



Good Times Travel

Cambria & Castle Christmas by Rail

Featuring the *Cambria Pines Lodge*, *Hearst Castle Holiday Twilight Tour*, *Cambria Christmas Market*, *Coast Starlight Train*

December 12-14, 2024 – 3 Day Tour

Tour Highlights

- ◆ Sit back and enjoy a relaxing, five-hour rail journey along California's spectacular coastline and through its fertile valleys aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train, featuring an observation car with windows that stretch up to the ceiling offering unparalleled and expansive views
- ◆ Enjoy a two-night stay in a fireplace room at the *Cambria Pines Lodge* – the woodsy-chic lodge nestled amongst 25 acres of Monterey Pines and decked out for the holidays with a walk-thru light display featuring over two million lights and themed vignettes
- ◆ Experience what Christmas was like during Hearst Castle's heyday while on a docent-guided *Holiday Twilight Tour* showcasing the grounds, the Casa del Sol guest house and the grand social rooms of Casa Grande – all beautifully decorated for the holidays
- ◆ Attend the annual Cambria Christmas Market, the charming holiday market done in the style of Germany's traditional holiday markets
- ◆ Enjoy time at leisure in Cambria and Solvang – both beautifully decorated for the holidays



Cambria Pines Lodge



Hearst Castle



Hearst Castle

Tour Inclusions

- ◆ 2 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 4 Meals – 1 dinner, 1 lunch, 2 breakfasts
- ◆ Services of a professional GTT tour director
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing
- ◆ Admissions per the itinerary
- ◆ Transportation aboard a deluxe motorcoach and Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* Train
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour

Tour Prices

Double Occupancy: \$1,099 per person
Single Occupancy (no roommate): Add \$450



Solvang



Coast Starlight Train

Reservations



www.goodtimestravel.com

(714) 848-1255

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California Seller of Travel License #: 2018390-40

Accommodations

- ◆ Nights 1-2 **Cambria Pines Lodge**
Cambria, CA

Departure Information

Join this tour from one of our convenient departure points available in these cities:

- ◆Fountain Valley ◆Laguna Hills ◆Long Beach

Approximate Departure Time: 7-9 a.m.

Approximate Return Time: 6-8 p.m.

Payment Information

- ◆ Full payment due at time of booking
- ◆ Payment may be made by mailing a check to the above address or making a credit card payment at www.goodtimestravel.com

Cancellation/Travel Protection

A travel protection policy (which includes cancellation protection and other benefits) is highly recommended and available through a third-party. A travel protection brochure will be provided with your payment receipt and invoice. Regardless of the reason, cancellations, credits and transfers of paid bookings require us to retain an administrative fee (ranging from \$50-\$500 depending on the date of cancellation) in addition to all non-recoverable fees paid to our tour suppliers on your behalf. Those guests who have purchased travel protection and must cancel for a covered reason, will be reimbursed by the travel protection company the balance of any non-refunded or credited monies (minus the premium itself). Visit www.goodtimestravel.com or see our tour catalog for our full cancellation policy and other terms and conditions.

Adjustments to the Itinerary

While we make every effort to operate our tours as advertised, should we be forced to adjust the itinerary prior to departure or while on tour, these changes will be communicated to you and only done when absolutely necessary.

Tour Pace & Activity Level



Visit our website for further explanation of what each of these designations means to assist you in determining which tour is right for you based on your physical abilities and the pacing you prefer.

Itinerary

This three-day holiday getaway to the Central Coast features a coastal train and a two-night stay at the woodsy-chic Cambria Pines Lodge, magically decorated for the Christmas season and featuring both a German-style Christmas Market and a walk-thru light display featuring more than two million lights! Combined with sightseeing along the Central Coast backroads, the Danish town of Solvang and a "Holiday Twilight Tour" of Hearst Castle, this fun and festive escape will surely get you into the holiday spirit!

Day 1 – Coastal Train Ride, Welcome to Cambria!

We set out from our departure points this morning aboard a deluxe motorcoach and travel to downtown Los Angeles' Union Station to board Amtrak's **Coast Starlight train** for a memorable, **five-hour rail journey** along California's spectacular coastline and through its fertile valleys to San Luis Obispo. We'll travel along Point Conception and through Vandenberg Space Force Base where you'll see the launch complexes and beautiful undeveloped coastline which is only visible by train. We'll enjoy an included boxed lunch onboard along with a snack bar selling snacks and drinks. Enjoy the relaxing ride in your reclining seat or check out the view from the observation car featuring windows that stretch up to the ceiling offering unparalleled and expansive views. Upon arrival in San Luis Obispo, we'll reboard our motorcoach and continue north along the coast to the quaint seaside village of **Cambria** – the artists' colony nestled in a forest of towering Monterey Pines along a craggy stretch of California coastline. We'll enjoy a two-night stay at the charming **Cambria Pines Lodge**, the woodsy-chic lodge nestled amongst a Monterey pine forest. This boutique hotel features spacious rooms that are richly appointed with a fireplace, farmhouse furnishings and modern amenities. The sprawling grounds feature beautiful gardens, a heated outdoor pool and hot tub, and the **Cambria Pines Lodge Restaurant** offering a diverse menu of enticing dishes. This time of year, the lodge is decked out in its holiday finest – sure to get you in the spirit of the season! Enjoy the evening at leisure with dinner on your own at the restaurant or at the **Cambria Christmas Market**, the charming annual holiday event that draws visitors from all over to experience a traditional holiday market similar to those found in Germany and Austria where it's known as "Weihnachtsmarkt." This outdoor event at the **Cambria Pines Lodge** features a vendor market with open-air stalls and local merchants selling imported German goods, seasonal gifts along with fresh baked goods and seasonal treats and drinks like Glühwein – the traditional German hot spiced wine that is sure to keep you cozy while exploring the walk-thru light display that features more than two million lights complete with themed vignettes. (Lunch)

Day 2 – Cambria, Hearst Castle

This morning we'll enjoy a scenic ride along the coast north of Cambria to the **elephant seal rookery at Piedras Blancas**. This location is one of only a few spots in the world where northern elephant seals can be seen up-close. Although elephant seals spend most of their lives in the open ocean, they arrive at this rookery to give birth, breed, molt and rest from long migrations in the ocean in search of food. Enjoy time at leisure this afternoon for lunch on your own and browsing in the quaint village of Cambria, featuring eclectic shops, unique boutiques and galleries. This evening we'll enjoy an included dinner with choice of entrée at **Linn's Restaurant**, the Cambria icon and locals' favorite known for their contemporary comfort food classics like meatloaf and chicken pot pie. But be sure to save room for what they're most famous for – warm olallieberry pie with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top! We continue to **Hearst Castle**, the National Historic Landmark that sits above the clouds on top of "The Enchanted Hill." Discover why the holiday season was an exceptionally festive time for William Randolph Hearst and his guests while on a docent-guided, **Holiday Twilight Tour**, the seasonal evening holiday tour that showcases the Castle in a different light. Your knowledgeable guide will share stories of holiday festivities during the estate's heyday while touring the grounds, the Casa del Sol guest house and the grand social rooms of Casa Grande – beautifully decorated for the holidays. *Note this 75-minute walking tour includes a total of 190 stairs (both up and down) along a 2/3-mile route. While Hearst Castle has confirmed they will offer twilight tours this holiday season, a schedule has not been released. Should a twilight tour be unavailable, we will enjoy an afternoon tour of Hearst Castle instead.* (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 3 – Solvang, Journey Home

This morning we'll travel by motorcoach to San Luis Obispo and visit the eclectic and historic **Madonna Inn**, the California landmark that features a timeless elegance, whimsical décor and beautiful holiday decorations! We'll travel the backroads through the **Santa Ynez Valley** to the quaint Danish town of **Solvang**, known as one of the most "Christmassy Small Towns in America." Enjoy time at leisure with lunch on your own in this very walkable village that is in the midst of their month-long, Julefest celebration extraordinaire! Delight in the old-world architecture, windmills and gaslights, all beautifully decorated for Christmas. Explore more than 100 one-of-a-kind shops including high-end boutiques, European imports, art galleries and bakeries selling fresh-made Danish Aebleskivers, shortbread cookies and kringles! We continue south returning to our drop-off points this evening with fond memories of our holiday getaway to the Central Coast. (Breakfast)