



13-Day Northern California & Southern Oregon National Parks Tour

A wild coastline, the tallest trees on the planet, natural caves, volcanic lakes, waterfalls, mountains, pioneer history, steam trains, active geothermal activity and cosmopolitan cities; there are few destinations where you find this all together in one region, but Northern California and southern Oregon is one of them.

Experience two sides of California on this adventurous two week trip.

DAY 1: ARRIVE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Rest up and enjoy your first night in San Francisco. Take a stroll around Union Square or Fisherman's Wharf before dinner and get a good night's rest. Don't worry about missing anything as you will be back for a couple of days at the end of the tour. Overnight in San Francisco

DAY 2: MENDOCINO

Pick up your car in the morning from one of the downtown car rental agencies and travel out of town over the legendary Golden Gate Bridge. Head north on highway 101, taking a break in downtown Petaluma located in Sonoma County. Continue north on Highway 101 where you will experience rolling hills of beautiful vineyards as they give way to majestic redwoods. Then head west from Cloverdale on Highway 128. The road meanders through the famous Anderson Valley wine region to the Pacific Ocean leading you towards the coastal town and artists' colony of Mendocino. If the time is right you may even see whales from the Mendocino Headlands State Park. Overnight in Mendocino area.

DAY 3: EUREKA

Today we head for the mighty Redwood National Park. First, head north on Highway 1 to Fort Bragg. Take a ride on the famous Skunk Train from Fort Bragg. Then head north up famous Highway 1 which becomes Highway 101. Take a short stop in the Victorian town of Eureka before travelling into another world among the Giant Redwoods. Overnight in the Eureka area.

DAY 4: MEDFORD

Head away from the coast and through the Siskiyou Mountains, over the Oregon border to visit the Oregon Caves National Monument. Later head for the City of Medford which will be your base. Here you can either relax, or if you need a little adventure, head for the Rogue River and an exciting afternoon rafting trip, a must-do experience. Overnight in the Medford area.

DAY 5: KLAMATH FALLS

Today we will visit the remarkable Crater Lake National Park. Take your time to experience this incredible natural phenomenon by hiking the local trails. We will let the scenery do the talking here. Head back towards Klamath Falls where you can enjoy many water sports, such as sailing or canoeing on Klamath Lake, or take a trip and dine on the Klamath Belle paddle steamer.

As you head south from Crater Lake you'll have joined the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, a 500 mile (804 km) route that takes you from Crater Lake to Mount Lassen. Along this route you will find live volcanoes, amazing waterfalls, and a natural history millions of years old. Overnight in the Klamath Falls area.

DAY 6: REDDING

Explore the phenomenal Lava Beds National Monument. With both a natural and civil history, the Lava beds make for an interesting excursion.

From there head towards the majestic 14,179-foot (4,327 meters) peak that is Mount Shasta, less than 500 ft (152 meters) smaller than the highest peak in the 48 states. Stop in the pretty town of McCloud and enjoy many views of the mountain before heading south to Redding. Overnight in the Redding area.

DAY 7: REDDING

Take a day to relax in the Redding area and enjoy the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Boating, hiking, biking and many other activities will allow you to enjoy this beautiful part the world. Overnight in the Redding area

* As an alternative, why not take a few days out of your tour and hire a house boat on Lake Shasta or Trinity Lake. This will allow you to explore the area from the water and enjoy the remoteness of the landscape, being one with nature, and the beautiful scenery from an entirely different perspective – where no roads could ever take you.

DAY 8: SACRAMENTO

Today we will reach the end of the Volcanic Legacy Highway. Take the road out to McArthur-Burney Falls, to visit this extraordinary natural phenomenon.

Then head south to experience the fascinating geothermal activity of the Lassen Volcanic National Park. Later head back to Interstate 5 for the ride into the California State Capital, Sacramento. Overnight in Sacramento.

DAY 9: SACRAMENTO

Wake up to California's Capital city. Sacramento was at the forefront of the pioneer expansion and the '49 Gold Rush, when pioneers travelled to the town by boat from San Francisco. A day walking tour of the city is a must, from the Capital building, modelled on the Washington DC Capital building, to the famous riverfront "Old Town", one of the few remaining original wooden townships left.

This tour will truly highlight the old west to you, as will the beautiful Delta King paddle steamer moored at the dockside. Alongside is the superb railway museum, celebrating the expansion of the railway through the High Sierra

Mountains, an incredible feat of engineering. Later, allow yourself to be seduced by the downtown shopping. Overnight in Sacramento.

DAY 10: SACRAMENTO

Become a gold prospector for the day and explore “the Gold Country” history and heritage. Get your feet wet as you pan for gold in a river, visit the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, explore the quaint towns and villages before retiring to the Sierra foothills to ponder the day’s events. Overnight in Sacramento.

DAY 11: SAN FRANCISCO

Return to San Francisco today to spend your final two days in the City by the Bay. Drop your car back at a downtown depot, as you won’t need it once back in town. Union Square is the shopping heart of the city, while Fisherman’s Wharf offers a fun glimpse of the waterfront. Be sure to ride the world famous cable cars over the hills, and come back to downtown on the F line, the waterfront ride back to Market Street on some of the worlds finest tram cars. A guided city tour is a must for new visitors, while trips across the bay provide a unique perspective of the city. Later, dine in one of the many varied cultural areas of the city from Chinatown to Little Italy. Overnight in San Francisco.

DAY 12: SAN FRANCISCO

On your final, full day in the city, take a journey back in history and board a ferry to visit the amazing Alcatraz Prison (book before you leave if possible). Also enjoy the museums, gardens and cultural opportunities of this amazing city. Overnight in San Francisco.

DAY 13: Enjoy a leisurely morning before departing.

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