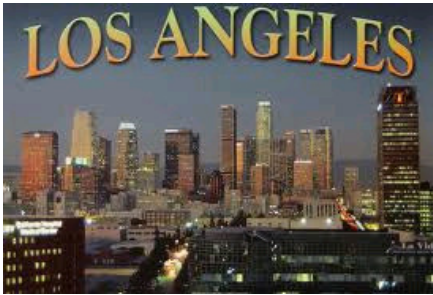


# Best of the West

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Saturday, May 26 Arrival Los Angeles



Domestic flight to Los Angeles airport where we meet our tour guide at the Baggage Claim Area. Transfer to the hotel for check in. Remainder of the day is at leisure.

Standard Hotel: Holiday Inn, La Mirada or Guest House Hotel Norwalk or similar

**(Please book suggested flight or arrange flight that arrives in Los Angeles - LAX before 10:00 pm)**

### DAY 2 Sunday, May 27 Los Angeles – Solvang - Hearst Castle



After departing Los Angeles in the morning, we will drive along the beautiful Pacific Coast Highway and stop in the Santa Ynez Valley's quaint Danish Village of **Solvang** just before lunchtime. Antiquated windmills and Northern European-style architecture punctuate this charming village's skyline. Brilliant sunshine, boundless open country and rolling hills--these are the characteristics that inspired the original Danish immigrants who settled this area to call it "Solvang" or "Sunny Field." Sip on a cup of aromatic European coffee and nibble on a piece of world famous Danish pastry. Around 1:00 p.m. we will board the bus to make

our way to the ornate **Hearst Castle** in San Simeon. Built by the famous newspaper tycoon, William Randolph Hearst at the cost of the millions of dollars, Hearst Castle and the surrounding estate boasts 165 rooms filled with priceless antiques and works of art, as well as an ornate gilt-bordered swimming pool. We will have two hours to explore the castle and grounds before we board the bus to take us to dinner and our hotel in the evening.



Standard Hotel: Crowne Plaza Union City or Similar

### DAY 3 Monday, May 28 San Francisco



This morning the tour will head to San Francisco's popular Chinatown. Then we will visit the stately Palace of Fine Arts; the world famous **Golden Gate Bridge; Lombard Street**, the world's most crooked street; and Fishermen's Wharf, the bustling tourist area still home to many commercial fisheries. Passengers may also choose to take a one and a half hour Bay Cruise\* to experience the sights of San Francisco from the water, with views of the East Bay and beautiful city skyline, the stately

Golden Gate and Bay Bridges, and the harbor islands, including the infamous Alcatraz Island, Angel Island and Treasure Island. Around 3:00pm, passengers may choose to spend some time at leisure in the city, or have the option of the Extensive City Tour\* to visit sights such as St. Mary's Cathedral; Alamo Square; Twin Peaks; the Civic Center; and the Castro District, otherwise known as the gay capital of the world. After the tour concludes we will make a trip to Stanford University, slightly less than an hour's drive from the city. Recognized as one of the world's leading research and teaching institutions, the tranquil campus is home to a rich collection of historical and contemporary buildings. In the early evening, we will return to the city for dinner and a night's rest at our hotel.

Standard Hotel: Crowne Plaza Union City or Similar

#### **DAY 4 Tuesday, May 29 Yosemite National Park - Los Angeles**



We will depart San Francisco early this morning for a trip to Yosemite National Park, gem of California's National Park system and UNESCO World Heritage site. Located near the geographical center of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, Yosemite is comprised of granite rocks, mighty waterfalls and placid valleys, giving it an aspect of a "land of the gods." With its notable cliffs and unique carved rock formations, there is little doubt that water - in both its liquid and solid form as glacial ice - was the chief architect of Yosemite's

landscapes. We experience this natural wonder up close, with stops for photo opportunities and exploration at such viewpoints as the El Capitan and Bridal Veil Falls, the mighty Yosemite Falls, and the Tunnel View. We then leave the park to make our drive back to Los Angeles.



Standard Hotel: Holiday Inn, La Mirada or Guest House Hotel Norwalk or similar

#### **DAY 5 Wednesday, May 30 Los Angeles - Las Vegas**



Start the tour following the route of San Bernardino Mountain and enter the Mojave Desert to the State of Nevada, "the entertainment capital of the world". We arrive in **Las Vegas** in the afternoon and the remainder of the day is at leisure. You may take an optional night tour to explore the night life in Las Vegas and see the famous shows such as the Fremont Street Viva Vision, Fountain Show at Bellagio and Mardi Gras at Rio.

Standard Hotel: Stratosphere Hotel or similar

#### **DAY 6 Thursday, May 31 Las Vegas - Grand Canyon West Rim - Hoover Dam - Las Vegas**



In the morning, visit one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the **Grand Canyon West Rim**. As you gaze out from the rim, you're viewing 2 billion years of geologic history. Millions of people each year stand in awe at the canyon and leave with a sense of fulfillment and realization that they have witnessed nature at her finest. You may take an optional visit to the "Skywalk", which is the new g gigantic construction built on

the very edge of the Grand Canyon West Rim. The Skywalk suspends 4,000 feet above the Colorado River. This 60 million dollar bridge can withstand the weight of 71 fully loaded Boeing 74 airplanes (more than 71 million pounds). It is the tallest man-made structure in the world. From the bridge, you can step out onto the glass floor for a 720 degree view of the Canyon. You may also take an optional helicopter or boat tour to see the true beauty of the Grand Canyon. Afterwards, proceed to Hoover Dam, which is one of the seven wonders of the Industrial World.

Standard Hotel: Stratosphere Hotel or similar

**DAY 7 Friday, June 1 Las Vegas - Ethel M Chocolate Factory - Botanical Cactus Gardens – Los Angeles**



Visit Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Cactus Gardens before leaving Las Vegas. Stop by Barstow for a short break before continuing on to Los Angeles. Arrive in Los Angeles in the evening for a wonderful conclusion of the trip.

**(Please book suggested flight or arrange return flight departing Los Angeles - LAX after 9:30pm)**

**Inclusions:**

- Complimentary round trip airport transfer for each order
- 6 nights hotel accommodation (2 nights in Las Vegas)
- All domestic ground transportation via air-conditioned vehicle
- Entrance to Yosemite National Park
- Grand Canyon West Rim admission fee and lunch (A \$69 value)
- Admission to Skywalk (A \$30 Value)
- Tour guide (gratuity not included)
- All taxes and fees included

**Optional Tours:**

Activity	Entry Fee
Las Vegas Night Tour:	\$25
Helicopter and Cruise Combo tour	\$184
Lake Powell Cruise	\$50
San Francisco Bay Cruise	\$29
San Francisco Extensive Tour	\$25

**Exclusions:**

- Air fare between your city and Los Angeles
- Meals or other expenses of personal nature are not included unless published for a particular tour.
- Gratuity for tour guide & bus driver (min. \$6 /day per person) and \$3.00 each for airport transfer.

**Call 248-289-6406 for bookings or more information.**