

## National Parks and Beyond

### Giant Trees and Ancient Forests California - Nevada



### San Francisco, California

It's certainly possible to walk up and down San Francisco's famous hilly streets, but why not hop aboard a cable car instead? You'll rest your legs and see the sights while enjoying one of the city's iconic experiences. Spend time at **Fisherman's Wharf**, a waterfront neighborhood and visitor destination that includes seafood restaurants, **Pier 39** with its sea lions, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, historic ships and other attractions. Climb up **Telegraph Hill** to take in panoramic city views from the top of **Coit Tower** and stroll down winding **Lombard Street**. If time allows, join a free walking tour across the **Golden Gate Bridge**. Dine on delicious ethnic cuisine in some of the city's diverse neighborhoods, including Chinatown, the largest Chinatown outside of Asia. Fifteen miles (24 km) north of the city, **Muir Woods National Monument** is literally a monument to trees - specifically an old-growth forest of coastal redwoods that are between 600 and 800 years old and stand about 250 feet (76 meters) tall. There are dozens of trails, but try the six miles (10 km) leading through **Pinchot Grove** and **Cathedral Grove** and along Redwood Creek. Plan your visit for a weekday and arrive in early morning to experience the forest at its quietest

and most magical. Muir Woods is part of the **Golden Gate National Recreation Area** that spans three counties in the San Francisco Bay area. Take a ferry tour, or explore by bicycle from Sausalito. Extend the day and visit **Point Reyes National Seashore**, a short journey farther north, where you can hike in the hills or along the beach. Keep an eye out for whales and harbor seals.

**Accommodation: San Francisco, California**



## San Francisco, California, to Lassen Volcanic National Park, California

Travel through Northern California to **Lassen Volcanic National Park**, where Lassen Peak is the dominant feature. Boiling springs, steaming sulphur vents and mud pots all combine to make up this diverse landscape. Hike through the **Devastated Area**, and see remnants of past eruptions. Along 150 miles (241 km) of trails, you can walk through lush forests and around crystal-clear lakes for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

**Accommodation: Lassen Volcanic National Park Area**

## Lassen Volcanic National Park, California, to Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada

Through Lassen Volcanic National Park and ancient forests, follow the **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail** to Lake Tahoe. Explore the lake activities, hike or bike the many trails, or simply enjoy the breathtaking scenery of this wilderness area on the California/Nevada border.

*Accommodation: Lake Tahoe Area, California/Nevada*

## Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada, to Yosemite National Park, California

Travel through the High Sierra Nevada mountains to reach **Yosemite National Park**, where giant sequoia trees tower over the natural wilderness, which includes waterfalls, including the 620-foot (189 meters) Bridalveil Falls, and the granite cliffs of Half Dome and El Capitan. The Yosemite Village community provides an opportunity to visit the Ansel Adams Gallery of landscape photography and the Yosemite Museum. All levels of trails make this a paradise for hikers and bikers, and you may wish to consider staying longer to fully explore.

*Accommodation: Yosemite, California*



## Yosemite National Park, California, to San Francisco, California

Take advantage of more time in San Francisco to take a ferry to **Alcatraz Island** in San Francisco Bay to get an up-close look at the former federal penitentiary that is part of the National Park Service as well as marine wildlife, nesting seabirds and historic buildings. Alternatively, visit the **Presidio of San Francisco**, a former U.S. Army military fort that now is a park in the **Golden Gate Recreation Area** with trails, restaurants, museums and special events.

*Accommodation: San Francisco, California, Area*