

California Coast Fly Drive Holiday | San Francisco to San Diego

Holiday Duration: 13 Nights



Overview

California Coast

Imagine the wind in your hair, the sun shining and the sea glittering. This is the California Coast. Rent an open-top Mustang and put the joy back into driving.

Along the road you will visit the iconic cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles.

You will also drive Big Sur and the renowned coastal Highway 101.

This itinerary is flexible and can be tailor-made to suit you; if you want to add extra days in one area, extend the holiday or maybe change the direction of travel. Talk to one of our experts about how to make this holiday the perfect one for you.



Here's a day-by-day guide to your itinerary. Feel free to ask us to add other days or ideas and excursions by contacting us directly, so we can give you the best price.

Days 1-3



San Francisco

Depart the UK on your scheduled flight to San Francisco. San Francisco is the home of cable cars, Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz and any number of other well-known names. It is also a delightful mix of cultures, drawing as it does from both East and West. Explore Chinatown, which is well known. Perhaps less well known is the Presidio, a park and former military base on the northern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula. Another worthwhile trip is to go across the Golden Gate bridge to Sausalito and return by ferry, which affords great views of the bridge and the city.

3 nights in San Francisco



Contact our experts on 020 8776 8709
america@frontier-travel.co.uk

Days 4-5



San Francisco to Monterey, Big Sur & Carmel

This morning collect your hire car (why not spoil yourselves and rent a convertible?) in downtown, before you head south towards Monterey and Carmel. Stop in Santa Cruz for lunch where you could visit America's oldest theme park – the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. You can also watch the surfers and sea lions for which this area is renowned and ride an old steam train through the redwood forest. Onward to Monterey, which you should visit even if you are staying in Carmel. Made famous by John Steinbeck, Monterey is an old canning town and is now known for its restaurants, sea otters and the remarkable aquarium. You should also take the 17 mile drive which loops its way around the Monterey Peninsula through the Del Monte Forest, past Cypress Point and into Carmel.

2 nights in Carmel

Days 6-7



Monterey, Big Sur & Carmel to Pacific Coast Highway

The Pacific Coast Highway is one of the most spectacular coastal drives anywhere in the world. You might want to split the day into two, in which case you could stop in Pismo Beach for a night where we would recommend the Dolphin Bay Resort and Spa. En route, you should also visit Hearst Castle at San Simeon, the palatial estate of publisher William Randolph Hearst. Silhouetted against the Santa Ynez Mountains and with a splendid beach, Santa Barbara has rather a Spanish feel with its many red tiled roofs. Enjoy a walk along the beach or explore the harbour where you will find Brophy's Tavern, an Irish Pub and Sports bar, one of Santa Barbara locals' favourite restaurants. It is noisy and you will have to queue, but the food is good.

If you can tear yourself away from the beach, we suggest you explore the hills behind Santa Barbara, places like Old Mission Santa Barbara, Santa Ynez, Los Olivos and surrounding communities. You could also visit the Channel Islands National Park, a string of five uninhabited islands home to a variety of unique animals and plants not found anywhere else on earth. From Santa Barbara Harbour, take a short boat trip (keep an eye out for dolphins, whales and seals) to enjoy a day of guided sea kayaking, hiking or snorkelling along this mystic coastline.

2 nights in Santa Barbara

Days 8-9



Pacific Coast Highway to Los Angeles

You can continue along Highway 101 and the coast through Malibu and Santa Monica, but you might like to venture inland and visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in the Simi Valley.

Your accommodation for the next two nights will be in the Beverly Hills or Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

You are close to Rodeo Drive, so time for some serious shopping; you might like to visit the extensive collections of the J Paul Getty Museum, the contemporary Broad Museum or maybe drive along Mulholland to get some great views of the city. You are also only about 5 minutes from Hollywood, so whether you want to see some of the great mansions or make a visit to Universal Studios, you are well placed.

2 nights in Los Angeles

Days 10-11



Los Angeles to The Beach and Orange County

Although it is only short distance to the beach, it seems worth moving as getting around Los Angeles can be slow due to heavy traffic. Now it's time for more relaxation on the beach. From Los Angeles, a short drive will take you to Long Beach, 'Surf City - California', Huntington Beach or if you prefer, Newport Beach. Have a "do nothing day". Surf, or watch the surfers, laze in the sun, visit a spa, join a whale-watching cruise - the choice is yours. If "doing nothing" is not your thing, you are only about 30 minutes from Anaheim, so you might want to add in an extra day or two to visit Disneyland or one of the other theme parks in the area.

2 nights at the Beach

Days 12-13



The Beach and Orange County to San Diego

Your last drive of the holiday as you make your way south to La Jolla / San Diego. Allow time to include a stop at Laguna and Oceanside, where the sport is celebrated at the California Surf Museum or the Torrey Pines Natural Reserve. San Diego is known for its beaches, parks and warm climate. It is the home to the renowned San Diego Zoo, as well numerous art galleries, gardens and museums – one of which is the USS Midway, an aircraft carrier.

2 nights in San Diego

If you are interested in a holiday to America please contact us on 020 8776 8709 to discuss your plans with a USA expert, or send an email to america@frontier-travel.co.uk with your requirements and we will put together your ideal itinerary and quotation. Let us take you there.