

When the sun sets over the Los Angeles skyline, the stars of Hollywood come out to shine.



Smithsonian

STUDENT TRAVEL

- Round-trip transportation
- 5 nights hotel accommodations (7 with extension)
- Air-conditioned motorcoach on tour
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director
- Sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides
- Visits to special attractions per itinerary
- Overnight security
- Educational materials developed by the Smithsonian
- Medical and accident coverage
- Travel ID Badges and student backpacks

Options

- Downtown hotel
- Extended stay
- Lunches
- Gratuities
- Opportunity to earn credit for group leaders and students

CALIFORNIA PANORAMA

DAY 1: SAN FRANCISCO

Welcome to San Francisco • Travel by airplane or motorcoach to beautiful San Francisco. Founded by Spanish settlers in 1776, this fascinating city is considered by many to be California's most attractive metropolis. Upon arrival, meet your Smithsonian Student Travel Tour Director, who will accompany you throughout your stay.

Walking tour of Union Square • Your introduction to the City by the Bay begins in Union Square, a lively area steeped in political history. The square got its name from the Unionists who staged a series of violent demonstrations here prior to the Civil War. Its reputation as a hotbed of political activism continued into the 1930s when it served as a stage for organized labor protests. In the heart of the downtown area, Union Square now boasts some of San Francisco's most exclusive boutiques and department stores.

Overnight in the San Francisco area • Spend the night in the Bay area.

DAY 2: SAN FRANCISCO

Guided sightseeing of San Francisco • An expert local guide offers a firsthand look at the diverse cultural history of this intriguing city. After its initial colonization by the Spanish, San Francisco's rapid growth (and first gold rush) was sparked in 1849 by the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada hills. Drive through the bustling immigrant community of Chinatown, the most densely populated pocket of the city and, with the dynamic mix of its many visitors and its 30,000 Chinese inhabitants, one of its most colorful. View dramatic Lombard Street, nicknamed "the crookedest street in America" because it drops down the east face of Russian Hill in eight sharp switchback turns. See some of the city's priciest real estate (and take in a magnificent view of San Francisco Bay) in aristocratic Pacific Heights. Its grand Victorian mansions were among the only pre-20th-century structures to survive the massive 1906 fire that ravaged much of the city. Make stops at Golden Gate Park and at the entrance to the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco's most recognizable architectural icon. You'll also pass through the time-warped Haight-Ashbury district. This one-time home to Beat writers and rock legends is now home to a mix of monied residents and nostalgic hippies. For a breathtaking view, climb to where the city's hilly terrain reaches nearly stratospheric heights at Twin Peaks. End your tour at the bustling Fisherman's Wharf.

Free time at Fisherman's Wharf • Enjoy free time at the massively popular wharf, a waterfront area that boasts top-notch seafood restaurants and sunbathing sea lions.

Or optional excursion to Alcatraz Island • Opt to join our excursion to Alcatraz Island. Hostile home to unsavory criminals like Al Capone and Robert Stroud (the

"birdman of Alcatraz"), "The Rock" served as the nation's most notorious prison from 1933 to 1963. Ferry the short distance to the craggy island and enjoy a beautiful view of the city and East Bay. Take an audio tour of the grounds and buildings, which includes observations by guards and prisoners about the mysteries of life in this infamous penal colony. You'll also hear a fascinating account of how three men escaped the "escape-proof" island using cardboard, flashlights and false heads. (Please note: Due to official regulations, there is a 50-person limit on this optional.)

DAY 3: SANTA BARBARA ★ LOS ANGELES

Transfer to Los Angeles via Santa Barbara • En route to Los Angeles, stop for dinner in Santa Barbara. Nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the majestic Santa Ynez mountains, this city's affluent residents, outstanding Mediterranean architecture and breathtaking seaside location have earned it the nickname, "the California Riviera." Continue along the Pacific coastline to Los Angeles.

DAY 4: LOS ANGELES SIGHTSEEING

Guided sightseeing of Los Angeles • Anyone who's turned on a TV or gone to the movies has experienced at least a part of L.A.'s enormous drawing card—entertainment. You'll discover that Los Angeles is more a combination of neighborhoods and communities than one unified entity on your guided sightseeing tour. Begin with a stop at the Hollywood Bowl, where you'll see what might be the area's most recognizable sight—the Hollywood sign. A drive down Hollywood Boulevard takes you past Grauman's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood's legendary landmark. Site of countless movie premieres, Grauman's Chinese Theatre also casts its shadow over the concrete handprints and footprints of Hollywood luminaries like Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra and Humphrey Bogart. Pass the Kodak Theater before heading down Sunset Boulevard. You'll also see Rodeo Drive, a street that contributes to Beverly Hills' image of glamour and wealth, with high-end retailers like Hermes, Gucci, Giorgio and Louis Vuitton competing for the business of the rich and famous. Continue to Farmer's Market, where you'll have a chance to browse through the stalls of this open-air marketplace—you might even catch a glimpse of a star mingling among the tourists.

Free time at Venice Beach • Take some time today to explore the amazing sights of Venice Beach, home to one of L.A.'s most diverse cross-sections. A short walk along the boardwalk reveals everything from palm readers and weightlifters to in-line skaters and magicians.

Overnight in Los Angeles • Spend the night in the Los Angeles area.

DAY 5: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Universal Studios • Making movies for over 85 years, Universal Studios now offers you your own behind-the-scenes movie-making experience. Step onto actual movie sets during the studio tour and learn the secrets of Universal's biggest blockbusters in the exciting Special Effect Stages. And, for our adventurous travelers, brave one of the park's movie-based rides, such as *Jurassic Park...The Ride*® or *Shrek 4-D*™.

DAY 6: DEPARTURE

Free time in Los Angeles • Today, enjoy free time in Los Angeles. You might want to stroll along Santa Monica's famous pier, or arrange to book a tour of one of the major movie studios.

Departure • Head home on Day 6, or extend your tour two days.

★EXTENSION★

DAY 6: LOS ANGELES ★ SAN DIEGO (CONTINUED)

Transfer to San Diego • Continue south to San Diego, California's second-largest metropolis and the quintessential beach city. California's first Spanish mission was established here in 1769.

San Diego Zoo • Visit the superb San Diego Zoo. Host to more than 3,000 animals in beautifully sculpted grounds, the zoo is world-renowned for its efforts to breed endangered species in captivity for re-introduction into their natural habitats. The Californian condor and the Arabian oryx are some of the zoo's more notable successes. Carefully replicated natural habitats—such as Tiger River, Sun Bear Forest and Gorilla Tropics—shelter over 800 species of exotic animals.

Overnight in San Diego • Spend the night in the San Diego area.

DAY 7: SAN DIEGO

Guided sightseeing of San Diego • An expert local guide introduces you to San Diego's highlights. Start your tour in Balboa Park, an enormous retreat boasting gorgeous grounds, museums, theaters, a zoo, sports facilities and golf courses. Cross the bay to the beautiful seaside suburb of Coronado, where you'll see the Hotel del Coronado. A quirky San Diego institution commonly known as "Hotel Del," this multi-turreted timber wonder opened in 1888 and has been featured in films like Marilyn Monroe's 1959 *Some Like It Hot*. See the upscale neighborhood of La Jolla, featuring lovely, unadorned Mediterranean-style architecture. In downtown San Diego, pass the 19th-century adobe homes that line the streets of Old Town, site of California's first European settlement, and the Gaslamp Quarter, a restored historic district replete with restaurants, cafés and galleries. You'll also see the breathtaking Pacific Beach area and the harbor that has made San Diego a center of naval research and marine biology.

Free time in San Diego • Enjoy free time in San Diego. You might choose to browse the shops at Horton Plaza and take a leisurely stroll through the Gaslamp Quarter. Or, explore the exhibits of the San Diego Air and Space Museum* or the San Diego Natural History Museum*.

Or optional excursion to SeaWorld • Opt to visit SeaWorld—built in Mission Bay in 1964, this marine park remains one of San Diego's most popular attractions, and Shamu, its resident killer whale, continues to be the city's unofficial mascot. In a variety of entertaining choreographed performances, SeaWorld showcases the antics of whales, sharks, dolphins, penguins and its other aquatic denizens.

DAY 8: SAN DIEGO ★ DEPARTURE

Free time in San Diego • Enjoy more free time in San Diego.

Return home • Your tour director assists with your departure via flight or motor-coach.

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

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