

CANADIAN  
*Traveller*

SPECIAL  
EDITION

# CALIFORNIA

YOURS TO DISCOVER

*IN THIS ISSUE*

**MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS,  
COAST, CITIES & DESERT:**

*These are Canadian Traveller's  
favourite Golden State experiences*



WHAT'S NEW IN  
GOLDEN  
STATE?

ATTRACTION

## Sense and Sensibility

Paso Robles welcomes a new immersive open-air exhibit titled **Sensorio**, meaning “gift for the senses.” Opening its doors in May 2019, the brand-new 380-acre exhibit features an LED light installation by artist Bruce Munro. With the help of over 58,800 solar-powered spheres, guests feel as if they’ve been transported to rolling hillsides blooming in colour. The “Field of Light” is designed to encourage visitors to engage with the environment in their everyday life. Not to mention, it makes for a pretty ‘grammable moment.



TOUR

### TAKE FLIGHT IN OCEANSIDE

Oenophiles unite (a.k.a wine lovers) to celebrate Oceanside’s newest adventures that take guests from sea to sky. For the ultimate romantic evening, hop aboard **Oceanside Adventures’ Harbor Wine Cruise** for a 90-minute catamaran ride. Indulge in delectable morsels paired with a sampling of three award-winning Beach House wines. For an experience that could be lifted from an episode of *The Bachelor*, take to the sky with **Waverider Helicopter Tours**. On a Lunch and Wine Tour, first admire views of coastal SoCal before heading inland to the Temecula Valley. Land at the famed **Thornton Winery** for a glass of bubbly and an indulgent two-hour lunch.



DINING

### PASS THE PASTA (PLEASE)

California’s first Italian Michelin star chefs are making waves at their newest residency in San Diego. Celebrated father and son duo, Antonio and Luca Abbruzzino, now call **Il Dandy** their home in the gastronomic-focused Bankers Hill area. The restaurant is a nod to dandyism, a notion of refinement, while the interior is an homage to contemporary stylings.

With a menu driven by market-fresh dishes and seasonal ingredients, perhaps another star is in their future?

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

### OVER AND UNDER WATER

Take to the depths of a newly debuted underwater dive park: the **Emerald Bay Maritime Heritage Trail**. Known as the resting place for massive barges and ships during the heyday of the Emerald Bay Resort, divers can explore four sites at depths of three to 18 metres, complete with interpretive panels. For those who prefer dry land, hop aboard the world’s first hot air

balloon to ever launch and land on water at **Lake Tahoe Balloons** for a sunrise ride.

TOURS

### ALL ABOARD THE ECO CRUISE

We love to support tour operators committed to sustainable travel, so we were pleased to learn that San Francisco’s **Red and White Fleet** recently christened Enhydra, the U.S.’s first aluminium hulled, plug-in hybrid vessel. The 38 metre, 600-passenger ship has daily departures, offering two unique tours, one of which sails directly beneath the Golden Gate Bridge for an entirely different perspective of the city’s most famous landmark

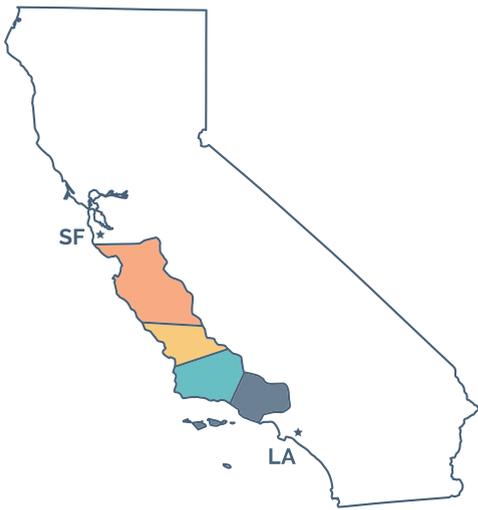
HOSPITALITY

### WHAT'S A SUSTAINABLE HOTEL?

What do you get when you mix nature, sustainable design and unmatched service? You get **1 Hotel West Hollywood**. The first mission-driven luxury hotel brand recently opened its doors at the base of the Hollywood Hills, brimming with inspiration drawn from the sea and sunshine of California. The rooms feature rustic wood paired with luxe marble bathrooms, along with sweeping views from Downtown L.A. to Santa Monica. Guests can indulge in wellness initiatives, such as the “Mind and Movement” program, a serene pool and savoury bites at Harriet’s rooftop lounge. **CT**

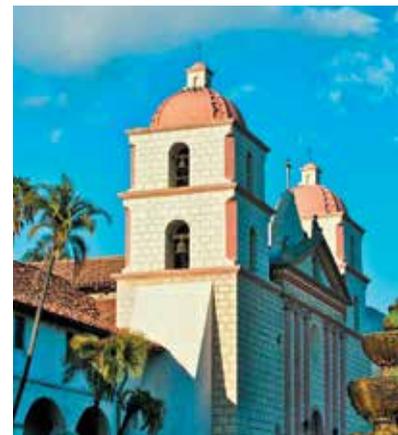
# Head out on The Original Road Trip

and experience 350 miles of the captivating California coastline



Discover why California's Central Coast has been inspiring travelers for decades. Your itinerary includes thrilling rides on a famous beach boardwalk, sips at world-class wineries and craft breweries, diverse coastal cuisine and surfing classic California beaches through a series of regions that promise unforgettable adventure.

**MONTEREY BAY, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SANTA BARBARA AND VENTURA** regions offer a road trip along Highways 1 and 101, packed with beautiful backdrops and discoveries waiting to be yours.



WHAT'S NEW  
IN CALIFORNIA'S  
**THEME  
PARKS?**

Be transported to an outpost planet in a galaxy far, far away, or plunge into the thrills of a land ruled by rampaging dinosaurs. There's plenty of choice as California's theme parks introduce a variety of fresh new experiences.



Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run

**DISNEYLAND RESORT**

Disneyland's newly opened land, **Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge**, is an immersive hyperspace jump into pure nostalgia for movie fans. Guests find themselves on planet Batuu, where they can try their hand at flying Han Solo's temperamental starship on the **Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run** ride. Next, sip blue Bantha milk in **Oga's Cantina** – Disneyland's first bar – and then tour the exotic marketplace. There's a lot to do here: build a custom droid or lightsabre, or simply marvel at all the curio and characters packed into **Dok-Ondar's Den of Antiquities**. The second Galaxy's Edge ride, **Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance**, lifts off in January 2020, sending visitors into the thick of battle where the First Order clashes with Resistance rebels.



Calico River Rapids

**UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD**

Roaring and rampaging Indominus rex and the always-hungry aquatic dinosaur Mosasaurus get leading roles alongside human movie stars Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard and B.D. Wong in **Jurassic World – The Ride**. New at Universal Studios Hollywood, it's billed as "more real and more intense" than the *Jurassic Park*-themed ride it replaces. Guests maneuver through the attraction on boats, but this is no pleasure cruise. Before boarding, interact with Blue, the superstar Velociraptor from *Jurassic World*, along with a baby raptor and her handler, and a life-size Triceratops. A new interactive **DinoPlay** area keeps young ones entertained as they excavate giant dinosaur fossils. Adults get their own spot at the new tropical **Isla Nu-Bar**, which serves island-inspired cocktails in souvenir tiki mugs.

**LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT**

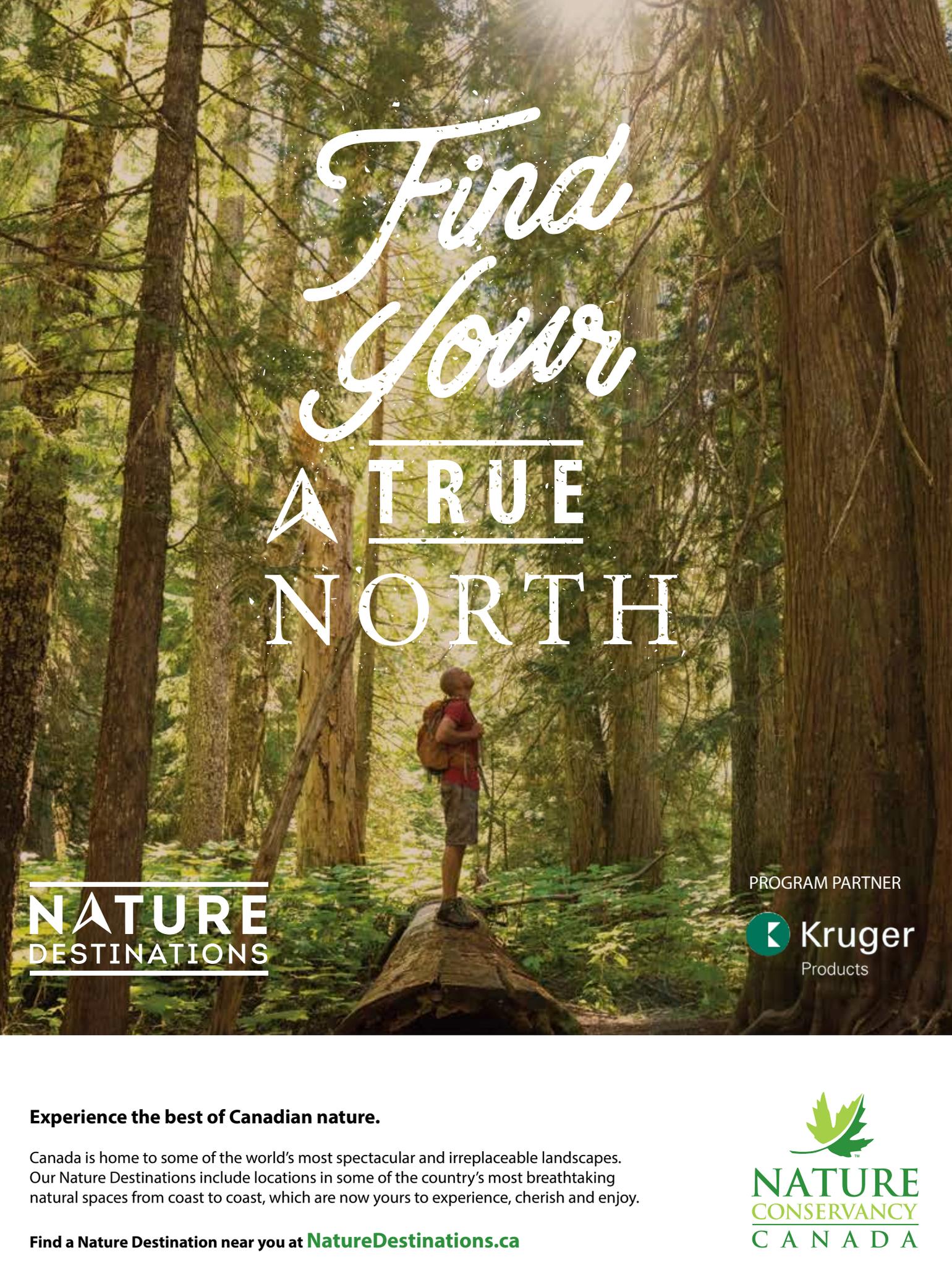
Pint-size park-goers get a big boost at LEGOLAND's new **DUPLO® Playtown**. Colourful and interactive, it's aimed at tykes five and under, with a group of playhouses to climb, slide and explore. Kids' imaginations run wild in the barn, fire station, grocery store and maze before hopping on the new **Express Train Ride**. This mini locomotive is described as a gentle introduction to theme park rides. Not to be neglected, older kids earn a full park view when they pull themselves to the top of one of three new **Kid Power Towers**, then gently slide back down.

LEGOLAND has also debuted **The LEGO Movie 2 Experience** which brings visitors onto the film's miniature movie sets. They're comprised of a whopping 500,000 Lego bricks that took Master Model Builders more than 960 hours to assemble.

**KNOTT'S BERRY FARM & KNOTT'S SOAK CITY WATERPARK**

**Calico River Rapids** circular raft ride has splashed down at Knott's Berry Farm.

The new attraction replaces Bigfoot Rapids and takes brave voyagers on a journey along the outskirts of Calico Ghost Town while encountering wild surprises along the way: roaring rapids, rushing currents, twists and turns, wildlife and peculiar homesteaders. Next door, Knott's Soak City Waterpark recently introduced two water slide towers: **Shore Break** and **The Wedge**. **📍**



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**NATURE**  
CONSERVANCY  
CANADA

Hiking at Convict Lake



## MAMMOTH LAKES

Tucked into California's High Sierra, Mammoth Lakes is world-famous for its long snow season which stretches well into summer. (You can board in your bikini, if you please!) But it's also a bona fide four-season destination.

MOUNTAINS

**IT'S SNOW JOKE.** True to its namesake, **Mammoth Mountain Ski Area** offers up an epic 1,416 hectares of skiable terrain with 28 chairlifts, two gondolas, 150 unique runs and 945 metres of vertical rise. Not only does it regularly receive the most snow in the country, ski season typically runs into July. Yes, July. Mammoth Mountain might be the official training mountain of the U.S. Olympic Team but 40 per cent of the runs are designated intermediate and 25 per cent are beginner. Canadian travellers who hold an **Ikon Pass** should pack it so they can ski for "free."

### IMBIBE MOUNTAIN VIBES.

Crisp alpine air, craft beer, après-ski and yoga; Canadians will feel right at home in **The Village at Mammoth**. Shop the retailers, lounge by an outdoor fire or enjoy one of the many festivals that take place in the plaza.

**E-BIKE THE LAKES CHAIN.** The town of Mammoth Lakes is laced with paved biking paths. Our favourite route stretches from **The Village Lodge to Horseshoe Lake** (8.3-km one-way). It's a real calf-burner (unless you load onto the free trolley) but on an e-bike, it's a total breeze. Grab a bike from the Mammoth Mountain rental shop and then glide your way up Lake Mary Road to reach the **Mammoth Lakes Basin**.

**TAKE A HIKE.** With stunning Laurel Mountain towering 1,524 metres overhead, the relatively flat four-kilometre loop trail at **Convict Lake** is a low-effort hike with high returns. The emerald-water lake is popular with trout anglers and photographers alike.

**SOAK IT UP.** After a day of skiing, hiking or biking, seek out a natural hot spring for a well-deserved soak. There are plenty to choose from, but our vote is for **Wild Willy's Hot Springs**. The pools are close to town, accessed via a boardwalk and the wraparound views of the Sierra Nevada peaks are awe-inspiring.

**BODIE GHOST TOWN.** Do you believe in ghosts? At **Bodie State Historic Park**, 170 structures stand in a state of "arrested decay," offering visitors a real feel for a California Gold Rush-era town. Wander the lonely streets and peer through the windows of the saloon, barbershop and jailhouse. Access to Bodie is seasonal so it's best to check ahead.

## SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Two neighbouring national parks with record-setting features. In Kings Canyon National Park find one of the U.S.'s deepest canyons; in Sequoia, the world's largest trees.

**STAND, HUMBLED.** The journey from the town of Three Rivers into **Sequoia National Park** is well worth the winding ride once you spot your first giant sequoia. Park at the visitor's centre and board the free shuttle to the **General Sherman Tree** trailhead. An easy, 1.3-kilometre walk takes you to the base of the largest tree in the entire world.

**SADDLE UP.** See **Kings Canyon National Park** as the pioneers did – on horseback. Charley Mills, the operator of **Horse Corral Pack Station**, has led backcountry trips here for decades. Whether you book an hour-long tour or a multi-day pack trip, it's an experience you won't soon forget.



Sequoia National Park

Mammoth Lakes is your base for outdoor adventure, less than an hour's drive from Yosemite National Park, Mono Lake and California's official ghost town, Bodie.

Take the scenic gondola to the top of Mammoth Mountain and ride the Mammoth Mega Zip down, the fastest zip line in North America. Climb the via ferrata route on Mammoth Mountain's rugged cliffs, ride bikes at Mammoth Bike Park or along 35 kilometers of paved bike trails in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, paddle on alpine lakes and hike to scenic vistas. In Mammoth Lakes, there are No Small Adventures!



# NO SMALL ADVENTURE



[visitmammoth.com](http://visitmammoth.com)



## SHASTA CASCADE

An outdoor lover's paradise, this northern corner of California boasts unspoiled beauty with towering mountains, crystal-clear lakes and thundering waterfalls.

Manzanita Lake, Lassen  
Volcanic National Park

MOUNTAINS

**(NOT) ROUGHING IT.** From your base in **Redding**, head out for rugged adventures by day but return for hip refinement at night. Get your coffee and craft beer fixes at minimalist **Theory Collaborative**, sit down for dinner at **The Mosaic Restaurant** (may we recommend the blackened ahi?) and take in a performance at the **Cascade Theatre**, a restored and historic Art Deco venue.

**GO BELOW.** Spend a few cool hours underground exploring the limestone caves of **Lake Shasta Caverns National Natural Landmark** with operator **Lake Shasta Caverns**. A two-hour tour kicks off with a brief boat ride across shimmering **Shasta Lake**.

**HIKE ABOUT.** Get a real-time lesson in physical geography at **Lassen Volcanic National Park**. There are 240 kilometres of hiking trails that offer views of boiling pools, hot pots and steaming fumaroles (volcanic vents). Visit **Lake Helen** – which sits at 2,500 metres elevation – to peer into the Milky Way. Come winter, the park transforms into a snowshoeing wonderland.

Downtown  
Bishop



## BISHOP

After leaving the stark desert landscape of Death Valley, but before reaching the granite monoliths of Yosemite, travellers pass through Bishop, a mountain town along Highway 395 that's worthy of an extended detour. Situated at the base of snowy Eastern Sierra peaks, Bishop is the perfect jumping-off point for rugged adventures that include hiking to glacial lakes, fishing in alpine streams and sleeping beneath the stars.

**FUEL YOUR ADVENTURE.** Breakfast at **Erick Schat's Bakery** is the prerequisite to a long day in the mountains. The Dutch bakery is known for its trademark Shepherd Bread® which is made with stone-ground flour and water from nearby springs. You'll also find blueberry pound cake and hearty breakfast croissants. If it's summer and it's Thursday, Friday or Saturday, make a dinner reservation at **Cardinal Village Resort** for their popular wood-fired pizza and consider spending the night in a cabin.

**GAIN SOME ALTITUDE.** Lace up your hiking boots and trek the nearby Eastern Sierra mountain trails. For panoramic mountain views and access to chilly, turquoise lakes, head to **North Lake** and hike way uphill to the 3,474-m (11,400-ft) **Piute Pass**. Another popular pass with striking alpine vistas dotted by cerulean lakes is **Bishop Pass**, which can be reached from **South Lake**. For a slightly easier day hike option, make the eight-kilometre round-trip journey to **Blue Lake** from **Lake Sabrina**.

**CLIMB ON.** Whether you're a novice or your crash pad is practically your bed, lace up your La Sportivas and go bouldering in the **Buttermilks**. You'll find world-class climbing, Eastern Sierra views and ample free camping.

**GO FISH.** The dreamy **Owens Valley** sets the stage for a trout fisherman's paradise. Enjoy year-round fishing on the **Owens River** and seasonal fishing (late spring through fall) at **Lake Sabrina, South Lake** and **North Lake**.

**CELEBRATE MULES.** Picture a rodeo – but with mules. That's the basis of Bishop's community event of the year, which takes place from Tuesday to Sunday the week before Memorial Day at the Tri-County Fairgrounds. **Mule Days** features equestrian events, live music, a parade and plenty of doe-eyed animals with big ears.

# NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe, California's largest freshwater lake is known for its snow and Olympic legacy, but come summer, it's all lake country vibes.

**VIA FERRATA.** If you've ever wondered what it's like to rock climb, via ferrata offers hobbyists a leg up. A series of steel cables and foot- and handholds are anchored into the stone, which act as both a climbing aid and safety net. **Tahoe Via Ferrata** is operated by **Alpenglow Expeditions**. Don a helmet and harness, then ascend 305 vertical metres with a professional guide to enjoy sweeping views of Olympic Valley Village.



This course is child and beginner-friendly, but the activity is considered moderately strenuous.

**GET WATERBORNE.** A summer visit to North Lake Tahoe necessitates a day on the water. Choose your speed: go stand-up paddleboarding, cruise on a pontoon boat or throttle a jet ski.

**PUMP THE PEDALS.** Near Truckee, hop on a mountain bike to pedal cross-country along the historic **Emigrant Trail**. It's an in-and-out trail offering wide, flowy single track that's suitable for beginner and intermediate riders. Didn't BYO-Bike? We recommend a guided ride with **Tahoe Adventure Company**. Meet your guide the trailhead, get fit with a bike and set off through the fragrant forest.

**LAKESIDE GOURMET.** **Tahoe City** is the beating heart of North Lake Tahoe – and the place to be when hunger strikes. The patio at **Sunnyside Lodge and Restaurant** offers generous portions of elevated pub fare and epic "alpenglow" views. Head to **Jake's On The Lake** for "mountain aloha" hospitality. We won't soon forget the ahi poke cones or the seared Bay scallops from **Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique**.

# YOSEMITE-MADERA COUNTY



Abutting Yosemite National Park's iconic south entrance, Yosemite-Madera County offers rustic charm. Think: timber frame cabins, wilderness and wildlife.

**YOUR YOSEMITE "BASS" CAMP.** **Bass Lake** is a pretty lake; not too big, not too small, but just right. It's got vacation homes and a few small resorts, but we prefer **The Pines Resort** where updated chalets evoke a wholesome family charm. It's even got a lakeside pool. For an afternoon on the water, rent a pontoon boat ("patio boat" in Bass Lake jargon) from **Miller's Landing Resort**. Got a sweet tooth? Order their "fudge bucket." Later, do dinner at **Ducey's on the Lake**. Both the scallops and grilled artichoke are enviable choices but at its heart, Ducey's is a classic American steakhouse. End the day with a sundowner on the patio.

## YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK: MILD TO WILD.

From Oakhurst, it's 72 kilometres to the heart of Yosemite National Park.

For a gentle day of touring the Valley's top sights in air-conditioned shuttle bus comfort, take a day tour with **Discover Yosemite**. Visitors will walk among the towering trees of **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**, visit the iconic **Tunnel View** and **Glacier Point** lookouts, and admire **Bridal Veil Falls** and **Yosemite Falls**. And of course, **El Capitan** and **Half Dome**. Down for a nature walk? The Valley floor is flat and accessible to almost everyone. For a vigorous hike, take the out-and-back **Four Mile Trail** (15.5 km round-trip; 975 metres elevation gain) which leads to Glacier Point. If you're up for a seriously strenuous day of awe-inspiring hiking, continue from **Glacier Point** along **Panorama Trail** to **Nevada Falls** and then descend back to the Valley floor via **John Muir** and **Mist** trails. Total distance: 26 km.

## Bishop... Small Town with a Big Backyard

Request a FREE Visitor Guide

"And that's the way it is in The West." - Garrett Spoonhunter, Tri-County Fair Rodeo @themarrows

Sometimes you balance the rock, sometimes it balances you. @dionagee

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## FRESNO

Located in the agricultural core of San Joaquin Valley, Fresno is California's fifth largest city and home to a cosmopolitan array of culture. Outdoor enthusiasts can explore fruit vines and vineyards by cycling the 100-kilometre **Blossom Trail** or fuel up on culinary delights before heading out for adventure in **Yosemite National Park**. Bring the kids and don't forget Fido in this dog-friendly destination.

### KEEP COOL

**UNDERGROUND.** To beat the Central Valley's heat, explore the cavernous tunnels and courtyards of **Forestiére Underground Gardens**. Only in Fresno can you find fruit trees growing in a subterranean estate descending as much as seven-and-a-half metres below the surface. This state landmark is more than 100 years old and was hand-built by a Sicilian immigrant.

**SIP AND SHOP.** Take a stroll through the **Tower District** to experience this lively hub of boutiques, dining and entertainment. Sample fresh baked treats at local bakeries like award-winning **Frosted Cakery**, or sip handcrafted ales at **Sequoia Brewing Company**.

Central to the neighbourhood is a luminous 1939 Art Deco theatre that now serves as a performing arts venue with everything from hard rock to opera.

**FEAST YOUR EYES.** Twice monthly, Fresno comes alive with **ArtHop** at local museums, galleries and studios. Join more than 60 artists at a social reception and throughout venues downtown. Or visit the **Fresno Art Museum**, home to a permanent Pre-Columbian collection along with revolving features. Set a date to visit during the upcoming Maurice Sendak or Andy Warhol exhibits.

**PADDLE OR PEDAL.** Rent a canoe or kayak on-site at **Sycamore Island** for a scenic leisurely paddle along the San Joaquin River. Or, challenge your cycling skills on the progressive course at **Mountain Bike Park**. Travelling with your dog? Explore eight kilometres of easy trails in **Woodward Park**, home to an authentic Japanese Garden.

VALLEYS

## GILROY

Known as the "Garlic Capital of the World," Gilroy is an agritourist's dream. Travellers can follow their taste buds to sip boutique wines and savour garlic, mushrooms and all the delicious derivatives made from them. A pretty, natural landscape and its accompanying outdoor activities are dessert.

**GIVE IN TO GARLIC BREATH.** Hungry visitors eat 1.8 metric tons of garlic each year at the **Gilroy Garlic Festival**, an event that's earned its place in the Guinness World Records. **Christmas Hill Park** fills with tourists and local gourmands each July. The "pyro chefs" in Gourmet Alley whip up garlic scampi, calamari and other dishes in giant iron pans set ablaze. Celebrity chefs judge the Great Garlic Cook-Off and there are cooking demos, garlic braiding classes, wine gardens and performers. Hot tip: go on Friday to avoid the crowds and definitely try the garlic ice cream.

**GET YOUR BRUNCH ON.** **Old City Hall Restaurant**, located in the 1905 Flemish landmark, is the only place you can get a lobster corn dog for lunch, a bread pudding French toast with Edgars whiskey sauce for breakfast and an Old City Hall

Donkey cocktail all day. Fun fact: the restrooms are former jail cells. If you missed the festival, sample the award-winning Garlic Festival Shrimp Scampi at **Mama Mia's Ristorante**.

**THE GIVING TREES.** One of the best northern California theme parks is **Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park**, which boasts rides based on the area's agricultural roots (like the Mushroom Swing). There's a water park, duck (and swan) boats and old-timey classic cars. For adults, the real draw here is the Circus Trees, which have been grafted and shaped over decades into amazing, woven, fairytale-like living art. Dubbed the "world's strangest trees," they're a stunning testimony to the wonders of nature.

**TAKE A (HISTORY) HIKE.** The gorgeous Uvas Creek runs through the small but lovely **Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park**, where visitors can take an easy 800-metre self-guided interpretive hike through the former home of the Ohlone peoples. Real petroglyphs, Native American artifacts and tule huts show how they once lived.

**CHANNEL KATNISS.** Find out why folks from the San Francisco Bay Area still drive the two hours down to **Predator's Archery**. This 18-metre indoor archery range has master coaches to refine your form and they emphasize LGBTQ2+ inclusivity.



Gilroy Gardens



## FRESNO COUNTY IS CALIFORNIA'S ONLY METROPOLITAN HUB CENTERED BETWEEN THREE NATIONAL PARKS.

Fresno County is home to the Blossom Trail, Forestiere Underground Gardens, wineries and bottomless farm-to-fork cuisine. Offering more than 10,000 hotel rooms, Fresno County can be reached in approximately three hours by car from San Francisco, Los Angeles, or Monterey, and Yosemite National Park may be reached in less than two hours.



### FORESTIERE UNDERGROUND GARDENS

Tour the Forestiere Underground Gardens—a historic subterranean home built and carved underground, complete with fruit trees growing within the quarters.



### FARM-TO-TABLE DINING

Enjoy an abundance of unparalleled farm-to-table dining experiences, like at School House Restaurant & Tavern, serving award-winning meals in a brick schoolhouse built nearly 100 years ago.



### BLOSSOM TRAIL & FRUIT TRAIL

Drive through the gorgeous orchards of the Fresno County Blossom Trail, or marvel at the plethora of fruit grown in the area along the Fresno County Fruit Trail.



### HOMEGROWN CALIFORNIA

Experience an off-the-beaten path region of California. Attend hometown celebrations, with several of the area's unique events hosted throughout the year in Old Town Clovis. Watch hot air balloons float into the air at ClovisFest, attend the annual rodeo or peruse the wondrous bounty of produce at a farmers market anytime of the year.



### SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Walk amongst the famous giant sequoia trees with trunks as wide as 40 feet at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Also, see the deepest canyon in the country, Kings Canyon, with a maximum depth of 8,200 feet, and behold the breathtaking views of California's natural beauty.



### WINE & BREW

Sip some of Fresno County's award-winning wines and brews produced in the Central Valley. Experience Fresno County Wine Journey as well as the neighboring Madera Wine Trail, or the Downtown Fresno Ale Trail.

Follow the fun!

# Visit Gilroy

With a central location, mild year-round weather, and budget-friendly lodging, Gilroy makes a great “home base” for your next Northern California vacation.

- » Enjoy family fun at Gilroy Gardens
- » Find savings on top brands at Gilroy Premium Outlets
- » Indulge your senses on the Road to Garlic
- » Taste award-winning wines along the Wine Trail



Visit the California Welcome Center Gilroy and plan your great Gilroy getaway today!

[VisitGilroy.org](http://VisitGilroy.org)

COAST

## MONTEREY

Monterey has exceptional ocean views and a village-like atmosphere that charms travellers from around the world. Great dining, active adventures and the mysteries of the ocean deep await you in this beautiful coastal town.

**CRUISE THE TRAIL.** Rent bikes or Surreys (canopied quadricycles seating up to six people) to explore 29 scenic kilometres of the **Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail**. The beauty of the Central Coast opens up from Castroville in the north to Pacific Grove in the south. Take in the stunning views of the Pacific and the Monterey Peninsula, and look for murals painted by local artists on several walls that border the trail.

**LIVE THE LIFE AQUATIC.** Located in a former sardine cannery, the renowned **Monterey Bay Aquarium** is dedicated to marine research and conservation. It's home to over 35,000 creatures, including a giant Pacific octopus and the Aquarium's mascot, the playful sea otter. Dive deeper to explore the **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**, the largest protected ocean in the continental United States, with **Aquarius Dive Shop** or **Breakwater Scuba**.

**FEED YOUR INNER FOODIE.** Monterey's proximity to the coast and lush farm fields of the Salinas and Carmel Valleys ensures a bounty of fresh seafood and farm-to-table produce. Stroll the stalls at the **Old Monterey Marketplace** farmers' market, held every Tuesday year-round. The **Monterey Bay Food Tour** combines visits to five or six foodie favourites located in popular **Old Fisherman's Wharf**.

**TAKE A HIKE.** Monterey has walking paths and hiking trails for every active traveller. Stroll along the level boardwalk at **Asilomar State Beach** to access rocky coves and a pristine shoreline. Lace up your hiking boots in **Jacks Peak County Park**, home to fossils from the Miocene epoch, and one of the only remaining natural stands of Monterey pines in the country.

GRAB LIFE BY THE MOMENTS

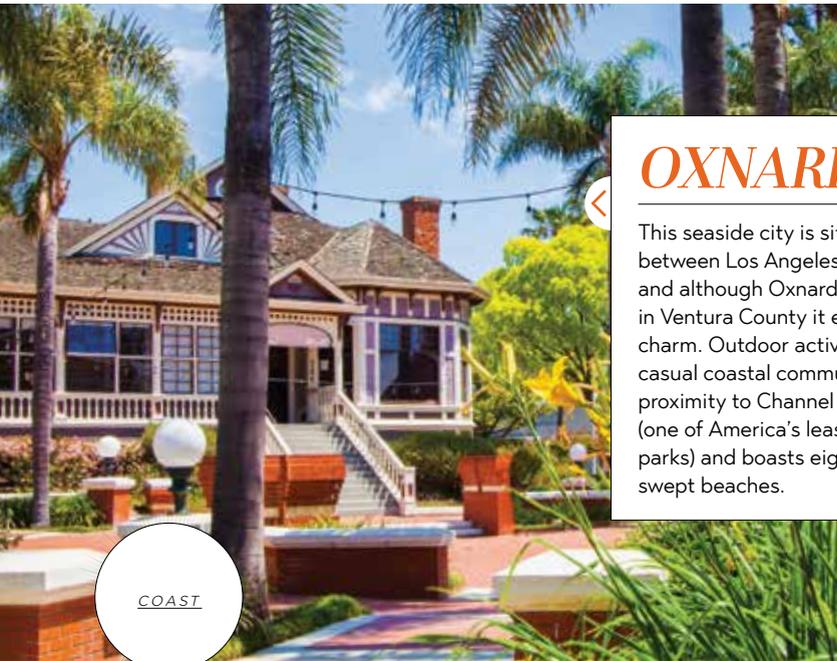
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## OXNARD

This seaside city is situated about halfway between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, and although Oxnard is the largest city in Ventura County it enjoys small town charm. Outdoor activities abound in this casual coastal community, which is in close proximity to Channel Islands National Park (one of America's least-visited national parks) and boasts eight kilometres of sun-swept beaches.

### HIT THE BEACH.

Step onto the sands of **Mandalay State Beach** to feel as if you've taken a journey back in time. The rugged, natural beauty of the beach's sand dunes and wetlands hint at the coast as it might have been hundreds of years ago. Further south is **Silver Strand Beach**, a haven for surfers and sunbathers. Located between Channel Islands Harbor and Port Hueneme, it's one of the

most popular of Oxnard's beaches – but don't let that deter you. The viewing platform at the north end offers opportunities to spot marine life like dolphins and harbour seals.

## CENTRAL COAST

The Central Coast is California's original road trip. Here, 564 kilometres of coastline is traced by Highway 1 and it's ocean views, beaches, brews, Spanish missions and wine for days.

**VENTURA.** Explore history and architecture at **Mission San Buenaventura**, but save time to explore **Ventura Harbor Village**, a pet-friendly dining and shopping enclave. Pop into **Seaward Surf & Sport** for board rentals or to schedule a surf lesson, then visit **Surf Brewery** to sample small batch craft beer.



**SANTA BARBARA.** Hang in **The Funk Zone** where converted warehouses and murals mix with elevated dining, galleries and hip boutiques. Dine in at **The Lark**, follow the **Santa Barbara Taco Trail** and imbibe the 20+ tasting rooms located along the **Urban Wine Trail**.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO.** For a relaxing afternoon, spend time exploring **Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa**, built in 1772 and surrounded by **Mission Plaza**. Here you'll find two blocks of restaurants, galleries and downtown attractions that invite a casual stroll. While in SLO wine country, enjoy vineyards, tasting rooms and festivals, including **Harvest on the Coast** (November) and **Flavors of SLO** (May). Beer enthusiasts should check out the **Central Coast Brewers Guild Beer Trail**.

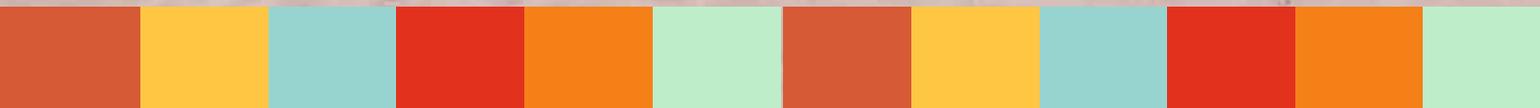
**WINE ABOUT IT.** Winding its way through the county, the Ventura County Wine Trail highlights four Oxnard wineries. Sample more than 25 artisan varietals at **Herzog Wine Cellars** and stay for five-star farm-to-table dining at their kosher Mediterranean-influenced restaurant, **Tierra Sur**. Or venture to **Rancho Ventavo Cellars**, a tasting room located inside a 1902 Victorian in the city's downtown Historic District. Husband and wife team George and Faye Gilpatrick will treat you like old friends as they pour some of their favourite reds.

**OXNARD OFFSHORE.** Thirty-five kilometres off the Oxnard coast lays a chain of five islands – Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Santa Barbara and San Miguel – that comprises **Channel Islands National Park**. Arrive by boat or small plane to take your pick of hiking trails and wander oftentimes without meeting another soul for miles. Referred to as the "Galapagos of North America," visitors are struck by the islands' untouched beauty. For a unique way to experience the islands, venture out with **Santa Barbara Adventure Company** for a full-day kayaking tour of Santa Cruz Island's Painted Cave.

**HEADFIRST INTO HISTORY.** Located in the downtown area of Oxnard, **Heritage Square** oozes charm thanks to its Victorian and Craftsman-style houses and immaculate gardens. Hungry to learn about Oxnard's history? Investigate the city's past with docent-guided tours. Otherwise, don't miss the weekly farmers' market and First Thursdays Food Trucks at **Plaza Park**. Or, savour the sweet life at **La Dolce Vita**, a cozy Italian restaurant located just steps from Heritage Square. The restaurant is also home to **1901 Speakeasy**, which mixes Prohibition-era craft cocktails.

VISIT  
OXNARD  
CALIFORNIA

[VisitOxnard.com](http://VisitOxnard.com)





## SAN DIEGO

If perfect weather isn't enough, great beaches, eateries and attractions will surely make you swoon for San Diego.

COAST

**GET SCOOTIN'.** Traffic here isn't terrible as big cities go, but locals and tourists alike enjoy getting around via electric scooter. Rent one with a rideshare app like JUMP by Uber to see the city in an eco-friendly and fun way.

**TACO 'BOUT AWESOME.** The worst-kept secret in San Diego is **Don Bravo Grill & Cantina**. It's usually packed with peckish residents who know this tiny taqueria serves up the best carnitas – certainly in San Diego – but maybe anywhere. The seafood tacos are off-the-charts good, too. Pair them with a margarita or stick with a frothy pineapple Juicy Whip.

**SEAL OF APPROVAL.** La Jolla is famous for wildlife, but to see it you'll have to head to the beach. **La Jolla Cove** is almost always home to an entertaining troupe of seals and sea lions. From the cove, walk 10 minutes to the **Children's Pool**, an underwater park and ecological reserve that's also, between December and May, a nursery for adorable seal pups.

**THIS PLACE IS A ZOO.** For the quintessential San Diego experience head into **Balboa Park** to tour the **San Diego Zoo**, the most visited zoo in the country. More than 3,500 animals across hundreds of species live here, and there are always special exhibits to explore.

## ORANGE COUNTY

This is where California comes to play. Of course Orange County is world-famous for its theme parks – Disneyland Resort in Anaheim and Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park – but miles of sandy beach, frothy surf, golf courses and luxury resorts attract all types of travellers looking for some hang time.

**DOCK + DINE, NEWPORT BEACH.** To get a sense of Newport Beach style, spend a chic afternoon at **Lido Marina Village**. Amble through its collection of boutiques that curate niche offerings from California-centric brands. Next, rent an electric Duffy boat to putt-putt the harbour while stealing glances of Balboa Island's millionaire mansions. Once you've worked up an appetite, park the Duffy and dine dockside. Japanese restaurant **Nobu** is a phenomenal choice but the sharing plates at **Lido Bottle Works** are etched into our memory.

### HANG TEN IN HUNTINGTON

**BEACH.** There's no better way to learn to surf like a pro, than to learn from a pro. **McKinnon Surf & SUP Lessons**, founded by competitive surfing champion, Rocky McKinnon, will get beginners standing up and riding the waves in no time. Wrap up your "Surf City USA" visit with a bonfire in one of 500 beach pits as the sun sinks into a wide Pacific horizon. Tip: arrive early to claim your spot or book a "beach butler" package through **Waterfront Adventures**.

**LAGUNA BEACH.** Yes, it's home to the ultra-luxe **Montague Laguna Beach** resort, but at its heart, Laguna Beach is a nature-filled artist colony. Drop into the **HIP District** (which stands for "historic and interesting places") on a Saturday morning to enjoy java served with jazz at **Laguna Coffee Company**, thumb through rare vinyls at **Sound Spectrum** and shop boho threads at **Blue Eyed Girl**. End your day on the rooftop of **La Casa del Camino** for a killer mojito with sunset views.



Huntington  
Beach

# ANAHEIM

Anaheim may be synonymous with a superstar mouse, but there's no shortage of opportunities to do some "adulting" outside the Magic Kingdom. Orange County's largest city has it all, including professional sports

action and a hip urban neighbourhood that includes a wide variety of dining, craft breweries, shopping and entertainment.

CITIES

**HIP HOOD.** Downtown Anaheim's **Center City (CtrCity)** has more than 50 merchants, including wine bars, breweries, restaurants and services, all within a compact, walkable area. Explore **Center Street Promenade** or the restaurants and brewpubs at **Farmers Park** green space (farm-to-fork **Cultivation Kitchen** is a favourite). The historic **Packard Building** is home to **Anaheim Brewery**. Still hungry? Take in **Anaheim Packing House**, an airy and expansive food hall housed in a historic former Sunkist citrus warehouse. Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Center Street is home to a farmers' market and craft fair. Need to get around CtrCity? Download the app to hail and hop a no-charge ride on **FRAN** (Free Rides Around the Neighborhood).

Anaheim Packing House



**JUST BEACHY.** Sand, swimming and surf are all within about a half-hour drive of Anaheim, including **Long Beach** and **Newport Beach**. At **Huntington Beach**, known as "Surf City USA," you'll get a free show while you relax on the sand or stroll the pier, watching boarders drop in to catch that perfect California wave.

**GOOD SPORT.** Two pro teams are based in Anaheim, with their home turfs less than a kilometre apart. You'll find Major League Baseball's **Los Angeles Angels** at **Angel Stadium of Anaheim**, known as "The Big A" to locals. The **Anaheim Ducks** NHL hockey team plays at the **Honda Center**, also a popular concert venue. **Fun fact:** If the Ducks inspire you to lace 'em up, **Anaheim ICE**, the team's practice and training facility, has daily public skating and rentals in a building designed by Canadian-born American architect, Frank Gehry.

**BREW HA-HA.** You might think "wine" when you consider California, but in Anaheim, it's all about the craft beer. Beer has been brewed here since **Anaheim Brewery** started up in 1870 and today there are 18 brewers and tasting room-restaurants making unique brews and traditional varieties of craft ales, with more set to open soon.

**THE HANG TIMERS**

**WERE YOU BORN TO RIDE?** Then Anaheim is ready to roll. From mellow movers and shakers to the ultimate rush of over-the-top coasters, we've got more world-class ways to get your fill of thrills. Explore the unconventional at [visitanaheim.org](http://visitanaheim.org).

visit Anaheim  
UNCOMMON CHARACTER



## LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is one of those rare destinations that truly is all things to all people. That's a pretty big claim to make, and no easy feat for any city, but L.A. offers plenty of options – no matter what you're into. In a single day, travellers can venture on a serious hike, dine like a movie star and then get their fill of world-class culture. Entertainment? Always options aplenty in the city that pretty much invented the word.

CITIES

## WEST HOLLYWOOD

Nested within Los Angeles is West Hollywood or "WeHo." At just 4.9 square kilometres, it's compact, packing in the famous **Sunset Strip**, eclectic **Santa Monica Boulevard** and the hip **Design District**.

**LAUGH YOUR PANTS OFF.** A visit to **The Comedy Store** will leave you wiping tears onto your sleeves and with stomach cramps. This multi-room club is a Mecca of stand-up comedy, cranking out laughs 365 nights a year. You're apt to run into the likes of Joe Rogan, Joey Diaz and Whitney Cummings practicing bits for upcoming Netflix specials.

**HARD ROCKING HISTORY.** Rock music fans can pay homage to legendary bands like Led Zeppelin, The Doors or Guns N'Roses (to name a few) by visiting iconic Sunset Strip venues like **The Whiskey A Go-Go**, **The Roxy Theatre** and **The Troubador**. For an insider look, tour the Strip with guide Jon D'Amico, a former band manager, on a **Rock n'Walk** walking tour.



**MOVIE STAR MEALS.** Quentin Tarantino describes his latest film, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, as his personal love letter to his

all-time favourite city.

The film's locations include some iconic L.A. eateries like **Casa Vega**, **Musso & Frank Grill** and **El Coyote Mexican Café**. Slide into a red leather banquette at Casa Vega and sip a hibiscus margarita, ponder just how cool Musso & Frank still is some 100 years since opening while you tuck into a perfectly grilled steak, and step

back to the 50s surrounded by classic Mexican art and quirky, colourful décor at El Coyote.

**SKY SLIDE.** Get 360° views of L.A. from **OUE Skyspace**. Take an elevator 305 metres up to reach the city's tallest outdoor observation deck, then hop on the Skyslide, a 14-metre, glassed-in slide that hugs the US Bank Tower.

**NOSTALGIC NODS.** **The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)** is celebrating its fortieth anniversary with special exhibits including *40 for LA* which features materials pulled from the museum's vault like rare photographs, limited-edition objects and the works of artists pivotal to the MOCA's success.

**I SAW THE SIGN.** **Bikes & Hikes LA** offers a new easy-to-moderate hike that takes visitors behind the Hollywood sign (built in 1923 and originally called Hollywoodland) and to The Wisdom Tree (the lone windswept pine at the top of the hill, also called The Tree of Life). This hike skips the usual Griffith Observatory stop, but instead provides the best possible group photos and selfies with the legendary sign.

**KITSCH A RIDE.** **Echo Park Wheel Fun Rentals** has those swan boats you've always wanted to try for some easy foot-paddling around Echo Lake. We suggest visiting after dark when the swans are LED-lit, making the experience extra *La La Land*-romantic.

**BE A ROCK STAR.** Craving some nature? **Rock n Rope Adventures in Malibu Creek State Park** makes it easy for beginners and challenging enough for the seasoned climber. Classes are available; ages six and up.

## SAN FRANCISCO

With a rapidly changing landscape, San Francisco is the kind of city you can visit time and time again. Home to the creation of California cuisine, world-class cultural institutions and the ever-growing tech boom, there's never been a better time to swing by the Bay Area.

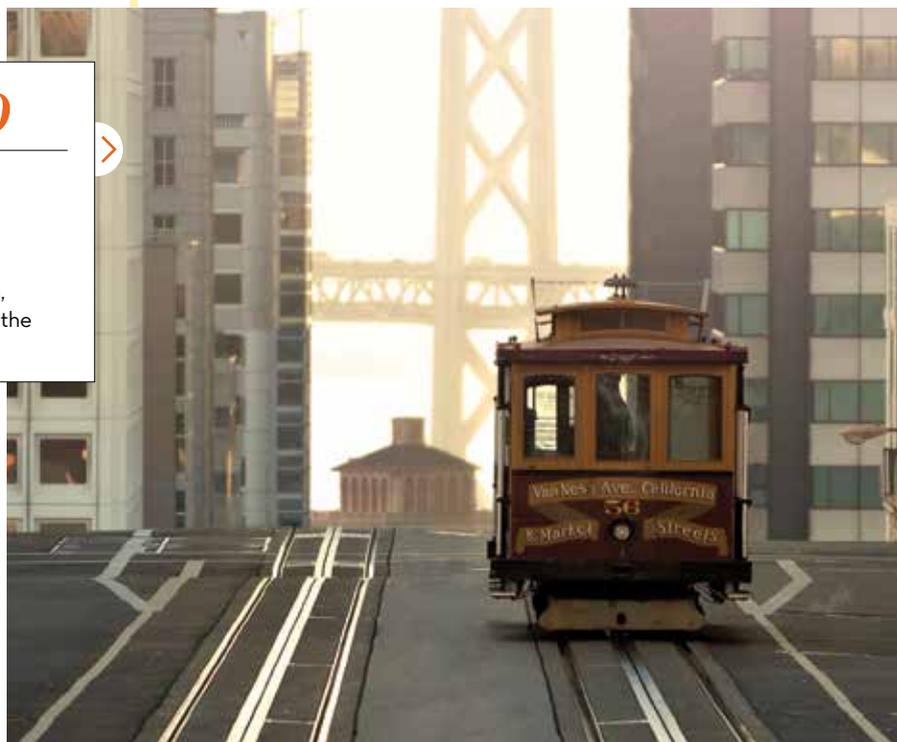
**FLOWER POWER.** Visit San Francisco's counterculture hippie neighbourhood, **Haight-Ashbury**, for a treasure-trove of vintage stores. Our favourite? **Held Over**. Follow in Janis Joplin's footsteps and rock out to the latest talent at **The Fillmore**, then stroll to **Vesuvio Café**, a popular spot for famed authors and musicians to mingle over cocktails.

**STAR MEALS.** While San Francisco may be the fine dining capital of the United States, you don't need a bottomless budget to feast at a Michelin-starred restaurant. **Al's Place** takes an innovative twist on veggie dishes for just \$18. Also shaking it up: Chef Dominique Crenn of **Atelier Crenn**, who is the first U.S. woman to achieve three Michelin stars.

**TAKE TO TWO WHEELS.** In 2020, the famed **Golden Gate Park** celebrates its 150th anniversary. And what better way to take in the city's most treasured landmark than by bike? Explore the entire park on your own with a **Streets of San Francisco Bike Rental** or join one of their guided tours for a local's perspective.

**BODY & SOUL.** For a break from the city, relax and unwind at **Onsen**, a Japanese spa and restaurant. Making for a perfect date night, enjoy the steam room with a cup of green tea before melting into the plunge pool. The space is intimate and can book up far in advance, so reservations are recommended.

**SHAKEN NOT STIRRED.** If there is one thing you can always count on in San Francisco, it's a damn good drink. Stop by **Nommo**, the brainchild of two cocktail legends: Jon Santer (Prizefighter) and Thad Vogler (Bar Agricole) to sample the La Iguana, a chile-spiced mezcal martini. For a rooftop showstopper, visit **Everdene**, Virgin Hotel's newest bar, for unparalleled city views and playful cocktails. The Evening Sunshine goes down smooth with a mix of Los Vecinos del Campo Mezcal, lemongrass, passionfruit and lemon juice.



## BERKELEY

Just off San Francisco Bay, Berkeley is known for its quirk and sophistication. Spend the day exploring local culture before a night on the town.

**BEST OF BERKELEY.** Stroll **Telegraph Avenue** for a cornucopia of shops, eateries and history. This strip is quintessential Berkeley with record shops neighbouring vintage clothiers and cool cafés. Explore the city's hippie vibe (think: The Grateful Dead, not the Coachella kind) before admiring historic murals at **People's Park**.

**FARM THE MARKET.** Even if you're visiting for just a few days, what better way to taste the region's flavours than savouring fresh fare at one of the many markets? Berkeley boasts three weekly farmers' markets and **Berkeley Bowl** offers heaps of fresh produce. Try the juice bar or pack a picnic with local apples, cheese and organic greens.

**PLAY IT UP.** As a recipient of a Regional Theatre Tony Award, **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** is a must for the culture crowd. For bragging rights among your pals, catch a local production before it graduates to Broadway. Thirsty patrons might sample a signature cocktail at the theatre bar, **Michael's Second Act**.

DESERTS

## DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

With its stark beauty, one-of-a-kind activities and desert oasis proffering food, drink and a good night's sleep, Death Valley is one lively destination. Visit in winter or spring when cooler temperatures are ideal for exploring this vast national park.

**GO LOW ON BADWATER ROAD.** A classic Death Valley day begins at **Badwater Basin** and its shimmering salt flats, the lowest point in North America at 85.5 metres below sea level. Check out spiky salt spires at the **Devil's Golf Course** then follow the dipping, curving **Artist's Drive** to see dramatic swaths of sea green, lavender blue, pink, purple and yellow rock.

**HIKE TO DESERT WONDERS.** Watch for the wiggly tracks of sidewinder snakes and tiny kangaroo rat paw prints when you hike among 30-metre-high dunes at **Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes**. Explore narrow passageways and colourful hills on **Golden Canyon** trail and the polished-marble gorge at **Mosaic Canyon**. Given you're hiking in the hottest place on Earth (the world's highest air temperature, 56.7 degrees Celsius, was recorded here) and the driest place in North America (average yearly rainfall is 5 cm), you'll want to carry plenty of water.

**GET HIGH FOR SWEEPING PANORAMAS.** Drive up to **Dante's View** for jaw-dropping vistas across the valley floor 1,669 metres below. Visit popular **Zabriskie Point** in late afternoon when the sun super-soaks the surrounding golden-coloured badlands. For a view with a thrill, head to **Father Crowley Vista Point** where fighter jets on training exercises streak through the canyon below.

**MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS.** The **Oasis at Death Valley** is home to restaurants, horse stables, the world's lowest-elevation golf course and the California-Mission-style **Inn at Death Valley**. The Inn offers elegant rooms and casitas, broad balconies shaded by palm trees and a spring-fed swimming pool where, after dark, you can float under the valley's ink-black skies.

# PALM SPRINGS

With more than 300 sunny days a year, Palm Springs shines year-round. Located two hours from Los Angeles, this desert city has been Hollywood's playground for a century. But celebrities aren't the only visitors soaking up Palm Springs. Outdoor enthusiasts, art and architecture aficionados and families alike appreciate its varied offerings.



## HIKE TO A DESERT OASIS.

To escape to a desert oasis, visit the **Indian Canyons** hiking area, located just fifteen minutes from downtown Palm Springs. Park at the Trading Post shop and descend the 3.2-km in-and-out **Palm Canyon Trail** to reach a pretty creek. Within the first kilometre, hikers encounter stands of towering native California fan palms. At the creek, unpack a picnic or connect to another trail to keep hiking. Be sure to pack snacks, lots of water and sunscreen.

**DRIVE IT LIKE YOU STOLE IT.** Unleash your inner speed demon at the **BMW Performance Driving School** in nearby Thermal, California. Sports car enthusiasts and thrill-seekers will love getting behind the wheel to rip up the track with the expert guidance of a BMW driving instructor. Sign up for single or multi-day driving experiences.

**STAR-GAZING.** Stars gather in Palm Springs. To spot a celeb, stroll the **Walk of Stars** in downtown Palm Springs or drive down streets named for Hollywood icons like Frank Sinatra. Next, peer into the heavens to admire the celestial type. The new **Rancho Mirage Observatory** offers two tours per day, as well as astronomy programs and stargazing parties.

**DESERT GREENS.** Home to more than 100 golf courses, it's easy to get onto a green in Palm Springs. For a different shade of green, visit the gardens of Walter and Leonore Annenberg's **Sunnylands** estate. The well-connected philanthropic couple left their 200-acre modernist estate to a public trust. Purchase a ticket to tour the historic home's interior (where the Annenbergs entertained diplomats and past presidents) or simply stop in and enjoy the estate's tranquil gardens. There are outdoor yoga classes and free guided walks on offer too.

**OH. MY. MOD.** Palm Springs is known for its extensive collection of mid-century modern architecture. Combined indoor-outdoor living spaces, clean lines and the generous use of glass are a few features of the desert's MCM design. To get your fix, join a guided tour, stay in a mid-century modern hotel or attend Palm Spring's annual **Modernism Week** which is held each February.



## JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

Come for the otherworldly landscapes and namesake flora, stay for the quirky shops, hole-in-the-wall eats and world-class stargazing.

**HIT THE PARK AFTER DARK.** Avoid the desert heat and get a new, starry-eyed perspective of **Joshua Tree National Park** when visiting after sunset. The park recently earned its designation as an International Dark Sky Park and moonless summer nights offer the best Milky Way views. Rangers offer regular night sky programming through the year and the park hosts its annual **Night Sky Festival** in the fall.

**PHO REAL, DONUT MISS THIS.** If you like pho and donuts – and let's be honest, who doesn't? – we have some great news to share: **Jelly Donut** in Twentynine Palms might be the only joint in California that specializes in both. Don't skip the egg rolls and, obviously, save room for dessert.

**MUST-SEE MUSUEMS.** Joshua Tree has long been a haven for artists and creatives so it's no surprise the town is loaded with offbeat museums. Check out the tiny one-hour Fotomat booth turned **World Famous Crochet Museum**, visit **The Noah Purifoy Desert Art Museum of Assemblage Art** and swing by the **Beauty Bubble Salon and Museum** to inspect its collection of vintage hair curio, which is big enough to make you linger all day.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



**SOME CHEFS COOK THEIR BEST  
AT 30,000 FEET**



**TURKISH AIRLINES**

Products and services are subject to change depending on flight duration and aircraft.