

# DRIVE AMERICA



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

# WELCOME TO AMERICA!



AmericanTours International, LLC. welcomes you to the USA on behalf of your tour operator. Here is a quick guide which contains some travel tips we hope you will find useful during your tour.

Following these travel tips are your driving instructions, as well as state and city descriptions with historical information and sightseeing tips to enhance your experience.

## **TOUR ITINERARY, DIRECTIONS & MILEAGE**

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In the "Maps and Vouchers" section of your booklet, you will find detailed driving instructions for each day of your tour. Please keep in mind that these directions are accurate at the time of printing; however, you may find that construction, weather, traffic, or other events may cause conditions to differ and you should be prepared to revise your route accordingly with the use of the supplemental maps or a GPS. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route. The directions provided are hotel-to-hotel and do not include detours; however, we provide nearby points of interest on each map for your reference.

## **TIME CHANGES**

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While you may be tired following your long flight, you should try to stay awake at least into the early evening. This way you will avoid waking up too early in the morning. It is also possible that you will travel into different time zones during your tour, so be sure to check the correct time when entering each new state.

## **DINING**

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In most restaurants in America, you are spared the tedious task of looking for a free table, except in fast food restaurants. If you see a sign reading "Please Wait to be Seated" near the entrance, simply wait until you are shown to a table by the hostess. There will sometimes be a short wait during the typical mealtimes: 11:00-14:00 (Lunch) and 17:00-20:00 (Dinner). Just give the hostess your name and have a seat until you are called.

When reading the menu, please keep in mind that, in the United States, the value-added tax is not included, but added separately to your bill. During the meal, the usually very friendly service staff may ask repeatedly if everything is all right. Also, you will often be presented with the check while you are still eating. This is customary and not considered offensive.

## **TIPPING**

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In some restaurants, you pay for your meal at the cashier's counter near the entrance. In this case, leave a tip of approximately 15-20% on the table before leaving. Otherwise, simply add the tip to the bill that is brought to your table. Visitors often forget the tip, as it is called here. In the US, the tip is customary, as it is an integral part of the server's wages.

## **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

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Alcohol is sold only to people 21 years of age and older. In most restaurants and nightclubs, you may be asked for identification before being admitted. Supermarket cashiers occasionally make such checks as well. In most cases, they will ask for a driver's license or other government issued photo identification.

**Don't Drink and Drive!**

There are stiff penalties in the US for driving while intoxicated. Each state allows different minimum blood

alcohol levels, so a good rule of thumb is to never have more than 1 drink before getting behind the wheel. Also, if you are transporting alcohol, (opened or unopened), you **MUST** keep this in the trunk of your car. It is illegal to drive a vehicle with alcohol, within you reach, inside the car.

## **SHOPPING FOR SUNDRIES AND GROCERIES**

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If you should need any over-the-counter medications, you can usually find most of the important items in larger supermarkets or in so-called drugstores. In the States, stores are generally open much longer hours, as well as Saturday and Sunday. As a rule, they open at 08:00 or 09:00 in the morning and close at 20:00 or 22:00 during the week and about 18:00 on the weekends. Many supermarkets are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for your convenience.

## **SUNBURN PROTECTION**

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We would like to call your attention to the fact that in certain areas, the sun can be quite strong (depending on the season), and you should protect yourself accordingly. Particular care is advised when visiting beaches. Due to various climates throughout the United States, one can be unaware of the sun's intensity and may suffer painful sunburns. You can purchase sunscreens at any supermarket or drugstore.

## **DRINKING WATER**

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As a rule, all tap water is drinkable. While eating in restaurants, you will often be served iced water without asking for it.

## **US HIGHWAY SYSTEM**

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Thanks to the well-developed system of roads, and the generally courteous driving habits of Americans, driving can be a relatively pleasant and easy experience. It is important to know that most roads are numbered, and these numbers are indicated on virtually all traffic signs and at intersections.

The different posted signs will tell you whether a road is an Interstate Highway (I-10, for example); a US Highway (US-101, for example); or a State Route (SR-1, for example). Even number roads indicate an east-west highway, and odd numbers indicate a north-south highway. For instance, I-5 runs from San Diego north through California, Oregon and Washington up to Vancouver, Canada. I-10 stretches east from Los Angeles across the entire country to Jacksonville, Florida.

## **GETTING AROUND**

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Outside the larger cities, you should have little trouble finding your way. In densely populated areas (especially if you are using the freeways), it is advisable to review your route ahead of time in order to find your way more easily in congested traffic.

## **GPS**

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A GPS can be a huge aid and stress prevention tool for your Fly / Drive tour. If you will be using a GPS, please program it prior to departure to avoid distractions while driving. The National Parks or other remote areas often have one or two main access roads and hotels are easily visible and accessible from these roads. Most modern GPS recognize hotel names for the National Park lodges; however, if the system is not able to locate a particular hotel, please refer to your provided Road Atlas for custom routing.

## **SPEED LIMITS**

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On surface or residential streets, the speed limits are posted on the streets and will vary from area to area. On freeways and highways, speed limits vary per state, generally from 55-70 MPH. Please make sure you follow the posted speed limit signs at all times so you do not receive a ticket for speeding.

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## **RIGHT TURNS ON RED LIGHTS**

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When stopped at a traffic light, you may make a right turn if the cross traffic allows it without any danger to yourself or fellow drivers. Exceptions to this rule are indicated by "No Right on Red" signs.

## **CAR TROUBLE**

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If you should have a mechanical breakdown, pull over onto the right-hand shoulder, making sure that all four wheels are clear of the white highway markings. Always exit your vehicle through the passenger side. Most freeways are equipped with emergency call boxes, located every half-mile or so along the shoulder. But please be aware that you should NEVER leave your car in a remote area and continue on foot. If there are no call boxes available, open your hood and wait for the Highway Patrol. If repairs are necessary, always phone your car-rental company first, and they will advise you on how to proceed.

## **AVOID OVERHEATING**

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If your temperature gauge rises noticeably or the red temperature light comes on, particularly if you are driving through the mountains or in hot weather, first turn off the air conditioning. If this still does not help, stop and open the hood, but do not turn off the engine. Wait a few minutes until the temperature drops before continuing on your trip.

## **PURCHASING GASOLINE**

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As a rule, you will only buy lead-free (unleaded) gasoline. Most gas stations are "self-serve" and you must pay before you pump your gas. Some stations offer a "full service" pump as well, although this is more expensive. With full service, your windshield will be cleaned and, upon request, your oil and water will be checked. Remember that the distance between gas stations can be considerable, particularly in sparsely populated areas, so make sure you fill up with gasoline regularly.

## **ABOUT YOUR ITINERARY**

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To assist the most curious and energetic travelers, we have included a broad selection of sightseeing opportunities in the following description. But even travelers who prefer a less hectic schedule will be well served by reading the information we have provided. Whichever type of traveler you are, we do recommend that you read ahead before setting out on your daily journeys, planning your stops at those attractions that interest you most.

## **ITINERARY CHANGES**

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Even in the "country of unlimited opportunity", one cannot always predict everything in detail. Therefore, one must be prepared for unavoidable itinerary changes. Roads may be temporarily closed; mountain passes or National Parks may be closed due to weather conditions or forest fires. These situations may cause a hotel change, or even a change in your itinerary. To spare you inconveniences, we will do our best to avoid this whenever possible, but should a situation arise, we ask for your understanding in the matter.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

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During your trip, always refer to the hotel address on your voucher. There may be instances when a hotel has changed its name without informing ATI. If this does happen, the address will be the most current. Since all hotels are booked in advance, spontaneous route changes are unfortunately not possible, and there are no refunds for unused accommodations.

Upon arrival at your hotel, please present the receptionist with your ATI hotel voucher. This voucher will cover the price of the hotel room and state and local taxes. It does not include any personal expenses such as meals, telephone calls, and in-room movies. Please settle these charges with the front desk upon check out.

## **PARKING AT HOTELS**

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In larger cities that have limited land space, you will often be charged a parking fee at your hotel. This can range from \$20-60/USD per night of your stay. Hotels will either provide self-parking or will offer valet parking for you. This will be billed to your card on file upon check-out of each hotel.

## **LATE ARRIVAL**

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If you realize that you will be arriving at a hotel late, after 18:00 hours, we recommend that you call the hotel and let them know.

## **PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL US!**

If you have any problems or questions while on your tour, please call our passenger service desk free of charge at 1-800-800-8942, or you can call us at 1-310-641-9953 and mention which Drive America Tour you are booked on. Have your ATI booking number - which you will find on your hotel vouchers - readily available.

We wish you a lot of fun on your tour, as well as an unforgettable stay in America.  
Drive Safely!

# CONVERSION CHARTS

## Temperature

<u>Celsius</u>	<u>°C or °F</u>	<u>Fahrenheit</u>
-23	-10	14
-18	0	32
-12	10	50
-7	20	68
-1	30	86

## Length

1 yard (yd) = 3 foot (ft) = 91,44 cm

1 foot (ft) = 12 inch (in) = 30,48 cm

<u>Centimeter (cm)</u>	<u>cm or in</u>	<u>inch (in)</u>
2,54	1	0,39
7,26	3	1,17
10,16	4	1,56
15,24	6	2,34

## Area

<u>Hectares (ha)</u>	<u>ha or ac</u>	<u>Acre (ac)</u>
0,41	1	2,47

## Distance

<u>Kilometer (km)</u>	<u>km or mi</u>	<u>Miles (mi)</u>
1,61	1	0,62

## Weight

1 pound (lb) = 16 ounces (oz) = 454 g

1 ounce (oz) = 28,3 g

<u>Kilogram (kg)</u>	<u>kg or lb</u>	<u>Pound (lb)</u>
0,45	1	2,2

## Volume

1 gallon (gal) = 4 quarts (qt) = 8 pints (pt)

<u>Liter (l)</u>	<u>l or gal</u>	<u>Gallons (gal US)</u>
3,79	1	0,26

## Speed

mph	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
km/h	32	48	64	80	96	112	128	144

# SIZE CHARTS FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

## Men

### Suits and Overcoats

British	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
European	46	48	50	52	54	56	58
American	36	38	40	42	44	46	48

### Shirts

British	14	14.5	15	15.5	16	16.5	17	17.5	18	18.5
European	36	37	38	39	41	42	43	44	45	46
American	14	14.5	15	15.5	16	16.5	17	17.5	18	18.5

### Shoes

British	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5	11	11.5	12
European	37.5	38	38.5	39	39.5	40	40.5	41	42	43	44	45	46
American	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9.5	10.5	11	11.5	12

## Women

### Dresses and Suits

British	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
European	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
American	0	0/2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18

### Shoes

British	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5
European	35	35.5	36	37	37.5	38	38.5	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
American	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	12.5	13

## Children

### All Clothes

British	43	48	55	58	60	62
European	125	135	150	155	160	165
American	4	6	8	10	12	14

### Shoes

British	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	12.5	13	1	1.5
European	23	23.5	24	24.5	25	25.5	26	26.5	27	27.5	28	28.5	29	30	31	31.5	32.5	33
American	6.5	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5	11	11.5	12	12.5	13	1	1.5	2	2.5



## AIRLINES

Aer Lingus 1-800-474-7424	Air Berlin 1-866-266-5588	Air Canada 1-888-247-2262
Air France 1-800-237-2747	Air India 1-800-223-7776	Air New Zealand 1-800-262-1234
Alaska Airlines 1-800-426-0333	Alitalia 1-800-223-5730	American Airlines 1-800-433-7300
Aloha Air 1-800-367-5250	British Airways 1-800-247-9297	Cathay Pacific Airways 1-800-233-2743
Condor Flugdienst 1-866-960-7915	Delta Air Lines 1-800-221-1212	Hawaiian Airlines 1-800-367-5320
Japan Airlines 1-800-525-3663	KLM 1-800-225-2525	Korean Air 1-800-438-5000
Lufthansa 1-800-399-5838	Mexicana 1-800-531-7921	Qantas 1-800-227-4500
Singapore Airlines 1-800-742-3333	United Airlines 1-800-864-8331	US Airways 1-800-428-4322
	Virgin Atlantic 1-800-821-5438	



# ITINERARY



## Los Angeles – Arrival

Welcome to the entertainment capital of the world! Land of stars and skyscrapers, Los Angeles has captured the imagination of the world. Its population of nearly 4 million people, spread out over 467 miles, (1,214 km) makes it the second largest city in America. Los Angeles is as famous for its urban sprawl as it is for its movie studios. Indeed, the Greater Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, which extends over 60 miles away from the city itself, is home to some 13 million of California's 40 million residents.

A Spanish expedition in search of the port of Monterey first settled the area in 1769. Just over a decade later, in 1781, Governor Felipe de Neve and 11 families founded El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles (meaning "The Village of Our Lady the Queen of Angels"). Following Mexican independence from Spain in the early 19th century, L. A. served as the makeshift capital of the Mexican province of Alta California. It was the last territory to surrender to the United States in the Mexican War of 1847. The original humble pueblo of 44 acres slowly but steadfastly branched into cattle ranches, diverse agricultural pursuits, and trade.

The growth of the city has been due to the development of a wide array of industries - most famously, the entertainment industry. More than three-quarters of all movies made in America are produced in Los Angeles. The enormous amount of film production, combined with the major television and radio broadcasting companies, has made Los Angeles the undisputed entertainment capital of the world.

As you will quickly notice, this metropolis relies heavily upon the automobile. In a state with over 20 million registered vehicles, Los Angeles is home to 5.8 million of them. L.A. contains the largest concentration of detached single family dwellings in the United States, linked together by an elaborate 500-mile network of highways and freeways. The availability of land for expansion, coupled with the desire to live the California Dream has encouraged extensive lateral growth. Of course, this popularity has also contributed to the city's infamous smog. Relentless industrialization in the ensuing four centuries--combined with Los Angeles' heavy reliance upon the automobile--has aggravated this natural tendency. Fortunately, technological advances during the past 20 years have resulted in a continuous improvement of the air quality, allowing locals and visitors alike to enjoy more of the beauty of the City of Angels.

## Los Angeles History

Los Angeles is hardly a city in the traditional sense of the word - it has no concentrated urban center like San Francisco or New York. It is perhaps best described as a collection of intermingling communities, each with its own flavor and identity.

In the first years of the 20th century, towns that wanted to take advantage of the water piped into Los Angeles from the Owens River had to agree to become part of the city. Today, the name "Los Angeles" officially applies to both city and county. The name is often used to refer to the downtown area specifically, but it can also refer generally to the entire metropolitan area.

Given its large population, it is ironic that the Los Angeles Basin did not prove to be a fertile ground for the first Spanish settlers here. The settlement of El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles was founded on September 4, 1781. Initially, only 11 families - a total of 44 people - were willing to take the risk of inhabiting this dry, isolated region.

Transcontinental rail service to Los Angeles was the first development to dramatically affect the city. It was a well-known fact that the first transcontinental railroad in 1869 had greatly stimulated economic growth in Northern California. Los Angeles, intent upon reaping the benefits of the southern rail, paid money and granted land to the Southern Pacific Railroad to ensure that it was chosen as the line's terminus. The investment paid off. By 1880, four years after the arrival of the Southern Pacific, Los Angeles's population had grown to 11,000.

But the population really began to prosper following completion of the Santa Fe line, which spurred Los Angeles to compete with other western cities for immigrants. Further stimulating the population boom, the

railroads heavily publicized the city's balmy climate and profitable citrus industry. Representatives were sent to the Midwest with the sole purpose of encouraging emigration. And when the fortuitous discovery of oil was made in the 1880's, Los Angeles began to attain its current image as a place to find "The Good Life".

By the turn of the 20th century, the population had shot up to 100,000. Construction of a deep-water port at San Pedro turned Los Angeles into an important shipping city, thus signaling the second major economic boom. The third period of growth came shortly after World War I. The nascent motion picture industry, which grew up around Hollywood due to the singular climate, flourished throughout the 1920s and '30s. The glamour of Hollywood, together with the wealth generated by the oil and shipping industries, lured a steady stream of hopefuls and would-be movie actors during the Depression years. The fourth boom began during World War II, when Los Angeles was transformed into a military manufacturing center. The aircraft manufacturers of Martin, Douglas, and Northrop became the backbone of the post-war military and civilian aviation (and later aerospace) industries. Today, aviation and aerospace manufacturing continues to be one of Los Angeles' chief industries.

## Beverly Hills

The near-mythic status of Beverly Hills has made it one of the most popular visiting spots in all of California. Beverly Hills is the quintessential California dream town built on the panache and exclusivity of the motion picture industry. This glamorous community was first inhabited by the film stars of the 1920s and 30s, who built their opulent mansions along the elegant palm-lined streets, away from the glaring eyes of the public. Today, Beverly Hills is no longer just a posh residential community. It has attained its current reputation in the world's consciousness as the epicenter of lavish shopping – most notoriously along Rodeo Drive, which is studded with jewel-like boutiques that cater to the rich and famous. The best way to explore this oasis is simply to wander around on foot.

To the north, along infamous Sunset Boulevard, you'll likely notice the sidewalk vendors selling maps of the stars homes – maps of dubious reliability. But rest assured that the homes of the movie stars are all around you, especially in the hills above Beverly Hills, where the luxurious mansions are tucked discreetly behind gates, away from the prying media. As you would expect, property values here are enormously inflated, with homes regularly priced in the tens of millions. There are more Rolls Royce's registered here than in any other city in the world, except London. An even more amazing statistic is that Beverly Hills claims one doctor for every 52 inhabitants, and one lawyer for every 47!

## West Hollywood

East of Beverly Hills, fashionably funky West Hollywood boasts some of the best people-watching in L. A. Stroll along trendy Melrose Avenue between La Brea and Fairfax avenues, an area made famous by the popular television series "Melrose Place." Then browse the Farmer's Market and the Grove shopping center, located on Fairfax at the intersection of Fairfax and Third Street. This local gathering spot was founded in the early 1930's as a place for farmers to sell their produce directly to their customers, in order to offset the devastating effects of the Great Depression.

Today, there are over 50 stores and 50 restaurants/food shops that offer something to tempt every palate. You will also find fresh flower and produce stalls offering fresh fruits and vegetables. In the shops you can buy everything from authentic American Indian arts & crafts to Hollywood souvenirs.

Another popular destination is the Beverly Center, a Mecca of shopping for stylish Angelenos. This monolithic structure, located at La Cienega Boulevard and Third Street, contains literally hundreds of high-end restaurants and shops, as well as a multiplex movie theater.

Just south of West Hollywood on Wilshire Boulevard is one of L. A.'s most famous sites – the La Brea Tar Pits. Formed 40,000 years ago, these deadly lagoons of tar lured scores of unsuspecting prehistoric creatures to their deaths. Situated next door to the Tar Pits is the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, a

world-renowned museum with masterpieces by Rembrandt and Picasso, along with many other modern and classic works.

## Hollywood

Hollywood originated, somewhat improbably, as a religion-oriented agricultural community at the turn of the century, and became part of Los Angeles in 1910. One year later the first motion-picture studio was established, and the myths and legends that swirl around this iconic town began. Although most of the big studios have since relocated to other parts of the city, the name Hollywood is still synonymous with the film industry. This symbolic association is graphically illustrated by the venerable Hollywood sign, nestled high up in the Hollywood Hills above Sunset Boulevard.

The original sign read "Hollywoodland" and was a promotion for a 1923 residential development in the area. Quickly becoming a trademark of the city, the sign was donated to Hollywood in 1945, and the suffix of "land" was removed. The sign, in true Hollywood fashion, was given a face-lift in 1978, at a cost of \$250,000.

Today, visitors to Hollywood are primarily attracted by the film nostalgia that permeates the streets, which have sadly become somewhat shabby. Wander down the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which extends for a mile or so along Hollywood Boulevard between Gower Street and La Brea Avenue, and along a portion of Vine Street south of Hollywood Boulevard. Here, large golden stars embedded in the sidewalk memorialize the names of over 2,000 entertainment luminaries from past and present. You might even want to catch a glimpse of some of them (in wax form of course!) at the Hollywood Wax Museum.

In 1927, when silent screen star Norma Talmage accidentally stepped into a sidewalk of wet cement outside Mann's Chinese Theater, she unwittingly began a Hollywood tradition that continues to this day. Over the years, about 200 celebrities – including Arnold Schwarzenegger and the entire cast of "Star Trek" – have been immortalized in clay alongside such legends as Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

## Universal Studios

The most exhilarating studio tours are at Universal Studios, a movie and television theme park. At this still-active production center for major films and popular T. V. series, visitors take an unforgettable behind-the-scenes peek at the magical world of Hollywood. The narrated tram tour lasts approximately one hour and includes hair-raising encounters with Jaws and a 3D King-Kong, as well as a simulated magnitude 8.3 earthquake. Following the tour, you'll have an opportunity to see a variety of entertaining shows that reveal the tricks of the trade, including animal actors and stunt performances. Other highlights include Jurassic Park: The Ride and The Simpsons Ride. A visit to Universal Studios can range from 3 hours to an all-day event

Universal CityWalk is the entertainment and retail district located next to the theme park. This outdoor complex is free (parking available for a fee) and includes a variety of restaurants, shops, souvenirs, and a movie theater.

## J. Paul Getty Museum

The Getty Center's distinctive structure can be seen on the hills overlooking the 405 freeway in the Westwood area of Los Angeles. This branch of the J. Paul Getty Museum, which opened in 1997, cost \$1.3 billion to create. It is well known for its unique architecture, gardens, and views overlooking the city. The Getty center specializes in pre-20th century European art, and 19th-20th century American and European photography. One of the most famous pieces in the collection is Van Gogh's painting "Irises." The Getty Center is also home to the Getty Conservation Institute and the Getty Research Institute (GRI), both renowned within the art world. The GRI's research library contains more than 2 million photos and 900,000 volumes.

The Getty Center's sister location is the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades. The Getty Villa is built in the style of a Roman-style villa, and features Greek, Etruscan, and Roman antiquities.

## San Fernando Valley

The San Fernando Valley (known locally and in surrounding areas as "The Valley") is an urbanized valley located in Los Angeles County, southern California, defined by the mountains of the Transverse Ranges circling it. Home to 1.8 million people, it lies north of the larger and more populous Los Angeles Basin.

Nearly two thirds of the Valley's land area is part of the City of Los Angeles. The other incorporated cities in the Valley are Glendale, Burbank, San Fernando, Hidden Hills, and Calabasas.

The Tongva, later known as the Gabrieleño Mission Indians after colonization, and the Tataviam to the north and Chumash to the west, had lived and thrived in the Valley and its arroyos for over 8,000 years. They had numerous settlements, and trading and hunting camps, before the Spanish arrived in 1769 to settle in the Valley.

The first Spanish land grant in the San Fernando Valley (or El Valle de Santa Catalina de Bononia de los Encinos) was called "Rancho Encino" (present-day Mission Hills on the Camino Viejo before Newhall Pass), in the northern part of the San Fernando Valley. Juan Francisco Reyes built an adobe dwelling beside a Tongva village or rancheria at natural springs, but the land was soon taken from him so a mission could be built there. Mission San Fernando Rey de España was established in 1797 as the 17th of the 21 missions. The land trade granted Juan Francisco Reyes the similarly named Rancho Los Encinos, also beside springs (Los Encinos State Historic Park in present-day Encino). Later the Mexican land grants of Rancho El Escorpión (West Hills), Rancho Providencia and Rancho Cahuenga (Burbank), and Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando (rest of valley) covered the San Fernando Valley.

The Treaty of Cahuenga, ending the Mexican-American War fighting in Alta California, was signed in 1847 by Californios and Americans at Campo de Cahuenga, the Verdugo Family adobe at the entrance to the Cahuenga Pass in the southeast San Fernando Valley (North Hollywood). The 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the entire war.

The valley's climate is not, as some describe, a desert, and originally was naturally a "temperate grasslands, savannas, and shrublands biome" of grassland, oak savanna, and chaparral shrub forest types of plant community habitats, along with lush riparian plants along the river, creeks, and springs. In this Mediterranean climate, post-1790s European agriculture for the mission's support consisted of grapes, figs, olives, and general garden crops. In 1874 dry wheat farming was introduced by J. B. Lankershim and Isaac Van Nuys and became very productive for their San Fernando Homestead Association that owned the southern half of the Valley. In 1876 they sent the very first wheat shipment from both San Pedro Harbor and from the United States to Europe.

Through the late 19th century court decision *Los Angeles v. Pomeroy*, Los Angeles had won the rights to all surface flow water atop an aquifer beneath the Valley, without it being within the city limits. San Fernando Valley farmers offered to buy the surplus aqueduct water, but the federal legislation that enabled the construction of the aqueduct prohibited Los Angeles from selling the water outside of the city limits. This induced several independent towns surrounding Los Angeles to vote on and approve annexation to the city so they could connect to the municipal water system. These rural areas became part of Los Angeles in 1915. The Los Angeles Suburban Homes Company, a syndicate led by Harry Chandler, Hobart Johnstone Whitley, president of the company, Henry E. Huntington, extended his Pacific Electric Railway (Red Cars) through the Valley to Owensmouth (now Canoga Park) and laid out plans for roads and the towns of Lankershim (now North Hollywood), Van Nuys. The rural areas were annexed by Los Angeles in 1915. The growing towns voted for annexation - for example: Owensmouth (Canoga Park) in 1915, Laurel Canyon and Lankershim in 1923, Sunland in 1926, La Tuna Canyon in 1926, and the incorporated city of Tujunga in an eight-year process lasting from 1927 to 1935. These annexations more than doubled the area of the city.

The aqueduct water shifted farming in the area from dry crops such as wheat to irrigated crops such as corn, beans, squash, and cotton; orchards of apricots, persimmons, and walnuts; and major citrus groves of oranges and lemons. They continued until the next increment of development converted land use, with post-war suburbanization leaving only a few enclaves, such as the "open air museum" groves at the Orcutt Ranch Park and CSUN campus.

The advent of three new industries in the early 20th century - motion pictures, automobiles, and aircraft - also spurred urbanization and population growth. World War II production and the subsequent postwar boom accelerated this growth so that between 1945 and 1960, the Valley's population had quintupled. Los Angeles continued to consolidate its territories in the San Fernando Valley by annexing the former Rancho El Escorpión for Canoga Park-West Hills in 1959, and the huge historic "Porter Ranch" at the foot of the Santa Susana Mountains for the new planned developments in Porter Ranch in 1965. The additions expanded the Los Angeles portion of San Fernando Valley from the original 169 square miles (438 km<sup>2</sup>) to 224 square miles (580 km<sup>2</sup>) today.

Six Valley cities incorporated independently from Los Angeles: Glendale in 1906, Burbank and San Fernando in 1911, Hidden Hills in 1961, and Calabasas in 1991. Universal City is an unincorporated enclave that is home to Universal Studios theme park and Universal CityWalk. Other unincorporated areas in the Valley are Bell Canyon.

## **Northridge earthquake**

The 1994 Northridge earthquake struck on January 17 and measured 6.7 on the Moment magnitude scale. It produced the largest ground motions ever recorded in an urban environment and was the first earthquake that had its hypocenter located directly under a U.S. city since the Long Beach earthquake of 1933. It caused the greatest damage in the United States since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Although given the name "Northridge", the epicenter was located in the community of Reseda, between Armintha and Ingomar streets, just west of Reseda Boulevard. The death toll was 57 and more than 1,500 people were seriously injured. A few days after the earthquake, 9,000 homes and businesses were still without electricity; 20,000 were without gas; and more than 48,500 had little or no water. About 12,500 structures were moderately to severely damaged, which left thousands of people temporarily homeless. Of the 66,546 buildings inspected, 6% were severely damaged (red tagged) and 17% were moderately damaged (yellow tagged). In addition, damage to several major freeways serving Los Angeles choked the traffic system in the days following the earthquake. Major freeway damage occurred as far away as 25 miles (40 km) from the epicenter. Collapses and other severe damage forced closure of portions of 11 major roads to downtown Los Angeles.

This was the second time in 23 years that the San Fernando Valley had been affected by a strong earthquake. On February 9, 1971, a magnitude 6.5 event struck about 20 miles (32 km) northeast of the epicenter of the 1994 event. The 1971 earthquake caused 58 fatalities and about 2,000 injuries. At the time, the 1971 earthquake was the most destructive event to affect greater Los Angeles since the magnitude 6.3 Long Beach earthquake of 1933.

## **Parks and Recreation**

The San Fernando Valley is home to numerous neighborhood city parks, recreation areas and large Regional Open Space preserves. Many preserves are maintained as public parkland by the National Park Service's Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the California State Parks, and local county and municipal parks districts.

## **Small garden parks and missions**

- CSUN Botanic Garden
- The Japanese Garden



- The gardens at Adobes
- The Orcutt Ranch Horticulture Center
- The Leonis Adobe
- The Andrés Pico adobe
- Los Encinos State Historic Park
- Mission San Fernando

## Recreation areas

- Griffith Park, located at the southeastern end of the Valley in the Hollywood Hills
- Sepulveda Dam recreation area
- Hansen Dam recreation area
- Los Angeles River, with parks of various sizes along the part of the river located in the Valley

## Mountain open-space parks

- Backbone Trail System
- Bell Canyon Park
- Brand Park
- Chatsworth Park South
- Deukmejian Wilderness Park
- El Escorpión Park
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- La Tuna Park
- Laurel Canyon Park
- Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park
- O'Melveny Park above Granada Hills
- Rocky Peak Park
- Sage Ranch Park
- Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park
- Topanga State Park
- Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve
- Verdugo Mountains Open Space Preserve
- Wilacre Park

## Studio City

Studio city is a neighborhood in the city of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley. It is named after the studio lot that was established in the area by film producer Mack Sennett in 1927, now known as CBS Studio Center.

Originally known as Laurelwood, the area Studio City occupies was formerly part of Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando. This land changed hands several times during the late 19th Century and was eventually owned by James Boon Lankershim (1850-1931), and eight other developers who organized the Lankershim Ranch Land and Water Company. In 1899, however, the area lost most water rights to Los Angeles and was no longer viable for farming.

Construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct began in 1908 and water reached the San Fernando Valley in November, 1913. Real estate boomed, and a syndicate led by Harry Chandler, business manager of the Los Angeles Times, with Hobart Johnstone Whitley, Isaac Van Nuys, and James Boon Lankershim acquired the remaining 47,500 acres (192 km<sup>2</sup>) of the southern half of the former Mission lands—everything west of the Lankershim town limits and south of present day Roscoe Boulevard excepting

the Rancho Encino. Whitley platted the area of present day Studio City from portions of the existing town of Lankershim as well as the eastern part of the new acquisition.

In 1927, Mack Sennett began building a new studio on 20 acres donated by the land developer. The area around the studio was named Studio City.

## Beach Cities

In the international imagination, Southern California is personified by its beaches, which have come to stand as a visible symbol of the California Dream. Drive with the Beautiful People along famed Pacific Coast Highway. Dozens of well-known but reclusive entertainers have made their home in the ultra posh beach town of Malibu, which is picturesquely situated between the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Perhaps the best of the beach communities is Santa Monica, a charming city by the sea with beautiful hotels, a fun-filled pier, and extensive shopping and dining opportunities. Do as the locals do and head for the Third Street Promenade, where you can take in the sights and sounds of this hip, almost street carnival-like atmosphere. Wander past the shops and movie theaters, or stop for a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants and food stands.

## Malibu

Malibu is one of the most famous coastal towns in the world thanks to its famous inhabitants and the film industry. This mostly rural community by the ocean has been the prime choice for celebrities and film industry executives for years. Among the famous who choose to live here are Barbara Streisand, Brad Pitt, Dinah Shore and Will Smith. In some sense, it is not an easy place to live due to the wild fires that are prevalent in the summer and the mudslides that follow in the winter. But, those who chose to love here do so for the relative isolation and natural beauty.

The best way to visit Malibu is to travel down Hwy 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) and stop at one of the three public beaches or at one of the ocean front restaurants. The public beaches charge a small fee for parking and the restaurants will charge a steep price but on a beautiful sunny day, there is nothing like it. Traveling down the highway, you will get a glimpse of the multi-million dollar homes. In 2004, the average price for a 3 bedroom, 3 bath home was \$3 million dollars. Though out of reach for most people, it is always fun to get a glimpse of how the rich and famous live.

## Santa Monica

Partly due to its agreeable climate, the beachfront city of Santa Monica has become a famed resort town and is home to many Hollywood celebrities and executives as well as a mixture of affluent single-family neighborhoods, renter, surfers, professionals, and students.

Santa Monica had long been inhabited by the Tongva indigenous people, and they called the area Kecheek in their native tongue. The first non-indigenous group to set foot in the area was the party of explorer Gaspar de Portola, who gave the area its name. While historians disagree as to why it was given the name, they are certain that it was named in honor of Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine.

Following the group's explorations, the area was settled by Californios (Latin American residents of Alta California - what is now the state of California - in Mexico prior to the Mexican-American War) and was fiercely defended against the United States' encroaching Manifest Destiny expansion efforts. When the U.S. won the Mexican-American war, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, settlements in the area by white and non-white settlers alike steadily increased, particularly once the railroad arrived in the latter part of the 19th century. Migration continued to increase in the 20th century with the completion of Route 66, one of the original automobile highways of the U.S. Highway System, in 1926. Perhaps America's most famous road, Route 66 ended in Santa Monica, and served as a major path for those who

migrated west, especially during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. As Los Angeles grew, so, too, grew Santa Monica, and today, the two contiguous cities enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship with each other, although Santa Monica is the more tourist-oriented of the two. The city is filled with beautiful hotels, a fun-filled pier, and extensive shopping and dining opportunities, like the Third Street Promenade, whose carnival-like atmosphere draws in throngs of tourists daily.

Perhaps Santa Monica's most well-known feature is its pier. In point of fact, Santa Monica had two piers, with the first being a municipal structure opened in 1909 primarily for the purpose of carrying sewer pipes beyond the breakers. The shorter, wider adjoining Pleasure Pier, also known as the Newcomb Pier, was built in 1916 by amusement park pioneers. Their pier became populated with a Hippodrome (a horse racing track) which now houses the current carousel, the Blue Streak Racer wooden roller coaster, the Whip, merry-go-rounds, Wurlitzer organs, and a funhouse. The pier thrived during the 1920s, but faded during the Great Depression. During the 1930s, the pier was mainly used as a ferry landing, while most of the amusement park facilities were closed down and its attractions sold off. The pier remained privately owned until the city acquired it in 1974, as a consequence of the successful "Save Santa Monica Bay" movement the citizens formed to combat plans to tear the pier down. Today, the pier houses Pacific Park, a family amusement park with a large Ferris wheel, the aforementioned carousel, the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, shops, entertainer, a video arcade, a trapeze school, a pub, and restaurants. The end of the pier is also a popular location for anglers. During the summer months, the pier is venue to weekly outdoor concerts that are free to the public.

## Long Beach

Just 50 years after Columbus discovered America, Cabrillo and his crew of explorers anchored off the present site of Long Beach. Vast clouds of smoke were rolling high in the sky from burning grass and brush ashore where the native Indians were conducting one of their periodic rabbit drives. Cabrillo named the area "Bahia de los Fumos" -- the Bay of Smokes.

The first modern identity for Long Beach began with the sprawling rancho awarded Manuel Nieto in 1784. Time and descendants divided the old Spanish Land Grant until the bulk of what is now Long Beach was contained in two ranchos, Los Cerritos and Los Alamitos.

Before the year 1897 was out, the citizens voted to reincorporate, and Long Beach has continued to grow ever since. From a population of 1,500 and an area of three square miles in 1897, the City has grown to an estimated population of 480,000 citizens living in a 50-square-mile area. Long Beach was the fastest growing city in the United States.

In 1911, the Port of the Long Beach was established. Ten years later the oil was discovered nearby. The city of Long Beach purchased Cunard's former luxury cruise liner in 1967, the Queen Mary, to be docked in Long Beach Harbor as a major tourism attraction and hotel. Today, Queen Mary continues celebrates its historical anniversary. In 1984, Long Beach was the site for four Olympic events during the Los Angeles Olympics-- yachting, volleyball, fencing and archery. In 1995, Groundbreaking is held on the \$100 million, 120,000-square-foot Aquarium of the Pacific, the largest such project ever in Southern California and the centerpiece of a \$650 million renovation of the Long Beach waterfront.

## Queen Mary

The Queen Mary is open daily from 10-4:30. You may choose to take the self-guided tour or take a "behind the scenes" guided tour. There are several restaurants on board and admission includes visits to any current exhibitions. The Queen Mary is located at the end of the 710 Freeway on the water.

## Aquarium of the Pacific

The aquarium celebrates the life of the Pacific Ocean. There are over 12,500 ocean animals, and over 1,000 species. Most exhibits are indoors, but several, like the Shark Lagoon are outside. The aquarium is enjoyable for children and adults alike. The aquarium is located in downtown Long Beach on the water.

## Knott's Berry Farm

Located on the site of a former berry farm established by Walter Knott and his family, Knott's Berry Farm is one of North America's most visited theme parks with 40 total rides and plans to expand in the future.

## Knott's Berry Farm History

In 1920, this area was a farm where the Knott family sold berries, berry preserves, and pies from a roadside stand along CA-39. In 1934, the Knotts began selling fried chicken dinners in a tea room on the property, and the Knotts built several shops and other attractions to entertain visitors. In 1940, Walter Knott began constructing a replica Ghost Town on the property. Knott added several other attractions over the years, and began charging admission to the attractions in 1968. In 1983, Knott's Berry Farm added Camp Snoopy, which began the park's present-day association with the Peanuts characters. In the 1990s, following the deaths of Walter Knott and his wife, Cordelia, their children sold the family business; the theme park was sold to Cedar Fair, while the food business was sold to ConAgra Foods, which subsequently sold to J. M. Smucker; Smucker's discontinued the line in 2013. Since their acquisition, Cedar Fair has continued to expand the theme park, adding Knott's Soak City in 1999 and adding other rides to the original park.

## Knott's Berry Farm Attractions

Today, the theme park is divided among five themed areas: Ghost Town, Fiesta Village, The Boardwalk, Camp Snoopy, and Indian Trails. The Ghost Town is based on Calico ghost town and other real ghost towns of the western United States such as Prescott, Arizona, and contains three roller coasters (Calico Mine Ride, GhostRider, and Silver Bullet), an authentic narrow-gauge train ride (Ghost Town & Calico Railroad), a log flume ride (Timber Mountain Log Ride), and a pneumatically powered pendulum ride (Screamin' Swing), which was the first of its kind when it was installed in 2004. Wild Water Wilderness is a subsection of Ghost town and features a roller coaster (Pony Express) and a family river rafting ride (Bigfoot Rapids). Fiesta Village was the second area built in the park, and is based on a Mexican and Aztec theme. It contains two roller coasters (Jaguar! And Montezooma's Revenge), three swing rides (Dragon Swing, La Revolucion, and Waveswinger), a Carousel (Merry Go Round), and a teacups type ride (Hat Dance). The Boardwalk was originally themed as Gypsy Camp, but was re-themed to the Roaring '20s and Knott's Airfield before finally settling upon its current theme. This area is home to most of Knott's major thrill rides, including three roller coasters (Boomerang, Coast Rider, and Xcelerator), a scrambler ride (Pacific Scrambler), a top spin ride (Rip Tide), a drop ride (Supreme Scream), a flying scooters ride (Surfside Gliders), bumper cars (Wheeler Dealer Bumper Cars), a trabant ride (WipeOut), and a circular Gyro tower, which provides a panoramic view of the surrounding area (Sky Cabin). Camp Snoopy is home to the park's family and children rides and attractions, themed after Charles Schulz's famous "Peanuts" comic strip characters. This area of the park includes fourteen different rides and attractions including: Balloon Race, Camp Bus, Charlie Brown's Speedway, Grand Sierra Scenic Railroad, High Sierra Ferris Wheel, Huff and Puff, Joe Cool's Gr8 Sk8, Log Peeler, Lucy's Tugboat, Red Baron, Rocky Road Trucking Company, Sierra Sidewinder, Timberline Twister, and Woodstock's Airmail. Indian Trails is a small area sandwiched between Camp Snoopy, Ghost Town, and Fiesta Village, showcasing Native American art, crafts, and dance. The area contains one ride, the Butterfield Stagecoach, which is an actual stagecoach that takes riders on a circular ride through Fiesta Village and Camp Snoopy. In addition to these areas, there is Knott's Soak City on the east side of the property, which houses a seasonal water park and its respective rides.

## Knott's Scary Farm

Knott's Berry Farm is also known for its annual park events, most notably the Knott's Scary Farm. This seasonal, special ticketed Halloween event re-themes major portions of the park into a "haunted house"

style attraction in the form of mazes and “scare zones” in the evening. During its month-long, October operation, Knott’s Scary Farm generates half the revenue for Knott’s Berry Farm’s fiscal year.

## Anaheim

With its name taken from the Santa Ana River and the German word for home, the city of Anaheim was founded by German emigrants in 1857. They brought with them cuttings from their Rhineland vineyards and gradually developed Anaheim into the wine capital of California. But in the late 19th century, blight decimated the vineyards, and the grape growers began growing oranges instead, thus beginning a new industry.

Anaheim is best known as the home of Disneyland, the world’s first major amusement park. Disneyland represents the realization of Walt Disney’s idealistic dream for an amusement park clean and free of the overt commercialism associated with other parks and carnivals. Created to bring children’s fantasies to life in a safe, pristine environment that all could enjoy, Disney’s dream became an immediate success, and remains very much so today.

## Disneyland

The theme park whose innovative attractions thrilled the world when it opened in 1955 still offers thrills for the young and old alike. Eight distinctly different areas known as “Lands” boast over 60 rides and attractions set in a decor commensurate with the theme. The Lands include Fantasyland, where fairy tales and childhood stories come to life; Frontierland, which recreates the lively American West of the 19th century; Adventureland, with its exotic reproduction of the lush surroundings of the South Seas, the Middle East, and Asia; and Tomorrowland, where visitors can preview the future in a series of spine-tingling attractions. The employees of each Land are appropriately dressed and are forbidden to be seen in other lands, which would disrupt the illusion created. Throughout the park, the architecture and vegetation surrounding the various themes are faithfully and spectacularly reproduced. Over 800 plants from 40 countries help to create the impressive landscape.

The most visible deviation from other Southern California amusement parks is that Disneyland is far cleaner and better maintained, thus enhancing the illusion within The Magic Kingdom. Even the most jaded skeptics are enchanted with this unique world of fantasy. This is not simply another roller-coaster park!

No matter what else you may have seen, nothing compares to Disneyland’s complete and consistently unparalleled efforts in capturing the imagination. The price of a Disneyland “passport” includes unlimited use of the attractions and the grounds. The park is open during the summer months from 8 a.m. until midnight.

## Attractions

Begin your tour of the park with a leisurely stroll down Main Street U.S.A. This street is a charming composite of America’s small towns as they appeared at the turn of the 20th century. This thoroughfare – the first of the eight Lands – serves as a gateway to all of Disneyland’s attractions, and offers the largest assortment of souvenir shops and restaurants in the entire park. Keep this in mind as you see souvenirs elsewhere. You will probably be able to purchase most items in the shops along Main Street before leaving the park. The Information Center, located at Carefree Corner at the end of Main Street on the right hand side, can provide you with any information you may need. When you purchased your admission ticket, you should have received a map of the park and a time schedule of the parades and musical shows for the day. If you did not receive either one, you can obtain them here. There are several attractions we recommend that you visit during the day. All are extremely popular, attracting long lines of people. But don’t let the lines discourage you! Disneyland is the master people-mover. The lines move quickly and the attractions are well worth the wait. You should plan to visit the park as close to opening time as possible, since early morning waiting time is minimal.

We recommend that you visit the following: The Pirates of the Caribbean and The Haunted Mansion, both in New Orleans; and It's a Small World, in Fantasyland. Together, these three attractions offer the quintessential Disneyland experience.

If it is a roller-coaster ride that you fancy, be advised that all are quite popular, and the lines are generally longest for them. Most agree that the lengthy wait for the immensely popular Star Tours is rewarded by the experience of this attraction. Using a flight simulator similar to those used by the world's major airlines, an intergalactic ride through deep-space is created by a combination of movements between the simulator and film action projected on the screen ahead of you. Star Tours offers the best of a roller-coaster combined with a scenario straight out of a "Star Wars" movie. Other roller-coasters include The Matterhorn, the oldest ride in the park; Space Mountain, which simulates a rocket roaring through a black hole; and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, an Old West gold-mining train that careens through a raging waterfall, a swarm of bats, and an underground earthquake.

## **Disney California Adventure Park**

Opening on February 8, 2001, California Adventure was constructed as part of a major expansion that transformed the Disneyland area and its hotels into the Disneyland Resort. The park consists of five areas: Sunshine Plaza, Hollywood Pictures Backlot, The Golden State, A Bug's Land and Paradise Pier. Each area is meant to resemble various aspects of California, its culture and landmarks.

### **Attractions**

California Adventures follows the same distinct rules as Disneyland. Sunshine Plaza serves as the main entrance into the park. It is designed to evoke the sensation of stepping into a California postcard. After guests pass the ticket counter, they walk under a mock-up of San Francisco Bay's Golden Gate Bridge, which disguises a portion of the resort's monorail track. After passing under the bridge, guests reach the main area of Sunshine Plaza that serves as an access hub to the park's Hollywood Picture Backlot and Golden State. The plaza is also home to two of the park's biggest souvenir shops, Greetings from California and Engine Ears Toys.

If there is one must see attraction, we suggest "Soarin' Over California" which takes guest on a simulated hang glider tour of California, flying over the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Redwood Creek in Humboldt County, Napa Valley, Monterey, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, the PGA West golf course in La Quinta- Palm Springs, Camarillo, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Fresno, San Diego, Malibu, Los Angeles, and Disneyland itself during the Christmas season.

Other popular attractions include: California Screamin' Roller Coaster, Grizzly River Run- a water rapids ride, The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror and Toy Story Midway Mania! The park features a wide variety of restaurants that showcase the vast array of foods that California offers including wine tasting, San Francisco Sourdough, fresh fruits and vegetables and Ghirardelli chocolate.

### **Laguna Beach**

Laguna Beach is a seaside resort and artist community located in southern Orange County, California, United States, approximately 24 miles (39 km) southeast of the county seat of Santa Ana. Its population was 23,727 at the 2000 census. It is known for having some of the most beautiful beaches in southern California. The city is also known for its hotels, unique shops, restaurants, world famous art galleries, and art festivals. Several movies and TV shows have been filmed there.

### **Annual cultural events**

Each summer the Pageant of the Masters is held. This event shows recreations of artwork with people posing in a set that looks like the original art. Also held during the summer are festivals such as the Sawdust Art Festival, Festival of Arts, and Art-A-Fair. The Sawdust Art Festival began in 1965.

## Museums and other points of interest

The Laguna Art Museum is located in Laguna Beach and focuses on the art of California.

### San Juan Capistrano

Nestled in the rolling hills between the Santa Ana Mountains and the coast, in the quaint town of San Juan Capistrano, the Capistrano Mission is one of the best preserved small missions in the chain

Mission San Juan Capistrano was the seventh mission founded in California. The first church here was dedicated by Father Junipero Serra in 1776. The Serra Chapel dates back to 1778, distinguishing it as the oldest chapel in California. The cruciform stone church, completed in 1806, was one of the most ambitious and elaborately adorned of the mission churches. Indeed, San Juan Capistrano was considered the most beautifully crafted of all the California missions until the earthquake of 1812 razed the tower and caused much of it to collapse.

San Juan Capistrano is famous for the annual migration of swallows to the mission. In the spring – on March 19th to be exact (St. Joseph's Day) – these remarkably constant birds arrive from their 6,000-mile journey from Goya, Argentina to hatch and rear their young. Miraculously, this event has occurred on the same date for centuries, creating both a legend and a popular tourist attraction surrounding that legend. If you miss the swallows' sojourn, you can still enjoy the chapel and the town's courtyards, museums, and old adobe houses. The 10-acre site contains a museum dedicated to the Spanish, Native American, and Mexican periods of the mission's past. A self-guiding tour features artifacts, work buildings, the soldiers' barracks, the padres' living quarters, and an American Indian cemetery.

## Los Angeles – Las Vegas

### California History

California was settled by humans as far back as 17,000 BCE. The state's indigenous peoples were composed of some 500 tribal groups spread throughout the state, with over 300 dialects of 100 distinct languages. Most were hunter-gatherers, as the abundance of game and wild plants made cultivation unnecessary.

Early contact with Europeans began with encounters with British and Spanish explorers in the 16th century. English and Russian explorers voyaged along the California coastline throughout the 17th century, but they were primarily interested in acquiring natural resources rather than settling the land. Later contact with Europeans was disastrous for California's indigenous peoples; diseases such as measles and malaria decimated the tribes. In the 19th century, the native population was reduced by a staggering 90%.

The Spanish were the first to permanently settle in the region. California owes its rich historical and cultural heritage to the colonization efforts of Spain, efforts that go back all the way to the 16th century. Spain's decision to colonize California resulted in the establishment of a network of missions and military forts along the rugged coastline, starting with the Mission San Diego de Alcala in present-day San Diego in 1769. Four forts – or presidios – were founded, along with 20 additional missions. Father Junipero Serra, a Franciscan priest, is the best-known founder of the extensive network, referred to collectively as the Alta California Missions. The missions, each a day's journey apart, were linked by a trail known as El Camino Real. Until the late 20th century, this trail served as California's primary highway (now the US-101) linking northern and southern California.

Most of California's leading cities began as small mission settlements located on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, including three of the four largest cities in the state: San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles. The third largest city, San Jose, although not on the coast, was also part of the mission network.

Mexico assumed control of this coastal region after achieving its independence from Spain in 1822. The missions eventually became secularized, and their vast land and cattle holdings were given away in grants to former nobility or military officers in return for loyal service to the government. Known as Californios, these wealthy families established profitable cattle ranches throughout the state.

During the 1840's many Californians became unhappy with Mexican rule and desired an American takeover. In 1846 a small group of American settlers organized The Bear Flag Revolt, which ended 23 days later when Commodore John Sloat, reacting to news that Mexico and the U. S. were at war, raised the American flag at Monterey. The event left an important and lasting legacy - the Bear Flag carrying the phrase "California Republic" remains the official state flag today. The Mexican-American War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, establishing present-day California as a US territory while leaving Baja California under Mexican control.

Another major event in the 19th century was the California Gold Rush. When gold was discovered at Sutter Mill in 1848, over 300,000 people came west to California in the hopes of striking it rich. The population boom made formal government a necessity. California became an official state in 1850, with an official state constitution. Agriculture and transportation expanded to meet the growing population's needs, and cities like San Francisco transformed from small towns to bustling metropolitan centers.

## California's Gold Rush

The Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo, which signaled the end of the Mexican War, transferred California to the United States on February 2, 1848. Just days before, in the Sierra Nevada foothills, a man was guilelessly inspecting a millrace on the South Fork of the American River when he suddenly spotted shiny golden flakes amongst the pebbles. News of the man's fortuitous discovery leaked out almost immediately, and sparked one of history's fastest and most frenzied migrations: the California Gold Rush. The would-be miners and emigrants were nicknamed Forty-Niners, for the year the Gold Rush officially started - 1849.

Gold fever spread like wildfire. Crews abandoned their ships, farmers left their land, and husbands enthusiastically bid their wives farewell. New settlements sprang up and prices skyrocketed, fed by the thousands who poured across the continent and sea in search of the elusive El Dorado. The stories of Mark Twain and Bret Harte capture the flavor of this colorful era.

By 1850, California had a large enough population to qualify for statehood, and four years later, Sacramento was named as the capital. The Gold Rush continued to lure prospectors for another 15 years, and during that time, California went through a series of boom and bust economic periods. Nonetheless, following its statehood California witnessed the completion of the transcontinental railroads, the growth of business and industry, large-scale agricultural development, and a steady stream of people looking for something more permanent and much more certain than gold.

## Geography of California

Geographically, California is a land of limitless diversity. The differences in climate and altitude are unmatched in any other state in America. The highest point in the contiguous United States, Mount Whitney (14,494 feet), is a scant 60 miles from the lowest point in the nation, Death Valley (282 feet below sea level). Conceivably, one could swim in the Pacific Ocean and ski on fresh snow in the very same day! California is home to the continent's highest waterfall (Ribbon Falls in Yosemite), the world's tallest living trees (coastal redwoods), the world's biggest trees (giant sequoia), and the world's oldest trees (bristlecone pines). Two mountain ranges form the eastern and western boundaries of the state, the Coast range in the west and the Sierra Nevada range in the east. Between these ranges lies the fertile Central Valley, which is over 400 miles long and 40 to 50 miles wide. Active earthquake faults crisscross the



state, while dormant volcanoes slumber in quiescent silence. For the next few days, your senses will be well rewarded by the amazing effects of Mother Nature, as you explore the unparalleled geographic diversity of California.

## The Mojave Desert

Spanning across 15,000 square miles of Southern California and portions of Nevada and Arizona, this shimmering desert is the home of the indigenous Mojave Indians. The region ranges in elevation from less than 1,000 feet to almost 8,000 feet. This convergence of diverse ecosystems encompasses everything from mountains and mesas to cinder cones and sand dunes. Somewhat surprisingly, the seemingly barren desert is home to a vast array of wildlife, including mountain lions, bighorn sheep, mule deer, foxes, coyotes, and even desert tortoises.

The Joshua tree is perhaps the most dominant plant of the landscape. This spindly tree was given its distinctive name by Mormon immigrants, who saw its branches stretching toward the heavens as if in prayer. A native giant yucca, the Joshua tree is technically more of a plant than a tree. Reaching heights upwards of 50 feet, it can live to be several hundred years old. Other species of plant-life include sage, rabbitbrush, and cacti, which store water in their tissues to minimize moisture loss. Such measures are crucial for survival, as daytime temperatures regularly exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summertime.

## Hesperia

Hesperia is a city of approximately 90,000 people and a part of San Bernardino County, which is also home to Victorville and Apple Valley. The first inhabitants of the region were the Serrano Indians who lived in the normally dormant Mojave Riverbed. The community that eventually became Hesperia began in 1781 as a Spanish land grant called "Rancho San Felipe, Las Flores y el Paso del Cajon. The southern California region was annexed to the United States in 1848, following their victory in the Mexican-American War. In 1891, the town of Hesperia was laid out by land developers of the railroad company. The name Hesperia comes from Hesperus, the Greek god of the west. The town grew slowly until highways Route 66, US-91, US-395, and I-15 were completed. In the 50s, land developer M. Penn Phillips and his silent partner, famous boxer Jack Dempsey, facilitated the growth of the community. They did so by building the Hesperia Inn and Golf Course, which is also home to the Jack Dempsey Museum. Hesperia is also home to its own man-made lake (Hesperia Lake) where various city events take place.

## Apple Valley

Apple Valley is a city of approximately 69,000 people located in the Victor valley with Hesperia and Victorville. Apple Valley was the home to Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, whose museum was first founded in Apple Valley before being relocated to Victorville in 1976. Since 2003, the museum has been located in Branson, Missouri. Apple Valley had apple orchards at one point, as its name suggests, but by the end of the 40s, they were no longer around.

## Victorville

Victorville is a city of 95,100 people. Near Victorville, the Southern California Logistics Airport, a large planned cargo hub, which unfortunately attracted few customers, can be found. Nearby, an airplane recycling center can be found. From 1943 through 1989, the U.S. Air Force operated the George Air Force Base here. The community of Victorville was founded around 1885, being simply named "Victor" after, Jacob Nash Victor, a superintendant of the California Southern Railroad Company. In 1901, by order of the Union Post Offices, the community's name had to be changed to Victorville to avoid confusion with the similarly named Victor, Colorado (at the time, zipcodes did not exist). On September 21, 1962, Victorville officially became a "Community of California" after obtaining a population of 8,110.

## Newberry Springs

Newberry Springs is a little town of almost 3,000 people near Barstow, Calico ghost town, and Yermo. The city is a typical desert oasis and has always been an important rest stop for thirsty immigrants to California. Agriculture is a big part of the local economy, and the town has the perfect climate for growing pistachios, apricots, and alfalfa. Pistachios are so important to the city, that they host the Newberry Springs Pistachio Festival every November. Newberry Springs is, perhaps, best known for the film *Baghdad Café*, which was filmed here.

## Barstow

Situated at the junction of the three major highways that provide access to the Mojave Desert, Barstow has served as an important transportation crossroads for over a century. Once a bustling gold-mining center, Barstow was named for the president of the railroad company that first established a switching yard here in the 1880's. Today, the city's economy is supported by the several military installations in the area.

The California Desert Information Center contains exhibits depicting the natural history and environment of the vast Mojave Desert. The Center also houses what is purported to be the second largest meteorite ever to strike North America.

Following lunch at one of Barstow's many restaurants, it is a good idea to refuel before you begin your drive through the Mojave Desert.

## Calico Ghost Town

Just eleven miles northeast of Barstow is Calico Ghost Town, named for the vividly colored rocks that make up the surrounding landscape. In the mid-19th century, silver was discovered in the region, and a boom town quickly sprang up. Calico's mines produced more than \$13 million in ore between 1881 and 1896. When the price of silver suddenly plummeted in 1895, the mines at Calico stopped producing and the town eventually fell into ruin.

Today, visitors can explore a silver mine, enjoy a shooting gallery, visit a spooky mystery shack, and even catch a ride on an ore train.

## Baker

Baker is a small community located in the heart of the Mojave Desert. It makes a convenient stop between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Of interest is the Baker Desert Information Center which is open daily from 9-5. You won't be able to miss the World's Largest Thermometer which can be very interesting in the height of summer. Make sure to refuel here before continuing through the desert.

## Nevada History

The great neon Strip that is Las Vegas is only one of the many facets of Nevada. Elsewhere in the state, ghost towns stand in dusty sagebrush landscapes, and remote alpine meadows burst into glorious bloom. Nevada derives its name from the nearby Sierra Nevada mountain range. "Nevada" means snow covered in Spanish. Paradoxically, however, the state of Nevada is known not for its snow-covered mountains, but for its vast desert. Originally inhabited by numerous Indian tribes, including the Mojave, Paiute, Shoshoni and Washo, Nevada's desert climate and mountainous topography hampered early exploration.

Situated in the rain-shadow of the Sierra Nevada of California, the state of Nevada receives very little annual precipitation. The annual rainfall is a mere 3 to 6 inches, which easily qualifies the region as a desert. As you might imagine, this harsh, inhospitable land did not prove as attractive to early settlers as

nearby California. The first European to visit Nevada was Francisco Garces, a Spanish Franciscan priest, in 1775. Subsequent expeditions and fur trapping parties crossed the state throughout the early 19th century. Jedediah Smith, a prominent fur trader, first explored the southern reaches of Nevada in 1826. In 1828, he discovered the Humboldt River in northern Nevada, which led to the establishment of an emigrant trail through the north.

The first official exploration party, under the direction of Captain John Fremont, mapped out the region in 1843-45, for the purpose of expanding the United States westward. Fremont's maps and colorful descriptions of the unknown region heightened interest, and increased migration began. Many of the early pioneers were dangerously unaware of the region's dangers as they eagerly pushed westward. Most notoriously, in 1846, the ill-fated Donner party was caught by a particularly brutal early winter in the Sierra Nevada, after taking an unfortunate shortcut. Less than half of the pioneers survived the bitter cold.

Population remained sparse until the 1859 discovery of gold and silver at the Comstock mines in Virginia City. The strike, known as the Comstock Lode, yielded millions of dollars annually and turned the region into a major mining center. In fact, the fortunes mined in Comstock were so vast and far-reaching that they created San Francisco's millionaire class. The Gold and Silver Rush in Virginia City prompted Congress to quickly pass legislation creating the Territory of Nevada in 1861. The Humboldt River was used as a stable water supply for emigrants across the northern reaches of the state. The trail these pioneers used, known as the Humboldt Trail, linked up with the Oregon Trail, thereby fostering the growth of America's West.

Financially, statehood was just around the corner for Nevada, but the Territory had only one-sixth of the population required. With the Civil War looming, the Unionists desperately needed support, both financially and politically. On October 31, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln declared Nevada the 36th state, thereby obtaining the one extra vote necessary for ratification of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery. By making wealthy Nevada a state, Lincoln also garnered the money necessary to help fund the Civil War.

Nevada enjoyed prosperity throughout the big bonanza, which lasted until 1878. The depression following the boom lasted twenty years, until gold was discovered in the southern reaches of the state. Gold was discovered in Tonopah in 1900, in Goldfield in 1902, and in Rhyolite in 1904. At the same time, copper was discovered in Ely in the eastern portion of the state. By 1920, the Ruth copper mines had produced as much copper as the mines of Tonopah and Goldfield combined.

Mining of these precious metals and other minerals has continued to be a major source of income. Since 1859, mining has retrieved metals and minerals valued at over \$2.5 billion.

Following the legalization of gambling in 1931, tourism and gambling have become the major industries in the state. Over 33 percent of the jobs in the state are dependent upon tourism. Gambling generates over \$2 billion dollars of revenue throughout the state annually. Nevada is one of the few states in America that does not impose a personal income tax on its residents.

Over 60 percent of Nevada's population of 1.6 million live in southern Nevada, in and around Las Vegas. Other major cities are Reno and Carson City, which is the capital. The rest of the state is dotted with small towns that are supported by agriculture, ranching and mining.

## Primm

Primm is a little town on the border between California and Nevada best known for its three casinos. Before 1996, the community was known as "State Line", but they had to change their name due to confusion with the Stateline, Nevada near Lake Tahoe. The city began as a gas station on the state line owned by Pete MacIntyre. Pete could barely make ends meet only selling gasoline, so he began to smuggle alcohol. Because of this, history remembers him as "Whiskey Pete". In the 50s, Dale Hamilton owned the town, and he was instrumental in its early development. In 1977, the town's namesake, Ernest

Jay Primm, opened the first casino in the area ("Whiskey Pete's"). The casino has the bullet-riddled car in which Bonnie and Clyde were killed on display on its grounds. The second casino in the community (Primm Valley Resort, formerly known as Primadonna Resort & Casino) was built in 1990. The Fashion Outlets of Las Vegas were built in 1998 as a part of the casino. The third casino (Buffalo Bill's Resort & Casino) was built in 1994, and is home to a buffalo-shaped swimming pool and the Desperado Roller Coaster, one of the tallest and fastest roller coasters in the world.

## Jean

This small town near Goodsprings is not a ghost town, but it does have an interesting history. In the early pioneer days, a wandering Bavarian travelling through the American West stopped to spend the night in this small town of Jean. There was one small problem with his stopover: he had no pants! He had worn each pair of trousers he owned to the point where they had all fallen apart in tatters. He was at his wits end and he decided to cut his thick canvas tent into a pair of pants. He tied the pieces together with some copper rivets he had in his provisions. These pants proved very durable for the tough way of life of a traveling pioneer during the Gold Rush in western America. The name of this pioneer was Levi Strauss, and the durable pants he invented while in this small town became, after some troubleshooting, the article of clothing we now know as "jeans", with the name for the type of pants having been taken from this tiny Nevada town.

## Goodsprings Ghost Town

One of the thrills of a trip to the American West is visiting an authentic ghost town. And just 30 miles south of Las Vegas is a truly authentic example of a typical ghost town. Goodsprings is a "real" ghost town. There is no one there charging admission or selling souvenirs. There is no one selling popcorn or cotton candy. There are no snack bars, restaurants, or even a parking lot. What you do see are the actual remains of what was once an active mining town now completely abandoned and deserted and in a state of ruins. At one time, Goodsprings had a population of about 200 people and produced about \$30 million from a range of minerals including platinum, palladium, gold, and zinc until the 1930s. This was an important town for milling ore from the surrounding mines, which would then be transported by wagon to Jean, where it was loaded onto trains. The town lies in a beautiful valley that has a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains. There are more than two hundred buildings that still stand at this site. This ghost town has been chosen as the set of many Hollywood movies. Many of these buildings are nothing more than crumbling pillars, while others are completely intact. One of the interesting landmarks that still remains today is the Pioneer Saloon.

## Las Vegas

Las Vegas, meaning The Meadows in Spanish, is perhaps best thought of as a giant theme park - and the theme is excess! On the fabled Strip, your senses will be overwhelmed by billion-dollar hotels, an erupting volcano, a replica of the Egyptian Sphinx, as well as various fountains, jungles, and casinos with massive neon signs that virtually turn night into day. Inside the casinos, though, time is irrelevant, as daylight is eliminated altogether in every corner of the vast carpeted rooms, you hear the clanging and ringing of the slot machines, the siren call to lure gamblers.

## Las Vegas – Local Touring

If gambling doesn't appeal to you, bear in mind that Las Vegas can be as much fun for the spectator as it is for the participant. The hotels are fantasylands of sights and sounds - the Luxor is ancient Egypt, Caesar's Palace is ancient Rome, the Mirage is the South Pacific - and no expense has been spared to carry out these themes. The white Siberian tiger habitat at the Mirage and the opulent Forum Shops at Caesar's are just two of the more popular attractions Las Vegas has to offer. But the best attraction by

far is the people, most of whom act as though every day were New Year's Eve! Indeed, Las Vegas is an entertainment oasis in the desert catering to every possible adult whim. Recently, though, the city has begun to offer itself more broadly as a family destination, rather than as an exclusively adult playground. Las Vegas has certainly come a long way from its humble beginnings as a stop along the Old Spanish Trail connecting New Mexico to California. At the turn of the century, Senator William Clark was responsible for helping to stimulate growth in Las Vegas. Clark's rail company, which constructed a rail line between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, auctioned 1,800 lots near the proposed train depot, and the net proceeds of \$265,000 helped finance its construction. A permanent settlement began to grow up along Fremont Street. Most of the businesses were gambling halls and saloons, which steadily prospered until gambling was outlawed in 1910. Then Las Vegas, along with the rest of America, suffered through the hard times of the Depression until 1931, when two events changed the course of the city's history. First, in 1931, construction was begun on nearby Hoover Dam, employing 5,000 workers on the massive project over the next four years. The needs of this small city of workers vigorously stimulated the local economy. In the same year, gambling was legalized by the state legislature as a means of bringing the state out of its economic depression. Fremont Street came to life again as the gambling center of the growing city.

## The Strip

In 1946, the first luxury hotel/casino was built by notorious gangsters Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky. Known as the Pink Flamingo (later the Flamingo Hilton), it was the forerunner of the magnificent luxury casinos now stretching along Las Vegas Boulevard. Nearly all of Las Vegas' most lavish casinos are located along Las Vegas Boulevard, known by locals as The Strip. Many of these hotel/casinos have 2,000 to 3,000 rooms each. The Mirage, with over 3,300 rooms, was the largest until it was surpassed by the Excalibur, which has over 4,000 rooms. Excalibur, in turn, has been surpassed by the MGM Grand: the largest hotel in the world, with a staggering 5,000 rooms. In short, there are plenty of rooms to accommodate the 33 million visitors who pour into Las Vegas annually.

As you will see, Las Vegas is the ultimate 24-hour city. The casinos and hotels are open around the clock to cater to the needs of the gambling public. But since the games and services offered by the casinos are essentially identical, it was realized a few years ago that a means to establish individual identities among the major casinos was crucial. The result is that all of the large properties today have themes which control every aspect of the interior design and the overall environment within their walls. Each one of these monoliths stands as an impressive display of luxury, utterly geared toward creating the all-important impression that everyone who enters is a winner. Just remember, it is the gambling public that has financed these adult theme parks.

Along with gambling, Nevada also offers liberal marriage and divorce laws, a practice that has led to the existence of the wedding chapels you will see gaudily dotting the Strip. Nevada's lenient license requirements have made it a popular destination for those wishing to quickly tie the knot (as well as those wishing to quickly untie it!). The city of Las Vegas issues a whopping 75,000 marriage licenses annually. With four full-service chapels, weddings, too, are a 24-hour-a-day business.

## Attractions

Below you will find listed the most popular attractions Las Vegas has to offer; these suggestions will assist you in planning your stay in America's Playground.

Fremont Experience: this recently completed structure is a \$70 million dollar, 90-foot high space frame sprawling across three city blocks in Downtown Las Vegas. After dark, 31 supercomputers work to create a series of spectacular sound and light shows, producing more than 65,000 dazzling color combinations with over 2 million lights. Shows are offered throughout the evening; schedules may vary.

Treasure Island: at the main entrance to this bustling hotel/casino, a recently added attraction called "Sirens" has a show at 6, 8 and 10 PM. Please consult local information guides.

The Mirage: this opulent hotel/casino, a favorite with the jet set, features numerous attractions. These include: a 20,000 gallon aquarium with live sharks, a South Seas jungle, a habitat for dolphins, and, most popularly, a habitat for Siegfried & Roy's world-famous rare white Siberian tigers. As if that weren't enough, there's also a small volcano, located just outside the main entrance, which erupts in a burst of flame and smoke every 15 minutes from 8 p.m. until midnight.

Caesar's Palace: inside this lavish property, rumored to have been Frank Sinatra's favorite hotel, the casino's developers have magically recreated an ancient Roman-style street, all indoors, complete with trompe l'oeil blue skies covering the ceilings. Delicious restaurants and exclusive boutiques help to set a mood of decadent indulgence. And in the central area of the Forum Shopping Area, a beautiful fountain surrounding a statute of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, comes alive in an amazing laser-light show.

New York, New York: this hotel/casino is a monument to "The Big Apple," featuring reconstructed Manhattan streets both inside and out, as well as a hair-raising roller-coaster ride. The roller-coaster operates most evenings until 10 p.m., and there is a fee.

Circus Circus: this is the most child-friendly of the hotel/casinos, offering nonstop thrill rides in "Grand Slam Canyon," a covered amusement park. There are also live circus acts and an enormous area filled with video and carnival games for kids of all ages. There is an admission fee to the amusement park.

MGM Grand: many visitors can't resist a peek inside The Largest Hotel in the World. With just over 5,000 rooms, this hotel/casino is truly the "Grandest" property on the Strip, and even boasts a fun-filled amusement park. Admission to the park is free, but many of the rides have individual fees.

New Hotels: Along the Strip, the hotels just keeping getting bigger and better! Some recently built resorts include the ultra posh Bellagio, the exotic Mandalay Bay, and the Venetian, featuring a luxurious day spa and world class restaurants amidst romantic canals and gondolas!

## Family Friendly

Circus Circus is the most child-friendly of the hotel/casinos, offering nonstop thrill rides in the Adventuredome- an indoor amusement park. The park offers 25 rides and attractions including the Canyon Blaster roller coaster, a rock climbing wall, an 18-hole miniature golf course, an arcade, Xtreme Zone, Pikes Pass, Virtual Reality Zone, Midway Games, and carnival-type games. A "Ride-All-Day" pass is available for purchase for unlimited rides. There are also live circus acts that fill the park.

If the kids are feeling adventurous, the New York, New York hotel has family friendly attractions such as a hair-raising outdoor roller-coaster ride. The roller-coaster operates most evenings until 10 p.m.

The Excalibur also offers attractions aimed at kids: Excalibur's Arcade, Fun Dungeon, and the Tournament of Kings—a medieval jousting show and dinner.

Families can all enjoy one (or more) of Vegas' popular magic shows. The Mac King Comedy show, Lance Burton, and the Greatest Magic Show at the Greek Isle Hotel are fun for any age.

## Area Attractions

### Red Rocks Canyon

This amazing drive offers true western scenery reminiscent of what you saw in those old cowboy movies. And the spectacular 18-Mile Scenic Loop Drive is so close to Las Vegas that you can do it after breakfast and be back to your hotel in time for lunch! In marked contrast to a town geared to entertainment and gaming, Red Rock Canyon offers enticements of a different nature. At Red Rocks Canyon, you will find peace, serenity and beauty in what is by far, the Las Vegas area's best kept secret. The Mojave Desert is not barren as you might think. It is teeming with life and beauty that is rare and unique. Petrified sand

dunes, frozen in time, offer a unique perspective of nature as well as the effects of the passing of millions of years. The excitement of suddenly appearing waterfalls, cascading into the canyons, will make you appreciate the mysteries and the hidden dangers of the Mojave. Red tailed hawks search for their next meal while drifting on air currents high above the desert floor. All of this is just a short drive west from the Las Vegas Strip, following West Charleston Blvd. This delightful naturally scenic drive is well worth a few hours of your stay in Las Vegas.

## Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation is one of the easternmost points of the Mojave Desert, and some 15 miles (24km) to the West of Las Vegas. It is best known for the Keystone Thrust, a set of red sandstone peaks. The area was first inhabited by Native Americans, whose roasting pits and petroglyphs (rock engravings) can still be seen today.

The biological variety is greater in Red Rock Canyon than in the surrounding areas. Creosote, Joshua tree, and various types of yucca grow on the valley floor. Higher up in the valley are ponderosa pines and agave plants. The canyon is home to the rare desert tortoise, desert burros, and wild bighorn sheep.

Red Rock Canyon was not always a desert. For most of the last 600 million years it was covered by ocean, until movements in the earth's crust pushed it upwards until it became an arid field of dunes 180 million years ago. Minerals in the earth were exposed to oxygen during this period, resulting in the distinctive red color the stone exhibits today. Some 65 million years ago the Keystone Thrust Fault began to develop. Thrust faults occur when one crustal plate is driven on top of another. The Keystone Thrust fault is located where the grey stone left from the former ocean meets the oxidized red sandstone, resulting in a distinctive dual-color pattern.

Visitors who make the trip to this National Conservation Area are rewarded with 13 miles of trail for hiking, biking, picnicking, and horseback riding. The park's visitor center has info for anyone looking to learn more about the history of the area and what it has to offer.

## Hoover Dam

Completed in 1935, Hoover Dam is the Western Hemisphere's highest concrete dam, providing water and electric power to communities in California, Nevada, and Arizona. The dam, controversially named in honor of President Herbert Hoover, is situated on the Colorado River, which, at 1,400 miles long, is one of the longest rivers in America. The river drains an area of 244,000 square miles in seven states and a portion of Mexico. Named in the 1770s by the Spanish for the reddish color of the water, the Colorado River has carved spectacular canyons out of the red rock as it flows towards the sea.

Near the turn of the century, it was decided that the erratic flow of the Colorado River needed to be controlled to prevent the habitual spring flooding, and to ensure a consistent supply of water throughout the year. Rain and snow fall in abundance in the upper basin of the river in Colorado, but much of the middle and lower river basin is dry. Once the individual states' rights had been determined, construction began on Hoover Dam in 1931. The creation of this engineering marvel took four years. The town of Boulder City was established to house the 5,000 workers and their families throughout the long construction period.

When it was completed in 1935, the 726-foot high curved dam formed Lake Mead, the largest man-made lake in the world. Lake Mead, which extends over 115 miles behind the dam, has an 822-mile shoreline. The lake supplies water to tens of millions of people in California, Arizona and Nevada. In addition, the 17 hydro-electric generators in the dam provide electricity for 500,000 homes, as well as the many neon lights along the Strip. Residents of Southern California receive over 50 percent of the electricity supplied by Hoover Dam. Without the dam as a source of electrical power and water, the communities of Southern California would not have been able to support their rapid growth throughout the 20th century.

The Hoover Dam Bypass project connects the Arizona and Nevada sides of the Colorado River via the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge. It was opened in 2010, and shifted Route 93 from its previous path along the top of the Hoover Dam to slightly downstream. The older route over the Hoover Dam contained blind curves, hairpin turns, and was generally unfit for heavy traffic. The resulting bridge is the widest concrete arch in the Western Hemisphere, and the first concrete-steel composite arch in the US.

## **Lake Mead National Recreation Area**

In the middle of the dry Nevada desert is one of America's biggest reservoirs: Lake Mead. The Colorado River used to flow down through here, but after construction on the Hoover Dam began, the 180-kilometer long reservoir began to form. The imposing dam is a popular attraction, as is the recreation area around Lake Mead, which offers boating, sunbathing and hiking, as there are multiple tourist hiking trails along the banks of the lake. The water of the reservoir is used to irrigate agricultural areas in southern California, as well as a source of water for local communities. The area has many plants and animals, with certain species only occurring here.

## **Las Vegas – Bryce Canyon National Park**

### **Valley of Fire State Park**

Valley of Fire State Park is the oldest state park in Nevada and was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1968. It covers an area of almost 42,000 acres (17,000 ha) and was dedicated in 1935. It derives its name from red sandstone formations, formed from great shifting sand dunes during the age of dinosaurs. These features, which are the centerpiece of the park's attractions, often appear to be on fire when reflecting the sun's rays.

Valley of Fire is located 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Las Vegas, at an elevation between 2,000–2,600 feet (610–790 m). It abuts the Lake Mead National Recreation Area at the Virgin River confluence. It lies in a 4 by 6 mi (6.4 by 9.7 km) basin.

Complex uplifting and faulting of the region, followed by extensive erosion, have created the present landscape. The rough floor and jagged walls of the park contain brilliant formations of eroded sandstone and sand dunes more than 150 million years old. Other important rock formations include limestones, shales, and conglomerates.

The park entry from Interstate 15 passes through the Moapa Indian Reservation. The park has a visitor center that should be visited by anyone planning any off-road activities.

Prehistoric users of the Valley of Fire included the Ancient Pueblo Peoples, also known as the Anasazi, who were farmers from the nearby fertile Moapa Valley. Their approximate span of occupation has been dated from 300 BC to 1150 AD. Their visits probably involved hunting, food gathering, and religious ceremonies, although scarcity of water would have limited their stay. Fine examples of rock art (petroglyphs) left by these ancient peoples can be found at several sites within the park.

## **Utah History**

The native inhabitants of Utah were the Ute Indian tribe, who came to the region at least 10,000 years ago. The first European explorers to enter the homeland of the Ute Indians were two Spanish missionaries, Fathers Escalante and Dominique, who, in their search for a direct route to Monterey, California, saw



portions of southern Utah in 1776. The Great Salt Lake was discovered nearly half a century later by fur trappers James Bridger and Etienne Provost, who thought they had found an arm of the Pacific Ocean. Since the 19th century, the history of Utah has been inextricably intertwined with the history of the Mormon Church. Charismatic Mormon leader Brigham Young knew that he had found what he called “the right place” on July 24, 1847, while standing at the mouth of Emigration Canyon, in what is now Pioneer Trail State Park. He and his followers had been moving west in search of a place where they could live in peace without being persecuted. They settled in the seemingly uninhabitable barren territory near the Great Salt Lake, and made the desert flourish with the very first irrigation system to be created by Anglo-Saxons in America. Today, approximately 70 percent of Utah’s inhabitants are members of the Mormon Church.

In 1848, the Utah Territory was ceded to the United States as part of the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo. Brigham Young became the territorial governor. During the next 20 years over 80,000 church members made the journey to the Utah Territory. In addition to being a religious draw for Mormons, the region’s mining prospects lured many people of different ethnic groups.

Among the largest of these groups were Greek immigrants, who maintain a significant presence today. In 1869 the towns of Utah were linked to the rest of the country, when the transcontinental railroad was completed at Promontory, Utah, 40 miles north of Salt Lake City.

Shortly after the Mormon Church officially ended the controversial practice of polygamy, the territory was admitted to the Union in 1896. Agriculture and mining proved to be the chief industries in the state throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. World War II stimulated the state’s economy with the establishment of several large military installations. In contemporary Utah, mining and agriculture are diminishing in importance as tourism and other service-related industries grow. One fast-developing industry, somewhat surprisingly, is the movie business. Long known as a prime location for westerns, Utah is gaining a reputation for other facets of moviemaking. For instance, the famous opening graphics of the blockbuster film “Star Wars” were developed here, and more recently, screen icon Robert Redford established his annual Sundance Film Festival in Park City. Once a year, Park City is invaded by cellular-phone touting talent agents, whose presence transforms the area into a virtual Hollywood in Utah.

## Geography of Utah

Originally settled by hardy Mormon pioneers, Utah is a land of majestic mountains and desert canyons garlanded with wildflowers and ablaze with rock formations that seem to be divinely inspired. The geological diversity of the landscape makes Utah’s rich concentration of natural phenomena unequalled in any other state in America. Most of Utah’s land is controlled by the State or Federal Government. The National Parks constitute 3 percent of the total area, National Forests represent 23 percent and 43 percent of the state’s non-forested lands is maintained by the federal Bureau of Land Management. The Defense Department controls approximately 5 percent of the state’s total area. Approximately 6 percent is occupied by the Indian reservations of the Navajo, Southern Paiute, Goshute, Ute and Shoshone Indian tribes. Another 9 percent is state-owned land, which includes 48 state parks. In total, 89 percent of Utah’s aggregate area is controlled or administered by government agencies.

Spanning the 11th largest state’s central corridor are the Wasatch Mountains in the north and the High Plateaus in the south. In a 10 to 25 mile wide valley at the foot of the Wasatch Mountain rampart lie the majority of Utah’s cities and agricultural land. In the northeast are the Uinta Mountains, notable for the fact that they are the only east-west mountain range in the United States. To the east, the Colorado River, together with the Green and San Juan Rivers, carves deep canyons through the plateaus. In the southwest, vast salt deserts and semi-arid valleys alternate with towering mountain ranges that reach more than 11,000 feet in elevation. The myriad canyon streams make their way toward their ultimate destinations in Great Salt Lake, Bear Lake, the Colorado River, and the Pacific Ocean.

The majority of Utah's population of just under 2 million is nestled between the Great Basin desert and the Wasatch Mountains. A full sixty percent of the state's inhabitants live in the metropolitan region in and around Salt Lake City, the state capital.

## **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, known as the Mormon Church, is a closely knit organization which emphasizes the importance of the family unit. During its 150 years of existence, the Church of the Latter Day Saints has proven to be one of the most conservative yet controversial religions in the United States. Over 70 percent of Utah's populace belongs to the Mormon Church. The worldwide membership totals four million.

The Mormon Church was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830. It was in 1823 that a heavenly messenger entrusted 17-year-old Smith with ancient records to be translated into the Book of Mormon, the core of church doctrine. The beliefs of the faith closely paralleled those of Christianity. However, many church practices were not widely accepted or even permitted by law. In its early days, the church encouraged polygamous marriages.

Church members were ostracized and persecuted. Smith was murdered in 1844, and leadership of the faith fell to Brigham Young, his assistant. The Mormons believe that family relationships and marriages continue unbroken from this life into the next world. Ancestors of church members can enjoy the blessings and rights of the church through living proxies.

The Mormon Church coordinates a genealogical program to assist members in their efforts to identify their ancestors. The church maintains libraries and research facilities throughout the world as a service to its membership. These facilities are open to the general public interested in genealogical research. It is expected that members research at least four generations of their predecessors to lessen the confusion at the day of reckoning.

The main library and all branch libraries are open around the world to members and non-members free of charge. Any statistical information which has been researched by any church member has been stored in the system on microfilm. There are over 816,000 rolls of microfilm at present. The library has 500 employees and 400 volunteers to assist budding genealogists. Back-up copies of the microfilm are stored in a vault in the Wasatch Mt Range, east of the city.

## **Formation of the Great Basin**

Over several million years, huge blocks of crust were raised and then subducted. The movement of these blocks of earth forced rocks up between 300 and 4500 meters into the air, exposing the land in between them. These raised portions of the area slowly began to erode, eventually filling in the newly created valley depressions. These raised and eroded blocks of earth formed a series of linear mountain chains separated by wide valleys. These mountain ranges are oriented in a north - south direction, are 5 to 24 kilometers wide and approximately 96- 192 kilometers long. The valleys are generally even wider than the mountain ranges.

Eastern California and Western Nevada were once united in a basin filled with sediment layers. There were three very different types of rock in the area. The oldest rocks, aged between 190 and 225 million years, are exposed in the mountains of the Great Basin. The second oldest rocks, aged between 136 and 190 million years, are exposed on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. The youngest rocks (granite), between 80 and 90 million years old, are exposed on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada.

The Great Basin is known for its unique system of water drainage. Streams and rivers here have no outlet to the sea. All waters flow into closed valleys called sinks. Sinks and lakes regions contain brackish water full of minerals and salt deposits of previous centuries. Most of the region is considered a desert, receiving less than 25 inches of rain per year. The Great Basin boasts a wide variety of minerals and metals within

its boundaries. So far silver, gold, lead, zinc, copper, and molybdenum have been mined in this region. Mining continues to this day throughout the area.

## St. George

The town of St. George originated during the Civil War, when Mormon leader Brigham Young sent a group of his followers to settle the area. To offset the shortage of cotton from the South due to the war, the Mormon settlers built a textile mill and produced their own cotton until shortly after the war, when the South was once again able to supply Utah with cotton.

A landmark here is the St. George Mormon Temple - notable for being the first temple to be constructed in the state. Guided tours by the St. George Temple Visitor's Center explain the central beliefs of the Mormon faith. Another landmark is the red sandstone tabernacle, built in 1863, which supports a striking 140-foot steeple.

## Cedar Breaks National Monument

This 3-mile wide, 2,500-foot deep natural amphitheater is perhaps misleadingly named, since no cedars actually grow here! Early pioneers confused the native junipers with the cedars of the Bible, which do not grow in North America. The word "breaks" is used to describe the rock amphitheaters eroded into the side of the plateaus.

Like its neighbor Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks displays breathtakingly beautiful multihued cliffs, columns, arches and spires. The landscape has the appearance of a watercolor palette left in the rain, with ribbons of violet and red bleeding into streams of creamy gold and pink. Indeed, the indigenous American Indians once called the area The Circle of Painted Cliffs. Ancient bristlecone pines, the oldest trees in existence, cling to the windswept ridges above the 10,000 foot rim. The Visitor Center, located one mile from the South Entrance, offers information on sightseeing, photography, excursions, hiking, nature study, and picnicking in the national monument.

## Zion National Park

Zion National Park is home to a narrow canyon carved out of 1,000 meters of solid rock by the erosive powers of the Virgin River. Unlike Bryce and Grand Canyon, you will view Zion from the depths of the canyon, with the majestic power of the surrounding canyon walls looming above.

Striking cliffs of Navajo sandstone - originally wind-deposited sand dunes that were covered and then exposed by a retreating sea - rise 2,000 feet in Zion, carved by the Virgin River and eroded into whimsical arches and massive monoliths. The wafer thin layers of sandstone reflect the sweeping nature of the precocious wind. The sand dunes that covered this region were frozen in time when limy solutions filtered through the layers and cemented them together, permanently recording the fancy of nature at play in the sand. The battle between the earth and the erosive elements of nature is eternal. The outcome is at once predetermined and continuous; the results, in all their astounding beauty, are here on display for you at Zion.

This geological wonderland continues to inspire the sublime awe evoked by the names of many of its most famous features: Altar of Sacrifice, Temple of Virgins, Great White Throne, The Pulpit, Temple of Sinawava, and Angels Landing. Named by early Mormon settlers of the region, it is not difficult to see why they chose such religious imagery for the various mountains and canyons. The nobly imposing Zion fashions an omnipotent presence that makes the names fitting indeed. Zion's early explorers prophesied that only winged immortals would ever set foot atop the pinnacle of Angels Landing. But mortals have succeeded in constructing a steep 2.5 mile trail - part of a well-developed trail system at Zion - that twists and winds through a section called Walter's Wiggles, all the way to the top. The distinctive whiteness visible throughout Zion is a result of Navajo sandstone. This layer of 1,500 to 2,000-foot thick sandstone

is approximately 140 million years old. Referred to as The White Cliffs, this layer of sandstone is topped by a layer of red mudstone, known as The Temple Cap.

The mineral content of the red mudstone streaks down the face of the Navajo sandstone, creating the beautifully haunting blood-like stains seen throughout the park. Another distinctive feature is the unique desert flora that clings to the cliffs throughout the park and proliferates on the canyon floor. The canyon road, accessible by shuttle, parallels the course of the Virgin River, the river responsible for the creation of Zion. During the spring and summer months this docile stream swells in size, and can become a raging, destructive torrent when carrying water run-off from the higher elevations. High water marks of past floods are visible above the height of the roadbed on the opposite canyon wall. Make sure to stop at the Temple of Sinawava, a rock amphitheater named for the Paiute wolf god. Legend has it that the native Paiute Indians were so fearful of this section of the park, which they believed to be inhabited by the evil spirit of the wolf god, that they superstitiously avoided the area after nightfall.

Across the stream from the parking lot at the end of the road, you'll see the Pulpit. The angle at the base of the pillar is responsible for its name. There are several shuttle stops from which you can view Zion's most famous features. All are more readily recognizable from a distance rather than close up. If a brief walk interests you, stop at the Weeping Rock parking lot. A short climb along the base of a cliff will reward you a wonderful view of the waterfall. Yet Weeping Rock is not a waterfall in the traditional sense, in that it is the rock layers themselves that exude water, thus creating the impression that the rock is crying. This phenomenon begins when water seeps through the relatively porous layers of rock until at last it reaches an impenetrable layer. The weight of the water forces it to find an outlet. The outlet it chooses is the path of least resistance - the horizontal fissures along the face of the cliff. Depending upon the volume of water within the rock at a given time, the "tears" may only moisten the cliff or may run out copiously.

## Leaving Zion National Park

\* You can take the free shuttle from the park to the south entrance, where you will have the opportunity to get off and on at various stops. The shuttle, which follows the road along the Virgin River, is narrated by park rangers who can answer any questions you may have regarding hiking and trail conditions.

Over the next 11 miles, you will ascend 1,800 feet. From the south entrance of the park, you will follow a road from the base of the canyon over several hairpin turns to eventually pass through two tunnels, with the first being 1.1 miles long. This first tunnel has a series of windows that provide quick glimpses down into the canyon below. Due to the narrowness of the tunnel, slow speed is both prudent and mandatory. Stopping, however, is strictly prohibited.

One of the last stops in Zion National Park should be at Checkerboard Mesa. From the pullout on the left hand side of the road, you will be able to observe vertical joints crossed by horizontal fractures, visually suggesting the grid work of a checkerboard across the face of the mesa. Plants and trees take root in the fissures and joints, subsisting on the scant moisture and nutrients in the cracks. The root systems of these growing plants weaken the rock, enlarging the crevices and thereby furthering the erosion process. Tree roots then scramble over the faces of rocks for several feet searching for small niches in which to take root. You should have seen several examples of this process during your journey through Zion National Park.

Leaving the park, you'll be following the Zion-Mt. Carmel road, which was constructed in 1930. The maroon roadbed gets its color from the rocks of the region used to pave the surface. You will exit Zion National Park via the East Entrance.

After exiting the park, you'll soon come upon the junction of US-89 and State Route 9. The small community located here, Mt. Carmel Junction, offers fuel, souvenirs and coffee.

## Bryce Canyon National Park

Bryce Canyon is deceptively named, for it is not technically a canyon at all. Rather, its 36,000 acres contain a 20-mile escarpment on the edge of a plateau, indented by a dozen alcoves. Within these dramatic alcoves rise a mind-boggling array of arches, spires, and other monuments intricately sculpted by erosion, all painted brilliant shades of red, purple, yellow and white by the iron and manganese in the rocks. The Indians believed that spirits – or “hoodoos” inhabited the exquisite rock formations – and they superstitiously avoided the region for this reason. Water continues to chip away at the cliff edges, at the rate of approximately one foot every 65 years. This is truly Mother Nature as a work in progress, in all her spectacular glory.

Established as a National Park in 1924, Bryce Canyon was named for the first settler on the plateau, Ebenezer Bryce. The elevation of the plateau – between 8,000 and 9,000 feet – proved quite a challenge to Bryce’s farming efforts. One particularly frustrating feature of the territory he hoped to farm was the amphitheater of spires and rock formations along the face of the plateau. Bryce declared that the canyon was “one hell of a place to lose a cow” – an event which actually occurred a number of times!

Bryce Canyon’s 20-mile-long main road has turnouts to breathtaking overlooks; walking trails descend from the rim into the interior. The most striking cliffs and spires are located at Bryce Point, Inspiration Point and Sunset Point.

There are overlooks all along the plateau to Paria View, some 3.8 miles from the park’s entrance. Beyond this, the roadway extends to Rainbow Point. The vista points here are not as dramatic, but they are often less crowded. It is at Rainbow Point that you can walk along a trail lined with bristlecone pine trees, the oldest living trees on earth. The rangers at the Visitor Center can answer any questions you have regarding the features of the park. The Visitor Center, located adjacent to the entrance, will provide a map and information regarding the geology, flora and fauna of the park.

## Trail and Rim Walks

If you choose to walk along the rim to enjoy the contrasting play of shadow and light on the canyon walls, begin your walk at Sunset Point. For a different perspective of the rock towers, follow one of the many trails below the rim into the canyon. Particularly enjoyable is the Navajo Loop Trail – a 1.5 mile trail which begins at Sunset Point and loops back to its starting point. The trail descends 500 feet below the peaks of the fanciful hoodoos before returning to the rim; walk along the trail until you are engulfed by their shadows in the narrow passageways between them. Please be advised that the trail angle can be steep in spots, and may be slick with moisture.

A fun and adventurous way to descend into the narrow reaches of the canyon is on horseback. Canyon Trail Rides offers guided tours.

Please Note: The terrain of the park can be deceptive. You are in mountainous country, at least as far as the altitude is concerned. Use discretion before following any trails. Obtain a map and complete information before taking any walks.

## Kodachrome Basin State Park

Seven miles south of the town of Cannonville, you will find this secluded but remarkable spot. Even in an area where spectacular desert landscapes are commonplace, Kodachrome Basin State Park is unforgettable. The park was named by a group of National Geographic Society explorers after a particular brand of film they deemed sufficient for capturing the brilliant colors here. Its mysterious rock towers are both geologically unique and controversial. Some believe these towers mark conduits to the surface of ancient springs which eventually filled in and were made harder than the surrounding rock.

Over time, the erosive power of wind and water weathered away the softer sandstone surrounding these petrified springs.

## **Bryce Canyon National Park – Kayenta / Monument Valley Dixie National Forest**

Dixie National Forest is a United States National Forest in Utah with headquarters in Cedar City. It occupies almost two million acres (8,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and stretches for about 170 miles (270 km) across southern Utah. The largest national forest in Utah, it straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado River. The Forest is divided into four geographic areas. High altitude forests in gently rolling hills characterize the Markagunt, Paunsaugunt, and Aquarius Plateaus. Boulder Mountain, one of the largest high-elevation plateaus in the United States, is dotted with hundreds of small lakes 10,000 to 11,000 feet (3,000 to 3,400 m) above sea level. The forest includes the Pine Valley Mountains north of St. George.

The Forest has many climatic extremes. Precipitation ranges from 10 inches (250 mm) in the lower elevations to more than 40 inches (1,000 mm) per year near Brian Head Peak 11,307 feet (3,446 m). At the higher elevations, most of the annual precipitation falls as snow. Thunderstorms are common during July and August and produce heavy rains. In some areas, August is the wettest month of the year.

Temperature extremes can be impressive, with summer temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) near St. George and winter lows exceeding -30 degrees Fahrenheit (-34 degrees Celsius) on the plateau tops.

The vegetation of the Forest grades from sparse, desert-type plants at the lower elevations to stand of low-growing pinyon pine and juniper dominating the mid-elevations. At the higher elevations, aspen and conifers such as pine, spruce, and fir predominate.

## **Mt. Carmel Junction**

Mount Carmel Junction sits at the junction of U.S. Route 89 and State Route 9 in southwestern Utah, and is set in the high desert of the Colorado Plateau. The Virgin Anasazi were the prehistoric settlers in the area. Among other areas, nearby Parunuweap (East Fork of the Virgin River) contains evidence to their presence. This group occupied the area until about the 13th century. The people were agriculturalists who maintained a diet of mostly maize.

Doctor Priddy Meeks settled the town of Winsor in 1864, at the site of present day Mount Carmel Junction, as part of Brigham Young's plan to settle all of Utah Territory. In 1865 more settlers were sent by the church. Nearby Orderville and Glendale (called Berryville at this time) were also being settled. Before long, Indians forced them to leave the area. It was not until 7 years later in 1871 that the settlers returned and this time settled down permanently. This time the town was settled in the name of Mount Carmel to honor the mountain in Palestine. In 1875 Elder Howard O. Spencer presided over Mount Carmel and Glendale. He reported that most homes were temporary, but permanent structures were underway. Doctor Meeks moved to Orderville in 1876 where he died at the age of 91. He left behind two wives and several children.

Only two families ever settled in Mount Carmel Junction, and one was Jack and Fern Morrison. Jack contemplated the idea that a road must be built connecting Zion Canyon to the east side of the park. Jack explored the area and came to the conclusion that the road must come down in the area now known as Mount Carmel Junction. There were old wagon trails that Jack used to navigate his way down to the valley. The hills were steep forcing Jack to attach a Cedar tree to the back of his Model-T-Ford. Jack was patient and in 1931 he was able to homestead the land now known as Mount Carmel Junction. The land was unkind. It was covered with gullies, quicksand and many layers of sand. The area was also prone to violent flash floods. Jack and Fern lost two children in the flash floods of the East Fork of the Virgin River that runs through the junction. The East Fork of the Virgin River is now known as Parunuweap. Jack died in 1961, from cancer after serving in the war and spending much of his life working in the coal mines. Fern, a strong willed and hard working woman continued to build. She lived to the age of 90, dying in 1998.

Artist Maynard Dixon, famed for his paintings of the American West, built a summer home in Mount Carmel Junction in 1939. After his death in Tucson, Arizona, in 1946, his ashes were buried on a high bluff above the Mount Carmel art studio being built on the property.

John Wesley Powell visited the area as part of the Powell Survey of 1872. He was the first European-American to descend the East Fork of the Virgin River from the current location of Mount Carmel Junction to Shunesburg. A plaque can be found at the edge of the river, just east of the Zion National Park boundary in the East Fork that reads:

"Major John Wesley Powell 1834-1902 explorer, scientist, Steven V. Jones 1840-1920 teacher, topographer, Joseph W. Young 1829-1873 Mormon pioneer leader, Descended Labyrinth Falls 1/2 mile below Monday, September 30, 1872 during first Parunuweap Canyon traverse. Powell named this canyon from the Paiute Indian word 'Parunuweap' which means roaring water canyon. Dedicated September 30, 1972."

The Historic Rock Church in Mount Carmel was used to school the children living in the Mount Carmel area. The log building was built in 1880 and used as a church, school house and recreation hall. In 1890 it was converted into the stone structure. "The rock for the building was hauled by team and wagon from a hill about a mile south of town. Later a lumber wing was added, making it into a two-room school. At first the floors were of rough pine lumber. Then hardwood floors were installed, which made them 'nicer for dancing.'" In 1919 it burned down. In 1923 it was rebuilt, this time with rock. After the small building was rebuilt, the rock structure was used almost entirely as a church. The children who once attended school in the log building rode to nearby Orderville in a covered wagon each day to attend school. The Historic Rock Church is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1919, a Congressional bill designating Zion National Park was signed into law. In 1923 the task of finding a way to open Zion Canyon to the east side of the park began. Four different routes were considered including two options through Parunuweap and another through North Creek. The route chosen went up the side of Pine Creek canyon on switchbacks, through a tunnel and then along Clear Creek to the east boundary of the park, and hence to US-89 at Mount Carmel Junction. Construction work on the Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel and the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway began in 1927. The tunnel especially was considered quite an engineering feat for the time, requiring boring 5,613 feet (1,711 m) through solid rock. July 4, 1930, the tunnel and highway were dedicated, linking Zion Canyon to the land east of the park and making it easier to visit Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon National Parks.

The north-south trending Sevier Fault is 2 miles (3.2 km) east of the main highway through Mount Carmel Junction. Sandstone cliffs lie to the south and the White Cliffs of the Grand Staircase can be seen to the east. About halfway between Mount Carmel Junction and Kanab are the Coral Pink Sand Dunes. North on U.S. Route 89 are hoodoo formations similar to those in Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks. The Middle Jurassic Carmel Formation, named after Mount Carmel, is well exposed in this area.

## **Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park**

Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park is a state park located between Mount Carmel Junction and Kanab in southwestern Utah. The park features coral-hued sand dunes located beside red sandstone cliffs.

The Dunes are formed from the erosion of pink-colored Navajo Sandstone surrounding the park. High winds passing through the notch between the Moquith and Moccasin Mountains pick up loose sand particles and then drop them onto the dunes because of the Venturi effect. The dunes are estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000 years old.

The park allows camping, hiking, off-road vehicle driving, and photography. There is a conservation area of 265 acres (1.07 km<sup>2</sup>), and the total grounds include 3,370 acres (13.6 km<sup>2</sup>). It was established as a Utah state park in 1963.

The Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle (*Cicindela albissima*) is an insect species that is endemic to the dunes, being found nowhere else in the world.

This state park contains most of the remaining individuals of a rare plant, Welsh's milkweed (*Asclepias welshii*), a federally listed threatened species.

## Kanab

The largest town you'll pass this morning is Kanab. Fort Kanab was built in 1864 on the east bank of Kanab Creek to defend against American Indians, and as a base for exploration. Repeated Indian attacks forced the Fort to be abandoned in 1866, but a group of Mormon missionaries reoccupied the town in 1870. Over the past 50 years picturesque Kanab has served as the on-location headquarters for numerous Westerns, both for television and the big screen. The town's restaurants contain quaint reminders of America's western heritage. Kanab may serve as a refreshing coffee stop or refueling stop.

## Arizona History

The name Arizona means little spring. A landscape studded with spectacular red canyons and tall saguaro cactus is the backdrop for this state's unique blend of American and Hispanic cultures, architecture, and cuisine. Indeed, Arizona's diversity will convince you that, contrary to many popular images of the state, this is much more than a vast desert filled with tumbleweeds and accentuated by the Grand Canyon!

American Indian tribes have populated this state for many thousands of years. Continuing anthropological and archeological studies in Arizona constantly uncover new information about these ancient peoples and their civilizations. Today, one quarter of The Grand Canyon State's total land is occupied by 20 Native American Reservations, including the Apache, Navaho, Hopi, Mojave and Yuma.

In the 17th century, the Spanish attempted to colonize the region, and converted thousands of Indians to Christianity. But in 1680, the Hopi tribe revolted, murdering the priests and setting fire to the missions during what became known as the Pueblo Revolt. The next century only witnessed more conflict between the Spanish and the Native Americans, including the tragedy at Canyon de Chelly. One result of this ongoing strife was that Arizona was not as rapidly populated as the other Western territories because of fear of the Indians. This fear, combined with the harsh desert climate, limited settlement of the state until quite late in the 19th century.

Following the Mexican War, the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo transferred control of the Territory of New Mexico - which included part of Arizona - from Mexico to the United States. The Gadsden Purchase of 1853 brought the rest of Arizona under American control. Due to the discovery of gold on Apache land a decade later, a vast migration of white settlers and gold prospectors began. The Apache reaction to the increased number of whites on their land, not unexpectedly, took the form of violence. Most notorious for these attacks was Apache chief Geronimo, who repeatedly raided the white settlements, wreaking havoc on the intruders. After finally surrendering in 1886, Geronimo was imprisoned until his death.

In the years after the Civil War, the prospect of gold, silver and copper wooed miners to Arizona's mineral-rich mountains. When the railroad eventually reached the region, it brought with it economic prosperity in the form of a steady influx of ranchers, farmers and prospectors. Gradually, Arizona began to shed itself of its reputation as a dangerous outpost of the Wild West. Shortly after the completion of the Roosevelt Dam - which facilitated the delivery of desperately needed water to the area - Arizona attained statehood, becoming the nation's 48th state on February 14, 1912.

With an abundant supply of water, tourism became a major draw in the early part of the century, and a number of dude ranches popped up to cater to the visitors. A further economic boom was sparked by World War II, during which the number of military installations was vastly increased. In addition to using the Arizona desert as a training ground, the armed forces stimulated manufacturing and industrialization in the state. Indeed, annual manufacturing income jumped from \$17 million in 1940 to a whopping \$85



million by 1945. Following World War II, many veterans were attracted to Arizona by its dry, sunny climate.

Today, the unique climate is tempered of course by modern conveniences such as air conditioning!

## American Indians

Native Americans had populated the diverse regions of the state for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century. In fact, archeologists have managed to dig up evidence proving that Arizona has been inhabited for the last 12,000 years. Some of the oldest residents were the Hohokam, a prehistoric tribe that developed sophisticated irrigation systems in order to keep their fields productive. Another ancient local group was the Hisatsinom, who left behind cliff dwellings that have remained intact to the present day. By the mid 15th century, the evidence shows, their civilizations apparently disappeared, or, most likely, were absorbed into other tribes.

Today, there are some 20 Indian Reservations throughout the state, representing 13 percent of America's total American Indian population. (Arizona's Indian population is exceeded only by that of California and Oklahoma.) The Navajo tribe, with over 250,000 members, is the largest tribe in the United States; the Navajo Reservation occupies the northeastern section of the state.

The tribes in Arizona belong to three separate linguistic families. These are: the Athabascan, which includes the Apache and Navajo; the Uto-Aztecan, to which the Hopi belong; and the Yuman, including the Mojave and Yuma tribes. Although these various tribes have distinctly different customs and traditions, they are inexorably related to one another in their ongoing struggle to maintain their identities in the face of the ever-infringing culture of the United States.

## Spanish Influence

As is the case throughout most of the Southwest, Arizona was explored by the Spanish in the early 16th century. It was Marcos de Niza, an Italian Franciscan priest in the service of Spain, who was the first to explore Arizona, in 1539. He was searching for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola – mythic cities which were rumored to have streets lined with gold. De Niza's reported sighting of the wondrous villages from afar spurred the expedition of Vasquez de Coronado, who explored most of the southern reaches of Arizona from 1540-42. Coronado's party discovered the Zuni villages, keeping alive the rumors of golden treasure for future exploration; his men were also the first to see the Grand Canyon.

Spanish influence on the state has proven both profound and far-reaching, and can still be observed today. Indeed, nearly 20 percent of Arizona's population is of Hispanic descent. Spanish and Mexican customs – from cuisine to clothing, from architecture to music – permeate the region.

## Butterfield Stage Coach Service

In 1857, the first overland stagecoach route was founded, providing regular mail service to California. San Antonio was linked with San Diego, via southern Arizona. A year later, stagecoach service was expanded, linking St. Louis, Missouri with San Francisco, California by utilizing the original San Antonio-San Diego trail. This second service was provided by the Butterfield Line, which had a \$600,000 annual contract to provide twice-weekly mail service between California and Missouri. The trip took an average of 25 days. Only when space permitted was a passenger accepted on the excessively bumpy trip.

The passenger's comfort was secondary to the mail; ounce for ounce, the mail was more valuable and was treated accordingly.

For the privilege of paying \$200, the passenger was required to bring his own food and weapons, and was expected to ride continuously for 8 to 10 hours at a time. The average break between legs was twenty minutes, just long enough to change the team of mules or feed them. Passengers were required to walk steep grades and even carry mail when necessary! If he was lucky, the passenger was able to have 3 nights of sleep in a non-moving environment, either on top of the stagecoach or on the desert floor.

Although the hardships and cost seem intolerable now, many willingly chose this mode of transportation to California. The trip accomplished in less than a month what would otherwise have taken 3 to 6 months. The Butterfield Trail led many to California. Only once you have driven the desolate desert of Arizona can you begin to appreciate the sacrifices made by those early pioneers.

## Natural Resources

In the 1850s, the abundant natural resources of Arizona were first mined. Just as gold propagated expansion in California, copper was primarily responsible for the growth and development of the state of Arizona. The discovery of copper in 1854 led to Arizona's dominance of the nation's copper industry, a position still held today. In addition to copper, Arizona has reserves of gold, silver, lead, zinc, manganese, tungsten, mercury, coal and iron. These minerals and metals are found throughout the state.

Traditionally, Arizona's economy has been dependent upon the five "C's": copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate. Today, these elements continue to influence the economy of the state. The climate permits year-round cultivation of crops, with up to seven annual harvests.

The success of the livestock and agricultural industries has been dependent upon a stable supply of water. The construction of the Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River in 1911 and the Coolidge Dam on the Gila River in 1930 provided this supply, permitting a steady growth in population throughout the early 20th century. Currently the Colorado River is the chief source of water for Arizona's agricultural lands, 95 percent of which is irrigated. The Central Arizona Project provides water from the Colorado to the Tucson region.

## Saguaro Cactus

The saguaro (pronounced Sa WA Ro) cactus, the reigning king of cacti, is found throughout the deserts of Arizona, California and Mexico. The stocky cactus is best known for its upswept branches, curving gently skyward. These giants can grow to a height of 17 meters, and can live to be two hundred years old. During the first ten years of development, the cactus averages only 2 centimeters a year. Thereafter, it can grow up to 10 and even 20 cm per year. The branches first begin to appear at 5 meters, but only once the cactus is three-quarters of a century old. The shallow root system is wide ranging, capable of supporting up to 9,000 kilos of top growth.

The saguaro is home to the cactus wren and other birds that build nests in its skeletal yet substantial frame. Its fruit has been used for medicinal purposes by Indians for centuries, and its flower is the state flower of Arizona.

Since the characteristic shape of the saguaro takes so long to develop, saguaros are much in demand, commanding exorbitant prices in the market place. Increased theft of the saguaro from government lands has resulted in stiff penalties and fines for disturbing them. Like other species of cacti, the saguaro has the benefit of a natural defense in the form of its prickly spines, which are painful to the touch.

## Vermilion Cliffs National Monument

The Vermilion Cliffs are the second "step" up in the five-step Grand Staircase of the Colorado Plateau, in northern Arizona and southern Utah. They extend west from near Page, Arizona, for a considerable distance, in both Arizona and Utah. The Vermilion Cliffs are made up of deposited silt and desert dunes, cemented by infiltrated carbonates and intensely colored by red iron oxide and other minerals, particularly bluish manganese. The Vermilion Cliffs were on an important route from Utah to Arizona used by settlers during the 19th Century. The area was explored by the Mormon pioneer and missionary Jacob Hamblin, who started a ranch at the base of the cliffs in House Rock Valley. Present day U.S. Highway 89A basically follows the old wagon route past the cliffs through House Rock Valley and up the Kaibab Plateau to Jacob Lake. Famous locations in the cliff area include Lee's Ferry, Glen Canyon and the Glen Canyon National Recreational Area, The Wave, Coyote Buttes, and others. In the spring, after a good winter rain, the valley between Highway 89 and the Vermilion Cliffs will be covered with a carpet

of desert mallow and other spring flowers. The National Monument was established on November 9, 2000 by a presidential proclamation from President Bill Clinton. More than twenty species of raptors, including bald eagles and golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and several hawk species, have been observed. The endangered California condor has been re-introduced into this region recently due to its remote location and lack of human habitation. Desert bighorn sheep, pronghorns, and mountain lions make up most of the large mammals found here, with about 30 more species of smaller mammals. Several examples of rare fish species, such as the flannelmouth sucker and the speckled dace live in the streams of the National Monument. The Welsh's milkweed, a threatened plant species that grows on sand dunes and helps stabilize them, is known to exist only in this National Monument and one other area in neighboring Utah.

Human settlement in the region dates back 12,000 years, and hundreds of Native American pueblos are spread across this National Monument. The remains of the natives' villages, with houses, granaries, burial areas, and associated ruins, can be found here. This National Monument also contains one of the largest number of rock art sites in any nationally-protected area. Many of these petroglyphs are believed to be among the oldest in the United States.

The first white explorers into the region were Spanish missionaries and explorers from the 1776 Dominguez-Escalante Expedition. Later, Mormon explorers searched the region during the 1860s, some of them settling on land that is now within the monument. They built one of the first ferry crossings on the Colorado River in 1871. That same year, John Wesley Powell ventured through this region during his scientific explorations of the Colorado River plateau.

Below the Vermilion cliffs runs the historic "Honeymoon Trail", a wagon route for Mormons who journeyed to have their marriages sealed in the temple at St. George, Utah, and then to return. The route, through remote country, was otherwise seldom used. Historical markers denote this history.

Today, the region surrounding the monument is relatively unspoiled with virtually no permanent inhabitants remaining and limited road access.

## The Navajo

The Navajo tribe comprises the largest group of American Indians in the United States. The Navajo are an Athabascan speaking tribe, whose ancestors began migrating from the Athabascan region of western Canada nearly 1,000 years ago. The Navajo share the same ancestral heritage of the various Apache tribes that inhabited the Rocky Mountain region and The Great Plains.

The well-preserved cliff dwellings of these ancient peoples, contained in the Navajo National Monument, rank among the most exceptional sights in America. Unfortunately, these large and mostly intact dwellings are also among the most isolated, requiring long treks to the ruins at Betatakin (5 miles round trip) and Keet Seel (17 miles round trip).

Fortunately, though, Betatakin's magnificent setting in a sandstone canyon can be viewed from an overlook at the end of the Sandal Trail, located just a half-mile walk from the visitor center. The ruins are framed by a dramatic arch that is 452 feet high. Please note: traveling off paved roads is not recommended.

The Navajo refer to their ancestors as Anasazi, meaning the Ancient Ones, a name that is now applied to all prehistoric Indian tribes from the Four Corners region in the southwest. The Navajo were a semi-nomadic tribe when they moved to the region encompassing their present reservation, approximately 400 to 500 years ago. Traditionally hunters and gatherers, the Navajo were divided into small groups. Each band had a headman responsible for choosing locations for hunting and gathering. In the Southwest, they chose the protected canyons and high mesas rich in grasslands and abundant game. Movement was seasonal, in accordance with the climactic changes that controlled food and water supply.

In the course of their southward migration, the Navajo adopted methods used by other tribes they came into contact with, such as the Plains Indians and Pueblos. Interaction with the Pueblos had the greatest

impact upon the Navajo, who adapted the farming methods of the sedentary Pueblos to their semi-nomadic lifestyle in the early 18th century. Other Pueblo characteristics that became ingrained in Navajo culture include various religious rituals, the creation myth, and matrilineal clan structure.

The Navajo have had a long reputation for being particularly fierce about defending their land. By the mid-1800s, increasingly violent contact between American pioneers and the Navajo resulted in a campaign by the Army to put an end to hostilities. In 1863, under the direction of Kit Carson, approximately half of the Navajo population of 16,000 was captured and marched to Bosque Redondo (near Fort Sumner) in New Mexico. Large numbers of the tribe perished during the so-called Long Walk and the subsequent four-year imprisonment in New Mexico. As reparation, the government issued sheep to the survivors to take back to the reservation when they were released in June 1868. Since then, the Navajo have adopted a pastoral and sedentary lifestyle. The Navajo homeland is a semi-arid harsh landscape incapable of sustaining large population centers. The people therefore do not live in small communities, as is the case, for example, with the Pueblo Indians. They live, rather, in isolated dwellings – called hogans – randomly interspersed throughout the landscape.

In the century following their return to their homeland, the Navajo tribe has grown dramatically. Today, approximately 140,000 Navajo live on the reservation. Nationally, the population is closer to 250 000—over ten times the size of the tribe in the 1860s.

## Navajo Dwellings

The basic Navajo dwelling is the hogan. Similar in construction to dwellings in Mongolia, the hogan suggests that Native Americans share a common ancestor with Mongolians in Asia. The structure is slightly sunken into the earth and the building is circular, built of beams plastered over with mud. Symbolically, the doorway faces the east to capture the first rays of the rising sun. The interior is arranged according to religious beliefs. You'll see many hogans during your drive on the reservation. Some are made of traditional materials, whereas others have been constructed using modern supplies. These dwellings are primitive without the comforts of modern plumbing, electricity or running water. The older inhabitants choose to continue the stable, eternal traditions of their ancestors. Younger generations, on the other hand, find it more difficult to adapt to these ancient methods.

Be advised that any wigwams or teepees that you may see during your visit to the region are there to lure unsuspecting tourists whose concepts of American Indians have been formed exclusively by Hollywood's often deceptive camera lens.

## Painted Desert

This poetically-named desert is found at the edge of the mesas that form the heart of the Navajo Reservation. The various exposed sedimentary layers have a muted range of delicate colors – including white and gray, rust and red – where they have been streaked by minerals, thus creating an illusion of having been stroked by Mother Nature's paintbrush.

## Kayenta

Before reaching the town of Kayenta, stone monoliths appear on the horizon, which means that you are near Monument Valley. Kayenta is located approximately 32 km from the entrance of the Monument Valley Tribal Park. Monoliths surrounding Kayenta are proof that nature does not have the same artificial limitations of man. Downtown Kayenta is located at the intersection of Highways 160 and 163. If you are considering stopping for lunch in Kayenta, there are numerous options available in town, but it is recommended you check with the front desk of the Holiday Inn Kayenta whose attached restaurant makes for a quality lunch stop.

## Monument Valley

Monument Valley will look eerily familiar as the stone monoliths playfully appear and disappear along the horizon in the distance. The panoramic rugged beauty of this red-rocked country has been immortalized in countless movies, print ads and television commercials, which have collectively come to represent the quintessential imagistic ideal of Navajo land. Indeed, Hollywood Westerns such as "Stagecoach" and "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" have made Monument Valley the universal image of the Great American Southwest. The burnished landscape is dominated by buttes, spires and mesas that rise magnificently out of the surrounding placid, desolate valleys. The most famous of these red sandstone mountains are found within the boundaries of the Navajo tribal park of Monument Valley. The area is home to 100 Navajo families, the evidence of which you will see once you are on the valley floor.

As you drive, you will behold a majestic assortment of monolithic sandstone columns and spires, rising from the otherwise flat, empty valley floor. Once the bottom of a great inland sea, the sandstone monoliths were created by a series of uplifts and resulting erosion. As part of the Colorado Plateau, this region was uplifted over 5,500 feet approximately 20-25 million years ago. The vertical fracture lines created by the uplift established the lines along which erosion first took place. Water and wind gradually sheared away layers of rock, thereby creating the mesas, buttes and sculptural columns present here today. Evidence of vertical and horizontal erosion is visible in the joints and fissures in the relatively soft stone.

From the Visitor Center you will have a view of The Mittens, the buttes made famous by the movie "Stagecoach," starring Western icon John Wayne. At the Visitor Center you will be standing above the valley floor. To gain a full aesthetic appreciation of the sheer cliffs, some of which loom 2,000 feet above the valley, you may choose to descend to the valley floor and view the monoliths from below. Guided tours of the Valley are provided by several local companies. Inquire at the Visitor Center for information. There is an entrance fee.

## Kayenta / Monument Valley – Page / Lake Powell

### Antelope Canyon

Antelope Canyon includes two separate, photogenic slot canyon sections, referred to individually as Upper Antelope Canyon or The Crack, and Lower Antelope Canyon or The Corkscrew. The Navajo name for Upper Antelope Canyon is Tse' bighanilini, which means "the place where water runs through rocks." Upper Antelope is at about 4,000 feet elevation and the canyon walls rise 120 feet above the streambed. Lower Antelope Canyon is Hasdestwazi, or "spiral rock arches."

Antelope Canyon is visited exclusively through guided tours, in part because rains during monsoon season can quickly flood the canyon. A number of companies offer tours to Upper Antelope Canyon out of Page such as Antelope Canyon Navajo Tours (English) and Carolene Ekis's Antelope Canyon Tours (offered in English, French, German and Italian)

Antelope Canyon was formed by erosion of Navajo Sandstone, primarily due to flash flooding and other sub-aerial processes. Rainwater, especially during monsoon season, runs into the extensive basin above the slot canyon sections, picking up speed and sand as it rushes into the narrow passageways. Over time the passageways are eroded away, making the corridors deeper and smoothing hard edges in such a way as to form characteristic 'flowing' shapes in the rock. Flooding can still occur in the canyons and can cause the Tribal Park Authorities to close Lower Antelope Canyon for days or weeks at a time.

Upper Antelope Canyon is most frequently visited by tourists, due to its entrance and entire lengths are at ground level, requiring no climbing. Light beams start to peek into the canyon March 15 and disappear

October 7 each year. Lower Antelope Canyon draws a considerable number of photographers, though casual sightseers are much less common there than in Upper. Both canyons can be accessed via highway 98 to the East of Lake Powell about 5 miles.

## Page

Page is located above the Glen Canyon Dam. In fact, this town was originally established as a construction camp for workers on the dam project, which took place between 1956 and 1964. The town was named after the commissioner of reclamation, John Chatfield Page, who devoted many years to the development of the upper Colorado River. Today, Page is primarily the center for recreation on Lake Powell.

The town borders the Navajo Indian Reservation. The towers you will notice, which dominate the landscape for miles, are part of the Navajo Coal Generating Plant on the edge of town. The presence of this plant exemplifies the self-sufficiency of the Navajo tribe: they rely on electricity generated by coal mined on the reservation at Black Mesa, rather than purchasing the hydro-electric power generated at Glen Canyon Dam off the reservation.

In the heart of Page, the John Wesley Powell Museum contains exhibits relating to Native American culture and geology, as well as information regarding the voyages Powell took down the Colorado River. A replica of the "Emma Dean," one of the boats used by Powell during his expeditions, is on display as well.

## Glen Canyon Dam

The Glen Canyon Dam is part of the Colorado River Storage Project, providing power for cities throughout the western United States. The waters of the Colorado River are dammed by the Glen Canyon Dam, which was completed in 1964. Standing 710 feet above bedrock, the dam was built for water storage, flood control and hydro-electricity. The eight turbines generate 1,150,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Exhibits in the Carl Hayden Visitor Center, next to US 89 and Glen Canyon Bridge, demonstrate the construction of the dam and the bridge, as well as the resulting lake that the dam created. Guided tours of the dam illustrate the way man has harnessed the raw force of water for his own use. In addition, there is a 15- minute film about the history of Lake Powell.

## Lake Powell

Lake Powell forms the heart of the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The lake was named in honor of John Wesley Powell, the first man to explore the waters of the Colorado River, back in 1869. This adventurous, one-armed Civil War veteran kept a detailed journal of his journey along the treacherous Colorado, thus opening the path for future exploration of the river and the regions surrounding it. He is considered to be the river's first modern scientist-explorer.

At 186 miles long, Lake Powell is the second largest man-made lake in the United States, storing enough water to cover the surface areas of the Netherlands and Belgium in 20 inches (52 cm) of water! The geological diversity of the 2,000 miles of shoreline and 96 canyons of this lake provide unlimited potential for exploration and sightseeing.

Lake Powell is located in the high plateau region that dominates the northern reaches of the state of Arizona. This plateau is home to the eye-catching red sandstone landscape that you see before you. There are numerous lakes and springs throughout the state, yet no other lake makes quite the dramatic impression that Lake Powell invariably does. Winding its way through towering red cliffs, reaching out to sandy inlets and hidden coves, the azure waters of Lake Powell beckon with a wide array of recreational activities, including water skiing, boating, and fishing. As you get closer to this cool oasis surrounded by burnished lands, you'll see clusters of boats hugging the shores of the lake. When you observe the

crowded shoreline of Lake Powell, it is scarcely difficult to believe the fact that Arizona has the highest boat registration in the country, on a per capita basis. Indeed, Lake Powell is one of the most popular tourist areas in all of Arizona or nearby Utah.

## **Wahweap Marina**

You'll see a turnoff for the Wahweap Marina beyond the Visitor Center along US 89. Wahweap, meaning bitter water in the Ute language, is Lake Powell's largest resort and marina development.

It is here at the Wahweap Marina that arrangements for cruises on the lake can be made, though it is generally advised to book in advance. Cruises vary in length from one hour to all day. Prices range from about \$10 for an hour's cruise to about \$50 for full day cruises. Below is a partial listing:

The Wahweap Bay Paddlewheeler lasts approximately one hour. This cruise navigates the waters of Wahweap Bay and Castle Rock. Departure times vary.

The Navajo Tapestry is the most comprehensive short tour, lasting approximately 2.5 hours. This cruise explores the burnished canyon walls of Navajo Canyon and Antelope Canyon. Departure times vary.

The Sunset / Moonlight Cruise lasts approximately 2.5 hours, and sails daily at sunset. This cruise is offered with a buffet dinner, but it is possible to book this tour alone, without the meal. Departure times vary.

## **Page / Lake Powell – Grand Canyon National Park**

### **Cameron Trading Post**

You might consider stopping for coffee or fuel in Cameron, near the junction of State Route 64 and US 89. The Cameron Trading Post has a full range of services, including a Post Office. During your stop, you may want to sample traditional Navajo Indian dishes such as Navajo Fry Bread or a Navajo Taco. You can also purchase souvenirs, but be aware that prices can be quite high at the Trading Post in comparison to the prices at the roadside stands you might have noticed. When shopping, "Caveat Emptor" is the ruling motto: Let the buyer beware.

### **Wupatki National Monument**

This monument is home to five pueblo ruins, Wupatki being the largest. Eight hundred years ago, Wupatki was home to 85-100 Indians who lived in what was the tallest, largest, and most influential pueblo of the area. Within a day's walk, 1000 other Indians lived. Wupatki, or "Long-cut House" contained more than 100 rooms as well as a ceremonial amphitheater, ball court, and "blow hole". Other important ruins are the Citadel, Nalakihi, Lomaki, and the 3-story Wukoki, all reachable by short, self-guided trails. The original inhabitants of Wupatki are believed to be ancestors of the Hopi Indians.

### **Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument**

Between 1064 and 1180 AD, the once dormant San Francisco volcanic Field came back to life. For more than 100 hundred years the area was rocked with volcanic explosions and earthquakes which would leave the environment forever changed. At the center of this park you may view the 1,000-foot high cinder cone of Sunset Crater, an ancient volcano, which dominates the surrounding fields of cinders, lava flows, and spatter cones. Walk amongst the lava flows here on black earth, and see the bright-reddish hues of the decomposed, water-stained rock at the summit of the cinder cone, and how they are in stark contrast with the black basalt of the adjacent rocks. From a distance, the mountain appears to be

on fire. Dark at the base, the volcano also has shades of red, orange, and yellow leading to the summit and takes on a rosy tint during the hour before sunset, which is what gave the cone its name.

## Flagstaff

Legend has it that Flagstaff's name derived from the discovery of a lone pine tree in an open valley. The tree was stripped of its branches and used as a flagstaff during Independence Day celebrations in 1876. Long after the celebrations, the flagstaff remained, and served as a landmark for emigrants headed to California. The pine trees have continued to play an important role for Flagstaff, as the dense pine forests surrounding the town support a thriving wood products industry.

Flagstaff sits at an elevation of 6,900 feet, under the watchful gaze of Humphrey's Peak, the highest mountain in Arizona (12,633 feet). This pleasant university town with a population of 65,000 holds the honor of being the starting point for one of the greatest scenic drives in the United States – the drive into the Grand Canyon.

In Flagstaff, the Museum of Northern Arizona contains exhibits that explain the complicated geological processes that created the Colorado Plateau, as well as the history of the Native Americans who first inhabited the area. Flagstaff is also home to the Lowell Observatory, the telescope through which the now former planet Pluto was discovered.

## Walnut Canyon National Monument

Here you can walk amidst the remains of an ancient Native American civilization. If you look at the houses you begin to get an idea of what life was like for the Indians in 1200, long before Christopher Columbus and the Europeans discovered this country. This monument contains more than 300 such homes. The Island Trail path leads you past 25 of those homes that were carved out of the side of a cliff and the Rim Trail path offers two viewpoints that offer a panoramic view of the canyon. You can also reach a small pueblo and a pit-house. There is a museum in the monument.

## Creation of the Colorado Plateau

The earth's crust is broken up into several landmasses known as tectonic plates. Approximately 60 million years ago, the North American continent drifted over the plate of the Pacific Ocean. As a result, the Pacific plate was shoved beneath the North American plate, thereby uplifting massive sections of the earth's crust. This series of catastrophic upheavals created the Rocky Mountains. The fracturing of the earth's crust, combined with the increased velocity of once tranquil rivers, resulted in an increase of erosion, carrying vast amounts of soil and rock westward. Approximately 20-25 million years ago, another upheaval of the earth's crust resulted in the creation of a vast plateau, now known as the Colorado Plateau, which extends from the Mogollon Rim along Interstate 40 in Arizona northward into Utah and Colorado. The sedimentary rock layers, thousands of feet deep, tilted up in a southerly direction.

Subsequent erosion of the various sedimentary layers has created a series of breaks between these layers. This series of breaks resembles a giant staircase which is referred to as the Grand Staircase extending for hundreds of miles. This staircase of sedimentary layers is so vast in scope that it is only visible from elevations with panoramic vistas of the surrounding region.

The upheaval responsible for the Colorado Plateau not only created this vast uplifted territory, it also fractured the earth's crust in numerous spots, forming a number of small plateaus which are part of the greater whole. Erosion in the ensuing 25 million years has created a seemingly endless variety of canyons and plateaus throughout the region.

## Regional Geology

Until fairly recently (in geological terms of course!), the vast Colorado Plateau region was covered by a series of seas and inland lakes that covered most of the southwestern portion of the North American



continent. In time, the seas receded and were replaced by vast plains and lowlands. For several million years, these lands provided a rich fertile ground for various forms of plant and animal life, most famously, the thundering giants better known as dinosaurs. Alluvial soil deposits, carried by numerous rivers, were layered upon the already fossilized remains of sea creatures.

The geological process continued with the return of large bodies of water that again blanketed the region – a cycle that was repeated for hundreds of millions of years. The life sustained by the region's cyclical history is recorded for us in the various types of sedimentary layers which were deposited atop one another. Some of these sedimentary rock layers include shale, limestone, sandstone, and mudstone.

## Williams

The town of Williams takes its name from Bill Williams, the fearless mountain man who guided fur-trapping parties and hunting expeditions through the wilderness of northeastern Arizona. Each spring the town honors its namesake during Bill Williams Rendezvous Days, when residents celebrate with parades, carnivals, and rodeos.

Williams is primarily known as a gateway into the celebrated Grand Canyon National Park. But the town also boasts several attractions of its own. Situated at the base of Bill Williams Mountain is a resort town with a nearby ski area offering both cross-country and downhill skiing.

Train enthusiasts will want to experience the Grand Canyon Railway, which offers roundtrip excursions through ponderosa pine forests to the spectacular south rim of the Grand Canyon. Relax as you board authentically restored 1923 Harriman coaches pulled by turn-of-the-century steam trains or vintage 1950's diesel locomotives, and be entertained by strolling musicians and Old Western characters.

## Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon National Park, established in 1919, is perhaps the most magnificent natural wonder in the entire world. First occupied by the American Indian Anasazi tribe, the 277-mile long stretch of grandeur known as The Grand Canyon extends from historic Lee's Ferry in the northeast, to the Grand Wash Cliffs overlooking Lake Mead to the west. The Canyon is generally about one mile deep, and varies in width from one-tenth of a mile to 18 miles across.

The layers of rock that have been carved by the scouring action of the Colorado River range in age from the 250 million year old Kaibab layer to the Precambrian layers, which are nearly 2 billion years old. The erosion process of the canyon began 25 million years ago following the creation of the Colorado Plateau. The uplifted terrain increased the Colorado River's velocity and its erosive power. The power of the river, flowing at only a moderate speed, is so great that it effortlessly moves boulders weighing a ton or more. The United States Geological Survey has established that the Colorado River, prior to the construction of various dams, carried away one million tons of sediment - per day!

The vastness of the Grand Canyon nearly defies comprehension. As you will see, it is so long, so wide, so deep, so improbable, that your senses simply cannot avoid being overwhelmed. The main activity here is of course looking: the magic of the canyon is that it never changes, and yet it never looks the same, as the changing interplay of light and rock brings out ever-more remarkable hues and shadows.

Perhaps the best introduction to the canyon is to drive the roads that extend east and west along the rim from the main commercial area on the South Rim, known as Grand Canyon Village. The 8-mile West Rim Drive follows the edge of the canyon closely and has many stunning overlooks, including one aptly named The Abyss. The overlooks are also connected by a walking trail on the rim, which is paved and heavily used near the Village, but becomes more secluded and peaceful as you head west. The East Rim Drive is longer and has fewer overlooks than the West Rim, but its canyon vistas are considered more colorful. Weather permitting, you will be able to see long stretches of the Inner Gorge and the Colorado River at Grandview Point and Lipan Point.

Though it is barely 10 miles across the chasm “as the crow flies,” the North Rim’s only lodge is a full 214 miles from Grand Canyon Village by car. The principal differences between the two are that the North Rim is much less crowded than the South Rim, more than 1,000 feet higher in elevation and set farther back from the river. The views here are primarily of side canyons, but the North Rim gives a much better sense of how erosion has carved the Grand Canyon, and of how truly gigantic the place really is. The forest is larger and different as well – instead of the pinyon and juniper that predominate on the South Rim, fir, spruce, and aspen are found on the North Rim. These differences are directly related to the difference in elevation between the rims.

## Visitor Center

The Visitor Center should be your first stop in Grand Canyon Village. Here you may pick up a map and information regarding the geology of the park. There is a free shuttle bus service operating on a frequent basis during the busier summer months; use the bus to avoid parking difficulties during the crowded periods. Popular spots to visit include: Yavapai Point Museum, Bright Angel and Hopi Point. All three are serviced by the shuttle bus.

The museum has excellent displays regarding the geological history of the canyon. Consider walking along the rim trail from Yavapai Point to Bright Angel or even farther west. Then take a shuttle bus back to your starting point.

## Sunset and Sunrise

The afternoon play of light and shadow across the canyon evokes deep, muted colors, reaching their dramatic peak in the hours approaching sunset. The sun sinks in an unforgettable array of purples, deep oranges and fiery reds.

The morning light of sunrise casts a more delicate palette of colors: golden yellows and pinks fill the sky and softly paint the canyon walls. Many feel that the morning is the best time of day to watch the changing light. Try to reach the canyon prior to the official sunrise time.

Please be advised: There are trails along the rim. Please stay on them and behind guard rails at all times. The park is not brightly illuminated at night, and if you venture off the pathways it is easy to get lost.

During summer months, the park is extremely popular and crowded. To prevent the frustration of dealing with crowds of hungry and tired tourists, keep these tips in mind: every visitor’s first priority during a visit to the park is to see the sunset and sunrise. When hunger inevitably sets in after these times, restaurants can get very, very busy. Therefore, it is recommended that you decide early in the day what your priorities are. Consider a picnic supper on the rim while watching the sunset, or eat an early dinner before the crowds arrive. Planning ahead will help you enjoy the overall experience without being bogged down in the details.

Lastly, it is important to save your receipt once you’ve paid the admission fee to the park. This receipt guarantees repeated admission to the park; without it, you will be required to pay again. The National Park Pass allows for unlimited entry.

## Grand Canyon National Park – Las Vegas

### Seligman

At the end of this scenic stretch of Old Route 66, you will enter Seligman, a small town that once catered to weary travelers on the mother road. Many local businesses here closed after the completion of

Interstate 40, which bypassed Seligman. Luckily, a few still remain. Near the center of town, on the right hand side of the road, you can visit a real slice of authentic Americana in the local barber shop. Its owner, Angel Delgadillo, is the founder of the Arizona Route 66 Association; adjacent to his tiny barbershop, he has opened a store that sells Route 66 memorabilia. Next door, a small ice cream stand run by Delgadillo's brother, Juan, is also worth a visit. You can't miss the Delgadillo brothers - just look for the '36 Chevy in the yard between the two establishments!

## Grand Canyon Caverns

Almost a mile of trails twist and wind their way through the Grand Canyon Caverns, whose dark chambers sustain a constant temperature of 56 degrees Fahrenheit, even during the hot summer months. Guides take visitors on a 21-story elevator descent into the caverns, which are located 210 feet under the ground. Forty-five minute guided tours highlighting the colorful mineral formations in the caverns are offered. Please note: the tour is not suitable for the claustrophobic or the physically challenged. There is an admission fee.

## Peach Springs

The tiny town of Peach Springs, with a population of a mere 800 residents, is the trading center for the Hualapai American Indian Reservation. This Reservation covers nearly one million acres between Peach Springs and the Colorado River. The town also serves as a starting point for the journey into the western sections of the Grand Canyon.

## Kingman

In the heart of Mojave County, the town of Kingman was founded in 1880 during construction of the railroad through the region. Today, Kingman preserves its popularity as the main stop along the longest existing stretch of Old Route 66. Due to its unique location at the junction of Interstate 40 and US 93, the town often serves as an access point to the three nearby lakes of Mead, Mojave, and Havasu.

Of interest may be the Mojave Museum of History and Arts, noted for its exhibits depicting the history of northwestern Arizona, the section of the state through which you will be traveling today. There are collections of American Indian artwork, jewelry (particularly turquoise), artifacts, and even recreated Mojave dwellings.

## Oatman

Local legend has it that former gold mining communities are haunted by ghosts that inhabit the surrounding towns. Perhaps the most famous of these towns is Oatman, the former headquarters of the mining communities that sprung up in the area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With many of its original structures still standing, the spooky town attracts both filmmakers and visitors in search of the paradigmatic "ghost town". Oatman is located in Arizona, south-east of Laughlin on Route-66.

## Valley of Fire State Park

Valley of Fire State Park is the oldest state park in Nevada and was designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1968. It covers an area of almost 42,000 acres (17,000 ha) and was dedicated in 1935. It derives its name from red sandstone formations, formed from great shifting sand dunes during the age of dinosaurs. These features, which are the centerpiece of the park's attractions, often appear to be on fire when reflecting the sun's rays.

Valley of Fire is located 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Las Vegas, at an elevation between 2,000-2,600 feet (610-790 m). It abuts the Lake Mead National Recreation Area at the Virgin River confluence. It lies in a 4 by 6 mi (6.4 by 9.7 km) basin.

Complex uplifting and faulting of the region, followed by extensive erosion, have created the present landscape. The rough floor and jagged walls of the park contain brilliant formations of eroded sandstone and sand dunes more than 150 million years old. Other important rock formations include limestones, shales, and conglomerates.

The park entry from Interstate 15 passes through the Moapa Indian Reservation. The park has a visitor center that should be visited by anyone planning any off-road activities.

Prehistoric users of the Valley of Fire included the Ancient Pueblo Peoples, also known as the Anasazi, who were farmers from the nearby fertile Moapa Valley. Their approximate span of occupation has been dated from 300 BC to 1150 AD. Their visits probably involved hunting, food gathering, and religious ceremonies, although scarcity of water would have limited their stay. Fine examples of rock art (petroglyphs) left by these ancient peoples can be found at several sites within the park.

## **Las Vegas – Death Valley National Park**

### **Death Valley National Park**

The ominously named Death Valley is the site of the lowest elevation in the United States: it is here that the land drops to 282 feet below sea level. Despite its forbidding name, however, the valley can be quite a beautiful place to tour, particularly when the weather is mildest, between October and April. But those who appreciate Death Valley's peculiarly desolate beauty like it just fine in the summer months, when the temperature regularly tops 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and it is possible to drive for miles without encountering a single soul. Indeed, the average temperature in July exceeds 102 degrees, and the highest recorded temperature in the Western Hemisphere (136 degrees) was here in July 1913.

This is the kind of dry heat that can reduce even diehards to tears! The area received its name in 1849 from a party that started across the valley, believing it to be a shortcut to gold fields. After running perilously low on food and water, the band splintered into several groups, each trying frantically to escape the area on its own. Some of the ill-fated pioneers died. Death Valley comprises the southwestern edge of the Basin and Range Province, which covers 190,000 square miles. This Province dominates the terrain of Nevada and portions of California, Idaho and Arizona. Also referred to as the Great Basin, the region is known for its series of block faults, which have been vertically uplifted and tilted to become mountain ranges. These relatively low mountain ranges are separated by basins, or valleys. Death Valley is a 146-mile-long valley flanked by two such vertically uplifted mountain ranges, the Amargosa and the Panamint. The formation of the valley began about 3 million years ago when forces within the Earth broke the crust into blocks. Some of these blocks tilted and rotated, creating the distinctive valley and mountain pattern. During the Ice Ages giant lakes occupied the basin; their gradual evaporation left alternating layers of mud and large salt deposits that are still visible today. During the last Ice Age, Lake Manley covered the valley to a depth of 600 feet. When its water receded, between 2,000 and 5,000 years ago, the evaporation process left behind the accumulation of salts found in the present salt pan of the valley. The lack of water, combined with the harsh salt deposits and extreme temperatures, has permitted very little life to survive in this barren landscape. Yet Death Valley is home to a number of springs that flow year round, fed by subterranean water sources in the mountains above the valley. In fact, there are over 1,300 different plant and animal species – including the Panamint daisy, the Death Valley sage and the sandpaper plant – which survive in this seemingly barren valley. The vertical difference between Telescope Peak in the Panamint Mountains and the bedrock floor of Death Valley represents a vertical shift in the earth's crust of nearly 19,000 feet. Today, Death Valley is only 11,000 feet below Telescope Peak, due to the fact that 8,000 feet of sedimentary rock was deposited there

when the area was the bottom of a prehistoric lake. Earthquakes in the region are proof that the tilting and sinking process is an ongoing evolutionary development.

## **Furnace Creek Visitor Center**

You should begin your visit to Death Valley at Furnace Creek, where you'll find the Visitor Center of this National Park. It is here that you can obtain a map of the valley, as well as information regarding the geologic and historic features of the valley. In addition, you'll find full service facilities, including a restaurant. Admission to the park is paid here at the Visitor Center.

\*En route to Furnace Creek you should stop at Zabriskie Point; if you have time, you may also enjoy making the 13 mile detour to Dante's View, which provides a view of the lowest and highest points in Death Valley.

Please be advised that the road to Dante's View twists and winds, making it very important to drive slowly.

## **Badwater**

A place of extreme yet unexpected contrasts, Death Valley encompasses 3,367,628 acres, and varies from less than 4 miles to about 61 miles in width. Elevations range from 11,049 feet above sea level at Telescope Peak to 282 feet below sea level near Badwater. It is from Badwater, in fact, that you can stand at the lowest point in the entire Western Hemisphere and gaze across the chasm of the valley at towering Telescope Peak.

\*If you choose, a drive of approximately one and a half hours from Furnace Creek Visitor Center to Badwater and back will allow you to experience the best of Death Valley. Take the 17 mile drive from Furnace Creek to Badwater, passing the Death Valley Salt Pan and the Devil's Golf Course on your way. On your return from Badwater, make the 9 mile detour along scenic Artist's Drive, and then continue on back to Furnace Creek.

Please be advised: Visitors are cautioned that the valley is subject to intense heat during the summer. If you're driving through Death Valley in the summer months, be sure to fill your tank with fuel and carry extra water, for both you and your automobile. On hiking trails, wear long pants for protection against snakes and prickly plants.

## **Death Valley National Park – Yosemite National Park**

### **The Sierra Nevada Mountain Range**

Between 2 and 15 million years ago, there was a series of vertical movements in the earth's crust, forcing a vast land mass upward at least 15,000 feet. This land mass tilted westward and became the mountain range known as the Sierra Nevada. As the block was uplifted, the eastern escarpment was quickly cut by the erosive forces of wind and water – in its various forms of rain, ice and snow – exposing the granite foundation, and creating sharp peaks and sheer barren cliffs. The brutal rupture in the earth's crust is apparent in the forbidding, jagged sheer cliffs on the eastern face of the Sierra.

These stately mountains perform an invaluable function for California, insofar as they trap the moisture of Pacific storm fronts, in the form of rain and snow. Indeed, it is the watershed of the Sierra Nevada that sustains life in most of California's communities. The Sierra snow-pack is particularly vital to the survival of California's coastal communities. In recent years, for example, the San Francisco Bay Area has experienced long periods of drought. During your stay in San Francisco, you will likely see evidence of

the ongoing water conservation efforts in the city. The communities of the San Francisco Bay Area augment their meager local water supplies with precious water from the Sierra Nevada, which travels over 200 miles to reach the Area's residents. In addition to providing a regular supply of water to the state's population centers, the Sierra helps meet the irrigation needs of California's productive Central Valley. Hydro-electric power is generated along the mountains' swift moving streams.

The metal deposits in the Sierra Mountains have likewise contributed to the incredible growth of the state. During the formation of the granite layers of the mountains, the molten rock leached mineral and metal deposits out of the adjacent solid rock. As the magma was forced upward along the cracks, these concentrated minerals and metals were deposited in veins as the rock cooled. It is this rich concentration of metals that precipitated the gold and silver rushes of California and Nevada. The discovery of gold in 1848 created the first Gold Rush of the West, attracting thousands of immigrants. By the 1970s, a staggering \$1.8 billion worth of gold had been extracted from the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The mountains are also home to a variety of pine trees, whose growing regions are determined by altitude. Digger pine, sugar pine, yellow pine, lodgepole pine, foxtail pine, whitebark, pinyon pine, and bristlecone pine are but a few of the over 60 varieties of pine trees found in the forests of the Sierra. Other tree varieties in the region include cedar, fir, aspen, hemlock, dogwood, and sequoia. These forests of the Sierra have provided a steady supply of timber, which was initially utilized in the construction of the transcontinental railroad and local mines. Today, the lumber industry is still one of California's most vital.

## **Resources of the Sierra Nevada**

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## Mount Whitney

Mount Whitney, at 14,494 feet, is the highest mountain in the 48 contiguous United States, and was named in 1864 in honor of J. D. Whitney, chief surveyor of the California Geological Survey. Clarence King, a geologist who was also a member of the survey, mistakenly thought he was the first to ascend the mountain in 1871. Two years later, in New York, King's detailed account of his climb was used as conclusive proof by a fellow geologist that King had in fact climbed Mount Langley, six miles south of Whitney. King, convinced of his past error, rushed back to California to rectify his mistake. Unfortunately for him, two other climbing parties reached Mount Whitney's peak before he did in September 1873. Locals once referred to the mountain as "Fishermen's Peak," honoring the three fishermen who were the first to reach the summit, but ultimately, the name of Whitney won out. Mount Whitney looms directly above the tiny town of Lone Pine. From Lone Pine, which has an elevation of 3,733, one can easily see why Clarence King was confused, and why Mount Langley continues to be referred to as the "false Mount Whitney." Mount Langley, separated from Mount Whitney by a series of jagged pinnacles, genuinely seems as tall as its famous companion. But this is only a trick of the eye. You can distinguish between the two by facing west while standing in Lone Pine. Mount Whitney is on the right, and is positioned further north than Mount Langley.

The Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor's Center, at US-395 and State Route 136, is a good place to stop for maps, books, and postcards of the area. The Center also has information and exhibits on Yosemite National Park and Death Valley National Park.

## *Summer Route from Death Valley to Yosemite:*

### Manzanar War Japanese Relocation Camp

Between Lone Pine and Independence, you'll see a commemorative plaque on the side of the highway. This sign commemorates the site of Manzanar, the first of the ten relocation camps built for the Japanese-Americans during World War II. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, over 110,000 Japanese (many native-born Americans) were forced to relocate to camps in remote areas away from the populated cities of the West Coast. Here at Manzanar National Historic Site you can see what remains of the barracks that ultimately housed over 10,000 Japanese. \*The camp is located about 9 miles north of US-395. At the visitor center you may obtain a map to guide you on a 3.2 mile auto tour.

In April 2004, the Manzanar Interpretive Center opened. The center includes exhibits, a bookstore, and a theater that shows a free 22-minute film entitled "Remembering Manzanar". The center is open daily from 9-4:30. There are no entrance fees to the site.

### Bristlecone Pines

North of Lone Pine, you'll reach a community called Big Pine. It is at Big Pine that you can take a relatively short detour to see the oldest trees on earth, the bristlecone pine. A sign at the junction of US-395 and 168 explains the significance of bristlecone pines and the sights you'll see at Schulmann Grove.

At Schulman Grove, a ranger usually conducts group lectures and provides suggestions regarding trails and what to look for. Popular trails include the Pine Alpha and Methuselah Trails.

The bristlecone pine is seldom taller than 25-30 feet. The trees conserve life in adverse conditions by channeling their growing energies into one or two limbs, allowing the rest of the tree to die. It takes the trees up to one hundred years to accumulate growth rings one inch (2.5 cm) thick. Some trees today survive with only 10 percent living tissue, able to produce seedlings. Bristlecone pines grow on exposed, dry, rocky slopes of the mountains of the western United States. Some of these stubby, gnarled pine trees have been determined to be 4,600 years old. Samples taken from these trees have revealed weather patterns of the West for the last 4,000 years.

## Bishop

Located west of Owens River at the northern end of Owens Valley, Bishop is the largest settlement in Inyo County. Bishop is known as the “Mule Capital of the World”, and the town has held a weeklong festival called Bishop Mule Days every year on the week of Memorial Day since 1969. Bishop is also well-known for its rock climbing attractions. People often come from all over the world here to climb the numerous volcanic tuff and granitic bouldering problems in the area.

## Mammoth Lakes

Gold was found near Mammoth Lakes in 1877 when prospectors were looking for the legendary “Lost Cement Mine”. The Mammoth mine yielded over \$200,000 in gold from 1878-81, eventually producing gold valued at \$1.5 million. The mountains surrounding the Mammoth Lakes continue to be gold mines, of another sort. The lush green forests and steep mountain slopes support the timber and ski industries so important to the local economy. Since skiing was introduced to Mammoth in 1940, Mammoth has become one of California’s most important ski resorts.

Nearby, the Devil’s Postpile National Monument preserves the treasures of the mountain’s volcanic past. A 60-foot-high basaltic lava flow, which forms hexagonal columns, is a monument to the volcanic activity which created the Sierras.

## Mono Lake

Near the junction of US-395 and State Route 120 you will see Mono Lake. Mono Lake lies in a fault basin on the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada. The entire Mono Basin was covered by an inland lake which was once 1,000 feet deep. The current lake has a diameter of approximately 12 miles with a relatively shallow depth of 120 feet. The tufa formations on the lake’s two islands and shoreline are calcium deposits that formed at the bottom of the ancient lake.

Significantly saltier than the world’s oceans, the lake sustains little life – only shrimp and brine-tolerant flies. These shrimp and flies are the major food source for bird colonies that nest here during their mating season. In fact, Mono Lake is an important breeding ground for the Wilson phalarope and for California sea gulls.

The water level of the lake has been gradually dropping since the 1930s, when four of the five streams leading to the lake were partially diverted. The city of Los Angeles owns the water rights of the nearby Owens Valley where these streams are located. Water that once flowed to Mono Lake now travels over 250 miles to the Los Angeles area. In recent years, the water’s level has dropped so dramatically that the two islands are now linked by a land bridge to the lake’s shore, permitting predatory wolves access to the birds’ nesting grounds. The increased alkalinity of the water has reduced the shrimp population, throwing the ecological balance into disarray.

## *Winter Route from Death Valley to Yosemite:*

### Ridgecrest

Ridgecrest, formerly known as Crumville, is the only city along the US-395 highway in Kern County. Ridgecrest is surrounded by four mountain ranges: the Sierra Nevada to the west, the Cosos to the north, the Argus Range to the east, and the El Paso Mountains to the south. Ridgecrest is less than two hours removed from the highest and lowest points in the continental United States.

### History

Before this community was given the name of “Crumville”, it was a farming community. The town proper began life as Crumville in 1912, named in honor of James and Robert Crum, local alpine herders. During



this time period, the community's growth was dominated by the persistent needs of the high tech industries linked to the local Naval Station's programs for weapons testing and guidance systems.

The best known attractions in the vicinity are the wall carvings of the Coso Indians found in the Big and Little Petroglyph Canyons. The Coso Indians were prolific artists and artisans who created their works with the use of handmade tools of stone.

Archaeologists have found evidence of their handiwork in other distant Indian lands including the Chumash Indians in Southern California.

Other traditional area attractions are:

- Hunting and Shooting
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- ATV driving and dirt biking
- Golf
- Gliding

## **Maturango Museum**

The Maturango Museum is located in Ridgecrest. The museum is known for the tours of the China Lake Naval Weapons Station (NAWS). The museum showcases both the natural and cultural history and diversity of the Northern Mojave Desert with exhibits of indigenous plants and animals, Native American artifacts, geology, and contemporary arts and crafts.

## **Bakersfield**

The Yokuts Indians were the first people to settle in the San Joaquin Valley some 8000 years ago. The area was rich with wildlife and the fertile valley ground was excellent for growing crops. Explorers and missionaries started entering the area in the year 1776.

The area experienced tremendous growth from 1851 to 1869 after gold and oil was discovered. Early travelers stopped by Colonel Thomas Baker's field and fed their animals when traveling through the area. The travelers began calling it Baker's field. In 1869, Colonel Baker was appointed to survey the area as a formal township. Since it was already known as Baker's field by most, it was named Bakersfield.

## **Visalia**

Visalia was founded in the mid 19th century, making it one of the oldest cities in the fruitful Central California region. By the turn of the century, the surrounding countryside was virtually teeming with productive farms and ranches. Visalia's agricultural prosperity and gracious living is reflected in its many beautiful homes. Today, Visalia is known as The Gateway to Sequoia National Park.

## **Sequoia National Park**

Founded in 1890, Sequoia National Park is the oldest national park in California. The preservation of the groves of giant sequoias remains its primary purpose a century later.

At one time, sequoias flourished throughout much of the North American continent. Following the last Ice Age, it is believed that nearly all stands of sequoias were eliminated. Only two species remain today. Both are found in California. The sequoia sempervirens, known as the coastal redwood, is found along the coast of northern California. It is the tallest known species in the world and is a slender cousin of the sequoias. The massive, bulky sequoia, the sequoiadendron gigantea, is known as the giant sequoia. Giant sequoias can live to be 3,200 years old and can attain heights of 250 to 275 feet. There is no larger species alive in the world today. The giant sequoia are found exclusively in groves along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada at elevations of 4,000 to 8,000 feet. Since Giant Forest is located at an

elevation of 7,000 feet, walks in the groves near your lodge may be literally as well as figuratively breathtaking. The first giant sequoias were found by gold miners in the 1850's. Sequoia National Park was established to protect these behemoths of history from the ax and saw. The sequoia tree was named for the famous Indian chief, Sequoyah, regarding as a true giant to his people, the Cherokee. As the 19th century leader of the Cherokee (who incidentally did not live in California, they lived in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina), Sequoyah developed an 85 character Cherokee alphabet providing a permanent means of preserving Cherokee language and culture. The Austrian botanist responsible for naming the tree is believed to have been an admirer of Sequoyah. The park was named not for the Cherokee chief, but for the trees which are found here.

Take time to walk the trails amongst the magnificent sequoias. Barely two miles beyond the Giant Forest Lodge, you'll find the largest sequoia, the General Sherman Tree. Nearby, the Congress Trail introduces you to the unique characteristics of sequoias and their environment. North of Sequoia along the General's Highway is King's Canyon National Park. Both Sequoia and King's Canyon are administered as one unit, and you won't see a difference between them.

There are over 30 groves harboring 66,000 sequoias in Sequoia and King's Canyon national parks. Giant sequoias are among the fastest growing trees in the world. There is no larger living species. There are trees that are older, taller and even those which can have a larger circumference, yet none can compete with the combined proportions and characteristics of this tree. The sequoia is a unique tree with properties which have ensured its survival through millennia. These trees can live to be 3,200 years old and can withstand the ravages of nature: fire, lightning strikes, and insects.

The bark of a mature sequoia can be up to two feet thick. The sap, bark, leaves and cones have a high tannic acid content which effectively retards the effects of fires. This tannic acid also hinders infestations of insects as well. The thickness of the bark combined with the tannic acid make the trees extremely fire and insect resistant. The only true enemy of these trees is man and the negative elements of his civilization. The seeds of the sequoia are miniscule. It takes over 90,000 seeds to weigh one pound and a mature tree will produce over 60 million seeds in a lifetime. Yet, only one in a billion seeds get the chance to grow to maturity.

Sequoias are best known for their furrowed rough red bark. Many people have mistaken certain types of cedar for sequoia. Once you've seen a mature redwood or sequoia up close you won't make the mistake. It is difficult however to identify a young sequoia. It takes between 100 to 150 years for the tree to develop the distinctive red bark characteristic of the larger trees.

## **General Sherman and the Congress Trail**

The General Sherman Tree is the largest tree in the world. Standing 275 feet tall, the tree is estimated to be 3,000 years old. The diameter of the tree is over 36.5 feet at its base and the diameter of its largest branch (6.8 feet) is larger than any tree east of the Mississippi River. The volume of the tree is estimated to be 52,500 cubic feet, enough wood to build several small houses.

Across the park from the General Sherman is the trailhead of the Congress Trail. The full trail can be walked comfortably in two hours. A shorter walk is possible by taking a marked cut off near Stop #7. The 23 markers along the trail correspond with the stops listed in the trail guide, usually available near the trail's start. The guide booklet gives detailed information regarding the sequoia and the forest surrounding it.

## **King's Canyon National Park**

King's Canyon National Park was founded in 1940 to preserve this isolated region of the Sierra. The park also contains its own groves of sequoias. There are signs leading to the King's Canyon Visitor Center where you will also find a restaurant for lunch. Nearby, the General Grant Tree stands in a grove of trees

named for Civil War generals and for different states in the United States. The General Grant is 267 feet tall with a base circumference of 107.6 feet. The trail here is relatively short but enjoyable.

## Tulare County

Tulare County is one of the largest counties in the great and fertile San Joaquin Valley. Geographically it is situated about midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, the two principal cities of the Pacific Slope. The county is covered with vast mountain masses on the eastern side, the balance of its expanse a level and remarkably fertile plain. The county originally extended from Mariposa County in the north, to the Los Angeles County line in the south, and from the summit of the Coast Range Mountains in the west, to the summit of the Sierra Nevada in the east.

Created in 1852 at the same time Siskiyou and Sierra counties were designated, the large area was maintained until 1856, when Fresno County was created from territory taken from Tulare, Mariposa and Merced counties. Within the confines of Tulare County are now 4,863 square miles, or 3,158,400 acres. To give you an idea of its size, if the state of Connecticut were to be lifted bodily from the Atlantic Seaboard and transported westward, it could be set down in California, but it would not quite succeed in covering Tulare County.

The county has an interesting historical aura dating back to 1770. The first Americans to visit the valley came after 1800. The settling of the country around Visalia, the creation of the county, the struggles of the early settlers, the wars with the Indians, and the growth and development of the country present an interesting story which can be found in a number of the published histories. Centrally located within the State of California, Tulare County is situated in a delightful and geographically diverse region. Mountain peaks of the Sierra Nevada range tower to more than 14,000 feet in its Eastern half. Meanwhile, the extensively cultivated and very fertile valley floor in the Western half, has allowed Tulare County to become the second-leading producer of agricultural commodities in the United States.

## Fresno

In this region grow the grapes, oranges, and cotton that make Fresno County one of America's richest agricultural leaders. In fact, the total value of goods produced here, including livestock and dairy products, exceeds 1.85 billion. Known as The Raisin Capital of the World, Fresno cultivates over one million acres of vineyards for the production of raisins. Other popular local crops include tomatoes, plums and kiwis.

## Chowchilla

Established around 1912, Chowchilla is a town in central California named for the Native Americans who once inhabited the area. The Chauchila Yokut Indians' name apparently translates to "Murderers", indicating their evident aggressive, war-like behavior. Legend has it they were indirectly responsible for the first white men "discovering" Yosemite Valley, by chasing these people into the valley. Chowchilla's climate is Mediterranean and the city is home to two Californian prisons. Chowchilla came into the national spotlight in 1976 when a bus driver and 26 students were kidnapped by the local quarry owner's son and two accomplices, and held prisoner in a buried van at the quarry. The driver and some of the students managed to escape and call the police, who subsequently managed to rescue the rest of the kidnapped people without incident. The suspects were arrested and are now spending life in prison.

## Oakhurst

Oakhurst (formerly, Fresno Flats) is a census-designated place (CDP) in Madera County, California, 14 miles (23 km) south of the entrance to Yosemite National Park, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Oakhurst is located on the Fresno River 3 miles (4.8 km) south-southwest of Yosemite

Forks, at an elevation of 2274 feet (693 m). It is part of the Madera-Chowchilla Metropolitan Statistical Area. The population, according to the 2000 census says there were 2868 people.

## Mariposa

Formerly known as Aqua Fria ("cold water"), this small town of about 2,000 people gets its current name, which is Spanish for "butterfly", from the flocks of Monarchs seen wintering in the region when the first settlers arrived. The settlers were first drawn to the region, not for its natural beauty, but for its mineral riches, with gold having been particularly plentiful. Owing to its proximity to the famous Yosemite National Park, the majority of the town's economy is driven by tourism. Should you have some free-time in the town before visiting Yosemite, you might consider taking a tour of the county courthouse. This courthouse, built in 1854, is the oldest continuously used courthouse west of the Rockies.

## Formation of Yosemite Valley

Glaciers transformed the rolling hills and winding streams of pre-Pleistocene Yosemite into the astounding landscape of the present. The gently sloping western face of the Sierra range is dissected by a series of rivers that over time carved deep V-shaped valleys into the granite mountain blocks. During the Ice Ages, great glaciers advanced and receded, sculpting the granite into U-shaped valleys. The sheer, polished granite walls of Yosemite Valley hint at its origins as a glacial valley. At one time, the sheer cliffs loomed 6,000 to 7,000 feet above the valley floor.

As the glaciers melted, the resulting rock debris was deposited at the terminal moraines of these glaciers, transforming the valleys into lakes. As sediment was deposited on the lake bed, the lake became increasingly shallow, eventually evolving into grassy meadow. Herein lies the transformation of Yosemite Valley to its current, spectacular incarnation.

## Yosemite History

Yosemite Valley was first explored in 1833 by Joseph Walker's party, who came upon the splendorous sight from the Tuolumne Meadows to the north. But the very first visitors to the valley were also its native inhabitants: the Ahwahneechee Indians, meaning inhabitants of the grassy meadow. The Ahwahneechee, a California Miwok tribe referred to themselves as the "Yosemite" (pronounced Yo SEH Mih Tee) which meant grizzly bear in their native tongue.

The Yosemite tribe hunted in the mountains and lived peacefully in their village in the valley until the mid-19th century, when gold miners began to encroach upon their territory. Under the leadership of Chief Tenaya, the Yosemite resisted intrusions by miners through a series of raids against settlements outside the valley. In retaliation, a volunteer militia, the Mariposa Battalion, pursued the Indians back into the valley following a raid. Although the battalion lost track of the Indians, the men were unexpectedly introduced to the stunning beauty of Yosemite Valley. The year was 1851.

Word of Yosemite's breathtaking beauty spread quickly. On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln preserved the valley as the nation's first state park, and twenty-six years later Yosemite became a national park. In 1855, the annual visitors totaled 42. A century later, in 1955, the number of annual visitors had increased to one million. Since that time, Yosemite has only continued to steadily increase in popularity, attracting many millions annually.

## Entering Yosemite National Park

There is an admission fee and you will need to keep your receipt which allows you to re-enter the park the next day.

Weather permitting, you will enter Yosemite National Park via Tioga Pass. The Tioga Road clings to the sheer granite face of the mountain as you make your breathtaking ascent to the Pass, at an elevation of

nearly 10,000 feet. Once you reach Tioga Pass, you are at the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park. You'll need to drive another hour to reach the famous Yosemite Valley.

You will be driving through the mountain highlands known as Tuolumne Meadows. From your vantage point at what seems like the top of the world, you'll see the erosive effects of time and nature upon the solid granite block. Relatively thin layers of granite have been separated from their base as a result of this erosion. Water and extreme temperatures have formed thin cracks in the upper most layers of granite, weakening the rock and eventually peeling away thin upper layers. This erosive peeling process, called exfoliation, has smoothed rounded edges onto the hard granite. The most magnificent example of exfoliation is Half Dome, overlooking Yosemite Valley. Aptly named, the back side of this 2,000 foot tall sheer granite mountain has been peeled away by the erosive force of nature. En route to the valley, stop at Olmsted Point for an unusual perspective of Half Dome, considered to be the unofficial symbol of the park.

## Yosemite National Park

Your first stop upon arrival should be at the Visitor Center, where you'll find useful maps and information regarding the history and the geological features of the park, as well as various walking trails. There are guided tours of the valley floor offered throughout the day. You can explore the valley using the shuttle bus service, which is free. Other modes of transportation include bicycles and horses, both of which can be rented on an hourly basis.

Rather ordinary geological processes over time combined to create some of the most extraordinary scenery in Yosemite. Located in the heart of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, this is one formidable park: 760,000 acres, 263 miles of roadway, and 800 miles of trails. Indeed, the park is much greater in both area and beauty than many people generally realize. Visitors tend to concentrate in celebrated Yosemite Valley, amid the sheer granite domes and cliffs that soar thousands of feet up from the valley floor.

Many of the world's most impressive waterfalls are here. The highest single waterfall on the continent, Ribbon Falls, cascades a breathtaking 1,612 feet. Short walks to the silvery waters of Vernal Falls, Yosemite Falls, and Bridalveil Falls are also worthwhile. (Please be aware that, though sensational most of the year, many of the park's famous waterfalls are dry during the late summer months, particularly when California is suffering droughts.) El Capitan and Half Dome are the famous landmarks that keep majestic watch over the valley. Conveniently, free shuttle buses to the east end of this 7 mile long cul-de-sac enable you to park your car rather than driving the often congested roads.

What many don't realize, though, is that Yosemite Valley comprises only 7 of the 1,169 total square miles of park-land. The territory above the square rim of the valley is less celebrated, primarily because it is less visited. However, 196 miles of primary roads and more than 800 miles of trails now make much of this mountain accessible to both motorist and hiker. The crest of the Sierra Nevada is the park's eastern boundary, and the two rivers which flow through the park, the Merced and the Tuolumne, originate among the snow-capped peaks. The Merced river streams through Yosemite Valley, and the Tuolumne river carves a magnificent gorge through the northern half of the park. There is an entrance fee.

## The Giant Sequoia

The sequoia tree was named for the famous 19th century Cherokee Indian chief, Sequoyah, who was regarded as a true giant to his people.

At one time, sequoia trees flourished across much of the North American continent. Geologists believe that during the last Ice Age, nearly all stands of sequoias were eliminated. Only three species remain today, two of them found exclusively in California. The biggest trees in the world, meaning the most massive in size, are the giant sequoia or Sierra redwood. These trees are found only in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, primarily in Sequoia, King's Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks. The world's tallest

trees, a slender relative of the giant sequoias, are the coastal redwoods. These trees are found along the coastline of Northern California, from the Oregon border to just beyond Monterey.

Although there are many similarities between the trees, they are two distinct and different species. (A third type, the metasequoia, is native to China only.)

The first giant sequoia was spotted by a gold miner in 1852. The massive 2,000-year-old tree so impressed those who subsequently saw it that the tragic decision was made to show it off, in sections, to the world. It took 5 men a total of 22 days to fell this gigantic beauty. A 50-foot section of the tree's bark was stripped off the tree and sent on a world tour. The stump of the tree was later used as a dance floor that was touted as being able to hold up to 15 couples at a single time. Finally, in 1864, at the height of the Civil War, the U. S. Congress made it a priority to protect this stand of noble trees.

Sequoias are best known for their distinctive, furrowed red bark. The bark of a mature sequoia can be up to two feet thick. The thickness of the bark, combined with the high tannic acid content in the sap, leaves and cones, serve as an effective fire and insect repellent. Sadly, the only true threat to these mighty trees is man.

## **Yosemite National Park – San Francisco**

### **Central Valley**

California's temperate year-round climate and consistent water supply has made the state the largest supplier of fruits and vegetables in the United States. A full half of the fruit produced in the U. S. comes from California. The state leads in the production of grapes (including table grapes as well as those destined to become raisins and wine), apricots, plums, avocados, artichokes, olives, garlic, onions, lemons, almonds, walnuts, lettuce, tomatoes and kiwis.

Rice, cotton and alfalfa are important cash crops as well. The leading cash crop in the state (illegally cultivated of course) is marijuana. California's considerable size permits cultivation of crops year round. Winter crops harvested in the Imperial, Coachella, and San Joaquin Valleys keep vegetable prices stable and fresh supplies available throughout the year. During your drive through this agricultural region of the state, you'll see a wide variety of crops growing in the fields. Frequently, there are blue and gold signs which identify the crops under cultivation.

In addition, California livestock production is unrivaled by any other state in the country. Cattle, dairy cows, turkeys, and chickens are the primary livestock of the state. Near the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley is the town of Bakersfield, known as California's Country Music Capital. Bakersfield, named for one-time resident Colonel Thomas Baker, is an important agricultural center, but it is also a significant shipping and marketing center for oil, natural gas, and farm products. One little known fact is that Bakersfield's vineyards produce approximately one quarter of California's wines.

### **Modesto**

Situated in the northern San Joaquin Valley on the Tuolumne River – a highly fertile agricultural region— Modesto is notable for being the geographical center of the state of California. When the city was founded in 1870 as a result of construction on the Central Pacific Railroad, many wanted to name it after a prominent San Francisco banker. But the banker rejected the idea, out of modesty, and so he was commemorated anonymously in the chosen name of Modesto.

## Napa Valley

In contrast to the constancy of California's Central Valley, Napa Valley's wine country offers a gentle, pastoral landscape of rolling hills and lush vineyards. In these fertile valleys, watched over by the stately Mayacamas Mountains, the weather is so mild and steady that the hot-air balloonists who flock to the area have to compete for air space!

Indeed, it is this steady climate that helps to produce the grapes that have made Napa Valley and nearby Sonoma virtually synonymous with fine California wine.

Napa, which is the Indian word for plenty, originated in the mid-19th century as gold rush center. The very first grapevine cuttings were supplied by priests from the missions at Sonoma and San Rafael. Today, Napa Valley is the heart of America's thriving wine industry. Along a 30 mile stretch of scenic Route 29 known as Winery Row, more than 240 wineries cultivate their grapes and transform them into the award-winning reds, whites, and sparkling wines that distinguish tables across the country and around the world. Many of these venerable wineries offer "wine-tasting" to visitors.

For the quintessential Napa experience, take a journey on the Napa Valley Wine Train. Sit in Pullman dining cars and sip delicious California wines as you make the leisurely 36 mile journey through the verdant countryside between Napa and St. Helena. The trip – which includes lunch, brunch, or dinner – lasts approximately 3 hours.

You may also choose to make the scenic drive through the valley, which will take you along both of the two major roads – the Silverado Trail and Winery Row. Both are studded with world famous wineries, many of which welcome you for tours and tasting. This route will take you through Napa Valley, to the mineral springs resort of Calistoga, and back to Napa Valley.

## Robert Mondavi Winery Tour

Along the "Wine Road", also known as California Route 29, we recommend stopping by the Robert Mondavi Winery, located in the village of St. Helena in the Napa Valley. This winery offers an excellent wine tour with explanations of how the wine is made here. You can also taste the grapes directly from the vine, and are freely provided the opportunity to taste a few wines at the end of the tour. After your visit to the Robert Mondavi Winery, you may be interested in visiting the V. Sattui Winery just down the road. This winery has an impressive wine cellar and you can enjoy lunch in their particularly beautiful wine garden.

## Calistoga

The town of Calistoga is located in the north of the scenic Napa Valley, at the foot of Mount St. Helena, which towers 1,350 feet above the city. Calistoga has about 5,000 inhabitants and is a popular holiday destination for people who want to visit the heart of California's wine country. The city is known for its hot mineral springs, and even has an "Old Faithful" geyser.

## California's "Old Faithful"

Calistoga is famous for its spas and specialty mud baths provided with mud from locally quarried volcanic ash. Here in Calistoga, one can also visit the little Californian sister of the famous "Old Faithful" geyser in Yellowstone Park. Just like its bigger brother to the northeast, this little Old Faithful of California regularly erupts like clockwork- usually every half hour. Technically, there are three "old faithfuls" in the world; this one here in California, the geyser in Yellowstone, and a geyser in Australia.

## Calistoga Attractions

Near Calistoga, you will also find the Bale Grist Mill. This mill was built in 1846 by Dr. Edward Turner Bale, and is still used to grind grain into flour today. The mill is now managed by the park service, and is located about 10 minutes south of Calistoga on Hwy 29/128.

The Calistoga Depot was built in 1868 as the second oldest railway station in California, and is on the national register of historic buildings. This train station is located on Lincoln Avenue, and you can visit the historical exhibitions and shops in six restored railway carriages.

Mount St Helena is located in California's coastal mountains, about 70 miles away from Davis in the north of Napa Valley. The mountain rises about 1350 feet above the valley, is a great place to hike, and the views from the top of the mountain are unimaginably beautiful.

In the Petrified Forest, you can see giant sequoias, or redwoods, which have been fossilized by volcanic eruptions some 6 million years ago.

## Sonoma County

Sonoma is located in the heart of the region known as California's Wine Country. This county contains some of the most agriculturally productive land in America, producing hops, grapes, prunes, apples, dairy and poultry products, among other things. This county is also well-known for its wine, as it is the largest wine-producing county in California. It is also home to several Native American tribes, and plenty of wide-open spaces preserved by law from human development. As a result, more than 7.4 million tourists visit Sonoma County each year. Although scholars disagree on what precisely the name means, or which tribe in particular the name came from, the region's toponym is definitively of Native American origin.

## Santa Rosa

The seat of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa is one of the largest cities in northern California. Before the advent of European civilization, the area was settled primarily by a tribe of Pomo natives known as the Bitakomtara. The Biktakomtara controlled the valley closely and barred entry into it by others unless they had prior permission to do so. Those found entering without permission were dealt with by heavy penalties. However, due to the smallpox disease and the European settlers' intentional eradication efforts of the tribe, their numbers had been reduced by 95% once the twentieth century had arrived.

European settlement began in the 1830s by the Carrillo family, who greatly influenced the city's early growth, with Julio Carrillo laying out the original city plans. During the nineteenth century, Santa Rosa experienced steady growth, and by the turn of the twentieth century, it was the eighth largest town in California; however, shortly thereafter, it was overtaken by the rapid growth of the San Francisco Bay and southern California areas.

The area, due to its proximity to several fault lines (as well as its proximity with San Francisco) has been the victim of several earthquakes in its history. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake destroyed Santa Rosa's entire downtown, and several other downtown buildings had to be completely reconstructed due to strong earthquakes that hit the area in October 1969.

Although the urbanization of the area has restricted the reach of nature into the town, the surrounding countryside (it being located in the northwestern part of California's famed Wine Country) is still quite scenic, and the occasional wild animal (from raccoon to mountain lion) can be found roaming the city's streets.

Santa Rosa is also home to the Charles M. Schulz Museum, the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens, the Pacific Coast Air Museum, and the Sonoma County Museum.

## Sonoma

Sonoma played an important role in the history of California. Sonoma was founded during the reign of the Spaniards, and in 1822 the city became part of Mexico. In 1846 the famous Bear Flag Revolt began, when a group of American ranchers were encouraged by Captain John Fremont to revolt against the Mexican government. The war between the United States and Mexico began in Texas, but many American immigrants in California were afraid they would be forced to vacate their land by Mexico. They therefore they declared their independence from Mexico at the Sonoma town square by hoisting



the Bear Flag. This first form of rebellion in Sonoma was well received by the local army commander. He met with these rebels and was smart enough to bring with him generous amounts of alcohol. This rather symbolic action, however, was the beginning of a series of uprisings that eventually led to the independence of California. The star and the grizzly bear, which were depicted on the former Bear Flag, still adorn the state flag of California.

In the center of the city today is the Historic Town Plaza. This beautiful eight acre square, designed 150 years ago by Mexican Governor Mariano Vallejo, is part of the Sonoma State Historic Park and, therefore, a protected historical monument. In this park, you can find the ancient home of General Vallejo, the founder of Sonoma and the army commander during the Bear Flag Revolt. Surrounding the Plaza are numerous shops, tasting rooms, restaurants and historical sites.

Another interesting building in the square is the Mission San Francisco Solano. This was the northernmost mission in the Spanish network of missions in California. On July 4, 1824, Mission San Francisco Solano de Sonoma, the last of the chain of 21 missions, was founded by Father Jose Altimira. To tour the Mission, visit the Sonoma State Historic Park for a small entrance fee. The admission charge allows you to visit the Sonoma Mission, Sonoma Barracks Toscano Hotel, General Vallejo Home, and the Petaluma Adobe on the same day the ticket is purchased.

The Spanish cultural heritage in this region is complemented with the delicious food and drink that you can taste here, such as cheese, sausage, bread and of course wine. Sonoma is filled with some of the world's most renowned wineries such as St. Francis Winery, Benziger Family Winery, Kenwood Vineyards, Valley of the Moon Winery and Korbel. The oldest winery in California, the Buena Vista Winery, can also be found within the limits of Sonoma. Most wineries offer tasting rooms and some offer tours with a small fee. The most scenic drive is North and South along highway 12 through Sonoma. It is along this highway where you will find most wineries.

## **Muir Woods**

This 560 acre National Monument, named for the famed conservationist John Muir, preserves one of the largest and most stunning of the redwood groves along the Northern California coastline. Approximately 150 million years ago, these giant trees covered much of the Northern Hemisphere, but were largely decimated, naturalists surmise, during the Ice Ages. The coastal redwood, or Sequoia sempervirens, is the tallest of all living things in the world, easily growing to heights of 250 feet. Indeed, as you will see, some of the trees in Muir Woods seem to reach to the very heavens.

After viewing Muir Woods, you can drive to nearby Mount Tamalpais State Park and enjoy more of Northern California's sweeping scenery. Stroll along one of the many foot paths and explore this 6400 acre park.

## **Sausalito**

Its name meaning little willow in Spanish, Sausalito's considerable charm continues to lure artists both from around the state and across the country, lending this coastal town a uniquely bohemian flavor. Situated amidst hills that plunge dramatically into the bay, Sausalito offers unsurpassed views of the San Francisco skyline. The entire bay is visible from Vista Point at the north end of Golden Gate Bridge – fog notwithstanding of course!

## **San Francisco**

Millions of visitors have indeed left their hearts in this City by the Bay, captivated by its natural splendor, colorful architecture, and delicious cuisine. Much of the city's universal appeal lies in its distinctive setting: San Francisco sprawls over some 40 hills that rise, Atlantis-like, from the deep water of the Bay, with the slender span of the world-famous Golden Gate Bridge forming an elegant entrance.

As you drive over the East Bay Hills, the spectacular scenery of the San Francisco Bay Area will slowly come into view. The unique geographic characteristics of the bay were created during the last Ice Age. What was once an inland valley surrounded by gently rolling hills was gradually transformed into one of the world's largest protective bays. The coastal range to the west was broken by a narrow inlet, which linked the ocean with the bay.

This opening is so narrow that it is frequently obscured by fog, a regularly occurring phenomenon in the Bay Area, as you will undoubtedly observe. It was this dense fog which initially prevented discovery of the so-called Golden Gate, barely one mile wide. Spanish and English explorers who had extensively charted the coastline were unable to discover the passage to the natural resources of the bay. It was in 1769 that an overland expedition finally discovered the bay, first beholding it from above, just as you will today.

Any preconceived expectations of balmy California weather will most likely be shattered during your stay in San Francisco. Although the Bay Area enjoys a temperate climate throughout the most of the year -- an eternal spring except when the trademark fog rolls in -- San Francisco can be chilly and downright cold, especially during the summer months. Indeed, Mark Twain reportedly attested that the coldest winter he ever experienced was a summer he spent in San Francisco! Please prepare yourself for this rapidly changing climate, and bring cool weather wear to this incomparable city. And bring a hearty appetite as well! There's almost no such thing as a mediocre meal here, where talented, innovative chefs draw from the area's rich resources of Pacific seafood, farm-fresh produce, and world-renowned wines.

## San Francisco History

The peninsula and bay of San Francisco were discovered in 1769 by a faction of Gaspar de Portola's expedition. This party, under the direction of Sergeant Ortega and Franciscan Father Crespi, crossed the coastal mountain range, due west of what is now the San Francisco International Airport, and came upon what they initially believed to be an inland lake. With delight, they quickly realized that this body of water was a bay -- a large protective harbor for their ships.

It was the city's bayside location that attracted its earliest settlers. A permanent European colonization was created in 1776, when the presidio, or Spanish military fort, was established at the tip of the peninsula. That same year, the Franciscan fathers founded the Mission San Francisco de Asis. A trail from the presidio to the mission was established, and approximately halfway between the two locations a tiny village called El Paraje de Yerba Buena (meaning the place of the good herb) sprang up. It was not until 1835 that the town of Yerba Buena, which was later to become San Francisco, was founded.

In 1846, the events of the Mexican War increased tension throughout California. That July, John Montgomery, an American naval officer, hoisted the American flag on the square after laying siege to the town for several days. In his exuberance, acting independently and without the authority of the American government, Montgomery claimed San Francisco as American territory and renamed the square after his faithful sloop, the Portsmouth. Montgomery's act was observed by a handful of the citizenry, who considered the incident as minor. It did, however, mark the commencement of the transfer of California from Mexican to American ownership.

Such exuberance is seemingly typical of San Francisco's colorful inhabitants. In 1859, for example, a British businessman by the name of Joshua Norton was driven insane by financial failure, and declared himself "Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico." During the 21 years that are jokingly referred to as the Reign of Emperor Norton, he "ruled" San Francisco -- the residents of which affectionately indulged his delusions. Some of his edicts were actually even followed, for underneath his madness lay a strong, sane sense of humanitarian reform. When Emperor Norton died in 1880, his funeral was attended by more than 30,000 San Franciscans.

## Gold Rush

For over 13 years the tiny village of Yerba Buena had a population of fewer than 100 inhabitants, but with the discovery of gold in the American River in 1848, that rapidly changed, and the population quickly swelled to over 10,000. A steady, eager stream of hopefuls from all over the world poured through San Francisco, and many of these so-called Forty-Niners – some lucky, some not so lucky – came back to live in the city permanently when the frenzy of the Gold Rush was all over.

The discovery of gold was almost single-handedly responsible for the transformation of this young town into California's most dynamic 19th century city. By 1860, the city's population had increased to 56,000. The heart of the city, called Portsmouth Square, became land-locked as the bay was filled in to meet the increasingly vociferous demands for land.

Rents for property along the Square and along the water's edge were exorbitant. For instance, in 1852 a one-room basement office was rented to an attorney for \$600 a month in 1852; the average cost to rent the ground floor of an office building was between \$1,500 and \$2,500; and two-story buildings rented for \$5,000 and more per month. Today, property values in and around the Bay Area are still some of the highest in the nation.

The wealth of opportunity created by the Gold Rush was responsible for the emergence of an instant aristocracy. Few people earned permanent wealth from their personal discoveries of gold. By and large, those who became rich were merchants who supplied the miners with their much-needed equipment and supplies. Most of San Francisco's leading citizens, such as Hopkins, Stanford, Crocker and Huntington (the Big Four), made their initial fortunes by skillfully marketing to the needs of the mining community. Other individuals – such as Sutro, Fair, Flood and Ralston – did in fact grow wealthy from their mines in Nevada's Virginia City, site of the famous Comstock Lode. All of these men went on to build even greater personal fortunes, and to influence the development of San Francisco and the state through their extensive business deals.

San Francisco was the place they all chose to ostentatiously display their wealth. Nob Hill, now the location of many of San Francisco's leading hotels, was once the site of the mansions that housed the cream of San Francisco's nouveau-riche society.

## Natural Disasters

For all its phenomenal growth and prosperity, San Francisco was not without its share of catastrophes during its formative years. A series of six devastating fires raged through the nascent city between 1849 and 1851, resulting in near-total destruction. The damage, estimated at \$23 million, was staggering for a city with a population of only 50,000. Yet even the destruction caused by the fires during the boomtown period could not begin to prepare San Franciscans for the Great Earthquake of 1906.

Registering 8.25 on the Richter scale, the minute-long earthquake of April 18, 1906 released the amount of energy equal to 6 million tons of dynamite. From the population of 400,000, only 300 people were initially killed by the quake itself. It was the series of fires ignited by the quake which were responsible for the utter destruction of the city. These fires, which blazed for days, destroyed four-fifths of the city, including 28,000 buildings – leaving 250,000 people homeless. The total cost of Mother Nature's wrath topped \$350 million.

Fortuitously, San Francisco recovered to become one of the West Coast's premiere cities. The Panama Pacific International Exhibition, which honored the completion of the Panama Canal in 1915, heralded San Francisco's rebirth as a major port and commercial center.

The opening of the Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge in the 1930s linked San Francisco more conveniently to its surrounding communities. Today, only about 750,000 people actually live in San Francisco proper, yet virtually all of the more than 7 million residents of the Bay Area claim San Francisco as their home.

## 1989 Earthquake

There is of course another, much more recent earthquake that is still vividly entrenched in the collective memory of the world. On October 17, 1989, San Francisco experienced an eerie sense of *déjà-vu*. That afternoon, when the nation's attention was focused on the city's Candlestick Park to watch the World Series of Baseball, a powerful quake struck. Registering 7.1 on the Richter scale, the 1989 quake wreaked havoc across the city and served as a sobering reminder to Bay Area residents that man maintains a precarious relationship with the earth beneath him. Although some isolated areas were permanently affected, you will see little evidence of the impact of the 1989 quake during your visit to San Francisco. Earthquakes are a natural – if terrifying – phenomenon in California. In an average week, there are over 30 quakes rumbling throughout the state. They are generally so small, though, that you will most likely be unable to feel anything.

## Attractions

Resting atop a series of 43 hills at the tip of a narrow peninsula, spellbinding San Francisco is a singular marvel of only 49 square miles. Within this compact, beautiful setting, the cultural and ethnic heritage of the city has created a vibrant, diverse, friendly community. Below, you will find a listing of some of the many popular attractions San Francisco has to offer.

## Cable Cars

For most people, the name San Francisco immediately calls forth an image of a clanging cable car cresting a hill – indeed, this transportation system is virtually synonymous with the city. Developed in 1873 by Andrew Hallidie, the cable cars are now a National Historic Landmark. A ticket will take you on a charming ride over San Francisco's most famous hills. Be advised that the turnaround points on the Powell-Market line are always crowded. Outsmart the crowds by getting on the cable car at another stop in the system – otherwise, you can expect to wait up to two hours, a length of time that many feel is not justified by the ride. (A word to the wise: avoid standing behind the conductor on a cable car, as an inadvertent elbow punch may come your way during the constant moving of the operating levers.)

The Cable Car Museum and Powerhouse Viewing Gallery contains models, photos, and relics of San Francisco's earliest transport system, including the very first cable car. A video about cable cars describes how they work, and an underground viewing room enables visitors to see the enormous sheaves that guide the vehicles from under the street. Allow at least an hour to explore the Gallery.

Other forms of transportation include BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit), the underground train network; MUNI (Municipal Railway), which has electric trams; as well as buses and taxicabs. Since San Francisco is such a compact city, cab fare within the tourist district is relatively inexpensive.

## Union Square

Union Square, with its flower stands and energetic street life, is the heart of the city's downtown shopping district. It is bounded by Powell, Geary, Post, and Stockton streets. Around the square itself and extending a few blocks down each street are the luxury department stores, Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus; both are devoted primarily to apparel. At the corner of Fifth and Market streets, more than 100 boutiques and restaurants call the San Francisco Shopping Centre home.

The mall offers nine stories of vertical shopping, including a five-story Nordstrom department store; there are spiral escalators, and the 150 foot high atrium is covered by a retractable light. On Montgomery Street, you might consider a visit to the Wells Fargo History Museum, and along Geary Street, you'll find the theater district and restaurants, which cater to the late-night crowd.

## Chinatown

The center of activity in San Francisco during the Gold Rush, Chinatown is now the home of the largest Chinese community in North America. Indeed, more Chinese live in this 16-block “city within a city” than in any other place in the world outside of China and Hong Kong. Grant Avenue is the chief commercial street of the district, and is lined with tearooms, shops, temples, schools and theaters. Stockton Street is dotted with the myriad grocery stores and butcher shops catering to the tastes and needs of the residents. The first Chinese immigrants to settle here, near Portsmouth Square, were fleeing the opium wars and famine of their homeland. By 1850, there were 4,000 men (and 7 women!) in the community, most of whom had been lured by the Gold Rush.

Today, Chinatown is home to almost all of the 80,000 Chinese Americans living in the Bay Area.

In the 1860s Charles Crocker was responsible for importing Chinese laborers to assist with the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad. These workers, willing to work for relatively low wages (about \$30-35 per month in gold), were referred to as “Crocker’s pets.” Over 10,000 Chinese men were used for the back-breaking work. The term coolie comes from the Cantonese “Ku Li” meaning bitter toil.

In the 1870s, Chinatown had a complete monopoly on two industries: cigar making, with 3,500 workers and an annual revenue of \$4 million, and garment production. In these industries, as in others, many American workers were displaced because of the willingness of the Chinese to work for half the salary demanded by white workers.

Soak up the city’s Asian heritage, dating from the boomtown days, on a stroll through this historical town. A walk along both Grant Avenue and Stockton Street is necessary to appreciate the full diversity of this community. The Chinese Cultural Center is a good source of information about Chinatown, and displays Chinese art.

## Fisherman’s Wharf

The picturesque waterfront along San Francisco Bay is lined with four distinctly different shopping areas, each of which offers a variety of shops, restaurants and entertainment. Strolling from Pier 39 to Fisherman’s Wharf, The Cannery, and Ghirardelli Square can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 30 days, depending on how many attractions divert your attention! You will encounter lively street entertainers, artwork vendors, souvenir shops, and a variety of colorful characters along the way. In addition, it is possible to taste the fresh bounty of the sea you see before you, sold both in outdoor stands and in the many fine seafood restaurants, while you take in the sights, smells and sounds of The Wharf. Fresh sourdough bread and Ghirardelli chocolate are other favorite buys. Of interest are Ripley’s Believe It Or Not! Museum, and the Wax Museum.

If you tire of walking, ferry boats can provide tours of San Francisco Bay or tours to Alcatraz Island (boats to Alcatraz depart from Pier 33 at Fisherman’s Wharf). Named for its many pelicans (alcatrazes in Spanish) Alcatraz is a former maximum security penitentiary that once held such notorious criminals as Al Capone, Machine Gun Kelly, and Robert Stroud - “The Birdman of Alcatraz.” A self-guiding trail, cellblock tour, and slide show are available. Please note: visitors are strongly advised to purchase tickets to Alcatraz in advance, particularly during the busier summer months.

## Telegraph Hill

Topped by a park, Telegraph Hill rises near the east end of Lombard Street and provides a spectacular view. A popular attraction here is Coit Tower, a memorial to San Francisco’s volunteer firefighters, built in the shape of a fire hose nozzle.

Spread around panoramic Telegraph Hill – along Columbus Avenue and down to the waterfront – you’ll find the Italian community of North Beach. As in Chinatown, there are residents here who have passed their whole lives without ever learning the English language. Enough of the services provided here are in

Italian, rendering the use of English largely unnecessary. North Beach is noted for its art galleries, bookshops, restaurants, and casual ambiance.

## **Nob Hill**

The name "Nob" is probably a derivation of the word nabob, connoting a wealthy person. In the vicinity of California, Sacramento, Jones and Taylor streets, this hill was once known as the "Hill of Golden Promise" because the men who had made their fortunes in gold mining and railroading built their houses in this area. Indeed, in the latter half of the 19th century, Nob Hill was home to the most flamboyant millionaires of San Francisco – among them, Charles Crocker, Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford, Colis P. Huntington (the Big Four) – as well as James Flood and James Fair (one half of the quartet known as the Silver Barons.)

The first home was built on Nob Hill in 1865, at the present site of the Fairmont Hotel. Access to the hill was limited due to the steep grade, but with the advent of the cable car in 1873, the uphill flow of money was facilitated. The wealthy set abandoned the comparatively inferior Rincon Hill, their former stomping grounds, in exchange for the exclusive loveliness of Nob Hill. Today, elegant apartment buildings and stylish hotels occupy the hilltop.

## **The Mark Hopkins Hotel**

The Mark Hopkins Hotel opened in 1927 on the site of the former Mark Hopkins "Stick Victorian" family mansion. The home had been built as an indulgence of the whims of Mrs. Hopkins, who lived there following the death of her husband in 1873.

Mark Hopkins sold hardware and dry goods in his store during the Gold Rush, and built his fortune by skillfully marketing his supplies to the influx of miners. Hopkins was a member of the Big Four, that group of men who significantly influenced the political and commercial development of California (and grew significantly rich in the process!).

Upon Mrs. Hopkins's death in 1893, the home was donated to the San Francisco Art Institute, which used the facility until the destructive earthquake and fire of 1906. After the quake, the land was sold and the institute, which was the first art school west of the Mississippi when it open in 1874, relocated to its present home on Chestnut Street.

The hotel's famous roof-top cocktail lounge, The Top of the Mark, opened in 1936. This sophisticated spot for dining and dancing was the first location to have a 360-degree panoramic view of the City by the Bay.

## **The Fairmont**

On Nob Hill, the upper crust frequent the elegant Fairmont Hotel. The entrance and luxurious lobby will be immediately recognized by anyone who has ever seen the long-running television program "Hotel." A ride in the hotel's outdoor glass elevator to the Fairmont Crown provides a sublime view of the city.

The Fairmont - the very first home on Nob Hill - was built by Dr. Arthur Hayne in 1865. James Fair bought the original property, but the person responsible for its 20th century fame is Mrs. Herman Fair Oelrichs (known by locals as Tessie), who built the present structure to honor her late father, Senator James Fair.

## **Golden Gate Bridge**

Completed in 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge was the world's longest single-span suspension bridge for nearly 40 years. This most distinctively Californian of landmarks remains one of the most popular attractions in San Francisco. Spanning the narrow entry to the Bay, known as the "Golden Gate," the bridge is 8,981 feet long. Its two massive towers are the world's highest bridge towers, at 746 feet above the water. The roadbed is suspended 260 feet above the water by cables over 36 inches thick.

A clearance of 220 feet allows passage of the very largest of oceangoing vessels. A crew of painters constantly maintains the bridge's characteristic coat of "international orange."

During its 50th anniversary in 1997, over 700,000 people walked over the bridge to celebrate the milestone. There are viewpoints at the southern approach to the bridge, and on the north side as well. You should plan to make a visit to both viewpoints, if traffic permits. The popularity of the bridge makes the parking spaces at the south end difficult to obtain. Please note: a toll of \$7 is charged southbound; northbound is free.

## Golden Gate Park

Golden Gate Park is a 1,017-acre oasis filled with diverse recreational opportunities. John McLaren, a Scottish landscape gardener, transformed what was previously a barren wasteland into this lush park with a dozen artificial lakes, a collection of trees, a flower garden, and other foliage of worldwide scope. Among the park's many attractions are a Dutch-style windmill, a bison paddock, a restored 1912 carousel, a Japanese tea garden, tennis courts, an archery field, a polo field, and an outdoor music concourse, which holds concerts year round. In addition to the California Academy of Sciences (home to an aquarium with a coral reef, a planetarium, and platform which simulates earthquakes) and the De Young Art Museum, you can visit Portals of the Past, a remnant of the Great Quake of 1906.

## San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge

The Bay Bridge spans San Francisco Bay and links San Francisco with the East Bay cities, including Oakland. Completed in 1936 at a cost of \$74 million, this bridge is commonly mistaken for the Golden Gate Bridge, due to the view it offers of San Francisco from the upper deck. Including approaches, it is 8.4 miles long, 4.5 of which are over navigable water.

The east and west spans are connected by a double-deck tunnel through Yerba Buena Island. The western half of the bridge is a suspension span. The eastern portion is a cantilever section. It was a portion of the upper deck of the cantilever section that collapsed during the October 1989 earthquake. Please note: a toll is charged westbound only.

The two sections of the bridge are connected to Yerba Buena Island, located in the middle of the bay. Adjacent to Yerba Buena Island is Treasure Island, a man-made island constructed for the 1939 World's Fair. The sweeping view of San Francisco's skyline from Treasure Island is spectacular, particularly at night. Many visitors feel that it is worth the trip to the island just to see the view.

## San Francisco – Departure

Today is the final day of your Drive America Tour. During the last weeks, you have thoroughly explored the beauty and mystery of the United States. We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed your introduction to what is one of the most enduringly popular regions in the country.

In addition to this tour, ATI offers a variety of two and three-week Drive America Tours throughout the continental United States, as well as Hawaii and Canada. Contact your local travel agent for information regarding the tours available for next season.

As a valued client, your opinion of this tour is important to us. We would appreciate any suggestions you might have regarding the itinerary, commentary, quality and value of the tour all of which will assist us in meeting the needs of our future clients. It has been our genuine pleasure to share the manifest wonders of America with you, and we look forward to the opportunity of serving you again.

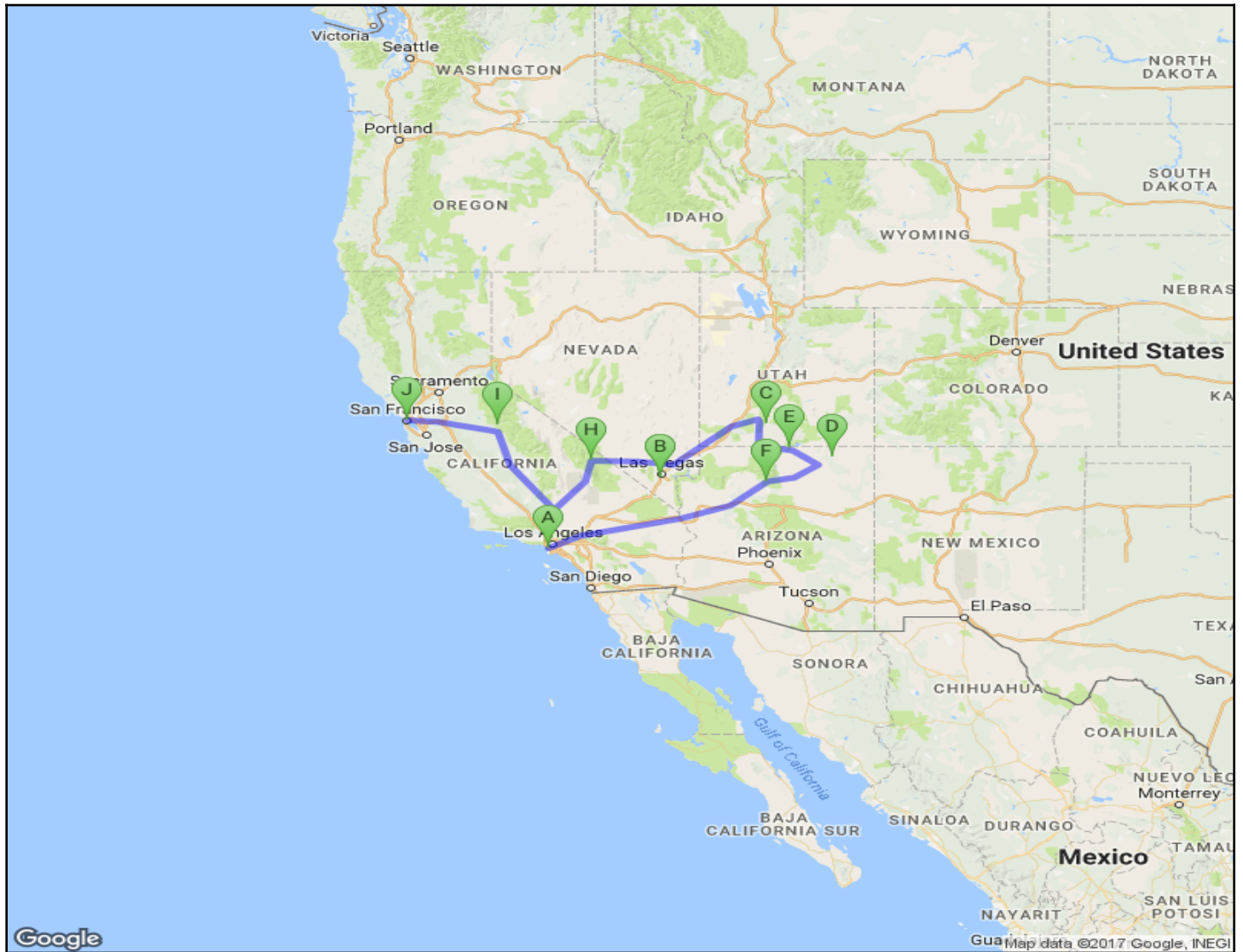
# MAPS & VOUCHERS







# Overview



## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

**A:** Crowne Plaza Los Angeles Airport

**C:** Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn

**E:** Lake Powell Resort

**G:** Harrah's Las Vegas

**I:** Cedar Lodge

**B:** Harrah's Las Vegas

**D:** Kayenta Monument Valley Inn

**F:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon

**H:** Stovepipe Wells Village

**J:** Holiday Inn San Francisco - Golden Gateway



# Hotel List



## Hotel List

### Room: Guests:

1 Graham Humphrey (primary)  
Ditte Onvlee



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

DAY

1

### Crowne Plaza Los Angeles Airport

5985 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Phone: +1 (310) 642-7500

**Room:** Standard Room [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017

DAY

2

### Harrah's Las Vegas

3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109  
Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000

**Room:** Carnival Room, 1 King, Non-Smoking-Great rates,  
price includes daily resort fee [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Saturday, May 13, 2017

DAY

3-4

### Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn

26 South Main Street, Bryce Canyon, UT 84764  
Phone: +1 (435) 834-5341

**Room:** Standard Room (PROMO) [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Saturday, May 13, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017

DAY

5

### Kayenta Monument Valley Inn

Junction U.S. Highway 160 & 163, Kayenta, AZ 86033  
Phone: +1 (928) 697-3221

**Room:** Standard Room [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017

DAY

6

### Lake Powell Resort

100 Lake Shore Drive, Page, AZ 86040  
Phone: +1 (928) 645-2433

**Room:** Traditional Room [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017

DAY

7-8

### Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon

226 Highway 64, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023  
Phone: +1 (928) 638-3000

**Room:** Standard Room with Complimentary Buffet Breakfast  
[As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Wednesday, May 17, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Friday, May 19, 2017

DAY

9

### Harrah's Las Vegas

3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109  
Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000

**Room:** Mardi Gras Room, 2 Queen, Strip View, Non-Smoking-  
Great rates. price includes daily resort fee [As

**Check-In Date:** Friday, May 19, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Saturday, May 20, 2017

DAY

10

### Stovepipe Wells Village

Highway 190, Death Valley, CA 92328  
Phone: +1 (760) 786-2387

**Room:** Standard Room [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Saturday, May 20, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Sunday, May 21, 2017

DAY

11-12

### Cedar Lodge

9966 Highway 140, El Portal, CA 95318  
Phone: +1 (209) 379-2612

**Room:** Standard Room [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Sunday, May 21, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017

\* Special requests will be submitted to the hotel along with your reservation if the hotel's technology supports it. However, requests are not guaranteed and may not be available in the room type or room rate reserved. Some of the requests may result in an extra charge payable directly to the hotel.

**For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942**

# Hotel List



Hotel List

**Room: Guests:**

1 Graham Humphrey (primary)  
Ditte Onvlee



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

DAY

13

**Holiday Inn San Francisco - Golden Gateway**

1500 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: +1 (415) 441-4000

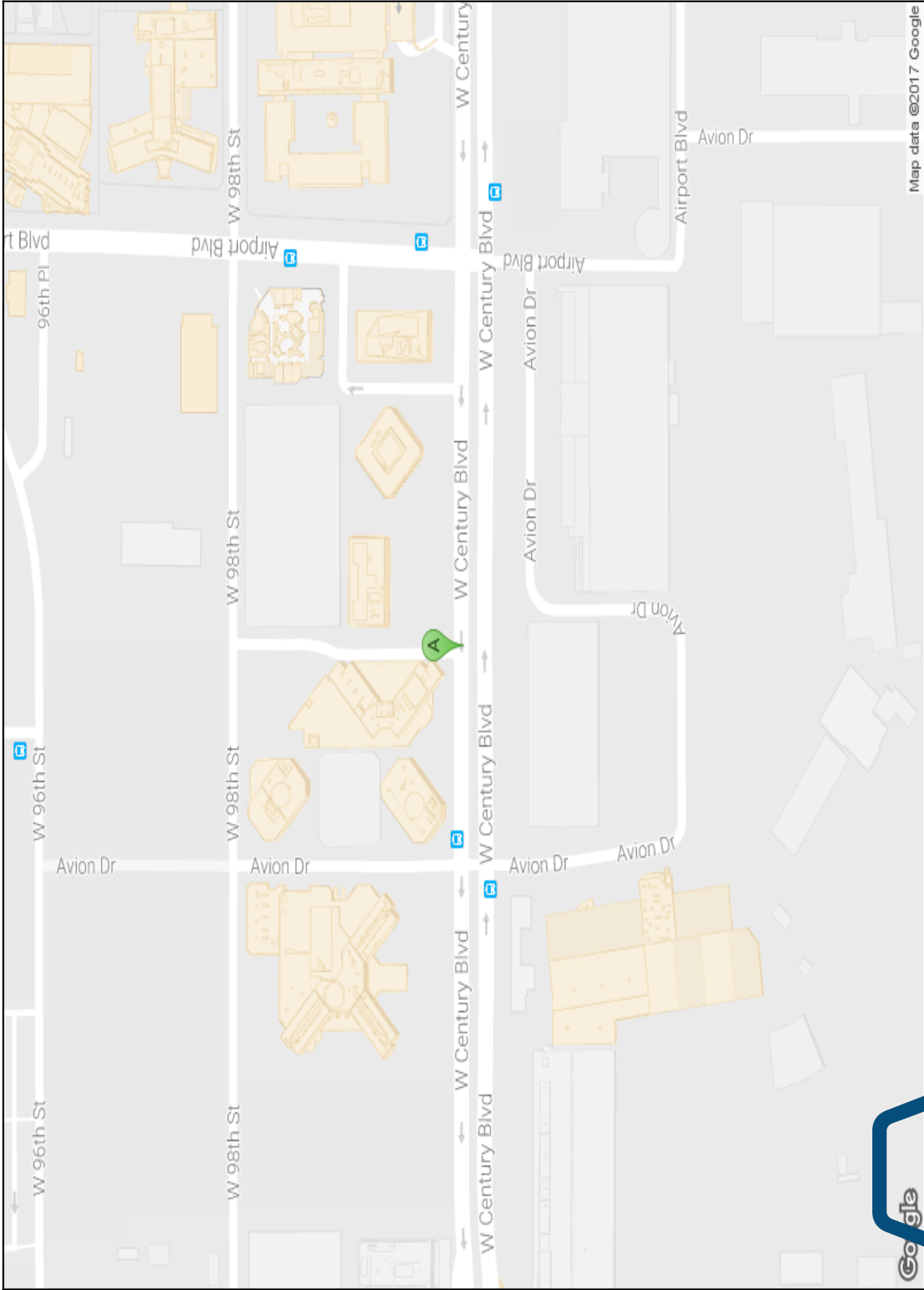
**Room:** Standard Room [As Requested]

**Check-In Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2017

**Check-Out Date:** Wednesday, May 24, 2017

\* Special requests will be submitted to the hotel along with your reservation if the hotel's technology supports it. However, requests are not guaranteed and may not be available in the room type or room rate reserved. Some of the requests may result in an extra charge payable directly to the hotel.

**For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942**



A: Crowne Plaza Los Angeles Airport • 5985 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045 • Phone: +1 (310) 642-7500



May 11, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

## Crowne Plaza Los Angeles Airport

5985 West Century Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Phone: +1 (310) 642-7500



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

### RESERVATION INFORMATION - 1 night

Check-In Date: May 11, 2017

Check-Out Date: May 12, 2017

Room Description: Standard Room [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

Crowne Plaza Los Angeles Airport's Reservation #: 64171421

\* Check-In Time After: 3:00 pm

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 12:00 pm

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

### HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

All other charges (in-room movies, food and beverage, parking fees, incidentals, etc.) should be charged to the guest directly. Please create two (2) separate folios for the guest's stay and bill the room and tax portion to ATI where direct billing privileges exist or charge the credit card number provided in advance by ATI and located in your PMS reservation, as appropriate.

Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

### PASSENGER INFORMATION

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

\* Check-in and check-out times may vary from hotel to hotel, please check with Front Desk.

For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



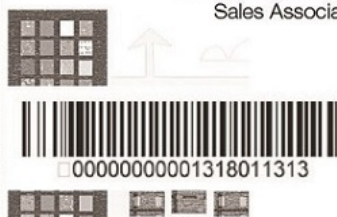
# 10% OFF

Regular, sale & clearance-priced merchandise with very few exceptions\*

## Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

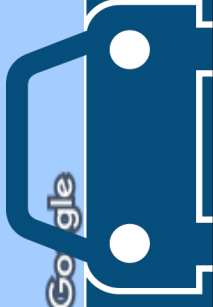
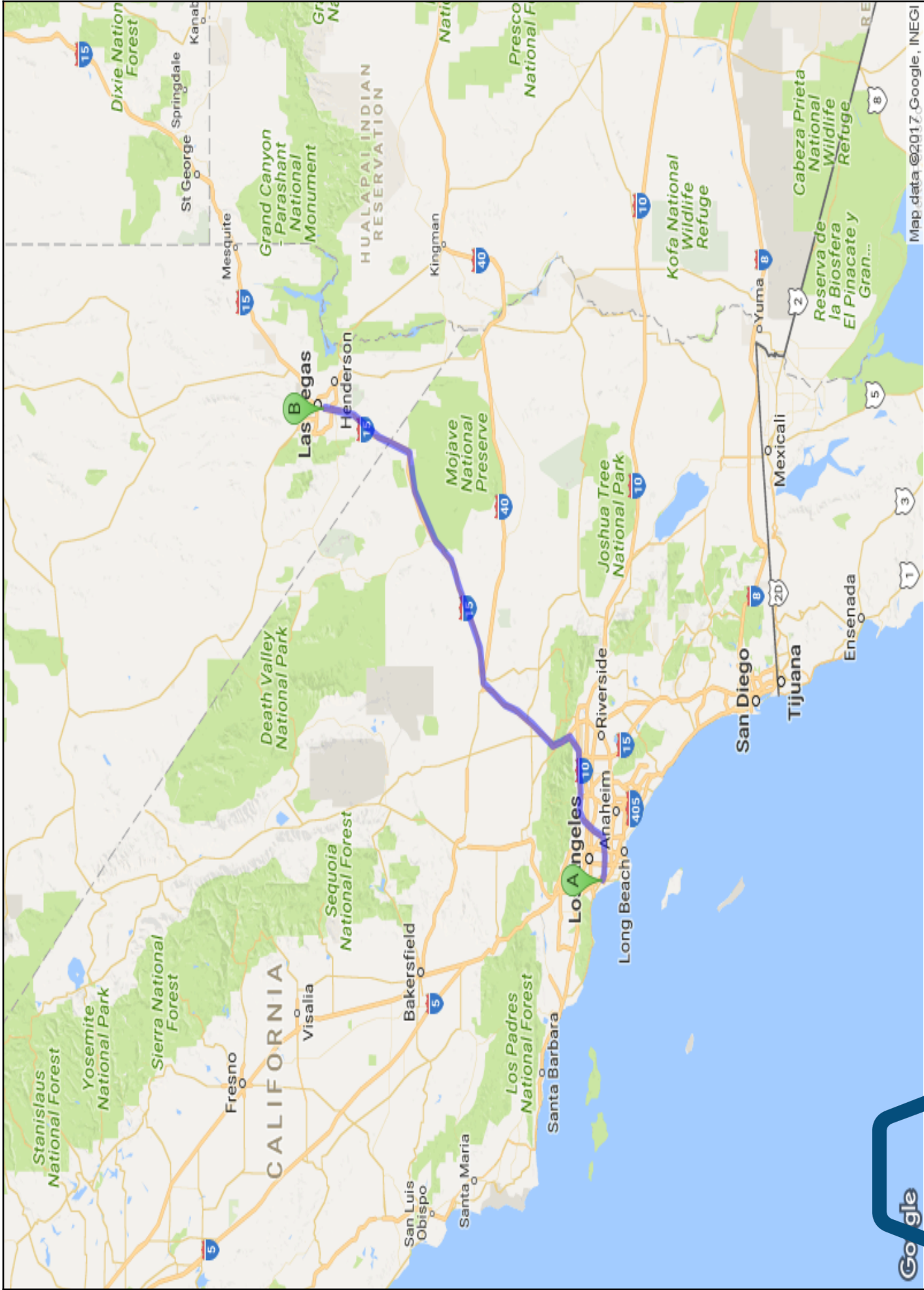
As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.









# DAY 1

From A: Crowne Plaza Los Angeles Airport • 5985 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045 • Phone: +1 (310) 642-7500

To B: Harrah's Las Vegas • 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109 • Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000



## DAY 1

## Step by Step Directions

282 mi - about 4 hours 12 mins

Start At: Crowne Plaza Los Angeles Airport

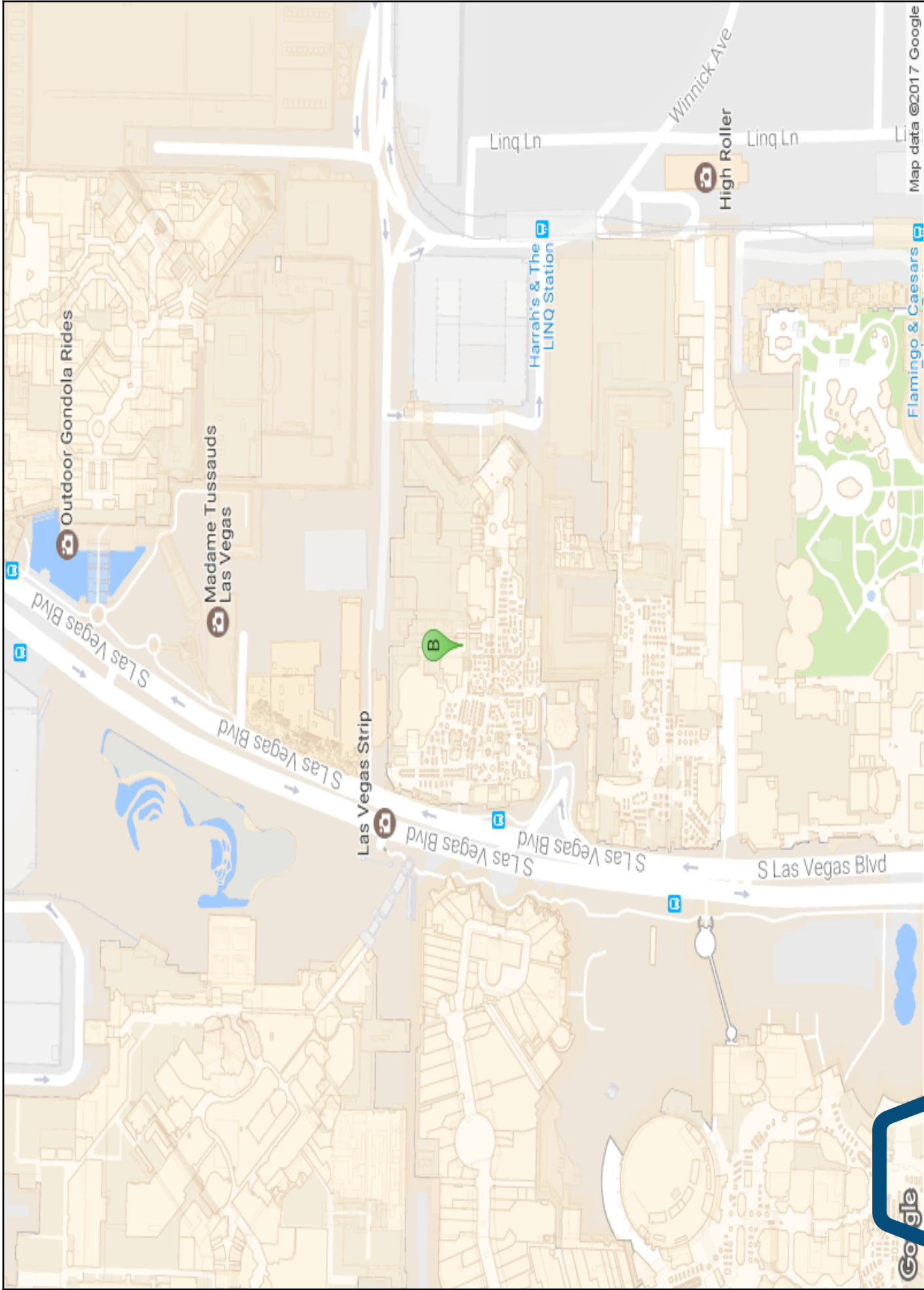
1. Head **west** on **W Century Blvd** toward **Avion Dr**
2. Slight **right** to stay on **W Century Blvd**
3. Turn **left** onto **S Sepulveda Blvd**
4. Take the **I-105 E** ramp
5. Keep **left**, follow signs for **Interstate 105 E/Norwalk** and merge onto **I-105 E**
6. Take exit **18** for **I-605**
7. Keep **left** at the fork, follow signs for **Interstate 605 N**
8. Keep **left**, follow signs for **I-605 N** and merge onto **I-605 N**
9. Take exit **27A** to merge onto **I-210 E/Foothill Fwy** toward **Foothill Fwy/San Bernardino**
10. Continue onto **CA-210/Foothill Fwy**
11. Take exit **64A** toward **Barstow**
12. Merge onto **I-15 N**
13. Keep **left** to stay on **I-15 N**, follow signs for **Barstow**
14. Keep **left** at the fork to stay on **I-15 N** Entering Nevada
15. Take exit **38** for **Flamingo Road**
16. Keep **right** at the fork, follow signs for **East Flamingo Road/E Flamingo Rd E** and merge onto **Dunes Rd/W Flamingo Rd** Continue to follow W Flamingo Rd
17. Turn **left** onto **Linq Ln**
18. Turn **left** toward **Krueger Dr**
19. Turn **right** onto **Krueger Dr**
20. Turn **left** Partial restricted usage road

Arrive At: Harrah's Las Vegas

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### Map Disclaimer:

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Map data ©2017 Google

## DAY 2

B: Harrah's Las Vegas • 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109 • Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000





May 12, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

### Harrah's Las Vegas

3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

#### RESERVATION INFORMATION - 1 night

Check-In Date: May 12, 2017

Check-Out Date: May 13, 2017

Room Description: Carnival Room, 1 King, Non-Smoking-Great rates, price includes daily resort fee [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

\* Check-In Time After: 4:00 pm

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 11:00 am

Harrah's Las Vegas's Reservation #: 28565354

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

#### HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

All other charges (in-room movies, food and beverage, parking fees, incidentals, etc.) should be charged to the guest directly. Please create two (2) separate folios for the guest's stay and bill the room and tax portion to ATI where direct billing privileges exist or charge the credit card number provided in advance by ATI and located in your PMS reservation, as appropriate.

Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

#### PASSENGER INFORMATION

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

\* Check-in and check-out times may vary from hotel to hotel, please check with Front Desk.

For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



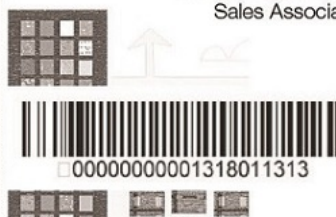
# 10% OFF

Regular, sale & clearance-priced merchandise with very few exceptions\*

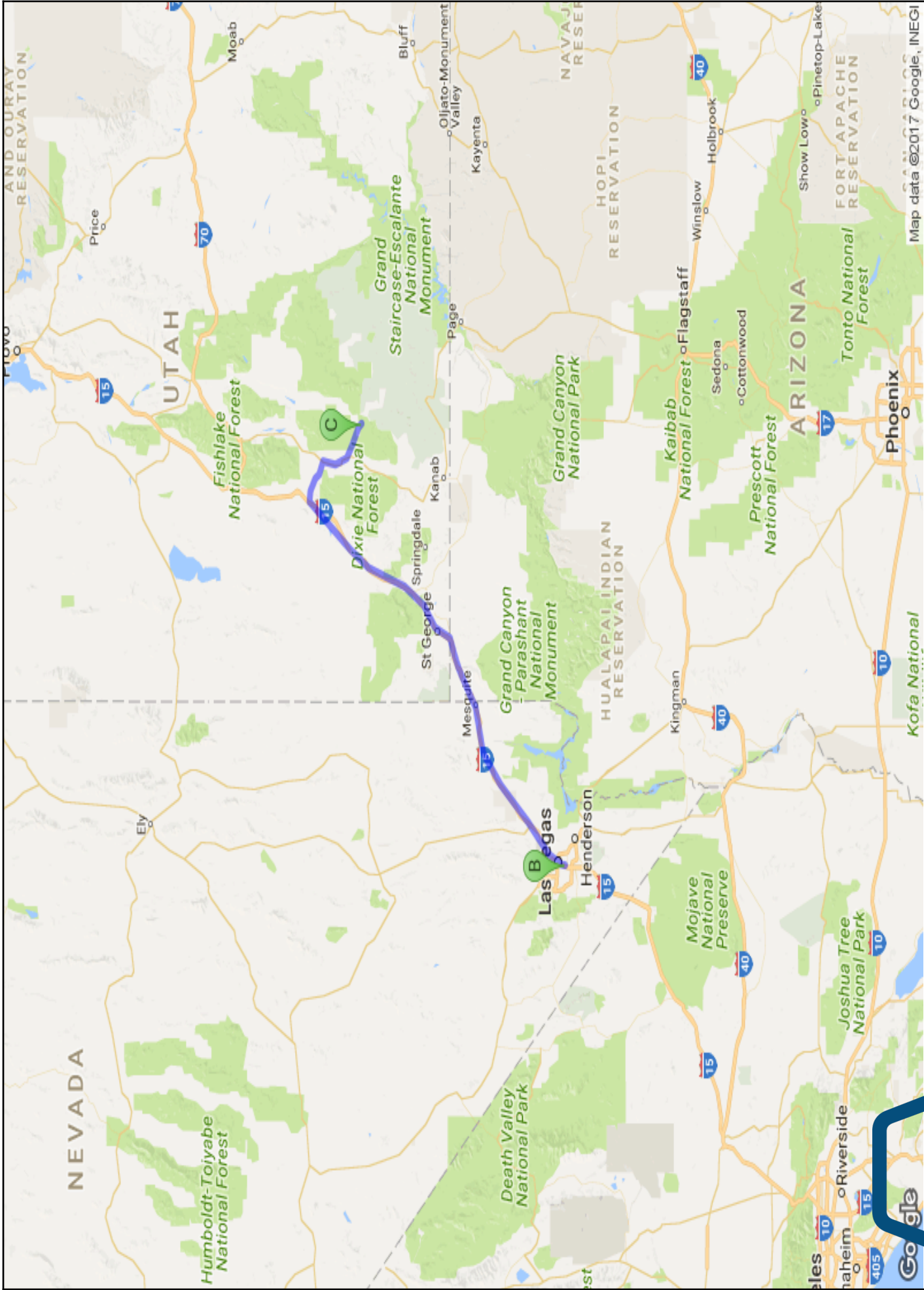
## Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.







From B: Harrah's Las Vegas • 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109 • Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000  
To C: Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn • 26 South Main Street, Bryce Canyon, UT 84764 • Phone: +1 (435) 834-5341

# DAY 2



## DAY 2

## Step by Step Directions

262 mi - about 4 hours 0 mins

Start At: Harrah's Las Vegas

1. Head **east** toward **Krueger Dr** Partial restricted usage road
2. Turn **left** onto **Krueger Dr**
3. Turn **left** onto **S Koval Ln**
4. Turn **left** onto **Sands Ave**
5. Continue onto **Spring Mountain Rd**
6. Merge onto **I-15 N** via the ramp to **Salt Lake City** Passing through Arizona Entering Utah
7. Take exit **95** for **UT-20** toward **US-89/Panguitch/Circleville**
8. Turn **right** onto **UT-20 E**
9. Turn **right** onto **US-89 S**
10. Turn **left** onto **US-89 S/E Center St** Continue to follow US-89 S
11. Turn **left** onto **UT-12 E**
12. Turn **right** onto **UT-63 S**
13. Turn **right** onto **Center St** Destination will be on the left

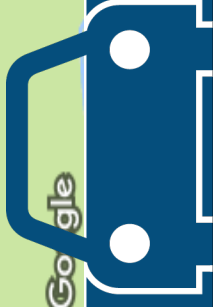
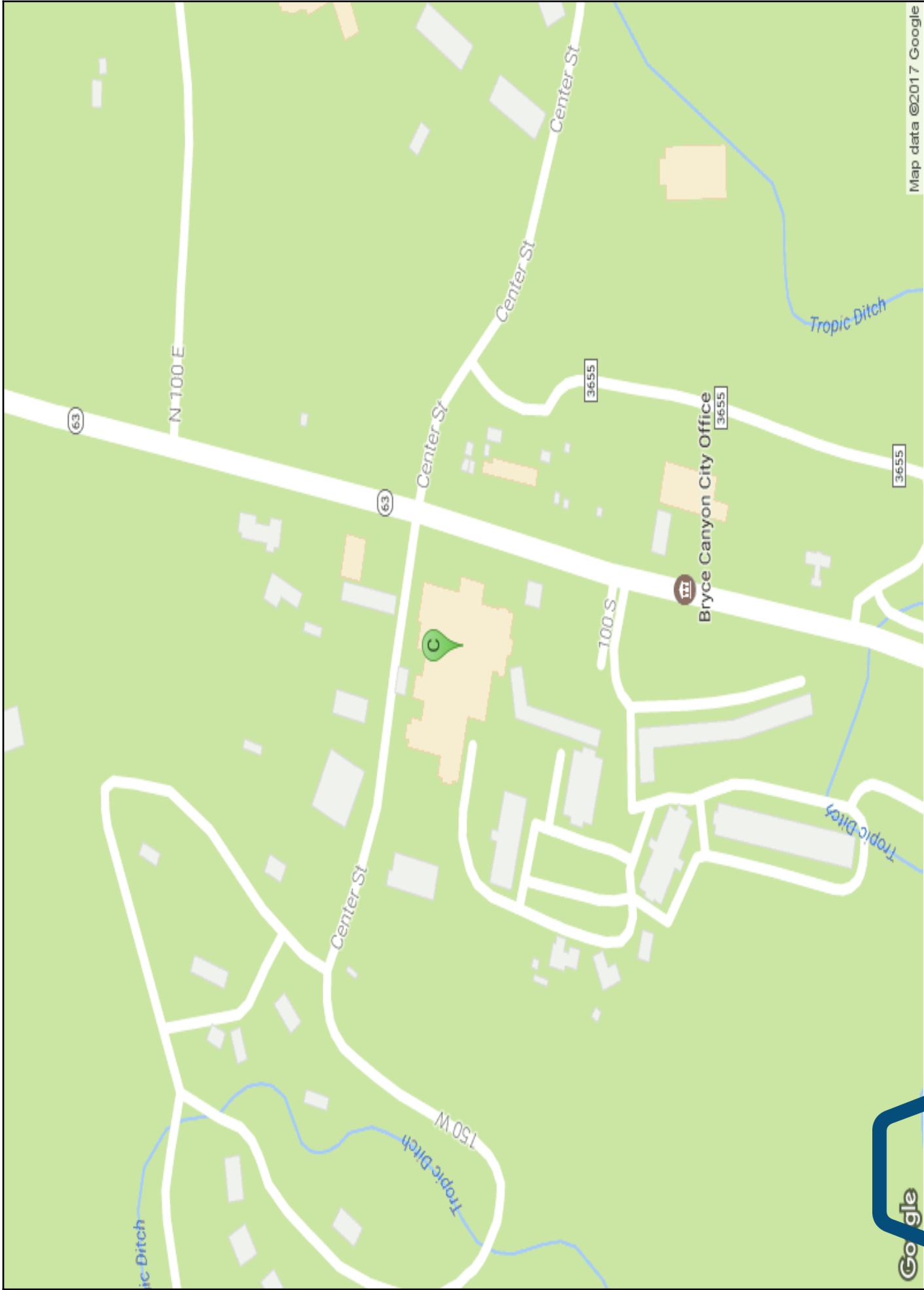
Arrive At: Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn

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Google

# DAY 3-4

C: Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn • 26 South Main Street, Bryce Canyon, UT 84764 • Phone: +1 (435) 834-5341

Map data ©2017 Google



May 13, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

### Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn

26 South Main Street  
Bryce Canyon, UT 84764  
Phone: +1 (435) 834-5341



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

#### RESERVATION INFORMATION - 2 nights

Check-In Date: May 13, 2017

\* Check-In Time After: 3:00 pm

Check-Out Date: May 15, 2017

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 11:00 am

Room Description: Standard Room (PROMO) [As Requested]

Passenger Instructions: This booking must not be placed in Rooms 7106, 7126, 7156, 7507, 7520, 7357, 7306.

Special Requests: High Floor

Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn's Reservation #: 5643172

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

#### HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

All other charges (in-room movies, food and beverage, parking fees, incidentals, etc.) should be charged to the guest directly. Please create two (2) separate folios for the guest's stay and bill the room and tax portion to ATI where direct billing privileges exist or charge the credit card number provided in advance by ATI and located in your PMS reservation, as appropriate.

Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

#### PASSENGER INFORMATION

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

\* Check-in and check-out times may vary from hotel to hotel, please check with Front Desk.

For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



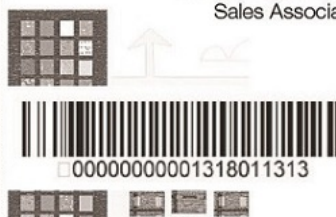
# 10% OFF

Regular, sale & clearance-priced merchandise with very few exceptions\*

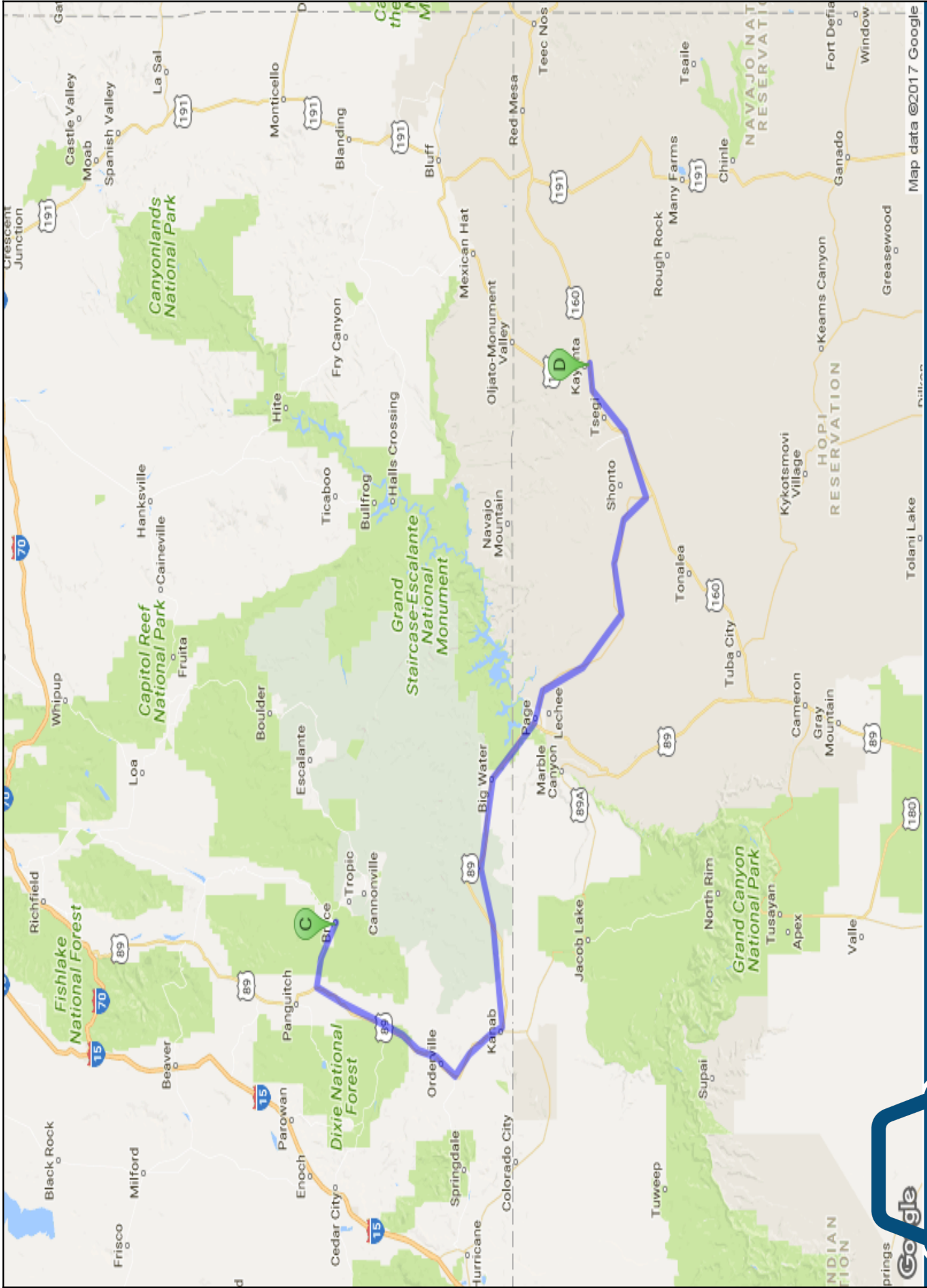
## Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.







From C: Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn • 26 South Main Street, Bryce Canyon, UT 84764 • Phone: +1 (435) 834-5341  
To D: Kayenta Monument Valley Inn • Junction U.S. Highway 160 & 163, Kayenta, AZ 86033 • Phone: +1 (928) 697-3221



# DAY 3-4



**DAY 3-4**

## **Step by Step Directions**

249 mi - about 4 hours 5 mins

Start At: Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn

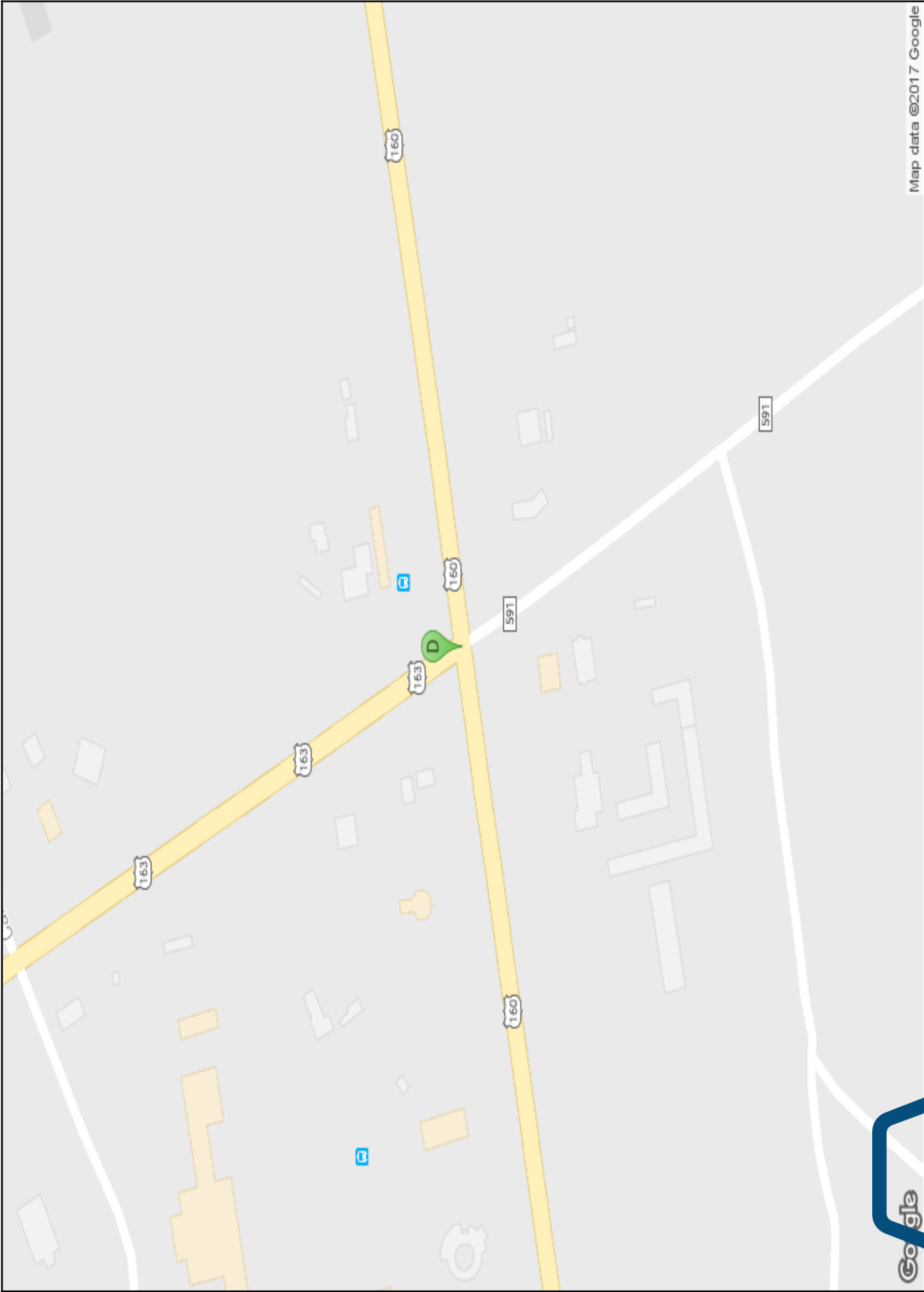
1. Head **east** on **Center St** toward **UT-63 N**
2. Turn **left** at the 1st cross street onto **UT-63 N**
3. Turn **left** onto **UT-12 W**
4. Turn **left** onto **US-89 S**
5. Turn **left** onto **US-89 S/E 300 S** Continue to follow US-89 S Entering Arizona
6. At the traffic circle, take the **2nd** exit onto **US-89**
7. Turn **left** onto **AZ-98 E**
8. Turn **left** onto **US-160 E**

Arrive At: Kayenta Monument Valley Inn

---

### **Map Disclaimer:**

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# DAY 5

D: Kayenta Monument Valley Inn • Junction U.S. Highway 160 & 163, Kayenta, AZ 86033 • Phone: +1 (928) 697-3221





May 15, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

### Kayenta Monument Valley Inn

Junction U.S. Highway 160 & 163

Kayenta, AZ 86033

Phone: +1 (928) 697-3221



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

#### RESERVATION INFORMATION - 1 night

Check-In Date: May 15, 2017

Check-Out Date: May 16, 2017

Room Description: Standard Room [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

\* Check-In Time After: 3:00 pm

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 12:00 pm

Kayenta Monument Valley Inn's Reservation #: 3286944

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

#### HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

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Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

#### PASSENGER INFORMATION

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

\* Check-in and check-out times may vary from hotel to hotel, please check with Front Desk.

For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



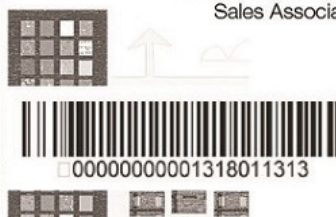
# 10% OFF

Regular, sale & clearance-priced merchandise with very few exceptions\*

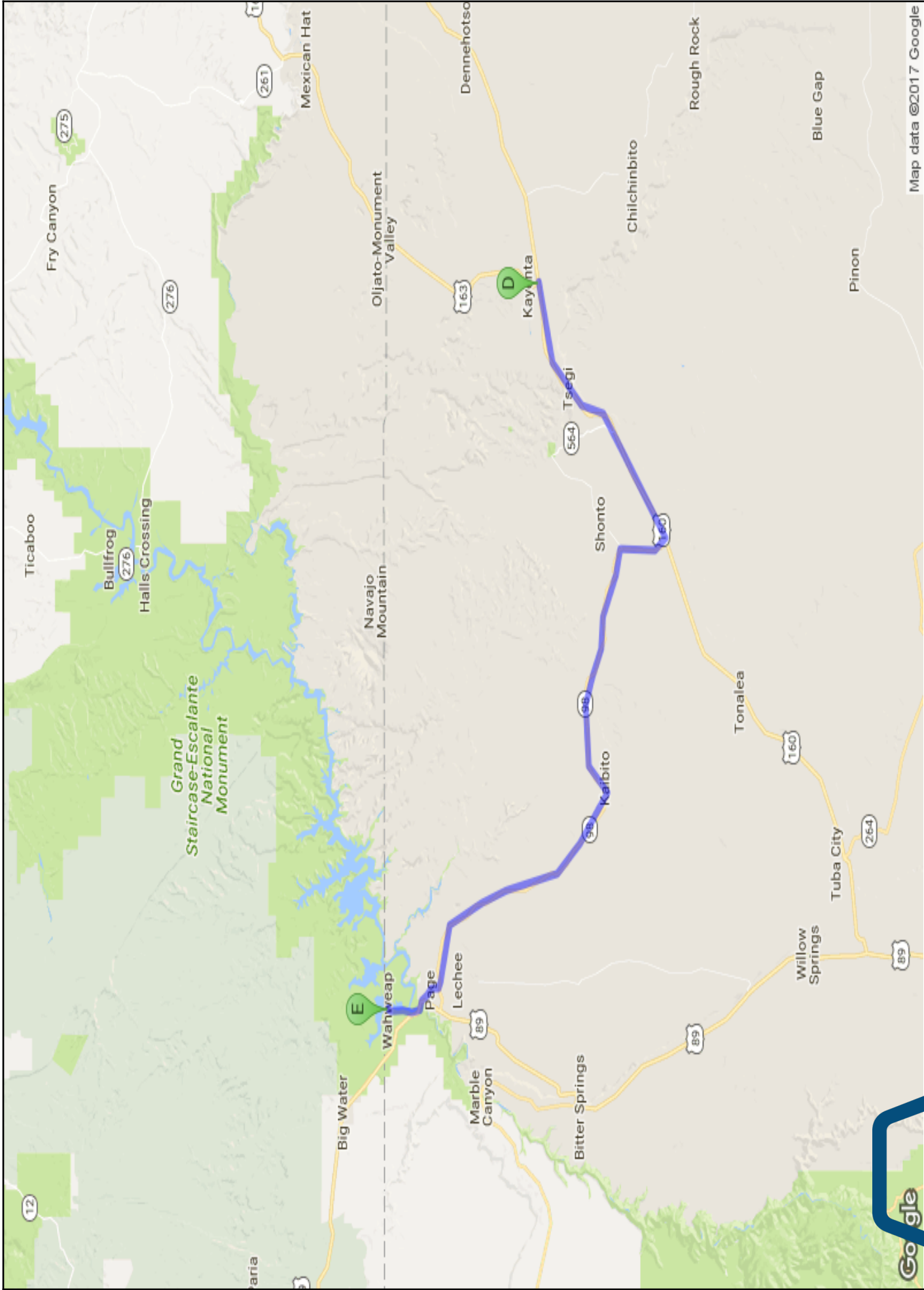
## Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.







# DAY 5

From D: Kayenta Monument Valley Inn • Junction U.S. Highway 160 & 163, Kayenta, AZ 86033 • Phone: +1 (928) 697-3221

To E: Lake Powell Resort • 100 Lake Shore Drive, Page, AZ 86040 • Phone: +1 (928) 645-2433



**DAY 5**

## Step by Step Directions

106 mi - about 1 hour 47 mins

Start At: Kayenta Monument Valley Inn

1. Head **west** on **US-160 W**
2. Turn **right** onto **AZ-98 W**
3. Turn **right** onto **Coppermine Rd**
4. Turn **right** onto **S Lake Powell Blvd**
5. Keep **right** to continue toward **US-89**
6. Continue straight onto **US-89**
7. Turn **right** onto **Wahweap Blvd**
8. **Wahweap Blvd** turns slightly **right** and becomes **Lake Shore Dr**
9. Turn **right** onto **Wahweap Blvd**
10. Turn **left**
11. Continue straight Destination will be on the left

Arrive At: Lake Powell Resort

---

### Map Disclaimer:

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Map data ©2017 Google

E: Lake Powell Resort • 100 Lake Shore Drive, Page, AZ 86040 • Phone: +1 (928) 645-2433



DAY 6



May 16, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

**Lake Powell Resort**

100 Lake Shore Drive  
Page, AZ 86040  
Phone: +1 (928) 645-2433



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

**RESERVATION INFORMATION - 1 night**

Check-In Date: May 16, 2017

Check-Out Date: May 17, 2017

Room Description: Traditional Room [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

\* Check-In Time After: 3:00 pm

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 11:00 am

Lake Powell Resort's Reservation #: 15422W

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

**HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS**

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Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

**PASSENGER INFORMATION**

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

\* Check-in and check-out times may vary from hotel to hotel, please check with Front Desk.

For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



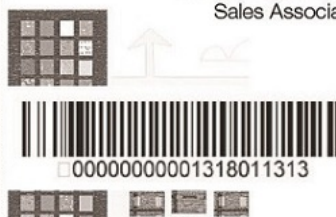
**10% OFF**

Regular, sale & clearance-priced merchandise with very few exceptions\*

Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

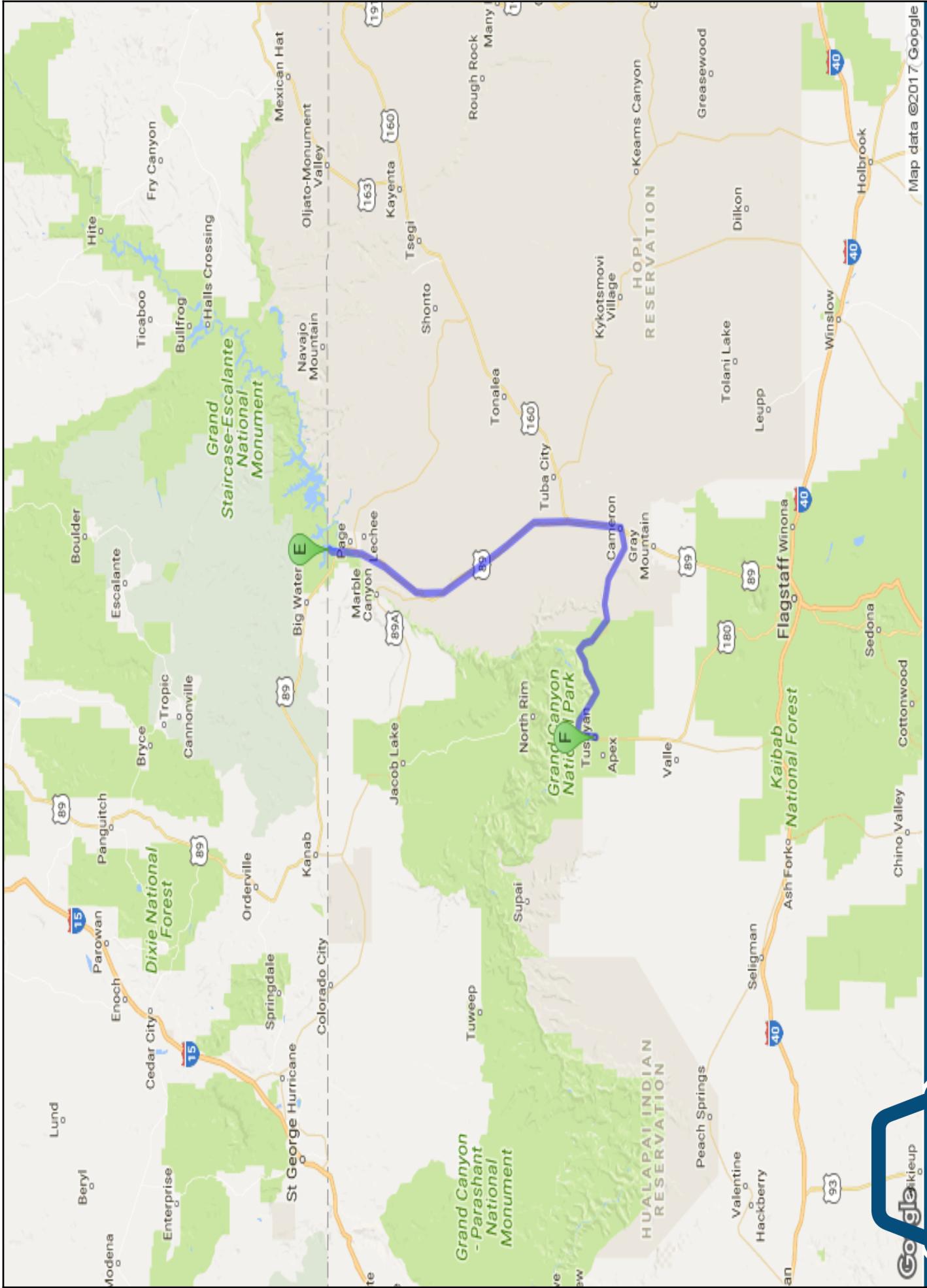
As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.









From E: Lake Powell Resort • 100 Lake Shore Drive, Page, AZ 86040 • Phone: +1 (928) 645-2433

To F: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon • 226 Highway 64, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 • Phone: +1 (928) 638-3000

# DAY 6



**DAY 6**

## Step by Step Directions

148 mi - about 2 hours 44 mins

Start At: Lake Powell Resort

1. Head **west** toward **Wahweap Blvd**
2. Turn **right** onto **Wahweap Blvd**
3. Turn **left** onto **Lake Shore Dr**
4. Continue onto **Wahweap Blvd**
5. Turn **left** onto **US-89 S**
6. At the traffic circle, take the **2nd** exit onto **US-89**
7. At the traffic circle, take the **1st** exit onto **AZ-64 W/Desert View Dr**  
Continue to follow AZ-64 W
8. At the traffic circle, take the **1st** exit onto **AZ-64 S**
9. Turn **right** onto **RP Dr**
10. Turn **left** Destination will be on the right

Arrive At: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon

---

### Map Disclaimer:

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# DAY 7-8

F: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon • 226 Highway 64, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 • Phone: +1 (928) 638-3000

Map data ©2017 Google



May 17, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

### Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand

226 Highway 64  
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023  
Phone: +1 (928) 638-3000



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

#### RESERVATION INFORMATION - 2 nights

Check-In Date: May 17, 2017

Check-Out Date: May 19, 2017

Room Description: Standard Room with Complimentary Buffet Breakfast [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon's Reservation #: 67996857

\* Check-In Time After: 4:00 pm

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 11:00 am

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

#### HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

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Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

#### PASSENGER INFORMATION

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

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For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



# 10% OFF

Regular, sale & clearance-priced merchandise with very few exceptions\*

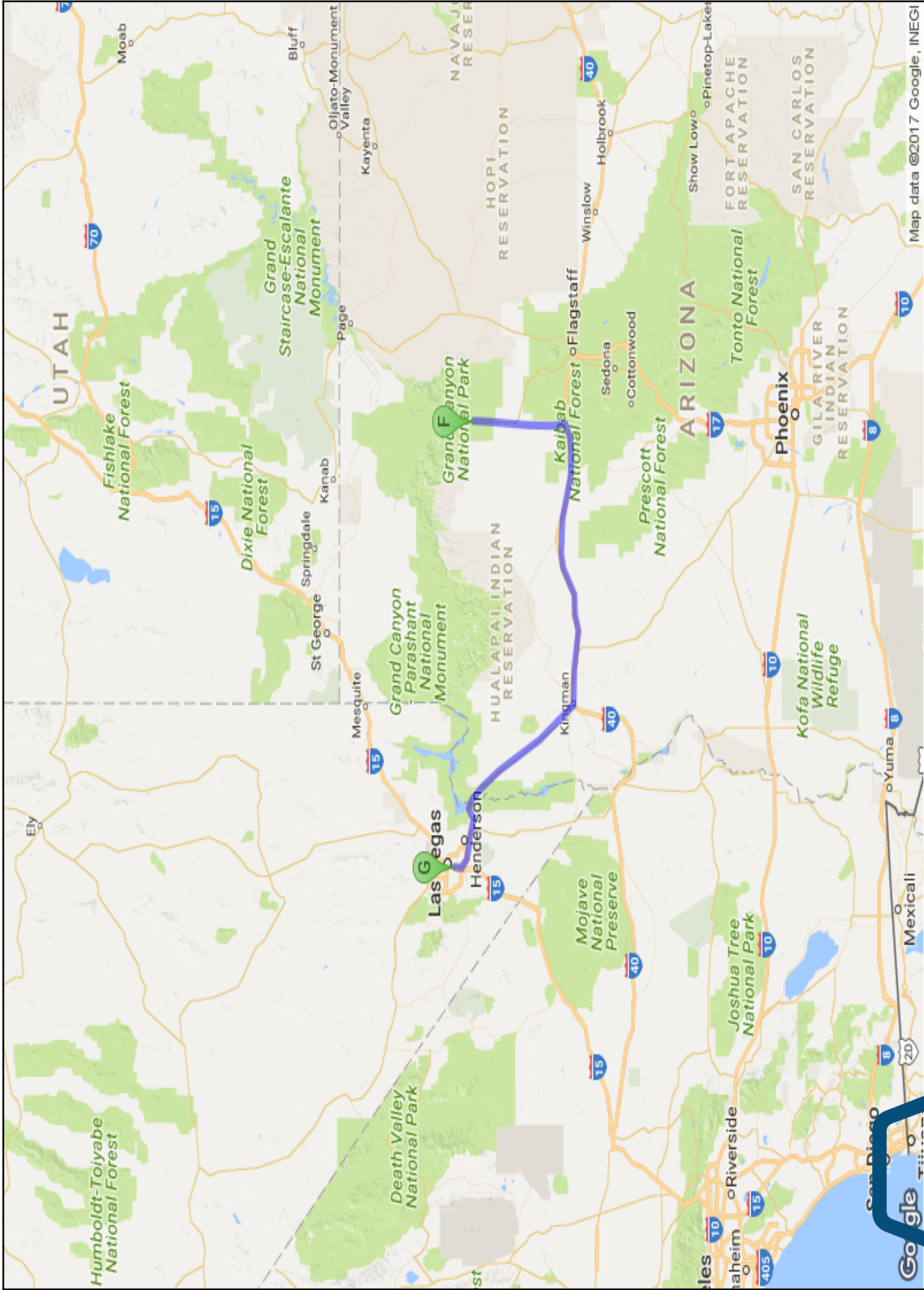
## Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.







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**DAY 7-8**

From F: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon • 226 Highway 64, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 • Phone: +1 (928) 638-3000  
To G: Harrah's Las Vegas • 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109 • Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000



**DAY 7-8**

## Step by Step Directions

271 mi - about 4 hours 7 mins

Start At: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Grand Canyon

1. Head **west** toward **RP Dr**
2. Turn **right** onto **RP Dr**
3. Turn **right** onto **AZ-64 S**
4. At the traffic circle, take the **2nd** exit and stay on **AZ-64 S**
5. Turn **right** to merge onto **I-40 W** toward **Los Angeles**
6. Take exit **48** to merge onto **US-93 N/W Beale St** toward **AZ-68 W/Las Vegas** Continue to follow **US-93 N** Entering Nevada
7. Turn **right** to stay on **US-93 N**
8. Continue onto **I-515 N/US-93 N**
9. Take exit **61** for **I-215 W**
10. Continue onto **I-215**
11. Take exit **12A** for **I-15 N** toward **Las Vegas**
12. Keep **right** at the fork and merge onto **I-15 N**
13. Take exit **38** for **Flamingo Road**
14. Keep **right** at the fork, follow signs for **East Flamingo Road/E Flamingo Rd E** and merge onto **Dunes Rd/W Flamingo Rd** Continue to follow **W Flamingo Rd**
15. Turn **left** onto **Linq Ln**
16. Turn **left** toward **Krueger Dr**
17. Turn **right** onto **Krueger Dr**
18. Turn **left** Partial restricted usage road

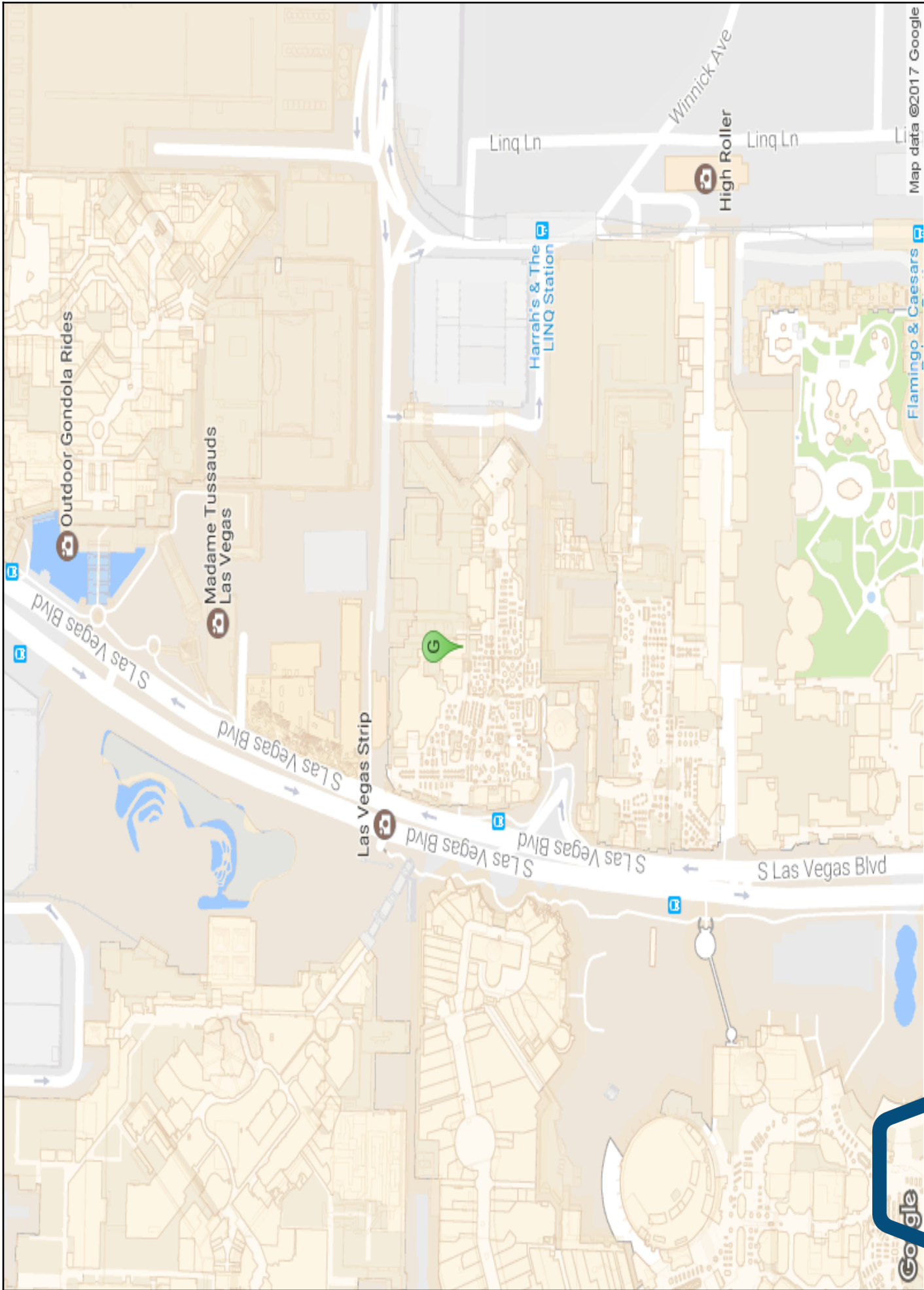
Arrive At: Harrah's Las Vegas

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DAY 9

G: Harrah's Las Vegas • 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109 • Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000

Map data ©2017 Google



May 19, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

### Harrah's Las Vegas

3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

#### RESERVATION INFORMATION - 1 night

Check-In Date: May 19, 2017

Check-Out Date: May 20, 2017

Room Description: Mardi Gras Room, 2 Queen, Strip View, Non-Smoking-Great rates, price includes daily resort fee [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

\* Check-In Time After: 4:00 pm

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 11:00 am

Harrah's Las Vegas's Reservation #: 28568157

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

#### HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

All other charges (in-room movies, food and beverage, parking fees, incidentals, etc.) should be charged to the guest directly. Please create two (2) separate folios for the guest's stay and bill the room and tax portion to ATI where direct billing privileges exist or charge the credit card number provided in advance by ATI and located in your PMS reservation, as appropriate.

Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

#### PASSENGER INFORMATION

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

\* Check-in and check-out times may vary from hotel to hotel, please check with Front Desk.

For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



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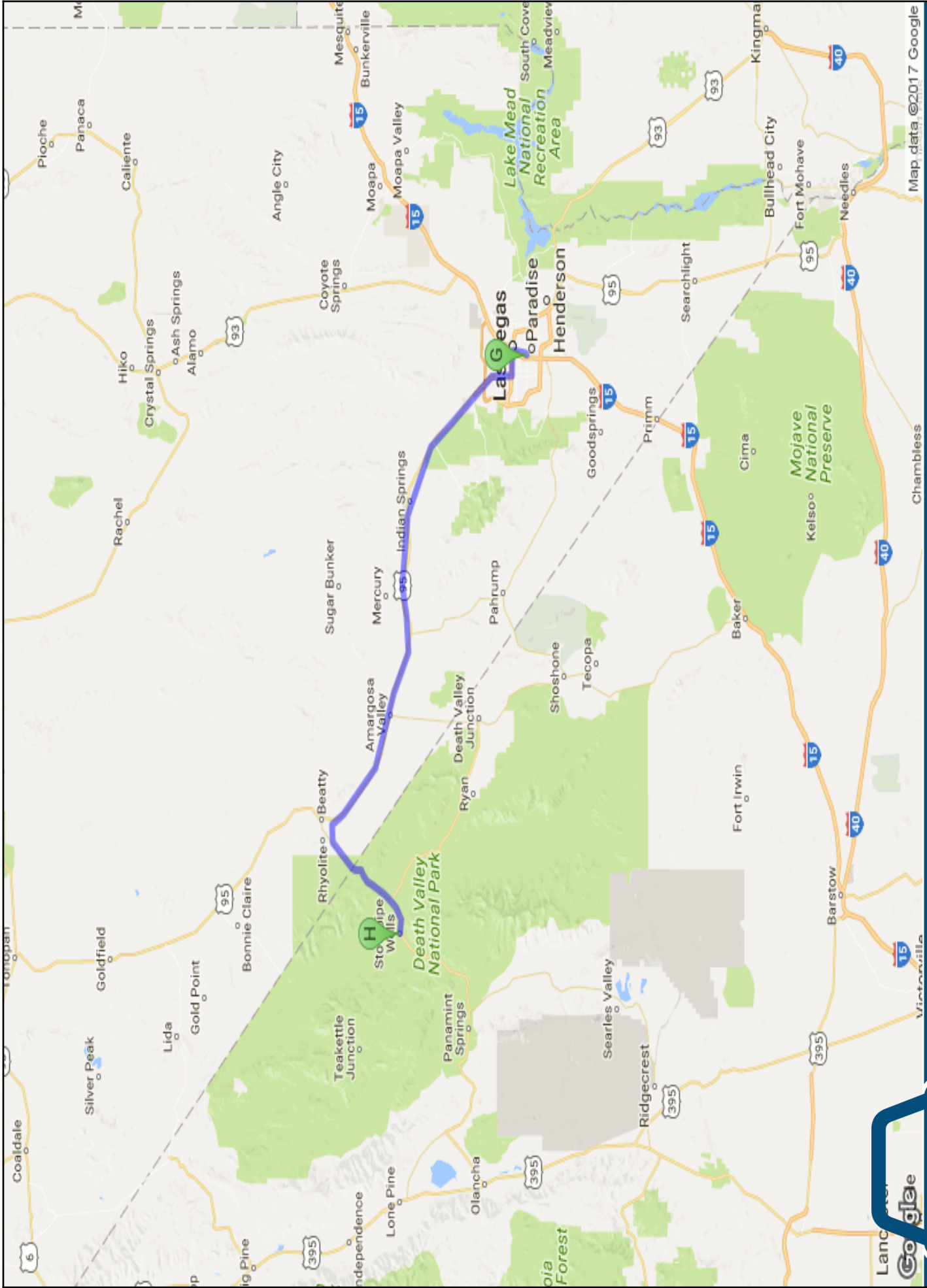
## Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.







# DAY 9

From G: Hahrah's Las Vegas • 3475 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, NV 89109 • Phone: +1 (702) 369-5000  
To H: Stovepipe Wells Village • Highway 190, Death Valley, CA 92328 • Phone: +1 (760) 786-2387

Map data ©2017 Google





DAY 9

## Step by Step Directions

152 mi - about 2 hours 31 mins

Start At: Harrah's Las Vegas

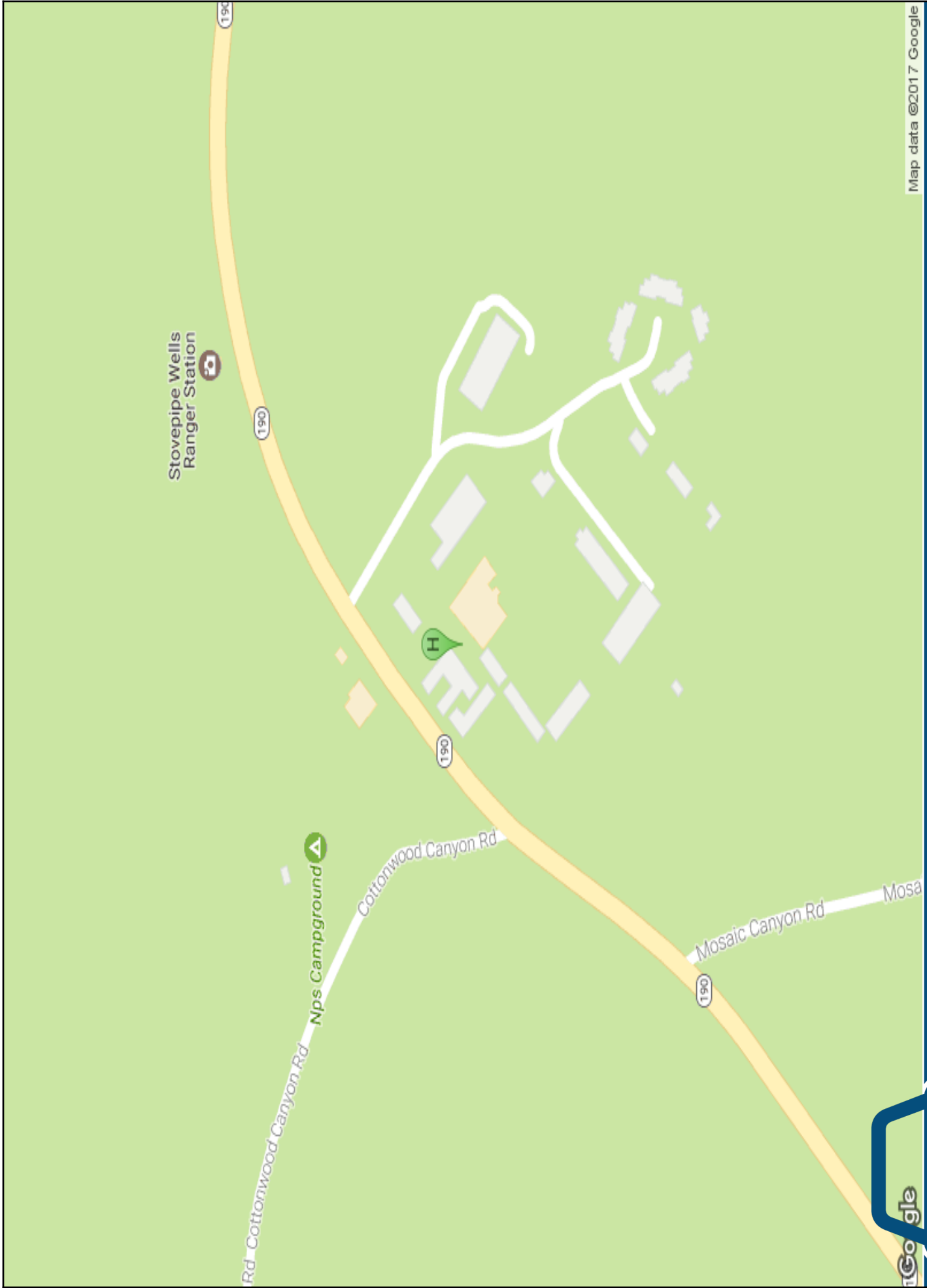
1. Head **east** toward **Krueger Dr** Partial restricted usage road
2. Turn **left** onto **Krueger Dr**
3. Turn **left** onto **S Koval Ln**
4. Turn **left** onto **Sands Ave**
5. Continue onto **Spring Mountain Rd**
6. Merge onto **I-15 N** via the ramp to **Salt Lake City**
7. Take exit **42A** to merge onto **US-95 N** toward **Reno**
8. Turn **left** onto **Airport Rd**
9. Merge onto **Airport Rd**
10. Turn **left** onto **NV-374 S** Entering California
11. Continue onto **Daylight Pass Rd**
12. Turn **left** onto **Scotty's Castle Rd**
13. Turn **right** onto **CA-190 W**
14. Turn **left**

Arrive At: Stovepipe Wells Village

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# DAY 10

H: Stovepipe Wells Village • Highway 190, Death Valley, CA 92328 • Phone: +1 (760) 786-2387





May 20, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

### Stovepipe Wells Village

Highway 190  
Death Valley, CA 92328  
Phone: +1 (760) 786-2387



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

#### RESERVATION INFORMATION - 1 night

Check-In Date: May 20, 2017

Check-Out Date: May 21, 2017

Room Description: Standard Room [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

\* Check-In Time After: 3:00 pm

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 11:00 am

Stovepipe Wells Village's Reservation #: 132513

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

#### HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

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Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

#### PASSENGER INFORMATION

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

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For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



# 10% OFF

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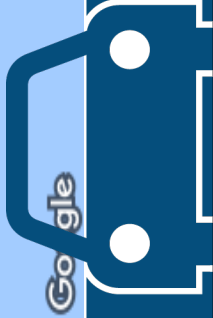
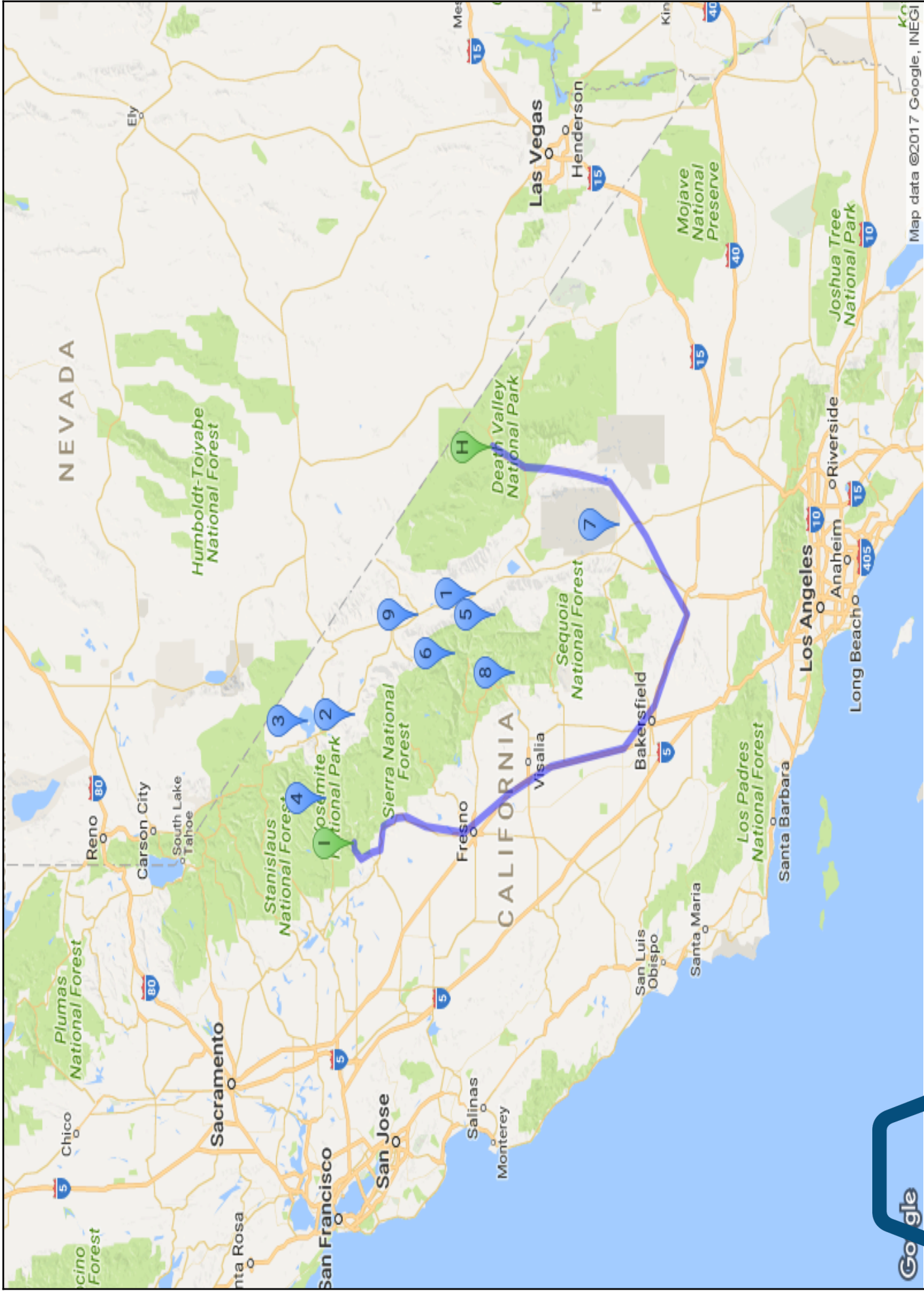
## Enjoy extra savings at Macy's

As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

\*Certain exclusions apply. See Store Sales Associate for details.







From H: Stovepipe Wells Village • Highway 190, Death Valley, CA 92328 • Phone: +1 (760) 786-2387

To I: Cedar Lodge • 9966 Highway 140, El Portal, CA 95318 • Phone: +1 (209) 379-2612

# DAY 10



## DAY 10

## Step by Step Directions

402 mi - about 6 hours 46 mins

Start At: Stovepipe Wells Village

1. Head **northwest** toward **CA-190 E**
2. Turn **left** onto **CA-190 W**
3. Turn **left** onto **Panamint Valley Rd**
4. **Panamint Valley Rd** turns **right** and becomes **Trona Wildrose Rd**
5. Continue onto **Trona Rd**
6. Turn **left** to stay on **Trona Rd**
7. Turn **right** onto **Searles Station Cutoff**
8. Continue onto **Searles Station Rd/Searles Station Ctf**
9. Turn **left** onto **US-395 S**
10. Turn **right** onto **Garlock Rd**
11. Merge onto **Redrock Randsburg Rd**
12. Turn **left** onto **CA-14 S**
13. Turn **right** to merge onto **CA-58 W** toward **Bakersfield**
14. Keep **right** at the fork to stay on **CA-58 W**, follow signs for **CA-99 N/Sacramento**
15. Keep **left** to continue on **CA-99 N**
16. Keep **left** to stay on **CA-99 N**
17. Take exit **131** to merge onto **CA-41 N** toward **Yosemite**
18. Turn **left** onto **CA-49 N**
19. Turn **right** onto **Silva Rd**
20. Continue onto **Carleton Rd**
21. Turn **left** onto **Triangle Rd**
22. Turn **right** toward **CA-140 E**
23. Slight **right** onto **CA-140 E**
24. Turn **right**
25. Turn **right**

Arrive At: Cedar Lodge

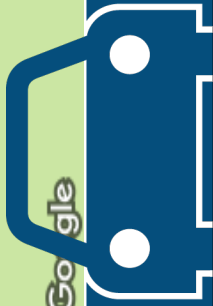
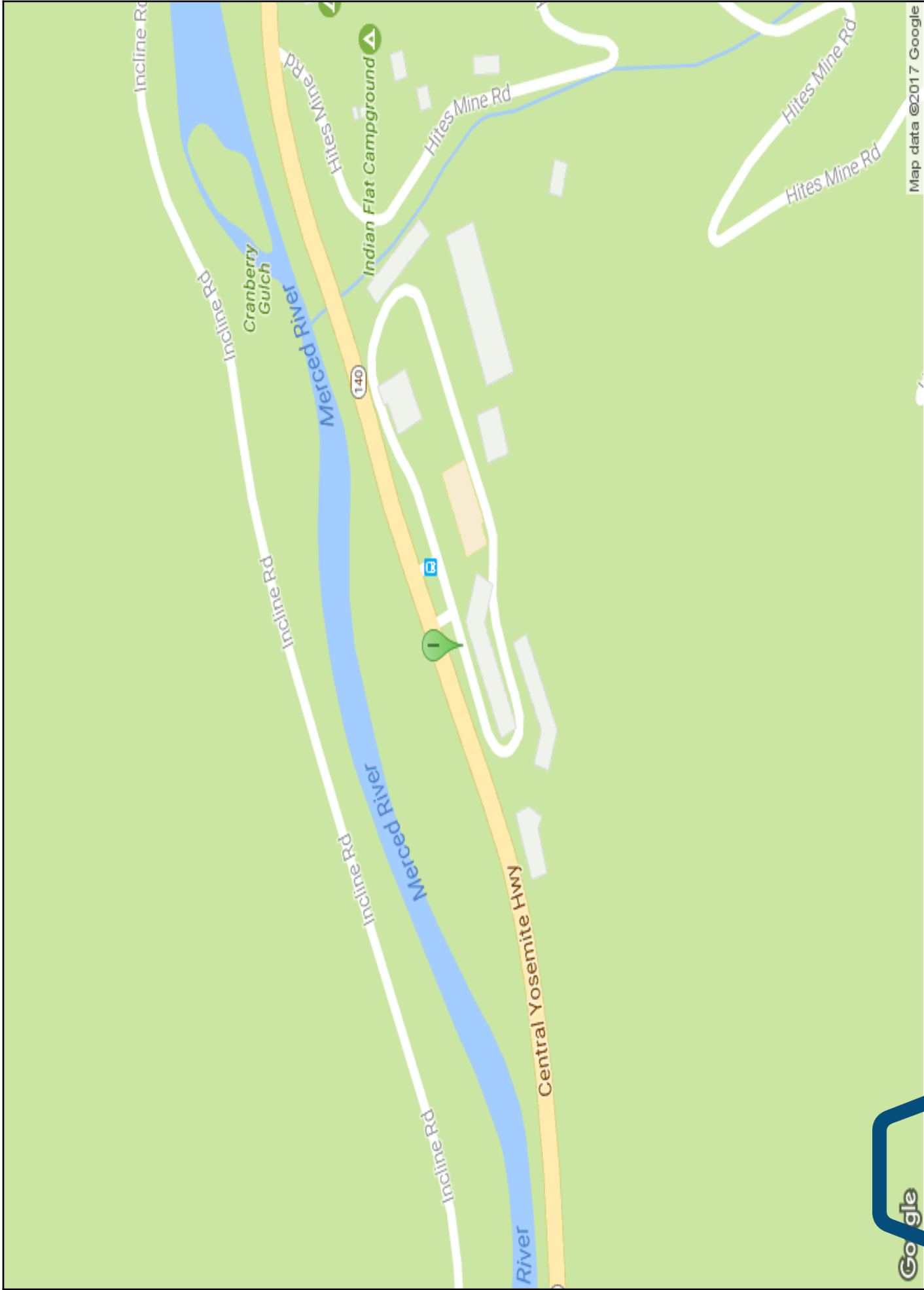
- 1 Manzanar WWII Japanese-American Internment Camp
- 2 Mammoth Lakes, Kalifornien, USA
- 3 Mono Lake, Kalifornien 93541, USA
- 4 Yosemite National Park
- 5 Mt. Whitney
- 6 Kings Canyon National Park
- 7 Ridgecrest
- 8 Sequoia National Park
- 9 Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest



## Points of Interest

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# DAY 11-12

I: Cedar Lodge • 9966 Highway 140, El Portal, CA 95318 • Phone: +1 (209) 379-2612



May 21, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

**Cedar Lodge**

9966 Highway 140  
El Portal, CA 95318  
Phone: +1 (209) 379-2612



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

**RESERVATION INFORMATION - 2 nights**

Check-In Date: May 21, 2017

\* Check-In Time After: 3:00 pm

Check-Out Date: May 23, 2017

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 11:00 am

Room Description: Standard Room [As Requested]

Passenger Instructions: Don't assign rooms 115/116/133/134/144-146/149-153/175-177/219/220/511/512/520/521/170-192

Special Requests: High Floor

Cedar Lodge's Reservation #: 28565352

Guests:

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

ATI Reservation #: 5362350

**HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS**

The guest named above has prepaid AmericanTours International, LLC (ATI) for the room and tax portion of their stay as outlined on this voucher. Under no circumstances should the guest be charged for room and tax or the rate paid be added to their folio upon check out.

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Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

**PASSENGER INFORMATION**

Any incidentals or other items such as: in-room movies, minibar, parking, resort fee, telephone charges, etc., not included in the price you have paid will be charged directly to you by the hotel upon check-out. Hotels may ask for a credit card imprint or cash deposit at time of check-in to cover for possible incidentals incurred.

\* Check-in and check-out times may vary from hotel to hotel, please check with Front Desk.

For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942



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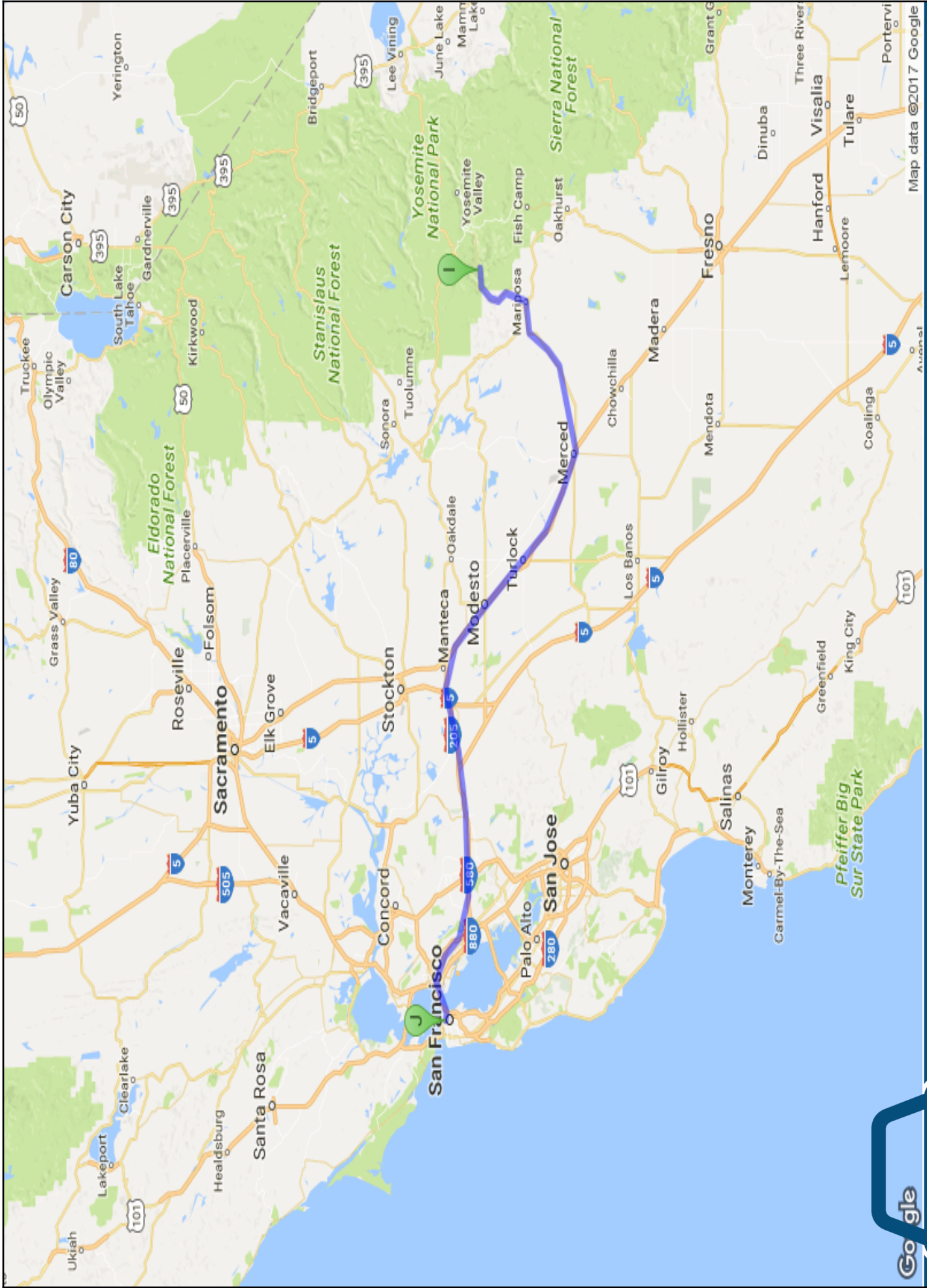
As a special welcome, enjoy exclusive savings at any Macy's during your stay.

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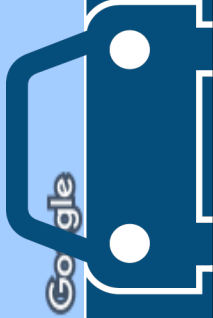






From I: Cedar Lodge • 9966 Highway 140, El Portal, CA 95318 • Phone: +1 (209) 379-2612

To J: Holiday Inn San Francisco - Golden Gateway • 1500 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109 • Phone: +1 (415) 441-4000



DAY 11-12



DAY 11-12

## Step by Step Directions

191 mi - about 3 hours 26 mins

Start At: Cedar Lodge

1. Head **east**
2. Turn **left** toward **CA-140 W**
3. Turn **left** onto **CA-140 W**
4. Slight **right** to stay on **CA-140 W**
5. Slight **right** to merge onto **CA-99 N**
6. Take exit **241** for **CA-120 W** toward **Manteca/San Francisco**
7. Continue onto **CA-120 W**
8. Take exit **1A** on the **left** to merge onto **I-5 S** toward **San Francisco/Los Angeles**
9. Keep **right** at the fork to continue on **I-205 W**, follow signs for **San Francisco/Interstate 205/Interstate 580**
10. Merge onto **I-580 W**
11. Keep **right** at the fork to stay on **I-580 W**, follow signs for **Oakland/San Francisco**
12. Take exit **19A** on the **left** to merge onto **I-80 W** toward **San Francisco**

Partial toll road

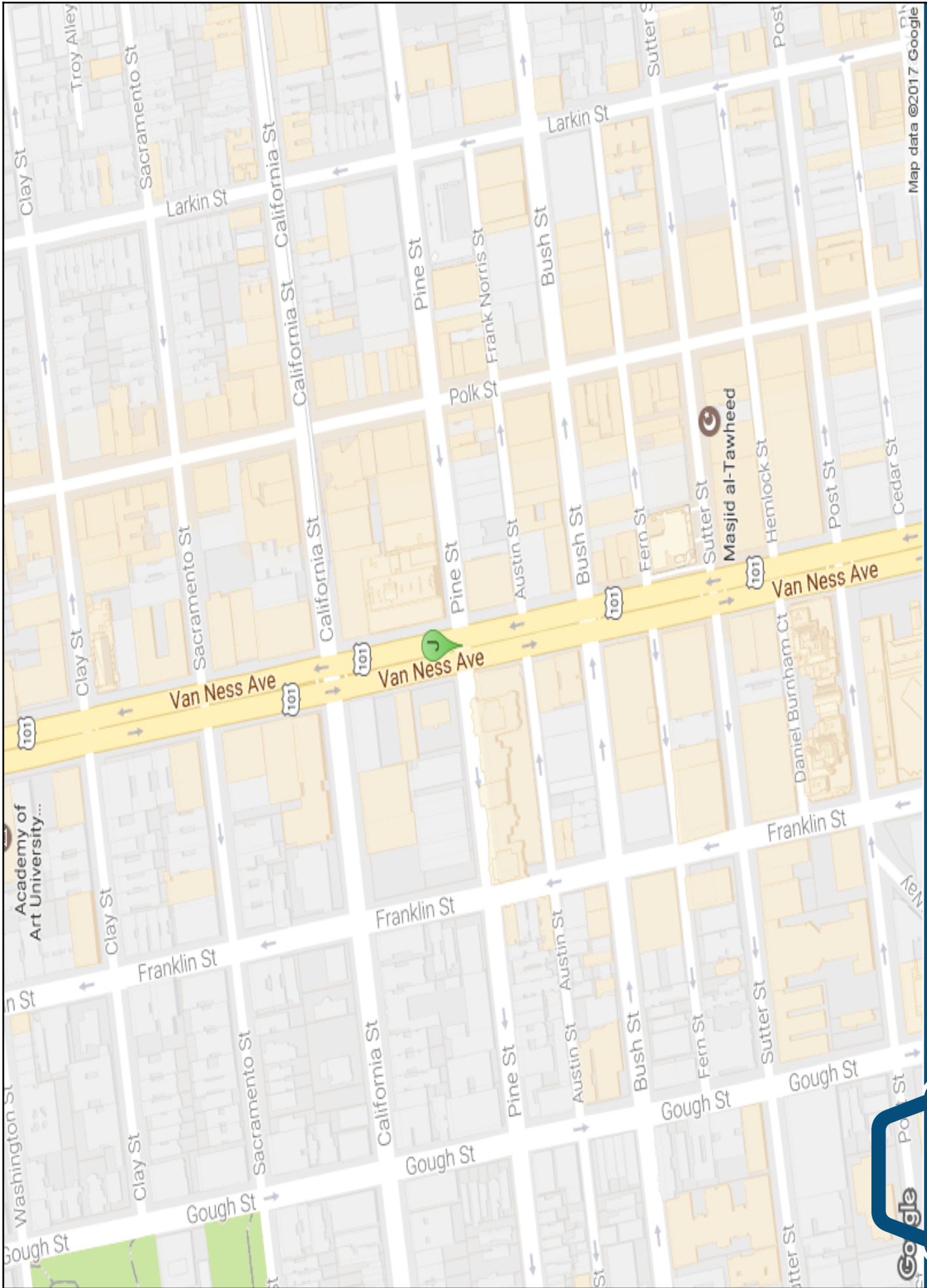
13. Take exit **2C** to merge onto **Fremont St**
14. Continue straight onto **Front St**
15. Turn **left** onto **Pine St**

Arrive At: Holiday Inn San Francisco - Golden Gateway

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**DAY 13**

J: Holiday Inn San Francisco - Golden Gateway • 1500 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94109 • Phone: +1 (415) 441-4000



May 23, 2017



Hotel  
Voucher

**Holiday Inn San Francisco - Golden**

1500 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: +1 (415) 441-4000



AMERICANTOURS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

**RESERVATION INFORMATION - 1 night**

**Holiday Inn San Francisco - Golden Gateway's Reservation #: 68673572**

Check-In Date: May 23, 2017

\* Check-In Time After: 3:00 pm

Guests:

Check-Out Date: May 24, 2017

\* Check-Out Time Prior To: 12:00 pm

Mr. Graham Humphrey

Mrs. Ditte Onvlee

Room Description: Standard Room [As Requested]

Special Requests: High Floor

**ATI Reservation #: 5362350**

**HOTEL FRONT DESK INSTRUCTIONS**

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Bill room & tax to: AmericanTours International, LLC 6053 West Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

**PASSENGER INFORMATION**

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**For any problems while traveling, call 1-800-800-8942**



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