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Natural Highlights of California - Sample Itinerary

Jun 20, 2020 - Jun 28, 2020

\$3,099 per person

TRIP OVERVIEW

- Examine Sequoia National Park's giant trees with a naturalist, and then stargaze with an astronomy expert after the sun goes down.
- Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Monterey Aquarium and learn about the facility's National Geographic-sponsored research.
- Discover the breathtaking landscapes of Yosemite National Park.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Accommodation: Hotels (8 nts).
- Meals: 8 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Transport: Air-conditioned private vehicle, hiking.
- Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Sequoia National Park Naturalist Hike, Sequoia National Park
- Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Sequoia Parks Conservancy Stargazing, Sequoia National Park
- Your Journeys Highlight Moment: Monterey Aquarium Exclusive, Monterey
- All national park fees
- Yosemite NP excursion
- Death Valley NP visit
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to and from destination
- [Minimum medical and emergency evacuation insurance](#)
- Trip cancellation insurance or any other [travel insurance](#)
- Visas
- Any activity not described in What's Included
- Meals on your own
- Gratuities

TRAVEL INSURANCE

A minimum level of medical and emergency travel insurance is required in order to travel with National Geographic Journeys. Details are outlined in our [Terms and Conditions](#) and you will not be permitted to join the group until you have provided evidence of adequate travel insurance. Please read the [trip details](#) to learn more about recommended policy options.

MY OWN ROOM

During your trip, sometimes it's just more convenient and comfortable to have your own room. That's why we offer the "My Own Room" option - a single room all to yourself.

My Own Room Option: From \$4,478

June 20 - LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



ITINERARY

Set out on a nine-day quest through some of California's greatest national parks. From the arid, sun-scorched landscapes of Death Valley to the astonishing giant redwoods of Sequoia National Park and Yosemite's awe-inspiring panorama of granite domes, this adventure covers a lot of ground—and almost every type of terrain imaginable.



DAY 1: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Arrive at any time.

Accommodations: Golden Nugget - Gold Tower(weekday) *(or similar)*

June 21 - LAS VEGAS / DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



DAYS 2: LAS VEGAS / DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

DAY 2: LAS VEGAS/DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Leave the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas behind and travel to Death Valley National Park — the lowest, hottest, and driest place in North America. Marvel at the extremes of this landscape as you pass mountains, valleys, badlands, salt flats, dunes, and more.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Accommodations: Furnace Creek Ranch *(or similar)*

June 22 - DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK / YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



DAY 3: DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK / YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Before leaving the park, make a final stop at Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes. Then sit back and enjoy the views on this full day drive via the mountain town of Bishop and across the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, along the famed Tioga Pass and through Yosemite Valley in the National Park.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: The Pine Resort (Weekend) *(or similar)*

June 23 - YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



DAYS 4: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

With our CEO, explore stunning Yosemite National Park in the High Sierra. Explore on foot to view majestic waterfalls, crystal clear lakes, lush green meadows, and walk among pristine groves in Yosemite. Keep an eye out for glacial erratics, rock climbers and the diverse wildlife, including black bears, within the park.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Accommodations: The Pine Resort (Weekend) *(or similar)*

June 24 - YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK / SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK



DAY 5: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK / SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Depart early and walk through California's Sequoia National Park alongside a naturalist. Learn about these impressive giant trees and opt to enjoy a picnic lunch on the trail. Drive to Big Tree Trail for an afternoon hike and learn about how National Geographic deeded tracts of giant trees in the heart of the park to the National Parks Service for safekeeping. This evening, we return to the park for an evening of stargazing with an expert from the Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC).

Meals Included: Breakfast

Accommodations: Wuksachi Lodge *(or similar)*

June 25 - SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK / MONTEREY



DAYS 6: SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK / MONTEREY

Depart the Sierra Nevadas and travel from one of California's mountain ranges to the other. Reaching the waters edge, stop to view elephant seals at Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery before driving north on the PCH, the famous Pacific Coast Highway. Stop along the way for lunch in a little seaside town. Marvel at the dramatic vistas as the waves crash into where the cliffs meet the shore. Continue through Big Sur, past famous bridges and lighthouses, get out and stretch and even opt to feel the sand between your toes. Enjoy the day soaking in part of the most beautiful coastline this National Scenic Byway has to offer en route to Monterey.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Casa Munras Garden Hotel & Spa (*or similar*)

June 26 - MONTEREY



DAY 7: MONTEREY

Visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium on a tour specially arranged for National Geographic Journeys travellers. Get an inside look at the workings of this world-class organization and find out how the Aquarium's mission aligns with that of National Geographic. After, enjoy a free afternoon. Opt to go whale watching, try the famous clam chowder, walk or bike the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail or wander historic Fisherman's Wharf and Cannery Row.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Optional Activities: Whale Watching

Accommodations: Casa Munras Garden Hotel & Spa (*or similar*)

June 27 - DAY 8: MONTEREY / SAN FRANCISCO



DAY 8: MONTEREY / SAN FRANCISCO

Continue on a scenic coastal drive along the Pacific Coast Highway to San Francisco for our final evening. Catch a glimpse of the Golden Gate Bridge on the way into one of America's most popular cities. Opt to take a cable car ride over the steep hills or explore the city by bicycle.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Optional Activities: Sunset Sailing San Francisco

Accommodations: Le Meridien San Francisco (*or similar*)

June 28 - SAN FRANCISCO



DAYS 9: SAN FRANCISCO

Depart at any time.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Information & Documents



WHAT TO EXPECT

Trip Type - Journeys

Offered in partnership with G Adventures, our National Geographic Journeys line blends fun, hands-on exploration, meaningful encounters with people and cultures, and more free time and choices—with the structure and security of traveling in a small group.

Activity Level - Light to Moderate

Travelers should be in good health and comfortable walking or standing for extended periods of time. Daily activities may include walking tours, visits to sites, safari drives, and easy hikes; and some days will have more physical activities such as longer hikes, kayaking, snorkeling, or biking.

Service Level - Casual

Casual trips offer immersive travel experiences at an unbeatable value with free time and plenty of choices built into the itineraries. Accommodations are comfortable, well-located, and modest. Trips are led by dynamic local guides, some meals and activities are included, and transportation is provided for included excursions.