



Californian Coast Route, from San Francisco to San Diego

[illegible]

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

Flight departure from the city of origin to San Francisco. After the necessary arrivals and customs formalities, you can pick up your rental car and start enjoying your holiday. Overnight stay in San Francisco.

DAY 2 · SAN FRANCISCO

Wake up refreshed for the fascinating day that lies ahead today. You can start off 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. It 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 3 · SAN FRANCISCO - SAUSALITO - POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE - OAKLAND - 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 your car 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. For your information, 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 4 · SAN FRANCISCO - SILICON VALLEY - CUPERTINO - MONTEREY

Before leaving San Francisco, you can tick off the remaining must-sees such as Chinatown, Little Italy, Saint Mary's Cathedral, City Hall, Alamo Square and - of course - the Painted Ladies, a row of Victorian houses that rose to fame thanks to the TV series 'Full House'. You'll come across fans of the series taking photos around the clock. Onward now to Monterey. Take the 101 and stop off in Palo Alto, Silicon Valley and Cupertino, where NASA, Google and Apple have their headquarters. Keep heading down the 101 and pull over at Gilroy, the paradise of outlet shopping. Like everything in this country, the mall is ginormous, offering designer labels at bargain prices. So, if you've come over with an empty suitcase to fill up, then this is the place for you. You're now 45 minutes from Monterey, so you can cover the last stretch without stopping. This will give you more time to visit the city. Overnight stay in Monterey.

DAY 5 · MONTEREY

You can start off the day with a downtown breakfast at Cannery Row followed by a stroll along the main shopping street of Monterey. 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 home to 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 6 · MONTEREY - CARMEL BY THE SEA - SAN LUIS OBISPO

Every trip has special days, and today is one of them. Ahead is one of the most intense days and proof that you've chosen the best way to travel (that is, by car). There are basically two ways to go from Monterey to San Luis Obispo. The first is to take the 101 (a safe bet and a fast road), while the other is along one of the world's most amazing roads. Hard to resist, isn't it? You can drive the 220 kilometres accompanied by the most spectacular cliffs and stunning views all along the way. What's more, you can visit some of the most charming villages in California. The first is Carmel-by-the-Sea, a small town of just 4,000 inhabitants with a high per capita income. The houses here are those found in coffee table books, with their setting being a true privilege. Before leaving Carmel, you can visit Mission San Carlos Borromeo and follow in the footsteps of Fray Junípero Serra hundreds of years later. Onward to Point Lobos, where you'll have to pay upfront for parking before setting off to observe sea lions in the wild. This is a true spectacle of nature and you should really make sure you see it. This whole stretch is stunning and you should stop off wherever you fancy to take all the photos you want. You're in a unique place in the world and it's normal that you want to capture the essence and show it to all your friends. It will also mean that you have an indelible memory of the day. Another place that will make today truly unforgettable is Big Sur, inside the Pfeiffer State Park. Here you can go hiking and observe California condors, but we recommend following the signs to the viewpoint, where you'll see migrating whales (if in season) or otters basking in the sun on seaweed loungers. On the way back down, you'll pass through towns such as Lucia, Gorda or San Simeon, which are well worth visiting if you have the time. That said, we definitely recommend stopping off at Moonstone Beach, before you get to Cambria. It's the beach of the squirrels. Yes, you read that right. An army of squirrels have settled on this beach and are used to the presence of humans, so you can feed them up close. When done, hit the road again and take in the scenery, as you'll be skirting unbelievable cliffs that lead down to Cayucos and, ultimately, San Luis Obispo. As you'll see, it's not a very big town, so after freshening up at your hotel, you can head straight downtown to Marsh Street and Higuera Street, two parallel thoroughfares agglomerating the social life of San Luis Obispo. Take note of the location, because tomorrow you'll be heading back here to visit the Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, which is just a few minutes away from the centre. Out of curiosity, check whether the drive-in is still open and which movie is being shown that night. Watching a movie from your car is an amazing experience! Overnight stay in San Luis Obispo.

DAY 7 · SAN LUIS OBISPO - LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST - SANTA BARBARA

You'll have strolled the downtown area yesterday, so today you can visit Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa and then set off for Santa Barbara. This is an untaxing stretch in terms of mileage and you'll be able to stop off wherever you want. The first must-see is Pismo Beach, the surfer's paradise. Afterwards, we recommend driving along the 101 and the 154, instead of following the coastline. The landscape here is spectacular, akin to yesterday, but driving along the 101 opens the door to Los Padres National Forest. However, just a few kilometres before entering this natural oasis, there are two very attractive proposals. The first is Santa Ynez, the perfect place for lovers of good wine. Here you can taste the different Californian varieties and visit the many wineries in the area. The other highlight is Solvang, a city that will transport you to deepest Denmark but still within the United States. It's really quite astonishing. As for Los Padres National Forest, please bear in mind that some areas of this park call for a special permit for cars, so we recommend checking the official website to request the relevant permit in advance and avoid any issues on arrival. Here at Los Padres, you'll find a California condor sanctuary where the authorities are working to take this bird off the endangered species list. There are hundreds of kilometres marked out for hiking, but don't forget that wild animals roam around the area. We recommend that you follow the safety instructions provided at the entrance of the park at all times. (Note: Admission not included). As soon as you leave Los Padres, you'll get to Santa Barbara, a vibrant city lying between the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Ynez Mountains. Any recommendations? You can start off by visiting the beach, the Presidio Real de Santa Barbara and the Mission. Overnight stay in Santa Barbara.

DAY 8 · SANTA BARBARA

Kick start the day with some breakfast downtown at a bar on State St.. It's great wandering around here because there are dozens of restaurants and clothing stores. 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 9 · SANTA BARBARA - LOS ANGELES

After enjoying the attractions of Santa Bárbara, we'll hit the road again to discover another highlight of this tour: Los Angeles, the largest city in California and one of the most important metropolises in America. It includes the city of Los Angeles itself and also Long Beach, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Malibu. A great way to start the day is to head to the Downtown district. 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 around the corner are the Cathedral and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, a spectacular building. Just 5 minutes from here, two of the most typical neighborhoods in all of Los Angeles begin: 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 shopping. If you're a "Pretty Woman" fan, very near here is 9500 Wilshire Blvd the location of the hotel where Julia Roberts and Richard Gere shared a room. Overnight stay in Los Angeles.

DAY 10 · 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 11 · LOS ANGELES

Another day to continue enjoying Los Angeles and its surroundings. If you feel like it, you can visit Santa Monica and Venice Beach today. In fact, you can even head straight for breakfast in downtown Santa Monica, on Third Street Promenade. There are dozens of coffee shops and boutiques in this pedestrianised area, so make sure you have a good mooch around. When you're done, head to one of the most magical "piers" on the West Coast. It's an amazing experience to stroll up and down it. From here, you'll get a stunning view of Santa Monica beach in all its immensity. You can amble along the sand, take a dip in the ocean or emulate Pamela Anderson, David Hasselhoff and the rest of the 'Baywatch' crew. The famous series was filmed here and you'll see the original towers of the real lifeguards. Some look very similar to those in the series. The beach is simply amazing. There are always people hanging out and always something to see or do, whether playing a game of "beach volleyball" or watching the street performers on the boardwalk. This will take you up to Venice Beach; you'll have to choose whether you walk, rollerblade or cycle there. What's more, you can take a stroll along the canals, soak up the wonderful atmosphere and admire the impressive graffiti. You can do all this before working out at Muscle Beach, an outdoor gym right on the water. Very close to Venice Beach is one of the most famous high schools of the 1980s, where Sandy and Danny of 'Grease' fame fell in love. By now, you'll have taken up most of the day, so stick around and marvel at the sunset from Santa Monica Beach, with the "pier" and the amusement park in the background. With the last rays of sun, you can head back to Los Angeles and get ready to enjoy the LA nightlife. Overnight stay in Los Angeles.

DAY 12 · LOS ANGELES - SAN DIEGO (OPTIONAL VISITS TO DISNEYLAND OR LEGOLAND)

"Road trips" are well worth it on days like today, where just 240 kilometres will take you a long way. First of all, we propose 6 possible stops, although the fact of going by car and in your air gives you that freedom to stop wherever you want. The first of our suggestions is to leave Los Angeles on the 5 in the direction of Disneyland. Of course, venturing into Disney's magical universe requires quite a few hours that won't let you stop off at many other places on your way to San Diego. You decide how to plan the day today. After Disneyland, you can keep going on the 1, skirting the coast at all times. This highway is wonderful, with mesmerising views throughout the journey and the chance to stop off at several breathtaking places. Huntington Beach and Newport Beach are two ideal spots for surfing. Another wonderful beach is the one in Crystal Cove State Park; eternally clean, peaceful, sheltered and surrounded by wild nature. Further south, you'll get to Oceanside, considered by many to be the mecca of surfing. Fifty kilometres away from San Diego, you can pop for a visit to Legoland. It's an incredible place, where the magic of Lego will take hold. Get ready to see more than 60 million blocks that recreate cities such as New York or San Francisco, or scenes from such famous movies as 'Star Wars'. It's a perfect activity for kids and adults alike, as the constructions are complemented by roller coasters and live performances. Stepping foot inside will also open the door to unique LEGO figures, which you won't find anywhere else in the world and can be bought by weight, making them cheaper than at traditional outlets. Remember to take swimwear with you, because you can cool off at the LEGOLand Water Park before taking on the last leg of today's itinerary. (Note: Admission to Disneyland and Legoland not included). When you arrive in San Diego, you can savour one of its famous beers. Overnight stay in San Diego.

● DAY 13 · SAN DIEGO

You can start your visit to the city by going to the Downtown district. Remember that San Diego is the second largest city in California, only surpassed by Los Angeles. Downtown, especially the area known as Gaslamp Quarter, is the nerve centre. Here you'll find bars, restaurants, stores and the stadium of the San Diego Padres, the city's baseball team. If your stay coincides with a match, try to get some tickets. There's such an electric atmosphere that you'll soon be cheering on each "home run" of your favourite new team. You can spend the rest of the morning strolling around the nearby port area and enjoying a visit to USS Midway, an aircraft carrier converted into a museum. You can also recreate the most famous image in the world, the one of an anonymous sailor kissing a nurse at the end of WW2, in front of the statue commemorating the 1945 photo. After lunch, you've got several interesting plans to choose from. You can opt to head over to Coronado Peninsula or venture into Balboa Park, one of the best in the world. It houses a zoo, vast green areas and some fifteen museums, most of them outdoors. And speaking of museums, there's one in San Diego that stands out above all the rest if you're travelling with kids. It's the New Children's Museum, a true marvel of a place. You can round off the afternoon by sauntering along the boardwalk and returning to the Gaslamp Quarter for dinner. Both day and night, it will remind you of the New York neighbourhoods of Tribeca or Soho. And besides all these plans, San Diego is also home to SeaWorld, one of the largest marine theme parks in the world. However, it's so huge and fascinating that you'll need a whole day to see it. Overnight stay in San Diego.

● DAY 14 · SAN DIEGO - 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 15 · CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in San Francisco.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in San Francisco.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Monterey - Ca.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Monterey - Ca.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in San Luis Obispo - Ca.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in San Luis Obispo - Ca.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Santa Barbara - Ca.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Santa Barbara - Ca.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Los Angeles.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Los Angeles.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in San Diego.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in San Diego.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

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

Destinations Visited

San Francisco



Sausalito



Point Reyes Station - Ca



Oakland - Ca



Cupertino - Ca



Monterey - Ca



Carmel-by-the-Sea - Ca



San Luis Obispo - Ca



Santa Barbara - Ca



Los Angeles



San Diego



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.