

DESCRIPTION OF EXCURSIONS

California Experience Tour (Los Angeles and San Francisco)

San Francisco

Students will begin their tour by spending **two full days and one half day** exploring San Francisco, including the following highlights:

- **Golden Gate Park**: Golden Gate Park is one of San Francisco's treasures. It is one of the most visited city parks in the United States and it is over one thousand acres. Students will have a chance to explore this park, often called the Central Park of San Francisco.
- **Alamo Square**: Alamo Square is home to several large mansions, including the "Painted Ladies," a block of beautiful and distinctive mansions that the students have probably seen in several films, TV shows (including "Full House") and advertisements.
- **Golden Gate Bridge**: Students will have a chance to walk on this iconic suspension bridge connecting San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.
- **Fisherman's Wharf**: Fisherman's Wharf is one of the top tourist destinations in San Francisco and offers wonderful views of the San Francisco Bay. It used to be the home base of San Francisco's fishing fleet.
- **Ghirardelli Square**: Ghirardelli Square is famous because it used to be the headquarters of the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company.
- **Pier 39**: Pier 39 has many souvenir shops, street performances, and docks with sea lions. It is one of the most famous tourist attractions in San Francisco. The students will have some free time on Pier 39
- **Lombard St.**: Lombard Street is known as the "crookedest street in the world" and is very steep. It was created with sharp curves so that cars could more easily drive down the street; otherwise, driving down the street in one straight shot would be a safety hazard. Students will walk down this famous street.
- **Union Square and Market Street**: This is the main commercial area of the city and the central shopping, hotel, and theater district in San Francisco. Market Street is next to Union Square and is a very popular shopping street. Students will have the opportunity to shop in the Union Square and Market Street area.

From San Francisco, students will be transferred to a hotel in Reno, Nevada for one night.

Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe is a clear, cobalt blue freshwater lake that straddles the border of California and Nevada in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is the second-deepest lake in the United States, and at 6245 feet (1,904 meters) high, it is also one of the highest-elevation lakes in the U.S.

After exploring Lake Tahoe, students will be transferred to a hotel in Merced, California for one night.

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park is also in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Yosemite is famous for its giant and ancient sequoia trees (including one that is estimated to be 1,500 years old!), Yosemite Falls (the highest waterfall in North America), and El Capitan and Half Dome giant granite cliffs.

After hiking in Yosemite National Park, students will be transferred to a hotel in Fresno, California for one night.

Sequoia National Park

Sequoia National Park is a world-famous national park located in California. It was the second national park designated in the U.S. and it is named for the giant sequoia trees located in the park, including the General Sherman tree, the largest tree in the world. Students will have the chance to hike and see some of the tallest trees and best nature that California has to offer.

After hiking in Sequoia National Park, students will be transferred to the California State University, Northridge (CSUN), where they will spend the remainder of their time in the U.S.

Los Angeles

Students will spend **three full days** exploring the Los Angeles area, including the following highlights:

- Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive: Beverly Hills is one of the wealthiest cities in the Los Angeles region. It is home to Rodeo Drive, which is a famous shopping street known as the Fifth Avenue of Los Angeles.
- Getty Museum: One of the most-visited museums in the United States. Its collections include European and American art from the Middle Ages up until now. The Getty is also known for its beautiful gardens and its views of Los Angeles.
- Venice Beach: Venice was first known as the Venice of America because of its canals and buildings with Venetian-style architecture that model Venice, Italy. Venice Beach is known for its 1960s-era atmosphere. It has a unique boardwalk along the beach that features local artists. It's famous for its street performers and funky vibe.
- Santa Monica: Santa Monica is famous for its beaches, pier, and shopping. Generally, students divide their free time between the Santa Monica Pier and Third Street Promenade. The Santa Monica Pier is iconic and has appeared in many movies. Third Street Promenade is the first pedestrian mall in the country and students have many options of where to shop.
- Griffith Observatory: The Griffith Observatory is the most-visited public observatory in the world. It also has one of the best views of the Hollywood sign. Students can go to a planetarium show (**fee**) and watch the sun set over Los Angeles.
- Hollywood: Students will explore Hollywood by foot and by bus. Students will see famous restaurants and clubs owned by celebrities, famous theaters, scenes where movies were filmed, the home where Marilyn Monroe used to live, the Sunset Strip, etc.
- Hollywood and Highland: Students will have free time to visit the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Dolby Theatre (where the Academy Awards are held), Grauman's Chinese Theater (where many films premiere), and see the Hollywood sign.