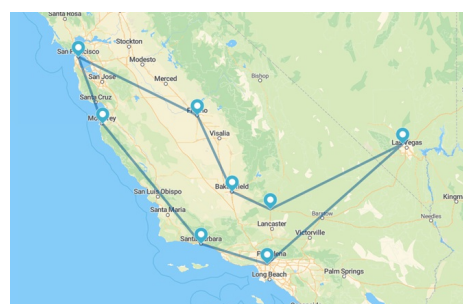




US, 12 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route through the Iconic Cities of the American West

This ever-popular road trip will take you along the golden triangle that includes the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas. In Los Angeles, you can feel like a movie star at Universal Studios or walk the Walk (of Fame). In San Francisco, you'll cross the Golden Gate Bridge and visit the former prison of Alcatraz. In Las Vegas, you'll get to enjoy its vibrant nightlife, its casinos and its many events. En route, you'll also have the chance to discover Santa Barbara and Monterey, places famous for their beaches and marine life. What's more, you'll drive along Route 66 and venture into the Mojave Desert before heading back to Los Angeles. Set off on one of America's most attractive road trips and revel in some unforgettable experiences.



**Departure date:** Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Cork, Shannon, Dublin

### Travel details

#### ● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - LOS ANGELES

Flight departure from the city of origin to Los Angeles. Upon arrival, pick up your rental car and spend the rest of the day getting to know the city. LA is the largest city in California and one of the most important metropolises in the whole of America. It includes the city of Los Angeles itself and also Long Beach, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Malibu. Everything will seem familiar, and you'll soon realise that you recognise the city from the movies. City Hall, for example, is one of the most famous buildings in all of LA for having been the headquarters - among others - of the 'Daily Planet', the newspaper where Superman worked. Just round the corner are the Cathedral and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, a spectacular building. And a mere five minutes from here are two of the most typical neighbourhoods in the whole of Los Angeles: Chinatown and Little Tokyo. You'll be transported from the United States to China and Japan in the blink of an eye. Make sure you stroll along the Walk of Fame and look out for the star in honour of your favourite actress or actor, but keep your eyes peeled as you'll have a good chance of bumping into them in the flesh throughout the day. From here, you can make your way over to Beverly Hills. Before arriving at the city's most luxurious neighbourhood, stop off en route at the Sunset Strip for a bit of retail therapy. If you're a 'Pretty Woman' fan, just a stone's throw away is 9500 Wilshire Blvd, location of the hotel where Julia Roberts and Richard Gere shared a room. Overnight stay in Los Angeles.

## ● DAY 2 · LOS ANGELES

The city of Los Angeles, especially the Hollywood area, is intrinsically linked to the history of cinema. So, today you can set aside part of the day to learn about the ins-and-outs of the industry known as the 'Seventh Art'. Besides photographing the most famous sign in the city, a highly recommended activity is a tour of Universal Studios. You'll find gigantic film studios, theme park attractions and live shows. It's huge, and to get your money's worth, you'll need between six and eight hours. As for the attractions, one of the firm favourites of visitors is The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Get ready to be whisked off to Hogwarts! Another must-see is Simpsons Land, full of the places where everyone's favourite yellow family live their lives. Universal has churned out huge blockbusters over its hundred-year-plus existence, so you can drive through 'Jurassic Park', be Rick Grimes for a day in 'The Walking Dead', discover a day in the life of the 'Minions', get up close to 'Shrek', and even play at being a 'Transformer'. The range of things to do within the park is endless, but remember to take a tour the studios themselves. You'll see legendary sets where movies such as 'Psycho' or 'Jaws' were filmed. As for the live shows, there'll be epic battles and lots of special effects. At the end of your day here, head down to the Sunset Strip and revel in the most bohemian and cosmopolitan neighbourhood of Los Angeles. It's an ideal place to dine and have a couple of drinks. Overnight stay in Los Angeles.

## ● DAY 3 · LOS ANGELES - SANTA BARBARA

Departure to the southern coast of California, where you'll find the city of Santa Barbara, known as the California Riviera for its beautiful beaches and sheltered waters that offer an ideal environment for swimming, yachting or sunbathing. Soak up the captivating atmosphere of the city as you head to the County Courthouse. This is a fascinating visit both for its architecture and for the views it commands over the city. When it's time to eat, the best place to savour exceptional freshly-caught seafood, and at a good price, is Stearns Wharf. It's also the perfect place for spotting seals, pelicans and other types of birds. Santa Barbara is famous for its beaches. Butterfly Beach is one of them, but you can also choose Miramar or Carpintería, both idyllic havens. Some days you can spend sunbathing surrounded by sea lions, while others you can spend swimming among dolphins. Whatever you decide, you'll always enjoy a healthy and family-friendly atmosphere that will turn a beach day into an exceptional experience. If you're a fan of landscaping, make sure you take the two-hour guided tour through Lotusland, the best gardens in the whole of California. It's essential to book in advance because this is one of the top attractions in Santa Barbara. (Note: Admission not included). And did you know that dozens of celebrities live in Santa Bárbara and walk through the streets every day without being noticed? If you're on the ball and good at recognising faces, you should spot the odd one. For dinner, head over to the Funk Zone, the city's coolest and most cosmopolitan neighbourhood. Overnight stay in Santa Barbara.

#### DAY 4 · SANTA BARBARA - MONTEREY

Departure to the picturesque city of Monterey. Keep in mind that it will take you between 4½ and 5½ hours depending on the route you choose and the amount of traffic. That's why we recommend leaving Santa Barbara quite early on in the day. Upon arrival in Monterey, head downtown for breakfast at Cannery Row followed by a stroll along the main shopping street. Afterwards, you can head over to the Pacific Grove area, where you can play golf on one of the world's most impressive courses, visit one of the oldest lighthouses in the United States, or simply unwind on Lovers Point Beach or Asilomar State Beach. Kayaking and surfing are the two quintessential sports in the area, and you'll have no problem finding stores that rent out equipment for you to live it up on the waters of Monterey Bay. The abundant marine fauna, mile after mile of deserted beaches and delightful villages dotted along the coast make this place one of California's greatest attractions. As lunchtime approaches, make your way over to the Old Fisherman's Wharf, where boats sail out to see whales and dolphins, and also where you'll find some of the area's most alluring restaurants. You'll always be guaranteed a great atmosphere, excellent culinary offerings and privileged views of the sea lions. (Note: Whale-watching trips set out every day from the wharf. Greys pass through the bay from mid-December to April, while blues and humpbacks are visible from May to November. Tour not included). Another compelling option to enjoy the marine universe is a visit to the city's aquarium. Experts rate it among the best in the world, so if you're interested, set aside around three hours as it's huge and also absolutely fascinating. (Note: Admission not included). It will blow you over, both for the diversity of species on show and the infrastructure giving them shelter. It's like wandering through an underwater city. Back outside, you can choose where to bid farewell to the sun until tomorrow. Spanish Bay or the Asilomar Coastal Trail are two perfect locations for sundowners. This time of day is one of the liveliest in Monterey. Insider tip: when you book your trip, make a reservation at the city's most fashionable restaurant to make sure you get a good table and enjoy an unforgettable evening. Overnight stay in Monterey.

#### DAY 5 · MONTEREY - SAN FRANCISCO

Wake up refreshed for the fascinating day that lies ahead today. Departure to San Francisco, cultural capital of the West Coast and home to one of the most beautiful bays in the world.

(Note: The drive from Monterey to San Francisco will take you about two hours, depending on the traffic).

You can start off your tour of San Fran by going to the Financial District and photographing the Transamerica Pyramid building from all angles. From there, you can saunter down to the port and begin visiting the "piers". There are forty in total and the most interesting one is Pier 39, where a colony of sea lions bask in the sun unaware that hundreds of tourists are waiting for their slightest move to take the perfect photo. Boats set off from the piers towards Alcatraz, one of the most famous trips in the city. Whether you decide to set sail or not, the area around "Pier" 39 is home to one of the city's liveliest neighbourhoods: Fisherman's Wharf. This is the old fishing district that has been transformed into must-visit venues for locals and tourists alike in search of a great atmosphere and lots of fun. You can eat around here and then spend the afternoon exploring three of the city's neighbourhoods: the hippie district of Haight-Ashbury; Castro; and Mission. The three are totally different from one another, but each one will truly captivate you. To round off a perfect day, you can marvel at the Powell-Hyde cable car turnover or drive down Lombard Street, known as the crookedest street in the world. You'll be snaking your way past Ferraris, mega-mansions and celebrities, so take it slow and don't get too dizzy! Throughout the day, you'll experience fabulous views, excellent restaurants and a chic yet genuine atmosphere that have turned the city into one of the most fascinating places on the planet.

Overnight stay in San Francisco.

## DAY 6 · SAN FRANCISCO

Today, you can further explore the delights of San Francisco. First stop is the Golden Gate Bridge. You can cross it on foot, by bike or by car. We suggest driving so you can see what lies beyond the bridge. You'll have seen the Golden Gate dozens of times at the cinema, but it will still impress you. FYI, it has a suspension span of 1,970 metres, three lanes in each direction and two towers soaring 745 feet into the sky. It's the only way out of San Francisco to the north where our next stop lies. Sausalito is a pocket-sized but charming city, with the main attraction being its 400-plus floating homes. The views from here are incredible, so park up your car and walk around for as long as you want. A little further north of Sausalito is Point Reyes National Seashore, where you can see whales migrating up to Alaska, the largest seal colony on the entire Californian coast and groups of elephant seals, one of the most difficult animals to observe in freedom. If you're a lover of good wine, we recommend getting back on the road for the next stop. An hour north of Sausalito (on the 101 and 121) are Sonoma and Napa, with miles and miles of Californian vineyards eagerly awaiting your arrival. There are wineries that organise tastings and tours of their facilities. Choose which one you fancy before going, because you may have to book a place in advance. On the way back to San Francisco, you can skirt the city and pass by the universities of Berkeley and Oakland. Berkeley is the birthplace of hippies, statement T-shirts and marijuana smokers, who have been advocating free love since the 1960s. There are places where you can practise yoga at free will, organic markets.... Visiting the university is a must, as it is in Oakland, just ten minutes away on Martin Luther King Jr Way. Oakland is less hippie and more "hipster". It's a modern and lively city. As it has much lower rents than in San Francisco, some of the best chefs have moved here. So, you'll definitely eat well in Oakland. The first stop should be Jack London Square. The city's offbeat and bohemian atmosphere is perfectly reflected here. Looking out to sea, or San Francisco Bay to be exact, you can savour a delicious glass of Californian wine, which has taken the world by storm over the last decade. You can round off your visit touring Old Oakland, with its Victorian heritage and laid-back atmosphere, where you'll see locals eating together and stumble across non-profit bookstores. Depending on the spell cast on you by Oakland, you can admire the sunset from Point Bonita Lighthouse, in the Marin Headlands Park. If you arrive in time and feel like it, you can cross the Golden Gate Bridge again. Another option is to drive up to the Twin Peaks mountains for the breathtaking views and then head down for dinner in San Francisco. Overnight stay in San Francisco.

## DAY 7 · SAN FRANCISCO - FRESNO - BAKERSFIELD

We recommend leaving San Francisco first thing in the morning to avoid the major traffic jams and also take it nice and easy, as a 450-kilometre drive between San Francisco and Bakersfield lies ahead. On the way to Bakersfield, make a quick stop in Fresno. Once there, we suggest a visit to the Forestiere Underground Gardens (check opening hours in advance; admission fee 15 dollars). This attraction includes a tour of some incredible maze-like catacombs surrounded by vegetation and ancient trees. The gardens connect more than 100 rooms on three different levels and the result is truly impressive. Onward journey towards Bakersfield. This city is famous for its oil fields, which were the inspiration behind Paul Thomas Anderson's film 'There Will Be Blood'. It's also famed for the "Bakersfield Sound", a subgenre of country music that emerged as a reaction to the Nashville Sound. Bakersfield today is a hub of art and culture. You can visit the many galleries in the Arts District or take in a show at Fox Theater building or Buck Owens' Crystal Palace, where country music takes centre stage. Overnight stay in Bakersfield.

## DAY 8 · BAKERSFIELD - MOJAVE - LAS VEGAS

There are almost five hundred kilometres between Bakersfield and Las Vegas. And to drive from California to Las Vegas, you have to cross the Mojave Desert. Named after the Mojave indigenous community that once lived here, the desert is famous for its sweltering temperatures and its many yucca plants. It's one of the largest deserts in the United States and is home to three parks: Death Valley, Joshua Tree and the Mojave National Preserve. On the way you'll have the chance to visit the latter. The Mojave National Preserve boasts several tourist attractions. One of them is the world's tallest thermometer. At a height of 134 feet, you'll see it as you pass through the town of Baker. Due to its unique dune-covered terrain, this area was the site for tests carried out by NASA for the Curiosity rover, which was designed to explore craters on the surface of Mars. Nearby are the ghost town of Kelso and the Kelso Depot, an information centre for visitors to the Mojave National Preserve. After the long journey, you'll finally get to the city of Las Vegas. Overnight stay in Las Vegas.

## ● DAY 9 · LAS VEGAS

Depending on the time you arrived yesterday, you were probably able to tick off some things on your Las Vegas must-do list. Whatever the case, you can start off today by heading down The Strip. You'll bump into hundreds of stag dos trying to emulate the stars of "The Hangover" and dozens of people handing out flyers. Take it easy, as the distances are vast and it'll take some time to get through everything you've highlighted on your map. A map that includes the entire world, as walking along this street will take you to the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty, the canals of Venice and the pyramids of Egypt. You can enter all the hotels you fancy. All the big ones are worth a visit, so spend as long as you want because they're true works of art. Before heading back to the hotel, you can also watch the water show at Bellagio Casino. Litres and litres of water frolicking to the music with a combination of lights and colours that will mesmerise you. Bellagio isn't the only venue for a free show. Some of the big hotels also have one. Once back at yours, try your luck at the casino or on the slot machines. You'll already have seen that almost everything here is free, but you'll ultimately end up spending more than you had budgeted for. It's normal, don't worry about it. It's difficult to resist the temptations of a city that revolves around money. There are shopping malls and themed shops that are free to enter, but will somehow convince you to buy things and give your credit cards a good outing. What's more, you'll spend so much time in enclosed spaces with artificial daylight that time will simply fly by. You might look at your watch and it's two hours later (or more) than you thought. Take it easy, it's also normal. Before lunch, you can take the typical photo of the sign on the way into the city. It's the must-take photo, but you'll love showing it off when you get home. You can marvel at the sunset from the High Roller Ferris Wheel. It's huge and will let you observe the city from above. Even if you're not a fan of attractions like this, we wholeheartedly recommend it. If you're an adrenaline junkie, make sure you go on the roller coaster at the New York-New York Hotel. When the sun starts to fade, make your way over to Fremont Street. Dotted with the odd decadent casino, its authentic feel will captivate you. As you'll know your Las Vegas dates in advance, we recommend checking out which shows will be on during your time in the city. World-famous music artists or major performing companies such as "Cirque du Soleil" have residencies here. If you look in advance, you might get significant discounts on ticket prices. And good news if you're thinking about saying 'I Do' soon. You can get married while dressed as Marilyn or Elvis at any time of the day. You can say your vows whenever you want, but (unfortunately, or fortunately) they have no legal standing. Overnight stay in Las Vegas.

## ● DAY 10 · LAS VEGAS - LOS ANGELES

Get ready for a fairly long trip today (about 400 kilometres). This route has been the scene for several films such as "Star Wars", "Lethal Weapon"; or "Kill Bill Volume 2". Las Vegas sits in the Mojave Desert, so to get out of it you have to cross this desert on a highway with very long straight sections. Quite an experience!

You'll see pocket-sized towns such as Baker, Yermo and Barstow en route, as well some ghost towns that were once mining hotspots.

Overnight stay in Los Angeles.

## ● DAY 11 · LOS ANGELES - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Night on board.

## ● DAY 12 · CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Los Angeles.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Los Angeles.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Santa Barbara - Ca.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Santa Barbara - Ca.

- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Monterey - Ca.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in San Francisco.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Bakersfield - Ca.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Las Vegas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Monterey - Ca.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in San Francisco.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Bakersfield - Ca.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Las Vegas.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Electronic Authorization (ESTA/ETA) to enter in US.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.
- ✗ Admission tickets to parks.
- ✗ Resort fee US.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.

## Destinations Visited

Los Angeles



Santa Barbara - Ca



Monterey - Ca



San Francisco



Fresno - Ca



Bakersfield - Ca



Mojave - Ca



Las Vegas



## Important remarks

- Tips in US are a common practice.
- Generally in US the accommodation in the triple rooms have two double beds or one double and one single bed and the quadruple accommodation has two double beds.
- Driving in the USA: 1. Overtaking on the right is not only legal but everyone does it. And the sooner you get used

to roads with more than five lanes, the better. 2. It is legal (and mandatory) to turn right on a red light when there is a signal to do so. 3. With regard to parking, make sure you check when you can park on the street and never park in front of a fire hydrant (even though there are no signs prohibiting it). If there are lines painted on the road to mark out parking spaces, leave the car right in the middle of them, however huge the gap may seem. Be especially careful in the centre of big cities and don't let the parking meter go over by even one minute (check before paying because there are days of the week or certain times when you don't have to pay). 4. Beware of tolls. They will be indicated with the words toll or turnpike and don't usually have a barrier, so you can drive through them without realising and then receive a fine a few weeks later. Don't drive in FasTrak Only lanes and make sure you have some cash on you, as some tolls are cash-only. 5. Unless you want a ticket and a stern chat from a Highway Patrol Officer, it's best not to drive more than five or ten miles above the maximum speed allowed for the road. If the police end up stopping you, keep your hands on the steering wheel and in sight at all times and don't even think about trying to be funny. 6. We recommend signing up to roadside assistance services and a GPS when you hire a car.

- Consult the entry restrictions and additional requirements for people who have previously traveled to destinations such as Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, etc.
- Hotels may charge a Resort Fee charge that must be paid directly at the destination. The amount can vary between approximately \$15 and \$65 per room per night. This charge is indicative and may be modified depending on the establishment's policy.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- You must give notice that you are going to cross the border while collecting the vehicle. Authorisation may be required to drive through certain countries or areas/states (as is the case in the US and Canada). Depending on the conditions set out in the rental contract and the company hired, you might be charged a surcharge payable at the destination office.