



California's Scenic Railroads and Parks

April 24 - May 2, 2026

\$5,975 /double • \$6,975 /single (airfare included)

Embark on an unforgettable California adventure that blends coastal beauty, thrilling experiences, and natural wonder. Spend two relaxing nights at the luxurious San Diego Mission Bay Resort where you'll enjoy ocean breezes and Southern California sunshine. Travel up the coast to charming San Juan Capistrano, tour the historic mission, then board the scenic California Surfliner for a stunning rail journey to Pismo Beach. There, ride dune buggies along the dramatic sand dunes and enjoy a wine tasting in the heart of the Central Coast wine country. Next, head to Yosemite National Park for two nights at the Yosemite Valley Lodge inside the park. Then it's on to Old Sacramento where you'll visit the California Railroad Museum before boarding the California Zephyr for a breathtaking train ride through Sierra Nevada tunnels to sparkling Lake Tahoe. Enjoy a scenic boat ride on the lake before a final overnight stay in Reno.

INCLUDED: Airfare to San Diego International Airport (SAN) on April 24 departing from Reno Tahoe International Airport (RNO) on May 2.

TOUR INCLUDES

- Local home pick-up service and luggage handling
- Fully escorted by Globe Treks tour manager
- All meals, attractions, guides, and activities
- Ride California's most storied trains: Pacific Surfliner (San Juan Capistrano to Pismo Beach) and California Zephyr (Davis to Truckee)
- 2 nights inside Yosemite National Park at Yosemite Lodge
- 2 nights oceanfront at The Cliffs Lodge, Pismo Beach
- 2 nights at the Dana on Mission Bay, San Diego
- Explore beaches, wineries, rail history, the Sierra Nevada, and the enduring natural and cultural landmarks that shaped California

prices & itineraries subject to change

Reserve your spot! (828) 692-1399 • globetreks.com

Office Location: 1605 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville, NC 28791

California's Scenic Railroads and Parks: **Day by Day**

Day 1: Welcome to the West Coast

Your adventure begins with a relaxed home pickup and continental breakfast en route to Charlotte, followed by a flight to sun-warmed San Diego—a city whose layered history blends Spanish missions, military heritage, and Pacific Coast beauty. Upon arrival, settle into the Dana on Mission Bay, a comfortable waterfront hotel where swaying palms and gentle breezes set the stage for your California journey. After a welcome reception and dinner, we'll stroll to the harbor and board a scenic evening cruise of San Diego Bay. As the skyline glows in the soft light, keep an eye out for sea lions and seabirds—and, weather permitting, we'll sail into the great Pacific itself.

Day 2: San Diego's Coastal Charms and Cultural Treasures

San Diego's story reaches back to 1769, when Spanish explorers established the first mission and presidio in Alta California. This morning's private tour brings that history to life, beginning in the Gaslamp Quarter, where restored 19th-century buildings now hum with shops and cafés. Then we'll step into Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, where California's early Mexican and American past is preserved in adobe buildings, gardens, and plazas.

After lunch in Old Town, we continue to Balboa Park, a grand cultural park originally built for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. Its Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, formal gardens, and fountains make it one of the most beautiful urban parks in America. Here we'll visit the distinguished San Diego Museum of Art, whose collection spans centuries and continents. Return to Mission Bay for a relaxing evening.

Day 3: The Pacific Surfliner to Pismo Beach

Our morning begins with a visit to Mission San Juan Capistrano, founded in 1776 and famed as the "Jewel of the Missions." Its Serra Chapel is the oldest standing church in California, and the grounds—rich with gardens, cloisters, and swallows—offer a glimpse into the earliest days of European settlement in the region.

After a leisurely lunch in a restored train depot, we'll board the Pacific Surfliner. First-class seating ensures comfort as the train hugs the coastline, where the Pacific's blue expanse meets golden beaches and weathered bluffs. On an evening arrival in Grover Beach, a short transfer brings us to the elegant Cliffs Hotel and Spa in Pismo Beach. Set on a bluff above the surf, it's the perfect perch to watch the sun sink into the Pacific.

Day 4: Beaches and Wineries of Pismo Beach

Pismo Beach began as a humble fishing village and later became a popular stop along historic U.S. Route 101. This morning, you'll experience its stunning shoreline up close—by joining an exhilarating dune buggy ride over its windswept dunes and sands, with stunning views of the vast Pacific.

After lunch and a chance to explore and shop in Pismo beach, we venture inland to the Edna Valley AVA, a fertile wine region whose gentle hills and maritime breezes produce outstanding Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. Learn about the valley's viticultural traditions and enjoy tastings at a boutique winery before returning to the resort for a relaxing, seaside dinner.

Day 5: Journey to Yosemite National Park

Leaving the coast behind, we travel inland to Yosemite National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most celebrated natural landscapes. If conditions permit, we'll stop at Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, home to trees more than 2,000 years old—living witnesses to the passage of millennia.

Descending into Yosemite Valley, we'll encounter granite monoliths like El Capitan and Half Dome, features that inspired the early conservation movement and helped shape the National Park System. After settling into Yosemite Valley Lodge, enjoy an evening walk along the Merced River and watch as sunset paints the cliffs and waterfalls with golden light.

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Day 6: Yosemite's Timeless Landscapes

Today, a local naturalist guide joins us to bring Yosemite's geology and human history to life. We'll visit Bridalveil Falls, Yosemite Falls, and sweeping meadows framed by granite peaks. The thundering waterfalls filled with peak springtime runoff and the park's crisp mountain air make this a season of renewal and beauty.

After a picnic lunch, we'll explore the Yosemite Visitor Center, with its engaging exhibits on the park's formation, ecology, and its early advocates like John Muir. Tonight's dinner will be in the elegant dining room of the Ahwahnee Hotel, a masterpiece of rustic architecture and a national historic landmark.

Day 7: California's Gold Rush Past

Today we journey north to Old Sacramento State Historic Park, a lively district that preserves the energy of California's Gold Rush boom of the 1850s. Boardwalk streets, paddlewheel riverboats, and preserved storefronts tell the story of a state born in a frenzy of fortune-seeking and rail expansion.

We'll enjoy lunch aboard a moored historic riverboat, then visit the outstanding California State Railroad Museum, which chronicles the epic construction of the first transcontinental railroad—a feat that connected California to the nation. Tonight, settle into the Hilton Garden Inn Davis in this vibrant college town for a memorable dinner featuring fresh California cuisine.

Day 8: The California Zephyr & Lake Tahoe

All aboard the California Zephyr, one of the most celebrated train journeys in America. As the train climbs into the Sierra Nevada, panoramic windows reveal alpine forests, river canyons, and still snow-covered peaks. This route follows in the footsteps of the transcontinental railroad—an engineering marvel that once carried gold seekers and settlers westward.

Upon arrival in Truckee, we continue to Lake Tahoe for an afternoon boat cruise. Framed by the Sierra, the lake's deep blue waters have drawn visitors for centuries. Learn about its glacial origins and the 1960 Winter Olympics at nearby Palisades Tahoe, before toasting the end of a remarkable journey.

Day 9: Homeward Bound

After a week of breathtaking scenery, coastal towns, and storied railways, we fly home from Reno. A Globe Treks representative will meet you at the airport and return you safely to your door—your mind full of California history, your camera full of unforgettable moments.

Important Note About Activity Level - This is an active journey designed for travelers who love exploring on foot.

Guests should be able to:

- Walk up to one mile at a time without assistance.
- Cover at least three miles daily over varied terrain.
- This adventure is not suitable for guests who rely on mobility aids.

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