

lonely planet

# California



# California



# How to Use This eBook

4 easy-to-use sections

1

## PLAN YOUR TRIP

Your planning tool kit  
Photos & suggestions  
to help you create the  
perfect trip.

2

## ON THE ROAD

Your complete guide  
Expert reviews,  
easy-to-use maps  
and insider tips.

3

## UNDERSTAND

Get more from your trip  
Learn about the big  
picture, to make sense  
of what you see.

4

## SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your at-a-glance guide  
Vital practical  
information to help you  
have a smooth trip.

Look for these symbols to quickly identify listings:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Sights             |  Eating                  |
|  Activities         |  Drinking                |
|  Courses            |  Entertainment           |
|  Tours              |  Shopping                |
|  Festivals & Events |  Information & Transport |
|  Sleeping           |   |

**All reviews** are ordered in our authors' preference, starting with their most preferred option. Additionally:

**Sights** are arranged in the geographic order that we suggest you visit them, and within this order, by author preference.

**Eating and Sleeping reviews** are ordered by price range (budget, midrange, top end) and within these ranges, by author preference.

These symbols give vital information for each listing:

- ★ Must-visit recommendation
- 🌿 Sustainable or green recommendation

**FREE** No payment required

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  Telephone number |  Vegetarian selection |
|  Opening hours    |  Family-friendly      |
|  Parking          |  Pet-friendly         |
|  Nonsmoking       |  Bus                  |
|  Air-conditioning |  Ferry                |
|  Internet access  |  Tram                 |
|  Wi-fi access     |  Train                |
|  Swimming pool    |  |

For symbols used on maps, see the Map Legend at the end of this eBook.

# The key to the perfect trip

Lonely Planet eBooks make trip planning and on-the-road travelling easier than ever

## 1. Discover amazing experiences

Gorgeous photos of top sights with links to author recommendations help you plan where to go.

### Montenegro's Top 16

#### Sveti Stefan



1 The gorgeous island of Sveti Stefan is a unique sight in Montenegro. It's a small island in the Adriatic Sea, just off the coast of the town of Budva. The island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is known for its beautiful beaches and historic buildings. It's a great place to visit if you're looking for a unique experience in Montenegro.

#### Sveti Stefan

#### Sights

##### Sveti Stefan Beach

The main point of coming time horizontal as possible

## 2. Content when you need it

Downloading eBooks on the road is simple, and you can carry as many guides as you need.



## 3. Plan your perfect trip

Search for destinations, bookmark favourites and add notes to customise your guide.

## 4. Essential online travel info

Links to the best business and travel websites bring all the info you need into one place.

## Features you'll love while on the road...



Map links to reviews mean you can find info quickly.



Zoom-in maps make it easy to navigate in a new place.



Offline maps mean no data-roaming charges.

To get the most out of the maps in this guide, use the zoom function on your device, or visit <http://media.lonelyplanet.com/ebookmaps> to grab a PDF of the maps.

# California

0 50 100 Miles  
0 50 100 Kilometers

## ROAD DISTANCES (miles)

San Francisco	Los Angeles	San Diego	Las Vegas	Phoenix
San Francisco	380	480	580	680
Los Angeles	—	200	300	400
San Diego	100	—	100	200
Las Vegas	200	100	—	100
Phoenix	300	200	100	—

**Redwood Forests**  
Hug the world's tallest trees

**Lassen Volcanic National Park**  
Smokin' geological wonderland

**Sonoma Valley**  
Early vineyards with no snobbery

**Gold Country**  
The Golden State's wild history

**San Francisco's Golden Gates**  
Play outside by the bay

**Yosemite National Park**  
Epic Sierra Nevada scenery

**Death Valley National Park**  
Life abounds in the desert

**Monterey**  
Many marine wonders await

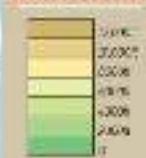
**Big Sur**  
Get lost with bohemian backroads

**Hollywood**  
Seeing stars on the boulevard

**Laguna Beach**  
Orange County artists' colony

**San Diego Zoo & Balboa Park**  
Bring the whole family

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# Welcome to California

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*From towering redwood forests in foggy Northern California to perfect sun-kissed surf beaches in Southern California, this Golden State alongside the Pacific is a prize*

## Natural Beauty

Don't be fooled by its perpetually fresh outlook and gung-ho attitude: California is older than it seems. Coastal bluffs and snowy peaks were created over millennia of tectonic upheavals that have threatened to shake California right off the continent. After unchecked 19th-century mining, logging and oil-drilling threatened to undermine the state's natural splendors, California's pioneering environmentalists – including John Muir and the Sierra Club – rescued old-growth trees and spurred the creation of national and state parks that still astound visitors today.

## Fabulous Food & Drink

Because California produces most of the fresh produce in the US, minor menu decisions here can have nationwide impact. Every time they sit down to eat, Californians take trend-setting stands on mealtime moral dilemmas: certified organic versus spray-free, farm-to-table versus urban-garden-grown, veganism versus grass-fed humanely raised meats. But no matter what you order, it's likely to be local and creative, and it had better be good. For a chaser, California produces over 90% of the nation's wine-making grapes, and has twice as many breweries as any other state.

## Creative Arts & Tech

From the Gold Rush to the dot-com bubble, California has survived extreme booms and busts, often getting by on its wits. Hollywood still makes most of the world's movies and TV shows, fed by a vibrant performing arts scene on stages across the state. Trends are kick-started here not by moguls in offices, but by motley crowds of surfers, artists and dreamers concocting the out-there ideas behind anything from skateboarding to biotechnology. If you linger in art galleries, cafes and bars, you may actually see the future coming.

## Road Tripping

The wonder about hitting California's highways and byways is that things get more dramatic with every winding mile you detour from the big cities – trees get bigger, picturesque towns cuter and beaches more idyllic. Hug scenic oceanfront cliffs on Hwys 1 and 101 from Mexico to Oregon, or take an equally winding jaunt through historic Gold Country along Hwy 49. Follow pastoral back roads between vineyards in California's many wine countries (it's not just Napa), or take a weekend for a loop drive around Lake Tahoe. It's enough for a lifetime of road trips.

## Why I Love California



Big Sur

SAMATHA T. PHOTOGRAPHY / GETTY IMAGES ©

By Sara Benson, Coordinating Author

Like almost half the people who live here, California is not where I was born, but it's where I've chosen to live. I never get tired of exploring (or more truthfully, eating my way around) my adopted home state, with its vibrant multicultural mix. Summer finds me climbing mountains in the Sierra Nevada and hitting SoCal beaches, while spring is time for wildflower blooms in the desert. Fall brings wine-country festivals and the tasting of new vintages straight from the barrel. In winter,

nothing beats skiing at Lake Tahoe or Yosemite National Park.



# California's Top 25

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## San Francisco's Golden Gates



DANITA DELIMONT / GETTY IMAGES ©

Sashay out onto San Francisco's iconic [bridge](#) to spy on cargo ships threading through pylons painted 'International Orange.' Memorize the 360-degree views of the rugged Marin Headlands, downtown skyscrapers and the speck that is [Alcatraz](#) ( [GOOGLE MAP](#);  Alcatraz Cruises 415-981-7625; [www.alcatrazcruises.com](http://www.alcatrazcruises.com); day tours adult/child/family \$30/18/92, night tours adult/child \$37/22;  call center 8am-7pm, ferries depart Pier 33 half-hrly 9am-3:55pm, night tours 6:10pm & 6:45pm). Not too far away, you could spend days getting lost in [Golden Gate Park](#) without uncovering all of its secret haunts, like the paddleboat pond and bison paddock, or fully exploring its innovative science and art museums. Weekend traffic closures make the park even more of a paradise for pedestrians and cyclists.

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## Top Experiences

### Redwood Forests



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