

# California TRIPS

**68** THEMED ITINERARIES **1147** LOCAL PLACES TO SEE

**Ryan Ver Berkmoes,  
Alexis Averbeck, Amy C Balfour, Andrew Bender, Sara Benson,  
Alison Bing, Nate Cavalieri, Dominique Channell, Beth Kohn**

# How to Use This Book

## Theme Icons

All trips are themed using the following icons.



Great, must-do trips that represent the region



Trips that follow a route, with extra insider detail



Trips to wineries, breweries, pick-it-yourself farms and locavore gems



National parks, coastal hikes, swimming holes and river adventures



Trips to Gold Rush towns, film locations and music sights, and literary excursions



Drive-through redwoods, 'quake sites, desert oddities and kitsch



Trips for urbanites



Trips up to two hours away from a hub city

## Best Trips



Trips starred with the Best Trip icon are our hands-down favorites. We highly recommend these trips.

## Expert-Recommended Trips

We teamed up with local experts, including foodie connoisseur Alice Waters, winemaker Kent Rosenblum and white-water guide Scott Armstrong, who shared with us their favorite spots. These are listed on p30.


## Ecofriendly & Sustainable Options

Listings that have a green mission and an ecofriendly or sustainable mantra are listed in our GreenDex, p422.


## Trip Information

Practical details for points of interest within trips can be found at the end of every trip under Trip Information. Prices in this book are listed as a range to account for seasonal variations. Under Eat, "mains" means main courses or entrées. Under Sleep, "r" means rooms.

 Telephone

 Opening hours

 Family-friendly  
Listings accompanied by this icon are great for families with young children


 Pet-friendly  
Listings accompanied by this icon allow dogs (and sometimes other pets).


## Link Your Trip


Extend your trip with this handy feature that lists nearby, or related, trips worth combining.


## Maps & Route Shields


Regional maps show the trip number at the starting point of the trip.


 Interstate freeway

 US highway

 State highway

 Country road

 California state highway

 Nevada state highway

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Great Salt Lake

Utah

Nevada

California

Arizona

Mojave Desert

MEXICO

# CALIFORNIA TRIPS

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At home, in the office, stuck in the commute, we all fantasize about doing more; of getting to truly see world-famous coastlines, iconic cities, hidden parks and wilderness roads...or just sitting back with an astonishingly great glass of wine. But where to start? Trying to make sense of the myriad sources, opinions and references can leave one, well, driving in circles. And that's before you've even left. What you want is inspiration and a plan so you have but one thing to do. Go.

Thanks to our authors you can do just that. They've driven California's roads hither and yonder and scoured every corner of the state to bring you 68 of the best trips for spa seekers, beach bummers, wilderness hikers, celebrity spotters, family road-trippers, city hipsters and heritage lovers. Our trips range from San Francisco alleys to lost deserts, from Hollywood glitz to Hwy 1 bliss. You can find a burrito, hang ten, run a river, ride Amtrak and maybe even discover gold. Day-trippers can trip and weekenders can find an ideal weekend. More time means more joy and a chance to link one trip to another. Your biggest challenge: stopping.

 **UP THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY p37**  
Coastline from Rocky Point, Big Sur

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# The Authors



## RYAN VER BERKMOES

Ryan Ver Berkmoes grew up close to Hwy 1 near Santa Cruz. As a young fair-haired moppet, he and his friends took delight in giving lost tourists wrong directions. (His angelic face was so believable...) He hopes to make up for this now with his trips in this book. When not toiling away as an author, he'd just as soon track every movie location in California. His website is [www.ryanverberkmoes.com](http://www.ryanverberkmoes.com)

## ALEXIS AVERBUCK

Alexis Averbuck lives in Greece and returned to her home state to further explore the back roads of northern California. An Oakland native and a travel writer for two decades, she has lived in Antarctica, crossed the Pacific by sailboat and still adores the Mendocino coast. She's a painter – see her work at [www.alexisaverbuck.com](http://www.alexisaverbuck.com).



## AMY C BALFOUR

In the last six years Amy Balfour has hiked, biked and four-wheeled her way across SoCal. She wrote Lonely Planet's *Los Angeles Encounter* and contributed to *Coastal California*, *LA & Southern California* and the upcoming *California*. Her favorite trips are *Sideways in Santa Barbara* p349 and *48 Hours in San Diego* p391.



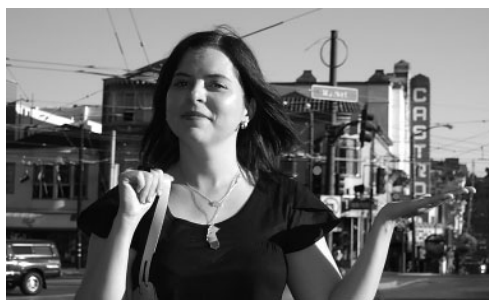
### NATE CAVALIERI

Nate Cavalieri writes about music, food and travel and lives in Sacramento. His titles for Lonely Planet include *Puerto Rico*, *Chicago* and *Volunteer: A Traveler's Guide to Making a Difference Around the World*. The double-big beers and cowboy dancing at Buck Owen's Crystal Palace were highlights of researching this book.



### SARA BENSON

Sara lives in San Luis Obispo County and has contributed to dozens of Lonely Planet titles, including *California* and *Road Trip: Route 66*. Her travel writing has featured in print and online for the *Los Angeles Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle*. Her favorite trip was The Mission Trail (p93).



### ALISON BING

In San Francisco for over 15 years, Alison has done everything you're supposed to do in the city and many things you're not, including falling in love on the 7 Haight bus and gorging on Mission burritos before Berlioz symphonies. Alison holds degrees in art history and international diplomacy – respectable credentials she regularly undermines with opinionated culture commentary for radio, newspapers, magazines and books, including Lonely Planet's *San Francisco* and *San Francisco Encounter* guides.



### ANDREW BENDER

Andy loves showing people around Southern California, his home since the early 1990s. Since he transitioned out of film production, his travel and food writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Forbes*, *Hemispheres* and *SilverKris* (in-flight magazines of United and Singapore Airlines respectively). His website is [www.andrewbender.com](http://www.andrewbender.com).



### DOMINIQUE CHANNELL

Dominique Channell lives in the Bay Area. She is coauthor of Lonely Planet's *San Francisco* and *USA* guides and writes about far too much eating and drinking in California and Argentina. After researching Calistoga Cycle (p145) she was inspired to buy a real road bike to pedal it all off. You can usually find her in a favorite internet café or rowing with the Lake Merritt women's crew team in Oakland in the verry early morning.

### LONELY PLANET AUTHORS

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### BETH KOHN

From her home base in San Francisco, Beth Kohn has authored four titles for Lonely Planet, including *Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks*. For this guide, she tested High Sierra hot springs and read Raymond Chandler in the bathtub. Her favorite trip was High Altitudes on Highway 395 (p225).

## CONTRIBUTING EXPERTS

**Scott Armstrong** is a white-water guide, whose family business, All-Outdoors Whitewater Rafting, was the first operator on the American River's Middle Fork. He leads us down the American on p265.

**George Baker**, a member of the Modesto Film Commission, and his wife, Louise, helm The Fireside Foundation ([www.firesidefoundation.com](http://www.firesidefoundation.com)), which sponsors NorCal film festivals. His combined passions for moviemaking and the northern counties contributed to our NorCal film sites trip (p127).

**Mike Connolly, Jr** is a California State Park Interpreter at the Coastal Discovery Center on San Simeon Bay. He reveals local natural history highlights on the San Luis Obispo wildlife trip (p287).

**Douglas Fir** ([www.douglasfirphotography.com](http://www.douglasfirphotography.com)) is a photographer and environmental professional whose other vocational pursuits include builder, mediator and bon vivant. Fir brought his 40 years' experience in southern Humboldt to bear on a Lost Coast hiking trip (p185).



**Jennifer Godwin** is an associate editor, reporter, and Watch with Kristin blogger at E! Online. To increase your odds of spotting a star, check out Godwin's inside scoop on p325.

**Charles Hodgkins** is the founder and editor-in-chief of Burrtoeater.com, San Francisco's top resource for *taquerias* and mustaches. Try his recommendations on p101.

**Bryan Hope**, founder of Santa Barbara's Sustainable Vine Wine Tours, whisks guests to ecoconscious wineries in a sleek, biodiesel van. On p349, Bryan gives us the goods on the area's sustainable wineries and ecominded businesses.

**David Keene**, visionary publican and beer lover, has been the owner of San Francisco's renowned Toronado beer pub (Northern California's first beer bar; [www.toronado.com](http://www.toronado.com)) for over 20 years. He recommends some of his favorite breweries in NorCal (p137).

**Kerry Kellogg**, Wilderness and Trails Manager in the Los Padres National Forest's Santa Barbara Ranger District, has hiked, biked, kayaked and camped all over Santa Barbara County. Kellogg, who grew up in the area, shares outdoor adventure hotspots on p355.

**Tony Merchell** is a well-known architectural historian of southern California's desert regions.

He talks about his love of midcentury modern design in Palm Springs (p369).

**Andy O'Neill** lives in Los Angeles where he reports on the LA taco scene at his blog The Great Taco Hunt (<http://tacohunt.blogspot.com>). He advises us on which taco truck to target on p101.

**Joel Patterson**, SoCal native and lifelong surfer, is the current editor-in-chief of *Surfer* magazine and the former editor-in-chief of *Transworld Surf* magazine. He recommends California's best surf spots on p81.

**Kent Rosenblum** is the President, CEO and Director of Winemaking at esteemed Rosenblum Cellars ([www.rosenblumcellars.com](http://www.rosenblumcellars.com)). He shared his joy in winemaking and expertise in wine-growing regions when he helped craft a stellar hidden wineries trip (p149).

**Brad Suhr** has cycled solo cross-country for cancer research and raced in sprint triathlons and 24-hour adventure races. After moving to Calistoga from Martha's Vineyard, he opened a pro shop offering wine tours and extended rides. He shows us around Calistoga on p145.

**Alice Waters**, chef and author, revolutionized modern eating by championing local, organic, sustainable foods, which she does for us on p75. Her groundbreaking restaurant, Chez Panisse, is in Berkeley.

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