ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

San Francisco to Las Vegas

Yosemite, over Tioga Pass to Mammoth Lakes, and through Death Valley to Las Vegas.

Length	12 days, 11 nights
Distance	1,060 km, 6 driving days
Behind the wheel	15 h 10 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – San Francisco (SFO), Las Vegas (LAS) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

San Francisco	Days 1–3	**8**
Mariposa	Days 4–6	**10**
Mammoth Lakes	Days 7–8	**12**
Furnace Creek	Day 9	**14**
Las Vegas	Days 10–11	**16**

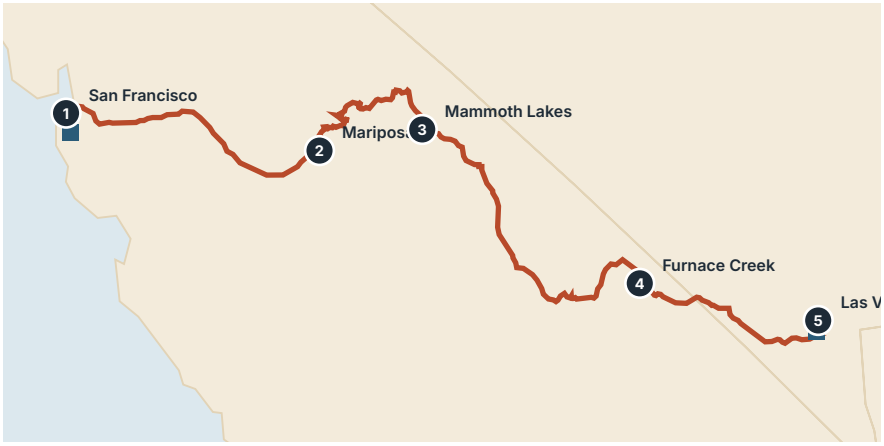
Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		San Francisco	20	20 min	
2		San Francisco			
3		San Francisco			
4		Mariposa	270	3 h 30 min	
5		Mariposa			
6		Mariposa			
7		Mammoth Lakes	210	3 h 40 min	
8		Mammoth Lakes			
9		Furnace Creek	330	4 h 30 min	
10		Las Vegas	200	2 h 40 min	
11		Las Vegas			
12		Flight home from LAS	20	50 min	

1,060 km · 15 h 10 min behind the wheel · on average 180 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at San Francisco (SFO), drive to San Francisco · About 20 km (10 mi), 20 min
Day 4	San Francisco, drive to Mariposa · About 270 km (170 mi), 3 h 30 min
Day 7	Mariposa, drive to Mammoth Lakes · About 210 km (130 mi), 3 h 40 min
Day 9	Mammoth Lakes, drive to Furnace Creek · About 330 km (200 mi), 4 h 30 min
Day 10	Furnace Creek, drive to Las Vegas · About 200 km (120 mi), 2 h 40 min
Day 12	Las Vegas to Las Vegas airport (LAS), fly home to Amsterdam · About 20 km (10 mi), 50 min

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAYS 1–3

San Francisco CA

Alcatraz and Fisherman's Wharf

Land at San Francisco (SFO), drive to San Francisco: about 20 km (10 mi), 20 min

3 nights

SAN FRANCISCO · DAYS 1–3

HOTEL

- [ ] Inn at Union Square · 3★
  440 Post St
- [ ] Chancellor Hotel on Union Square · 3★ — roughly €120
  433 Powell St
- [ ] White Swan Inn · 3★ — roughly €150
  845 Bush St
- [ ] Petite Auberge · 3★ — roughly €190
  863 Bush St
- [ ] Hyatt Place San Francisco/Downtown · 3★ — roughly €190
  701 3rd St

NOTES



DAYS 4–6

Mariposa CA

Yosemite Valley

San Francisco, drive to Mariposa: about 270 km (170 mi), 3 h 30 min

3 nights

MARIPOSA · DAYS 4–6

HOTEL

- [ ] Historic Mariposa Stagecoach Stop w/ Gas Fire Pit! · 3★
  3086 Wass Rd
- [ ] Oak Meadows House - A unique home near Yosemite · 3★
  5465 Oak Meadows Road
- [ ] Peaceful + Private Mariposa Cabin on 2 Acres! · 3★
  3502 Comet Mine Ln
- [ ] Private Hot Tub! Pet-friendly Mariposa Retreat · 3★
  5313 Carleton Rd
- [ ] Waterfront Mariposa Hideaway: Hot Tub & Mtn Views! · 3★
  4872-A Usona Rd

NOTES



DAYS 7–8

Mammoth Lakes CA

Tioga Pass and Mono Lake

Mariposa, drive to Mammoth Lakes: about 210 km (130 mi), 3 h 40 min

2 nights

MAMMOTH LAKES · DAYS 7–8

HOTEL

- [ ] Luxury Oasis Village Ski-in Ski-out · 3★
  1111 Forest Trail #1222
- [ ] Luxury Townhome w/ Views, Private Jacuzzi & Garage · 3★
  100 Juniper Springs Drive #11
- [ ] Mammoth Lakes Condo - Steps to Ski Lift! · 3★
  865 Majestic Pines Dr
- [ ] Quiet, Updated, Corner Condo in the Village! Parking, Pool & Spa · 3★
  100 Canyon Blvd. #3302
- [ ] Sherwin Villas Retreat · 3★
  362 Old Mammoth Road

NOTES



DAY 9

Furnace Creek CA

Death Valley

Mammoth Lakes, drive to Furnace Creek: about 330 km (200 mi), 4 h 30 min

1 night

FURNACE CREEK · DAY 9

HOTEL

Name, address, confirmation number:

NOTES



DAYS 10–11

Las Vegas NV

The Strip

Furnace Creek, drive to Las Vegas: about 200 km (120 mi), 2 h 40 min

2 nights

LAS VEGAS · DAYS 10–11

HOTEL

- ☐ South Point Hotel, Casino, and Spa · 3★ — roughly €60
  9777 Las Vegas Blvd S
- ☐ Hilton Vacation Club Desert Retreat Las Vegas · 3★ — roughly €240
  5165 S Decatur Blvd
- ☐ Silverton Casino Lodge · 3★ — roughly €100
  3333 Blue Diamond Rd
- ☐ Home2 Suites By Hilton Las Vegas Northwest · 3★ — roughly €130
  8906 W Deer Springs Way
- ☐ Hilton Grand Vacations Club Paradise Las Vegas · 3★ — roughly €70
  455 Karen Avenue

NOTES

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	San Francisco	€160	–	€60	**€220**
2	San Francisco	€160	–	€60	**€220**
3	San Francisco	€160	–	€60	**€220**
4	Mariposa	€160	–	€60	**€220**
5	Mariposa	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Mariposa	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Mammoth Lakes	€160	–	€60	**€220**
8	Mammoth Lakes	€160	–	€60	**€220**
9	Furnace Creek	€160	–	€60	**€220**
10	Las Vegas	€160	–	€60	**€220**
11	Las Vegas	€160	–	€60	**€220**
12	Flight home from LAS	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€1,760
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€720
Total	**€4,180**
	€2,090 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

Notes

Notes

Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.rondreis.expert/en/tours/golden-west/

PHOTOS

From Wikimedia Commons, all free of rights (public domain or CC0).

San Francisco	Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, California LCCN2013633353.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Mariposa	Mariposa County Courthouse January 2025.jpg · Guywelch2000, CC0
Mammoth Lakes	Mammoth Lakes, California LCCN2013633536.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Furnace Creek	Distant view of the Furnace Creek Resort, which effectively forms a lush oasis in the middle of the otherwise arid and forbidding Death Valley National Park in California LCCN2013631155.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain
Las Vegas	Daytime aerial view of the Strip, Las Vegas, Nevada LCCN2010630596.tif · Carol M. Highsmith, Public domain

MAP AND TYPE

Map: US Census Bureau (public domain), roads © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL). Type: Playfair Display and Inter (SIL Open Font License).