

SAN FRANCISCO TO LOS ANGELES

Coastal Explorer

Driving Distance: 850 driving miles
Driving Time: 22 Hours Approx
Recommended Trip 13 Days

Day 1/2/3 Fly into San Francisco, check into a hotel and take a few days to enjoy the sites. Take the cable car to Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39's shops, seafood and sea lions. Catch a boat from here to visit Alcatraz, formerly the infamous island fortress and prison, now a fascinating tourist attraction. Take an invigorating walk over the Golden Gate Bridge (about 2.5 miles round trip) for spectacular views of the City and Bay. Perhaps tour the wine country of Sonoma County and Napa Valley or the giant coastal redwoods of Muir Woods and the artists' colony of Sausalito.

Day 4 Pick up your motorhome today and begin your drive south to Monterey, California's first capital. Discover Steinbeck's historic Cannery Row with its quaint shops, restaurants and attractions. See the undersea world of Monterey Bay at the giant Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Monterey's own Fisherman's Wharf, formerly a centre of the whaling and sardine industries and today lined with shops and seafood restaurants.

Day 5 Leaving Monterey take the privately owned 17-Mile Drive through the Del Monte Forest and Pebble Beach. A small entrance fee (currently \$8.00 per car) provides stunning views of landmarks such as Bird Rock, home to countless seabirds; the 250-year old Lone Cypress, and the sinister Ghost Tree, bleached white by wind and spray. Golfers will wonder at classic courses bearing famous names like Spyglass Hill, Cypress Point, and Pebble Beach itself where The Lodge is well worth a visit. Leave the area via Carmel Gate and make time to stop at the quaint village of boutiques, galleries and speciality shops. Perhaps take a walk on the white sands of Carmel Beach before continuing south. Your route takes you through spectacular coastal scenery past Big Sur and onward to San Simeon.

Day 6 Visit Hearst Castle before leaving the area. The amazing 165-room mansion, set in 127 acres of gardens, terraces, pools, and walkways, was built by William Randolph Hearst, son of a wealthy miner, and is now a state

historical monument. Daily tours of Hearst Castle start from 8.20 a.m. Your route continues via Santa Barbara and Santa Monica to Los Angeles and Anaheim, your base for the next few days.

- Day 7/8 Since the doors of Disney opened, Anaheim has become a garden resort ideally positioned for enjoyment of theme park thrills and fun. Disneyland Resort, Downtown Disney and Disney's California Adventure are neighbours while Knott's Berry Farm, Soak City and many other parks are 10 minutes away at Buena Park. In Los Angeles itself visit Beverly Hills, Sunset Strip and Hollywood Boulevard, or Universal Studios. Perhaps climb the Mount Lee Trail to the famous Hollywood sign.
- Day 9 Perhaps visit some of the famous beaches south of L.A. as you continue to San Diego. Maybe Long Beach where the elegant Cunarder Queen Mary has been restored as an attraction and floating hotel; Huntington Beach, also known as Surf City, or Newport Beach with its charming waterfront, elegant shops and restaurants. Further south La Jolla is the place for smart boutiques before you arrive in San Diego itself.
- Day 10 With a year-round near perfect climate it is the beaches, SeaWorld and the famous San Diego Zoo that are the biggest attractions. But the Old Town itself is also a 'must see'. Classified as a State Historic Park, the area is dedicated to the preservation of San Diego's history and Victorian architecture. Historic buildings, museums, theatre, strolling players and talented artists add to the atmosphere. You may wish to take a historic walking tour, offered daily from the Visitor Center.
- Day 11 Turn away from the coast today through rugged desert scenery to the Coachella Valley and Palm Springs, one of eight desert resorts set among mineral hot springs in a scenic setting of rugged canyons surrounded by snow capped mountains.
- Day 12 Relax and enjoy this world famous resort with over 300 warm, sunny days a year. Spot the homes of the famous and where they chill out. Stroll through Palm Canyon Dr, the fashionable heart of Palm Springs or head out of town to explore more of the desert. Ride the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway up Mount San Jacinto 8,516 feet above sea level and see the views of the valley below. Perhaps visit Joshua Tree National park where the bizarre twisted

trees are indigenous to high desert regions.

Day 13

Turning north again head back to Los Angeles Return your motorhome and have a safe journey home.