

**SAN FRANCISCO,  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL  
PARK, PACIFIC COAST  
HIGHWAY &  
LOS ANGELES  
EDUCATION ROADTRIP**

**Prepared by Sister Schools International**

**[www.sisterschools.co.nz](http://www.sisterschools.co.nz)**

# San Francisco, Yosemite National Park, Pacific Coast Highway & Los Angeles Education Roadtrip Programme Overview

This programme aims to develop young adults' independence and leadership skills within an out of country experience in the great state of California, USA. Participants are involved in activities that foster and develop these competencies within an unfamiliar, challenging setting. The experiences and interactions at leading colleges such as Stanford highlight California's world-renowned education system, whereas tours of Google and Facebook showcase the innovation and global technology industry which is so prevalent in the state. In addition to the academic experiences and leadership development, the programme will introduce students to authentic American culture, stunning scenery and world-famous attractions, giving particular emphasis to outdoor education and interaction with locals.



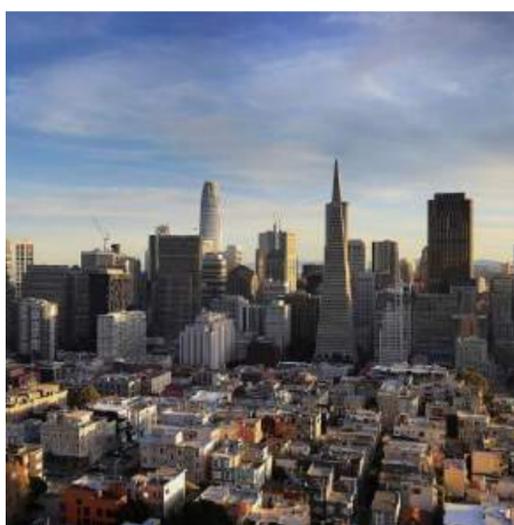
## DAY 1 - The Adventure Begins:

Today is the day you have been waiting for. You'll be flying to the USA!

Try to get some sleep on the plane as there is an action-packed programme awaiting everyone in the most progressive, beautiful state in the USA!

## Day 2 - San Francisco Arrival:

Due to the massive time zone differences, you don't arrive in the USA until the evening on the second day! It will take over an hour to clear customs and immigration. Your programme coordinator will be waiting for you in the arrivals area. From the airport, travel directly to your dormitory and new USA home for the following three nights! Depending on your energy levels, you may go for a night walk and get your first glimpse of California.



## Day 3 - San Francisco Walking Tour:

You are in the USA, yay! Let's make the most of it. Today take a walking tour and discover the best spots around San Francisco including the Golden Gate Bridge, Dragon's Gate, Jackson Square Historic District, Telegraph Hill, Little Italy, Fisherman's Wharf and the Russian Hill Staircase. San Francisco is an extremely hilly city and provides unique and dazzling sights around every bend. The day is designed to show off the best highlights as well as blow out any post-flight cobwebs.

In the evening, sit down to the first of many classic American meals. Get ready for the best ribs, burgers, fried chicken and macaroni cheese you have ever eaten! Luckily you'll be exercising, a lot, to burn those excess calories!



## Day 4 - Silicon Valley Tour:

Silicon Valley needs no introduction or explanation - it is without a doubt the most innovative, impressive entrepreneurial hub the world has ever seen. On today's tour visit two of the most iconic companies in the world plus NASA, wow! Starting firstly with Google before moving on to the Facebook headquarters in the afternoon. The day is capped with a visit to the AMES NASA Research Center. On each visit, be guided by an employee of the respective organisations and learn the history and lore surrounding these iconic premises.

**Note: Other tourists will be on these tours. They are not private tours for participants!**



## Day 5 - UC Berkeley & Stanford:

San Francisco is home to two of the USA's top colleges - UC Berkeley and Stanford. Located only an hours drive apart, these two schools compete at the highest level on a global stage. Take a tour of both schools and chat with local students about what it's like to study at such an elite college.

In the early evening, leave San Francisco and begin to view some of California's natural beauty. Travel east towards the Yosemite National Park - an approximate 4 hour drive away. The next accommodation premise is vastly different to that in San Francisco - you'll be staying in a lodge in the wilderness with snow-capped mountains in the background and stunning views at every angle.

**Note: UC Berkeley is a government-funded school whereas Stanford is private -those funding differences create a unique culture within both campuses, especially within school spirit.**

## Day 6 - Yosemite National Park:

Yosemite National Park, located in the western Sierra Nevada of Central California is managed by the National Park Service and covers an area of 748,436 acres. Designated a World Heritage site in 1984, Yosemite is internationally recognized for its granite cliffs, waterfalls, clear streams, giant sequoia groves, lakes, mountains, meadows, glaciers, and biological diversity. Today, within the park, hike up to 10 km and witness some of the most breathtaking scenery in North America. In true American style, grill your own burgers under the California night sky for dinner, yum!

**Note:** The weather within the park (depending on the time of the year) will be near freezing and the mountains will be covered in snow. Bring a warm jacket.



## Day 7 - Road Trip to Monterey:

Today, leave Yosemite National Park and travel back through San Francisco to the mighty Pacific Ocean where an incredibly beautiful and scenic road trip is about to begin. Reach the coastal town of Monterey in the mid-afternoon and visit the Carmel Mission Basilica Museum - an iconic museum and church dating back to 1771. Take a tour through the church, the museum and explore the picturesque grounds whilst learning about early American history and the impact religion had on forming the country. In the late evening, after dinner at Hula's Island Grill (a Hawaiian-themed restaurant), take a stroll along the beach.



## Day 8 - Pacific Coast Highway:

The Pacific Coast Highway (or California 1) is the 1000 km stretch of coastal highway from the northern tip of California to the southern tip, ending near Mexico. The drive is spectacular for several reasons, from scenery to engineering feats to sea life! On today's outing, we are heading for Santa Barbara (south) and will pass by the beautiful Big Sur, Pfeiffer Beach, McWay Falls and Ragged Point. Once in Santa Monica, your adventure heads directly for the Santa Monica Pier - a vibrant pier full of shops, restaurants and street (or pier) buskers!

**Note:** On our last road trip down this amazing coastline we were in and out of the van over 20 times for photo opportunities. It's truly stunning!



## Day 9 - Santa Monica College & Los Angeles:

In the morning, visit Santa Monica College (SMC) and learn about the differences between community colleges and fully-fledged colleges such as Stanford. Often SMC is used by students as a transfer college to top Ivy League or state schools for those who do not gain direct entry.

Following SMC, drive the remaining 30 minutes into LA!

Welcome to LA! After checking into the last accommodation premise of the programme, visit the famous Griffith Observatory - a facility in LA sitting on the south-facing slope of Mount Hollywood in LA's Griffith Park. It commands the best view of the LA Basin, including the downtown.

**Note:** The group will be using public transport in LA as it's not feasible to use private transfers given the traffic congestion.



## Day 10 - Los Angeles Hop On Hop Off Bus Tour:

You're doing something a bit different today. Hop aboard the Big Bus tour and discover the sights, landmarks and attractions that celebrate LA. There are 2 routes and over 20 stops to hop off and explore. With digital commentary and local guides its the best way to see the icons such as Hollywood (Walk of Fame & Hollywood Sign), the Getty Center, Staples Center (where the LA Lakers play) and much more. On this exhausting yet exhilarating day, you'll witness LA's best!



## Day 11 - Disneyland Park:

Disneyland Park, originally Disneyland, is the first of two theme parks built at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, California, opened on July 17, 1955. It is the only theme park designed and built to completion under the direct supervision of the legend himself, Walt Disney. You'll spend the entire at the theme park, channelling your inner Disney geek or thrill-seeking self!

To maximise time and reduce waiting times, the group will split up for the day so you can explore the park at your own pace! This is also a great chance to practise your skills and navigate one of the world's busiest attractions, by yourselves. Photos, selfies, and childlike giggles are all mandatory at DISNEYLAND!



## **Day 12 - Iconic California Beaches & Souvenirs:**

California is home to the best beaches in the USA. Today, on your last full day in the country, explore some of the best coastal areas and shop for souvenirs and gifts for loved ones back home. Time permitting, visit Long Beach, Malibu and Newport Beach - the backdrop of so many movies and TV series.

In the evening, after your last meal of Mexican street tacos, head to LAX Airport and begin the long journey back to Asia.



## **Day 13 - Lost Day Flying:**

Today is completely lost due to the time zone differences. Enjoy your inflight entertainment!

## **Day 14 - Arrival back Home:**

You will have arrived home sometime on this day. We certainly hope by this time you have witnessed and learnt incredible things about the USA!