



## Good Times Travel

# California Dreamin' – The Coast, Redwoods & Rails

Coast Starlight Train, Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, Sonoma Valley, The Skunk Train, Redwood National Park, Eureka

October 5-10, 2025 – 6 Day Tour

### Tour Highlights

- ◆ Enjoy a relaxing, five-hour rail journey along California's spectacular coastline aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train, featuring an observation car with floor to ceiling windows
- ◆ Stay overnight at San Luis Obispo's charming *Apple Farm Inn* with included wine tasting
- ◆ Embark on a narrated whale watching cruise in Monterey Bay, known historically as the whale watching capital of the world
- ◆ Stay overnight in a retro-chic, oceanview room with a private balcony at the *Dream Inn*, Santa Cruz's premier beachfront hotel
- ◆ Cross the famed Golden Gate Bridge and enjoy time at leisure at San Francisco's Pier 39
- ◆ Ride through old-growth redwood groves aboard the world-famous *Skunk Train*
- ◆ Join a local guide and explore the tallest trees on Earth in Redwood National Park, see the Victorian homes in charming Eureka and Ferndale, and walk through the redwood canopy 100 feet up at Redwood Sky Walk



### Tour Inclusions

- ◆ 5 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 9 Meals – 2 dinners, 2 lunches, 5 breakfasts
- ◆ Services of a professional GTT tour director
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing with local guides
- ◆ Transportation aboard a deluxe motorcoach and Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* Train
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour
- ◆ One-way flight from Eureka to Los Angeles and transfer from LAX to departure points

### Tour Prices

Double Occupancy: \$2,299 per person  
Single Occupancy (no roommate): Add \$600

### Itinerary

Embark on an unforgettable California adventure traversing the Golden State's diverse landscapes – from sun-kissed shores to ancient northern forests, with a convenient flight home included. This unique, one-way road trip explores California's charming towns like Healdsburg and Ferndale, Santa Cruz's laid-back surf vibe, San Francisco's iconic Golden Gate Bridge and the awe-inspiring majesty of Redwood National Park. Ride the rails aboard the scenic *Coast Starlight* and *The Skunk Train*, rest your head at upscale local inns, search for whales in Monterey Bay and walk amongst the tallest trees on Earth on this quintessential California road trip at a delightful time of year.

#### Day 1 – Coastal Train Ride, San Luis Obispo

From our departure points this morning we'll travel aboard a deluxe motorcoach to downtown Los Angeles' Union Station. *All aboard* Amtrak's renowned ***Coast Starlight* train** for a spectacular, **five-hour rail journey** along California's dramatic coastline and through its fertile valleys. We'll travel along Point Conception and through Vandenberg Space Force Base, offering views of launch complexes and pristine, undeveloped coastline only visible by train. Enjoy an included boxed lunch onboard, with additional snacks and drinks available for purchase in the snack bar. Relax in your reclining seat or check out the view from the observation car, featuring windows that stretch up to the ceiling. Upon arrival in **San Luis Obispo**, we'll reboard our motorcoach and continue the short distance to the charming *Apple Farm Inn*. Nestled beside San Luis Obispo Creek and embraced by rolling hills, the *Apple Farm Inn* is a "country rustic" Victorian-style inn situated among a lush, quiet garden setting. The Inn blends the country charm of yesteryear with all of the modern amenities of today.

## Reservations



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(714) 848-1255

17132 Magnolia St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

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## Accommodations

- ◆ Night 1 **Apple Farm Inn**, San Luis Obispo, CA
- ◆ Night 2 **Dream Inn**, Santa Cruz, CA
- ◆ Night 3 **Holiday Inn Windsor**, CA
- ◆ Nights 4-5 **Best Western Plus Humboldt Bay Inn**, Eureka, CA

## Departure/Return Information

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

- ◆Fountain Valley ◆Laguna Hills ◆Long Beach

## Payment Information

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

Enjoy an included dinner at a locals' favorite this evening in charming and historic downtown San Luis Obispo. (Lunch, Dinner)

### Day 2 – Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz

This morning we'll travel north aboard our motorcoach to **Monterey**, offering a unique blend of historical significance, vibrant marine life, and a charming, relaxed atmosphere. Enjoy time at leisure at Monterey's **Old Fisherman's Wharf**, featuring a variety of seafood restaurants, souvenir shops, and the barking chorus of resident sea lions. This afternoon we'll board a comfortable large vessel for a narrated **whale watching cruise** in Monterey Bay. A National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey Bay is known as the "Serengeti of the Sea" as it has an incredible biodiversity including sea birds, sea otters, harbor seals, dolphins and sea lions, commonly seen frolicking in the kelp beds and along the picturesque coastline. This time of year is when Humpback Whales and Blue Whales are migrating along the California coastline and Monterey Bay is a prime feeding location! Late this afternoon we'll arrive in **Santa Cruz**, the vibrant coastal city known for its laid-back surf vibe and stunning natural beauty. We'll stay overnight at the upscale, full-service **Dream Inn**, Santa Cruz's premier beachfront hotel. This beloved local landmark, situated just steps from the legendary Cowell Beach features stylish, retro-chic rooms, each boasting a private balcony and dreamy ocean views! Enjoy the evening at leisure with dinner on your own at the inn's Jack O'Neill Restaurant or walk to one of the eateries on the nearby Santa Cruz Wharf. (Breakfast)

### Day 3 – San Francisco, Sonoma Valley

This morning we'll travel north to **San Francisco** and enjoy time at leisure at the ever-popular **Pier 39**, known for its historic waterfront, spectacular bay views, delicious seafood and two levels of unique specialty shops. This afternoon we'll cross the iconic **Golden Gate Bridge** and continue into the picturesque Sonoma Valley where we'll enjoy an overnight stay. Enjoy time at leisure for dinner on your own in **Healdsburg** where a variety of restaurants encircle the charming Healdsburg Plaza. (Breakfast)

### Day 4 – The Skunk Train, Eureka

We'll continue north this morning to Willits and board **The Skunk Train**, the world-famous historic railroad that has been providing scenic rides through the redwood forests of Mendocino County since 1885. The vintage train cars are beautifully restored to reflect the charm and elegance of a bygone era, while the scenic journey that winds through majestic old-growth redwood groves, over scenic trestle bridges, through spectacular tunnels and into the heart of the Noyo River Canyon remains largely unchanged well over a century. This autumn-themed journey aboard the **Pumpkin Express** will take us deep into the wilderness where we'll be surrounded by towering trees, lush ferns, the pristine waters of the Noyo River and a picturesque pumpkin patch set amidst the stunning natural surroundings. Enjoy an included lunch, seasonal treats onboard the train and an opportunity to walk through the pumpkin patch and choose a pumpkin as a keepsake. This afternoon we'll continue north and begin a two-night stay in **Eureka**, the charming California town situated between Arcata and Humboldt Bays. Enjoy time at leisure this evening in **Old Town Eureka**, a restored waterfront district of unique shops, restaurants and galleries. (Breakfast, Lunch)

### Day 5 – Redwood National Park, Eureka, Ferndale

This morning, we'll be joined by a local guide as we travel north into the legendary **Redwood National Park**, truly a "Land of Giants." Prepare to be awestruck as we enter an ancient forest where colossal coast redwoods soar over 300 feet, silent sentinels that have stood for more than 2,000 years! After an orientation at the visitor center, we'll take easy, flat strolls along shaded trails, allowing us to stand directly beneath these titans and fully appreciate their majestic scale. This afternoon we'll enjoy time at leisure in the Victorian village of **Ferndale**, one of the best-preserved enclaves of Victorian architecture on the West Coast. In Eureka we'll admire the city's numerous Victorian homes including the Carson Mansion, considered the grandest Victorian home in America! Enjoy an included dinner at a locals' favorite this evening. (Breakfast, Dinner)

### Day 6 – Eureka, Journey Home

This morning we'll visit the **Sequoia Park Zoo**, the oldest zoo in California and one of the smallest accredited zoos in the country. But this zoo has something that no other zoo can offer, **Redwood Sky Walk**! This self-guided, immersive, interpretive walkway will take you 100 feet up into the redwood canopy, providing a bird's-eye view of the redwood forest and a better appreciation of the scale and grandeur of these towering trees. This afternoon we'll arrive at the Eureka International Airport for an included, non-stop flight arriving in Los Angeles this afternoon. Back in Los Angeles, we'll board a motorcoach and continue to our departure points with fond memories of our journey through California diverse landscapes. (Breakfast)