

historic trains of california



Sunday 14 to Wednesday 24 March 2010

Sunday 11 to Wednesday 21 April 2010

Sunday 18 to Wednesday 28 April 2010

in conjunction with **collette
worldwide holidays**

California boasts scenic beauty and diverse culture. There's so much to enjoy including some fascinating historic railroads and breathtaking sightseeing. Many meals are also included plus a door-to-door transfer from your home to the departure airport (within 100 miles). From giant redwoods and rugged coastline to fertile valleys and gold rush towns, we turn back the clock and take you on an awe-inspiring tour.

DAY 1 • Fly to San Francisco

Fly to San Francisco from London Heathrow (or a regional airport by arrangement). Transfer to hotel in the beautiful "City by the Bay."

DAY 2 • San Francisco Bay

Board our coach for a guided tour of the city. Highlights include Fisherman's Wharf, the famous cable cars, the Golden Gate Bridge and a panoramic view of the city from the imposing 'Twin Peaks.' We visit Sausalito, a picturesque waterfront community just across the Golden Gate Bridge. The afternoon is ours to explore. Hop on a cable car or take a ride to the trendy Haight Ashbury area. Later we take in a fabulous view as we dine at a restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf overlooking the bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. Dinner included.

DAY 3 • Sierra Railroad

We travel west through California's Gold Country and board the Sierra Railroad train. The line was built in 1897 to connect the Gold Country and Central Valley. Enjoy lunch (included), relax in a luxurious carriage and view unspoiled scenery. Later we travel by coach to Sonora, our home for the next two nights. In its Gold Rush heyday, Sonora was the cosmopolitan city of 1848, attracting people from all over the world.

DAY 4 • Yosemite National Park

A scenic drive brings us into the awe-inspiring Yosemite National Park. We travel through Yosemite's amazing waterfalls, unique rock formations, deep valleys, Alpine meadows and pristine wilderness. Breakfast and dinner included.



DAY 5 • Railtown and Sacramento

We travel to Jamestown to visit Railtown, an historic park featuring turn-of-the-century locomotives and railcars. This is a popular spot for movie makers and television shows including 'High Noon' and 'The Virginian.' In Sacramento there'll be some free time to browse the quaint shops and visit the most interesting sights. We continue to Old Sacramento and take step back in time! Breakfast and dinner included.

DAY 6 • Lake Tahoe

We travel east over the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the gambling town of Lake Tahoe. The lake straddles the California and Nevada border with the Sierra Nevada Mountains as its backdrop. We cruise aboard the M. S. Dixie II paddle-wheeler and the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore before returning to Sacramento this evening. Breakfast included.

DAY 7 • Sacramento River Train

We travel to Woodland and board the Sacramento River Train to experience a "Great Train Robbery" complete with a Cowboy barbecue. The Sacramento River Train boasts a sparkling gold interior reflecting the area's Gold Rush heritage and follows the scenic route along the Sacramento River. Often referred to as "an amazing experience," be on the lookout for robbers and gunfighters! A delicious barbecue lunch is served picnic-style by the river. An early afternoon return to Sacramento will allow time to revisit Old Sacramento to shop or to visit the renowned Railroad Museum on your own. Breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 8 • Napa Valley Wine Train

We board the Napa Valley Wine Train, a splendidly restored 1915 Pullman train car, and travel through the picturesque country. Blend this with innovative cuisine, wine tasting and train history for a remarkable day. In Ft. Bragg we are surrounded by the spectacular natural beauty of Northern California's redwood forests and the Pacific Ocean. Breakfast and lunch included.

DAY 9 • The Skunk Train

Considered one of the best scenic trains in North America, the Skunk train winds along the Noyo River, through coastal mountains and towering redwoods. A picnic lunch will be served on board. This evening, we join our fellow passengers for a farewell dinner at the hotel. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

DAY 10 • Depart for Home

Fly back to the UK arriving next day.

This tour requires average physical activity. You should be in good health, able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances over uneven grounds and cobblestone streets.

price per person

Includes: Flights in economy class, transfer from home to departure airport within 100 miles, (London Heathrow and some regional airports), meals specified, transfers, train and private coach travel indicated, hotel accommodation.

Escorted holiday: £1,759

Single Room Supplement: £420

Deposit for this holiday: £200

Insurance: please see page 43