ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

The West in 10 days

San Francisco, Big Sur and Los Angeles, then the desert: Joshua Tree, Route 66, the Grand Canyon, Antelope Canyon, Zion and Death Valley, ending on the Las Vegas Strip. A new place every night.

Length	11 days, 10 nights
Distance	2,650 km, 11 driving days
Behind the wheel	34 h
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – San Francisco (SFO), Las Vegas (LAS) – Amsterdam

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Page	Day 7	**20**
Springdale	Day 8	**22**
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Las Vegas	Day 10	**26**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		San Francisco	20	20 min	
2		Big Sur	230	3 h	
3		Los Angeles	480	6 h 20 min	
4		Twentynine Palms	230	2 h 50 min	
5		Seligman	430	4 h 50 min	
6		Grand Canyon Village	160	2 h	
7		Page	220	3 h	
8		Springdale	190	2 h 50 min	
9		Furnace Creek	470	5 h 30 min	
10		Las Vegas	200	2 h 40 min	
11		Flight home from LAS	20	50 min	

2,650 km · 34 h behind the wheel · on average 240 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 2	San Francisco, drive to Big Sur · About 230 km (140 mi), 3 h
Day 3	Big Sur, drive to Los Angeles · About 480 km (300 mi), 6 h 20 min
Day 4	Los Angeles, drive to Twentynine Palms · About 230 km (140 mi), 2 h 50 min
Day 5	Twentynine Palms, drive to Seligman · About 430 km (270 mi), 4 h 50 min
Day 6	Seligman, drive to Grand Canyon Village · About 160 km (100 mi), 2 h
Day 7	Grand Canyon Village, drive to Page · About 220 km (140 mi), 3 h
Day 8	Page, drive to Springdale · About 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 50 min
Day 9	Springdale, drive to Furnace Creek · About 470 km (290 mi), 5 h 30 min
Day 10	Furnace Creek, drive to Las Vegas · About 200 km (120 mi), 2 h 40 min
Day 11	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



DAY 1

San Francisco CA

Golden Gate Bridge in the morning fog

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

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Golden Gate Bridge and the walk to Battery Spencer
- Alcatraz Island
- Cable cars, Lombard Street and Chinatown
- Fisherman's Wharf and the sea lions at Pier 39

With an extra night

With a second night: Muir Woods' redwoods and Sausalito across the bridge, or the wine of Napa Valley.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Alcatraz tour — roughly €50 a person
- [ ] Golden Gate Bridge bike tour — roughly €60 a person
- [ ] Muir Woods and Sausalito tour — roughly €90 a person

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



DAY 2

Big Sur CA

Bixby Creek Bridge on the Pacific Coast Highway

San Francisco, drive to Big Sur: about 230 km (140 mi), 3 h

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Bixby Creek Bridge
- McWay Falls in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park
- Pfeiffer Beach and its purple sand
- Point Lobos on the way from Monterey

With an extra night

With a second night: hike the redwoods of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, or see Monterey's aquarium and 17-Mile Drive.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Monterey Bay whale watching — roughly €60 a person
- [ ] Big Sur coast tour — roughly €120 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Big Sur Campground and Cabins · 3★
  California 1
- [ ] Big Sur River Inn · 3★
  46800 Highway One

NOTES



DAY 3

Los Angeles CA

Sunset Boulevard's palm trees

Big Sur, drive to Los Angeles: about 480 km (300 mi), 6 h 20 min

1 night

DON'T MISS

- The Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Hollywood sign
- Griffith Observatory at sunset
- Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach
- The Getty Center

With an extra night

With a second night: Universal Studios or Warner Bros., or Malibu's beaches along Highway 1.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Warner Bros. studio tour — roughly €70 a person
- [ ] Universal Studios Hollywood — roughly €110 a person
- [ ] Hollywood sign hike — roughly €50 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] FOUND Hotels, Santa Monica, Series by Marriott · 3★ — roughly €200
  12311 Santa Monica Blvd
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Los Angeles LAX/Century Boulevard · 3★ — roughly €150
  5933 W Century Blvd
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express Hollywood Walk of Fame by IHG · 3★ — roughly €220
  1921 N Highland Avenue
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express West Los Angeles by IHG · 3★ — roughly €350
  11250 Santa Monica Blvd
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE · 3★ — roughly €190
  901 W Olympic Blvd

NOTES



DAY 4

Twentynine Palms CA

Joshua Tree National Park

Los Angeles, drive to Twentynine Palms: about 230 km (140 mi), 2 h 50 min

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Joshua Tree National Park: Hidden Valley and Skull Rock
- Cholla Cactus Garden
- Keys View over the Coachella Valley
- The darkest night sky of the trip

With an extra night

With a second night: Palm Springs and its aerial tramway, or a sunrise climb in the park.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Joshua Tree guided hike — roughly €90 a person
- [ ] Joshua Tree stargazing tour — roughly €70 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Cali Desert Oasis w/ Hot Tub + Mtn Views! · 3★
  6244 Mojave Ave
- [ ] Chic Joshua Tree Pad w/ Mountain Views & Hot Tub · 3★
  72616 2 Mile Rd
- [ ] Cowboy Pool, Fire Pit, Backyard Chic Ranch Retreat Asteroid by Avantstay · 3★
  6929 Mantonya Rd
- [ ] Serene Home w/ Yard - 8 Mi to Joshua Tree! · 3★
  4435 Bullion Ave
- [ ] Twentynine Palms Desert Oasis w/ Pool & Hot Tub! · 3★
  80277 Wikieup Rd

NOTES



DAY 5

Seligman AZ

Route 66 diners and neon

Twentynine Palms, drive to Seligman: about 430 km (270 mi), 4 h 50 min

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Route 66's diners and neon in Seligman
- Hackberry General Store
- Grand Canyon Caverns
- The old road through Oatman with its wild burros

With an extra night

With a second night: drive further along Route 66 to Kingman and Oatman, or ride the Grand Canyon Railway from Williams.

EXCURSIONS

- ☐ Grand Canyon Railway from Williams — roughly €90 a person

HOTEL

- ☐ Deluxe Inn · 3★ — roughly €80
  22295 Old Highway 66

NOTES



DAY 6

Grand Canyon Village AZ

Sunset at Mather Point

Seligman, drive to Grand Canyon Village: about 160 km (100 mi), 2 h

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Sunset at Mather Point
- The Rim Trail from Yavapai Point
- Desert View Watchtower
- A few miles down the Bright Angel Trail

With an extra night

With a second night: walk down the South Kaibab Trail to Ooh Aah Point, or fly over the canyon by helicopter.

EXCURSIONS

- ☐ Grand Canyon helicopter flight — roughly €300 a person
- ☐ Grand Canyon sunset tour — roughly €90 a person

HOTEL

Name, address, confirmation number:

NOTES



DAY 7

Page AZ

Antelope Canyon

Grand Canyon Village, drive to Page: about 220 km (140 mi), 3 h

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Antelope Canyon (only with a guide)
- Horseshoe Bend
- Lake Powell
- Glen Canyon Dam

With an extra night

With a second night: a boat on Lake Powell, kayak to Antelope Canyon by water, or Monument Valley as a day trip.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Upper Antelope Canyon tour — roughly €100 a person
- [ ] Lower Antelope Canyon tour — roughly €70 a person
- [ ] Lake Powell boat tour — roughly €90 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] 1 Mi to Canyon Tours: Vibrant Page Paradise! · 3★
  13 14th Ave
- [ ] 3 Mi to Lake Powell: Home w/ Patio & Waterfall · 3★
  8 18th Ave
- [ ] 3 Mi to Lake Powell: Pet-friendly Page Home · 3★
  192 Schoppman Lane
- [ ] 4 Mi to Lake Powell: Retreat w/ Game Room! · 3★
- [ ] Fire Pit & Mountain Views: Horseshoe Bend Retreat · 3★
  861 Heron Drive

NOTES



DAY 8

Springdale UT

Zion and the Virgin River

Page, drive to Springdale: about 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 50 min

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Zion's scenic drive by shuttle bus
- Riverside Walk along the Virgin River
- Emerald Pools
- Canyon Overlook Trail

With an extra night

With a second night: walk The Narrows through the river, or climb to Angels Landing (with a permit).

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Zion Narrows guided hike — roughly €150 a person
- [ ] Zion canyoneering — roughly €180 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Best Western Plus Zion Canyon Inn & Suites · 3★ — roughly €170
  668 Zion Park Blvd
- [ ] Desert Pearl Inn · 3★
  707 Zion Park Blvd.
- [ ] Canyon Vista Lodge · 3★
  2175 Zion Park Boulevard
- [ ] Cable Mountain Lodge · 3★ — roughly €180
  147 Zion Park Blvd.
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Springdale/Zion National Park · 3★ — roughly €200
  1127 Zion Park Blvd

NOTES



DAY 9

Furnace Creek CA

Badwater Basin in Death Valley

Springdale, drive to Furnace Creek: about 470 km (290 mi), 5 h 30 min

1 night

DON'T MISS

- Badwater Basin, 86 metres below sea level
- Zabriskie Point at sunrise
- Artists Drive and Artists Palette
- Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes

With an extra night

With a second night: Dante's View and the Racetrack, or a night under the stars. Not in summer: it is the hottest place on earth.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Death Valley tour — roughly €200 a person

HOTEL

Name, address, confirmation number:

NOTES



DAY 10

Las Vegas NV

The Strip at night

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

1 night

DON'T MISS

- The Strip at night
- The Bellagio fountains
- Fremont Street
- A show

With an extra night

With a second night: Hoover Dam and the Valley of Fire, or a helicopter over the Strip.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Hoover Dam tour — roughly €80 a person
- [ ] Las Vegas helicopter night flight — roughly €130 a person
- [ ] Valley of Fire tour — roughly €130 a person

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	€240	–	€60	**€300**
2	Big Sur	€320	–	€60	**€380**
3	Los Angeles	€200	–	€60	**€260**
4	Twentynine Palms	€140	–	€60	**€200**
5	Seligman	€110	–	€60	**€170**
6	Grand Canyon Village	€260	–	€60	**€320**
7	Page	€170	–	€60	**€230**
8	Springdale	€230	–	€60	**€290**
9	Furnace Creek	€250	–	€60	**€310**
10	Las Vegas	€130	–	€60	**€190**
11	Flight home from LAS	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€2,050
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€660
Total	**€4,410**
	€2,210 a person

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

Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.rondreis.expert/en/tours/west-in-10-days/

PHOTOS

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MAP AND TYPE

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