

## CALIFORNIA AND THE GOLDEN WEST 14 Days 1 Country 8 Cities

DISCOVER THE CALIFORNIAN LIFE-STYLE WHILE TRAVELLING THROUGH THIS STATE THAT IS ALSO CALLED THE GOLDEN STATE.



### THE ITINERARY

#### **Day 1** Arrive Los Angeles (2 Nights)

Welcome to the land where it's always 70 degrees and sunny, California. Arriving today, you'll meet up with your Travel Director in the afternoon before getting to know Anaheim, your home for the next two nights. You'll find plenty of dining and entertainment options with Disneyland nearby.

★ Hotel - Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort

#### **Day 2** Los Angeles Sightseeing and Free Time

Ready to get stars in your eyes? This morning's sightseeing tour will show you the all-out glitz and glamour of LA, visiting the wealthy mansions of Beverly Hills, the palm lined streets of Santa Monica, the iconic Sunset Boulevard, and the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which is just a stone's throw from the beacon of Hollywood, the Dolby Theatre, home of the Academy Awards. With your afternoon free maybe explore on your own. Or try out an Optional Experience that will have you tasting fresh meat and seafood from American grasslands.

#### **Day 3** Los Angeles – San Diego

Travelling south along the coast, it won't take long for the laid-back charm and sunny disposition of San Diego to work its Cali magic on you. You'll kick things off with a sightseeing tour visiting the cultural downtown Gaslamp Quarter, the gorgeous green space of the 1,200 acre Balboa Park, and the historic Old Town, which was California's first ever settlement (and the best place for those seeking even more delicious Mexican treats). This afternoon is about exploring the city your way or taking an optional visit to the San Diego Zoo.

★ Hotel - Comfort Inn Suites Zoo SeaWorld Area

#### **Day 4** San Diego – Phoenix

Today you'll steadily climb 1,219 metres (4,000 ft) as you make your way through the arid lands of the Cleveland National Forest, tip toeing the US - Mexico border before crossing the Arizona state line into the 'Valley of the Sun', a region that boasts a massive 300 days of sunshine per year. Catching your first glimpse of the mighty Colorado River, your final destination for today is exciting Phoenix.



- ★ Hotel - Hampton Inn Suites Phoenix Downtown
- ★ Included Meals - Breakfast

#### Day 5 Phoenix– Grand Canyon – Flagstaff

You could start today with our breathtaking optional hot air balloon ride and champagne breakfast over the Arizona landscape. Venturing into the prehistoric Sonoran Desert, you'll then have your sights firmly set on one of the world's seven natural wonders, the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Listed Grand Canyon. Meeting with a Local Specialist you'll discover more about the geological formation of the Canyon, and then it's up to you how you wish to explore it further. If you want to make it extra special, we doubt you'll be able to resist our exhilarating list of Optional Experiences for this afternoon, including helicopter and aircraft flights over the North and South rims, for absolute money can't buy views of this feat of nature. Still flying high from an incredible day, you'll finish up this evening in the Arizonan escape town of Flagstaff, a laid back outpost on historic Route 66.

- ★ Hotel - Fairfield Inn Suites by Marriott Flagstaff East
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### Day 6 Flagstaff – Historic Route 66 – Las Vegas (2 Nights)

Ready to get your kicks on Route 66? Today's the day to do it. A symbol of the American dream, Route 66 has been eternally immortalized by literature and movies and still to this day represents the ultimate American road trip. You'll be stopping by Seligman and Kingman en route to Vegas, two iconic outposts that are a real taste of all things Americana, complete with classic motels, kitsch petrol pumps and steaming slices of Apple pie. Finally, as if by magic, you'll slowly spot the neon lights of Las Vegas looming in the distance; an entertainment oasis surrounded by dry desert with a reputation almost as big as the fortune's many have made (and lost) there.

- ★ Hotel - Rio AllSuite Hotel Casino
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

#### Day 7 Las Vegas Free Time

With a full day in Sin City, it's entirely up to you how to explore the entertainment capital of the world. The casinos, the all you can eat buffets, the glittering roof top pools, the biggest names in show business - they're all here for the taking. Or if you're up for it, to help tailor your Vegas experience, we've also got a whole suite of enticing Optional Experiences lined up to help you see a different side of Vegas. You could wake up early for a western style breakfast and cowboy trail ride through the mountains, or heading over to Hoover Dam to stand 900 metres above the Colorado River to admire the US's biggest man made reservoir, Lake Mead. Or perhaps a visit to the Mob Museum, or a singalong at 'Vegas! The Show' are more your style? Whatever you choose, today is guaranteed to be one to remember.

#### Day 8 Las Vegas – Visalia

Leaving Vegas a little lighter in the pocket but rich in memories, you'll head for the Mojave Desert this morning. As the driest desert in the US you'd expect nothing more than barren landscape as you drive through, so prepare to be surprised as you pass rare and beautiful flora, wildlife and the iconic Joshua Tree, which only grows right here in the Mojave. Admiring the dramatic Mojave Desert and continuing through into the San Joaquin Valley, you'll finish up today in the agricultural hub of Visalia. With a Downtown area that boasts old world charm and a wide selection of tasty restaurants, tonight's dinner will no doubt be filled with chat about what to expect from glorious Yosemite tomorrow.

- ★ Hotel - Wyndham Visalia



### Day 9 Visalia – Yosemite National Park – Modesto

Awe inspiring nature at its finest, Yosemite will challenge all other national parks you've previously visited to stake its claim as the most beautiful. The third oldest national park in the US and a UNESCO World Heritage site, this patch of heaven is all emerald green valleys, cascading waterfalls and pine scented forests, all framed by the iconic Half Dome and the imposing presence of El Capitan. Take your time soaking it all in and exploring the various trails and picnic areas before heading on to Modesto, one of the greatest agricultural areas of the nation and the home of the Ernest & Julio Gallo Winery.

- ★ Hotel - Double Tree Modesto

### Day 10 Modesto – San Francisco (2 Nights)

Feeling the ocean breeze moving ever closer you'll head back to the Californian coast today, crossing the Bay Bridge into one of the West Coast's best loved cities, San Francisco. A historical hub for progressive thinkers and creatives, San Fran's infamously hilly landscape will instantly win you over as you spy the old-fashioned cable cars slowly rising and falling on the horizon. Explore the 'City by the Bay' on a sightseeing tour that visits Fisherman's Wharf, the Palace of Fine Arts, the lush Presidio area and Italian influenced North Beach. This evening you could opt to try our Chinatown walking tour, exploring the markets, dim sum joints and herb shops of America's oldest Chinatown before dining family style at a decadent Chinese feast.

- ★ Hotel - Hotel Union Square

### Day 11 San Francisco Free Time

We hope you're hungry as you're off to a San Fran institution, Boudin Bakery, who have been producing their very special 'Mother Dough' to create sourdough loaves since 1849 for an Iconic Breakfast. Appetites satisfied, the rest of today is then free for you to explore your way. If it's icons you're after why not join us for an optional walk along the Golden Gate Bridge followed by a cruise around the bay, taking in Alcatraz Island en route, or perhaps you'd prefer to head out to Muir Woods to appreciate the towering, ancient red wood trees that grow here, followed by a visit to the pretty seaside community of Sausalito. Wine connoisseurs, you're also taken care of with a full day outing to the Napa and Sonoma wineries. Whatever you choose, make your last day an extra special one, whichever way you choose to explore.

- ★ Included Meals - Iconic Breakfast

### Day 12 San Francisco – Carmel – Monterey – Pismo Beach

Hugging the Pacific coastline you'll make your first stop today in Carmel-by-the-Sea. A former heaven for artists and writers, this pretty town has something of an English countryside feel to it thanks to the 1920's gable roofed cottages dotted about. After taking a stroll along Ocean Avenue, you'll journey on to Monterey, keeping a look out for seals, sea lions, dolphins and even whales on the way. A Spanish and Mexican influenced city, you'll visit Cannery Row, a place immortalized by John Steinbeck's novel of the same name that depicts the sardine canning business that was Monterey's lifeblood for the first half of the 20th century. Finally, you'll finish up in Pismo Beach, a retro town that lives by a sand and surf philosophy.

- ★ Hotel - Oxford Suites Pismo Beach



### Day 13 Pismo Beach – Santa Barbara

Venturing into the scenic wine country of the Central Coast this morning, you'll almost be able to smell the delicious pinot noir wines that are grown in this region. Drive through rolling hills and sunny valleys peppered with wineries before pulling in to Santa Barbara, where the perfect weather, red tiled roofs and bougainvillea strewn walls will have you thinking you've been transported to the Mediterranean. With an afternoon at your disposal, your first stop should undoubtedly be the 'Queen of the Missions' church, a Romanesque and still active parish church that sits perched above the city, boasting impressive Chumash artwork and mausoleums dedicated to California's earliest settlers. Craving seafood? Head to Stearn's Wharf, the oldest operating wharf on the West Coast, to take your pick of the day's catch.

- ★ Hotel - Best Western Plus PepperTree Inn Santa Barbara
- ★ Included Meals – Breakfast

### Day 14 Santa Barbara – Depart Los Angeles

Enjoy every second of the drive today as you follow the coast all the way back to the 'City of Angels', Los Angeles. You'll stop by Venice Beach for one final dose of vitamin sea, before your trip comes to end at Los Angeles International Airport. California and the Golden West, you've been unbeatable!

## ABOUT THIS TRIP

### What's included

- **13 NIGHTS** Accommodation
- **5 MEALS** 5 breakfast
- **ON-TRIP TRANSPORT** All transport shown

### Sightseeing highlights

- **CARMEL** Visit Carmel-by-the-Sea and stroll down Ocean Avenue
- **LAS VEGAS** Explore this entertainment-filled city with its grand hotels and shops
- **MONTEREY** Learn about Steinbeck's infamous Cannery Row
- **SAN FRANCISCO** Get familiar with Fisherman's Wharf, Union Square and Chinatown
- **SANTA BARBARA** Unwind in this Mediterranean style resort town along the coast and discover the downtown area
- **GRAND CANYON** Witness the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with your Local Specialist
- **LOS ANGELES** Feel like a movie star as you stroll down the Hollywood Walk of Fame and Santa Monica
- **SAN DIEGO** Visit the Gaslamp Quarter, Balboa Park and Historic Old Town
- **SAN FRANCISCO** Iconic Breakfast at the famous Boudin Bakery, a local institution since 1849
- **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** Take in the breathtaking views of the valley floor

### On every trip

Unique or exclusive to Costsaver, here's a sample of what's included in your trip.

- ✓ Audio Headsets Provided throughout your holiday to enhance your included sightseeing experiences
- ✓ Cherry-picked hotels, all tried and trusted
- ✓ City orientation tours
- ✓ All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling fees and local taxes
- ✓ Luxury air-conditioned coach
- ✓ Variety of Optional Experiences
- ✓ An expert Travel Director and separate driver

