cities, deserts, national parks, alpine regions, the Wild West and Theme parks.

DAY 1: LOS ANGELES - SAN FRANCISCO

Head north through fertile valleys and along the Pacific Coast. After a break at the historic Spanish town of Santa Barbara, head to the Danish community of Solvang. From there, drive up the coast to the arty community of Cambria. Continuing the trek north, drive in to Carmel-by-the-Sea, a town founded by artists that's perhaps best known for former Mayor Clint Eastwood and some fine examples of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture. As you continue the northward journey along a breathtaking

17 Mile Drive enjoy gorgeous coastline. Finally, drive through the famous Silicon Valley before arriving in San Francisco.

Driving Time: Approx 6. hours
30 mins (615 kms)

DAY 2 & 3: SAN FRANCISCO

Consistently rated as one of the world's top travel destinations, The City by the Bay is famed for its unparalleled scenic beauty, richly diverse cultural attractions and extensive gourmet food scene. Head out

to Alcatraz, Fisherman's Wharf, Union Square, the famed Chinatown and marvel at the magnificent Golden Gate Bridge.

DAY 4: SAN FRANCISCO - SACRAMENTO

California's capital since 1854, the city is rich in historic attractions. Explore Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP), the largest collection of Gold Rush-era buildings on the Pacific Coast, or the California State Railroad Museum. Drive along the riverfront or take a riverboat cruise. Tour Sutter's

Fort SHP and the State Indian Museum.

Driving Time: Approx 1 hr 40 mins (140 kms)

DAY 5: SACRAMENTO - SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Mark Twain once called Lake Tahoe "the fairest picture the whole earth affords". It really is beautiful. In summer, water sports abound on this picturesque waterway and in winter, the skiing is fabulous.

Driving Time: Approx 2 hours
45 mins (165 kms)



DAY 6: SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Relax and enjoy some of the many activities available in the area.

DAY 7: SOUTH LAKE TAHOE - YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Famous Yosemite National Park ranges from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet! It also 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 4 hours 15 minutes (213 kms).

DAY 8: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - MAMMOTH LAKES

This year-round destination on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range features Mammoth Mountain. Mammoth is home to one of the largest outdoor recreation areas in California. Hiking, biking, fishing, and kayaking are just some of the activities to enjoy while appreciating the natural beauty of this area.

Driving time: Approximately 2.5 hours (161 kms).

DAY 9: MAMMOTH LAKES - DEATH VALLEY

The spooky names featured on Death Valley maps include the Funeral Mountains, Coffin Peak, Hell's Gate, Starvation Canyon and Dead Man Pass! While this area has an unfortunate history (the names reflect the troubles and misfortunes endured by early pioneers who inhabited and mined the region last century) there is nothing scary about its beauty today.

Driving time: Approximately 4 hours (344 kms).

DAY 10: DEATH VALLEY - LAS VEGAS

Enjoy more arid desert, complete with Joshua trees, on route to the oasis that is Las Vegas. Cruise the famous Las Vegas Strip and be amazed by the incredible "theme park" that the city really is. Many of the world's most prized travel destinations are represented along this central street – from the Pyramids of Egypt to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Wash away the desert dust, and hit the streets to check out the town first hand.

Driving time: Approximately 3 hours 45 minutes (230 kilometres).

DAY 11: EXPLORE LAS VEGAS

After walking the length of the Strip, it's time to explore inside some of Las Vegas' enormous hotels. Most large hotels offer multiple restaurants, clubs, cinemas, theatres, casinos and shops - not to mention extravagant decors. Don't be shy. Go explore! Some of the highlights not to be missed include:

What: Sirens of TI
Where: TI - Treasure Island Hotel, The Strip
When: 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Price: FREE The Sirens of TI is the newest show on The Strip. Created by award-winning director and choreographer Kenny Ortega, the production features a clash between a group of beautiful, tempting sirens and a band of renegade pirates. Be awed by the music, dance, excitement and seduction in this modern musical-meets-action-movie spectacular.

From daring swordplay to high-diving acrobatics and eye-popping pyrotechnics, the show is packed with countless thrills.

What: Eiffel Tower
Where: Paris Hotel
When: 10:00 am - 1:00 am (weather permitting)
Price: US\$9.95

A signature of the Las Vegas skyline, the replica Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas is an exact reproduction of one of Europe's most famous landmarks, rendered meticulously at 1/2 scale. Our Eiffel Tower Experience allows you to ride to the top, where you'll have a stunning, panoramic view of the valley, from 460 feet above the ground. Along the way, an experienced elevator operator will point out can't-miss Vegas landmarks, as well as address any questions you may have. And don't miss the Eiffel Tower Restaurant, located on the 11th floor, for breathtaking views of the Strip.

Tickets available at the Box Office and at the Eiffel Tour gift shop.

DAY 12: LAS VEGAS SHOP 'TILL YOU DROP

WHAT: Hit the Stores

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

WHAT: Take the Star Trek Experience

WHERE: The Las Vegas Hilton
Break up your shopping spree with a trip to outer space. From the moment you embark on your deep space adventure you will see, feel, touch and live the 24th century world of Star Trek. Watch out for Spock!

What: Shadow: A Bar
Where: Caesars Palace
When: Evenings

This evening have a few drinks at Shadow: A Bar at Caesars

Palace. Dancers project their image on screens as they dance provocatively behind them.



DAY 13: CATCH A FEW THRILLS

WHAT: The Sahara Hotel and Casino

WHERE: The Strip
The Sahara's Speed-The Ride is the fastest roller coaster in Las Vegas. Moving at 112 kilometres per hour, it features a breath-taking loop and zips through the Sahara Marquee before repeating the exhilarating experience in reverse. Phew!

WHAT: Nascar Cafe
WHERE: The Sahara Hotel and Casino, The Strip

Turn your high-speed driving dreams into a reality at the Café's gynomous Las Vegas

Cyber Speedway.

WHAT: The Gamblers' General Store

WHERE: 800 S. Main St

Visit the largest gambling superstore in the world for some souvenirs! Stock up on slot machines for home, personalised poker chips and cases, award wheels, dice and cards.

WHAT: The Elvis-a-rama Museum

WHERE: 3401 Industrial Rd

See the King's blue suede shoes among thousands of other genuine Elvis paraphernalia

DAY 14: SPOIL YOURSELF

WHAT: Visit a Day Spa Before you head back to the desert spend the day pampering yourself at one of Las Vegas numerous day spas. Massage therapy, aromatherapy, fitness facilities and all sorts of special treatments should have you relaxed and ready for adventure again.

WHAT: Drinks and a Flutter
WHERE: Downtown Las Vegas

As the sun sets, head Downtown for the city's best deals on meals, drinks and lowest minimum bets. Beware; 99-cent margaritas are not uncommon in this part of town!

WHAT: Fremont Street Experience

WHERE: Fremont Street, Downtown Las Vegas

WHEN: On the hour from dusk to midnight

PRICE: FREE

Downtown is also home to the Fremont Street Experience. A wonderland of 2.1 million light bulbs, backed by a pulsating 540,000-watt sound system, it will blow your socks off! You'll also find plenty of bargain priced meals, drinks and the lowest minimum bets. Drop by the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino to view the world's largest single nugget of gold.





DAY 15: LAS VEGAS TO ZION NATIONAL PARK

Leave the glitz of Las Vegas behind and follow the Virgin River upstream into the state of Utah and Zion National Park. The massive rocks of Zion brought early Mormon settlers to their knees in awe. Towering crimson cliffs, vermilion finger canyons, and secluded hanging gardens feature in this park. Hiking is the best way to explore. Back in the car, be sure to traverse the tunnel into upper Zion to see the Checkerboard Mesa and the Great Arch, then continue into "the land of standing red rock".

Driving time: Approximately 3 hours (250 kms)

DAY 16: ZION NATIONAL PARK TO LAKE POWELL TO THE GRAND CANYON

Cross the Colorado River and Lake Powell to visit Glen Canyon Dam. The controversy surrounding the construction and the creation of Lake Powell contributed to the birth of the modern day environmental movement. Continue onto the Grand Canyon. One of the most

spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, the Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers to visitors from the rim. The Grand Canyon National Park is a World Heritage Site.

Driving time: Approximately 9 hours (520 kilometres).

DAY 17: EXPLORE THE GRAND CANYON

Enjoy the serenity of the Grand Canyon and get involved in whichever of the many available activities appeals to you most.

DAY 18: GRAND CANYON TO PHOENIX

After further exploring the unmatched serenity and beauty of the Grand Canyon, descend the Coconino Plateau via Oak Creek Canyon, stopping in Sedona – a charming town set beautifully amidst towering red rocks. Continue to the mysterious cliff dwellings of Montezuma Castle National Monument, which were built, inhabited and abandoned for unknown reasons all before Columbus' first voyage. Rest this evening at Phoenix, Arizona.

Driving time: Approximately 3.15 hours (280 kilometres).

DAY 19: PHOENIX

Enjoy the sites of Phoenix.

DAY 20: PHOENIX TO SAN DIEGO

Take one last long drive west through the desert, across the Colorado River back into California's oldest city, San Diego.

Driving time: Approximately 6.75 hours (570 kms).

DAY 21: SAN DIEGO

Spend the day exploring the attractions of San Diego and its many uncrowded beaches, breathtaking parks and world-class shopping! Enjoy marine and wildlife up close at Sea World Adventure Park San Diego, the World Famous Zoo and San Diego Wild Animal Park.

DAY 22: SAN DIEGO TO ANAHEIM

On your way to Anaheim, stop at the seaside town of Carlsbad, home to Legoland and the Carlsbad Outlet Mall.

Driving time: Approximately 2 hours (150 kms).

DAY 23: ANAHEIM

Anaheim is the home of Southern California fun. Disneyland, Disney's California Adventures, Knott's Berry Farm and Knott's Soak City USA are at your fingertips. Not to mention excellent shopping centres and nearby beaches.

Driving time: Approximately 1 hour (75 kms).

DAY 24: ANAHEIM - LOS ANGELES

The home of Hollywood, and known as the entertainment capital of the world, Los Angeles boasts an endless variety of attractions and events. Hollywood Boulevard, Universal Studios, Santa Monica and Venice Beach are just some spots not to miss.

Driving time: Approximately 30 minutes (30 kms).