



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RAIL ADVENTURE!

WINE COUNTRY, MONTEREY, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, SAN FRANCISCO, CARMEL AND SACRAMENTO

Join TRIPS and say “**All Aboard**” as we travel to Northern California! You’ll ‘ride the rails’ experiencing the Sacramento River Train, The Skunk Train, The Napa Valley Wine Train, and the Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad with scenery as diverse as this state is! Along the way enjoy wine tasting in renowned Napa County and see the iconic sites of the City by the Bay, San Francisco. In Monterey, you’ll have a ‘behind the scenes’ tour of the famed aquarium and travel on scenic 17 Mile Drive! In Carmel-by-the-Sea, explore the boutiques of this quaint town and in Yosemite, marvel at the monolith that is El Capitan! Learn about the California Gold Rush of 1848 that sparked an invasion of thousands coming to seek their fortune and try your hand at panning!

Day 1

All Aboard! Today arrive in **Sacramento** where you’ll be met by your TRIPS representative and are assisted with your hotel transfer. After check-in and time to freshen-up, your **California rail experience begins** as you board the **Sacramento River Train**. This local, family-owned business is dedicated to preserving a piece of Northern California history on a leisurely ride through farmland and into a wildlife refuge. Dinner onboard is included!

Overnight: Sacramento, CA

(D)

Day 2

This morning enjoy a tour of colorful **Sacramento**. Your first stop is the 1874-vintage Capitol Building, restored to its turn-of-the-century splendor. Next, visit the **Old Sacramento Historic District**, where you can step back in time to the era of the Pony Express, the '49ers, and the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad. You'll have time to explore at leisure before continuing on to the **California State Railroad Museum**, where you'll especially want to see the Museum of Railroad History. Catch the vision of men like Leland Stanford, who dreamed of shining rails stretching from coast to coast. With over 225,000 square feet of total exhibit space, the buildings within the California State Railroad Museum complex use stimulating exhibits, enthusiastic and knowledgeable docents, and beautifully restored railroad cars and locomotives to illustrate railroad history in California and the West. Later this afternoon, depart Sacramento through central California bound for **Fort Bragg** where you'll check in to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to explore this quaint seaside town perhaps enjoying a stroll on the beach. Dinner is on your own.

Overnight: Fort Bragg, CA

(B/L)

Day 3

After breakfast, you travel deep into California’s **Redwood Country** bound for the **Skunk Train**! Built as a logging railroad, the Skunk line began in 1885 to move massive redwood logs from the rugged back country to Mendocino Coastal sawmills. Self powered yellow “Skunk” rail cars began passenger service in 1925 and the little trains were nicknamed for their original gas engines which folks said “you can smell ‘em before you can see ‘em”! The view from the restored rail cars is pretty much unchanged with towering trees, deer lapping at the water of the Noyo River and an isolated fisherman’s cabin peeking through the forest. With occasional blasts of the train whistle as it chugs through tunnels and over bridges, you’ll follow the coastal “**Redwood Route**” just as it did in 1885. After your train adventure concludes, you’ll head south into wine country! In **Healdsburg**, stop at the **Rodney Strong Winery** for a guided tour. Named American Winery of the Year in 2013, Rodney Strong was a pioneer of Sonoma County’s wine industry. A successful dancer before retiring and turning to his second love, winemaking, he understood the potential that Sonoma County’s soil and climate held for producing world-class wines. After your tour, and a tasting, you’ll check into your hotel in Healdsburg with the remainder of the day yours to explore this charming town now known for its food and boutiques as much as it is for its wineries!

Overnight: Healdsburg, CA

(B/L)

Day 4

This morning travel the beautiful Napa Wine and the Napa Station where you board the **Napa Valley Wine Train** and enjoy a 3-course lunch en route to Grgich Hills Winery. The Napa Valley Wine Train provides a relaxing three-hour, thirty-six mile round-trip journey from the historic town of Napa, through one of the world’s most well-known wine valleys to the quaint village of St. Helena, and back. Disembark at **Grgich Hills Winery** for a one-hour private tour and tasting directed by a member of the Grgich Hills staff. Re-board the train for the dessert course in the lavishly restored 1915 Pullman Lounge Car as you head back to Napa Station. Then you’re off to **San Francisco**! The most romantic city in the world welcomes you for a sightseeing tour that includes the beautiful Civic Center, Golden Gate Park, the Golden Gate Bridge, Chinatown, the Presidio and Sausalito. Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own in one of San Francisco’s many restaurants. Or, enjoy clam chowder in a bread bowl from a local stand as you enjoy the sights and sounds of **Fisherman’s Wharf**!

Overnight: San Francisco, CA

(B/L)

Day 5

Today after breakfast, travel south toward the scenic **Santa Cruz mountains**, the domain of the giant redwoods. You'll have a chance to marvel at these incredible trees first-hand as you visit **Roaring Camp**, a former mining town, and now a bustling mountain retreat. You'll board the **Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad**, an authentic narrow-gauge 19-century railway, and enjoy a ride amid the pristine beauty of the mountains. This Railway boasts the steepest railroad grades in the United States - so be ready for a little excitement, as well as breathtaking scenic beauty! Travel over trestles, through towering redwood groves and up a winding narrow-gauge grade to the **summit of Bear Mountain** as conductors narrate the history of Roaring Camp, the railroad and the forest. Roaring Camp's steam engines date from 1890 and are among the oldest and most authentically preserved narrow-gauge steam engines providing passenger service in America. After, depart the redwoods and travel toward the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean on your way to beautiful "**17-Mile Drive**." Stop at the storybook village of **Carmel-by-the-Sea** with its unique shops and art galleries for time on your own to enjoy lunch. Then, it's on to **Monterey**, made famous by John Steinbeck and the famous Cannery Row. No longer the final destination of sardines and anchovies, the Row is now the home of many restaurants and delightful boutiques. Discover the mystery of the ocean depths as you tour the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** for an introduction to the undersea world of Monterey Bay. During a "**Behind the Scenes Tour**," you will have a personalized tour as you experience the ultimate insider's view of the Aquarium. Discover animals and plants in front of the galleries then follow a guide through the "Employees Only" doors that you've always wished you could open. After this unique experience, there will be time to wander the Aquarium at your leisure before checking into your hotel in Monterey.

Overnight: Monterey, CA

(B)

Day 6

Join us this morning as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the national park system in **Yosemite National Park**. Yosemite, "Jewel of the Sierra," is described as home of the most beautiful streams, the loftiest granite domes, the noblest forests and deepest ice-sculptured canyons in the world. You'll experience the clear air and sunshine of Yosemite as you board the **Valley Tram** and travel to Yosemite's most famous scenic highlights, including **El Capitan**, towering 7,569 feet above the Merced River; Yosemite Falls, the second largest waterfall in the world; Bridal Veil Falls, whose roaring torrents cascade down towering cliffs in lacy grandeur; and spectacular **Half Dome**. After your time seeing the best of Yosemite, you'll check into your hotel located just outside the park.

Overnight: Mariposa, CA

(B/D)

Day 7

Depart Yosemite this morning bound for **Jamestown, CA** to tour the **Railtown 1897 State Historic Park**, home to one of America's last intact, still-operating railroad roundhouses. Known as "The Movie Railroad", Railtown 1897, its historic locomotives and cars have starred in hundreds of film and TV productions, including High Noon, Back to the Future 3 and Petticoat Junction! After your visit, you'll continue towards Sacramento making a stop at the **Marshall Gold Discovery Park** celebrating the day in 1848 when James Marshall discovered gold leading to the California Gold Rush! See historic buildings including a sawmill, house, school and store exhibits. Then, return to **Sacramento** where you'll check into your hotel before enjoying a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Sacramento, CA

(B/D)

Day 8

This morning, depart for the Sacramento airport and your flight home. **Memories of your time in Northern California riding the rails will be with you for years to come!**

(B)

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airfare to Sacramento (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 7 nights lodging
- Breakfast daily
- 3 lunches including 3-course meal on the Napa Valley Wine Train
- 3 dinners
- Tickets for 4 famous California Rail Journeys including the Sacramento River Train, Skunk Train, Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad, Yosemite Valley Tram,
- All sightseeing and admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary Sacramento City Tour, San Francisco City Tour, California State Railroad Museum, Rodney Strong Winery Tour, Napa Valley Wine Train, Grgich Hills Winery tour and Tasting, 17-Mile Drive, Monterey Bay Aquarium "Behind the Scenes Tour", Yosemite National Park, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park, Marshall Gold Discovery Park and more!
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout your tour
- Tour Guide/Director throughout your tour
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags
- Portage of 1 suitcase per person
- All government taxes and fees

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