

travel  
itinerary

# FRESH AIR FUN IN THE BAY AREA & BEYOND

A 10-day Northern California immersion featuring **Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay, San Francisco, West Marin County, the Sonoma Coast and Tiburon.**

visit  
**California**

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- Day 1: **SFO to Santa Cruz**
  - Day 2: **Santa Cruz**
  - Day 3: **Santa Cruz to Half Moon Bay**
  - Day 4: **Half Moon Bay to San Francisco**
  - Day 5: **San Francisco**
  - Day 6: **San Francisco**
  - Day 7: **Marin County**
  - Day 8: **Sonoma Coast**
  - Day 9: **Sonoma Coast**
  - Day 10: **Sea Ranch to Tiburon**

# BAY AREA

## Itinerary overview

Embrace the Bay Area's outdoorsy lifestyle and San Francisco's proximity to abundant wild open spaces on this Northern California road trip. Travel south to north, hugging the coast from Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay, stopping for a city break in San Francisco. More rural adventures await continuing north into Marin County and up into the

farthest reaches of the Sonoma Coast. All along the way, savor just-picked produce, the freshest local seafood, award-winning artisanal cheeses and hyper-local boutique wines. Bike across the Golden Gate Bridge, blaze trails through forests and coastal seashores and discover secret urban stairways. The Bay Area is your oyster!



## ● Day 1: SFO to Santa Cruz

- Hit the road to **Santa Cruz** from SFO via I-280 and CA-17 S (67 mi/34 km).
- Detour to **Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park** for a walk among the towering old-growth redwood trees.
- After checking into your hotel, head out to the legendary **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** for fun and games followed by dinner on the **Santa Cruz Wharf**.
- Overnight in **Santa Cruz**.

## ● Day 2: Santa Cruz

- Start your day with a beach walk at **Natural Bridges State Beach**.
- Rent bikes to cruise along the 3-mile **West Cliff Drive** waterfront.
- Visit the **Santa Cruz Surfing Museum** to learn about the region's outsized role in the sport's history.
- Stop by the **O'Neill Surf Shop** downtown (pioneer of the wetsuit, the late Jack O'Neill was a longtime Santa Cruz local).
- Spend the afternoon at charming **Capitola State Beach** with its colorful shops, restaurants and pier.
- Back in town, feast on creative hyper-local fare at Michelin-endorsed **Alderwood**.
- Overnight in **Santa Cruz**.



### Day 3: Santa Cruz to Half Moon Bay

- Watch the surfers at Steamer Lane before hitting the Pacific Coast Highway north to **Half Moon Bay** (48 mi/77 km).
- Enjoy the small-town charms of Half Moon Bay's quaint downtown **Main Street District**.
- Hang out at **Pillar Point Harbor**, browse the shops and dine on fresh catch.
- Check the surf and watch the sunset at the world-famous big wave break, **Mavericks**.
- Have dinner at Peruvian standout **La Constanera**.
- Overnight in **Half Moon Bay**.

### Day 4: Half Moon Bay to San Francisco

- Continue north up the PCH (20 mi/32 km), stopping for a short hike at **Devil's Slide Trail** which was once part of Highway 1 or a leisurely stroll on the pier in **Pacifica** (a further 9.8 mi/15 km up the coast).
- Hop back in the car heading towards **Golden Gate Park** (11 mi/18 km), detouring to see the **Sutro Baths** on your way into the city.
- In the park, explore attractions such as the magnificent **California Academy of Sciences**, the striking **de Young Museum** and the country's oldest **Japanese Tea Garden**.
- After getting settled into your hotel, head out for dinner in **Chinatown**—the oldest in North America.
- Overnight in **San Francisco**.



## ● Day 5: San Francisco

- See the city through a local's lens on a guided walking tour with [Urban Hiker SF](#), exploring secret stairways and hidden forests along the way.
- Peruse the many vendors in the iconic [Ferry Building](#) marketplace and graze through the excellent eateries.
- Continue along the Embarcadero to [Pier 39](#) and [Fisherman's Wharf](#).
- Soak up some sun and sea breezes at [Crissy Field](#) and wander through the city's newest park, [The Presidio Tunnel Tops](#).
- For dinner, check out a vibrant storied neighborhood such as the [Mission District](#), [Fillmore](#) or [Marina/Pacific Heights](#).
- Overnight in [San Francisco](#).

## ● Day 6: San Francisco

- Join a guided bike tour with [Blazing Saddles](#) to cross the Golden Gate Bridge on bike and return by ferry from Sausalito.
- Attend a [San Francisco Giants](#) or [Golden State Warriors](#) game for a quintessential Bay Area sports fan experience.
- Overnight in [San Francisco](#).



## ● Day 7: Marin County

- Depart San Francisco heading towards **Marin County** via US-101.
- After crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, stop at **Muir Woods National Monument** (16 mi/26 km) for a hike among the old growth redwoods (parking reservations are required).
- Continue north on Highway 1 to **Point Reyes National Seashore** (23 mi/37 km).
- Stop in the charming town of **Point Reyes Station** to browse the shops.
- Savor locally-harvested oysters and other fresh seafood snacks at one of the Tomales Bay-side oyster shacks tucked along Highway 1, such as **The Marshall Store** or **Hog Island Oyster Company** (reservations recommended for the latter).
- Overnight in **West Marin** (popular lodging options include the newly redesigned **Lodge at Marconi**, boutique style **Olema House** and rustic chic **Nick's Cove**).

## ● Day 8: Sonoma Coast

- Drive up Highway 1 heading into the **Sonoma Coast** (32 mi/51 km).
- En route, stop in the tiny village of **Tomales** and detour to **Dillon Beach**.
- Continue onto **Bodega Bay** to see the town of **Bodega** where Alfred Hitchcock's film *The Birds* was set, capture the views at the end of the **Bodega Head** look out and have lunch on the wharf.
- As you head up the PCH, beach hop and take in the dramatic coastal vistas at **Sonoma Coast State Park** and **Goat Rock Beach**.
- Overnight in **Jenner** (seaside lodgings with restaurants include **River's End** and **Timber Cove**).



## Day 9: Sonoma Coast

- Start the morning with a guided kayak tour in the Russian River estuary or rent **Jenner Kayaks** for a DIY exploration where the Russian River flows into the Pacific.
- Hit the road for **The Sea Ranch** (31 mi/48 km), stopping at **Salt Point State Park** for tidepooling and a beach walk.
- Check into **The Sea Ranch Lodge** and unwind, while enjoying the property's amenities and its world-renowned architecture that harmonizes with the natural environment.
- Overnight at **The Sea Ranch Lodge**.

## Day 10: Sea Ranch to Tiburon

- After a morning on **The Links** or trails of The Sea Ranch Lodge, check out and hit the road south via Highway 1 and US-101.
- Stop in the riverside town of **Petaluma** (66 mi/106 km) for a browse and bite to eat.
- Continue south on US-101 and CA-131 E to the picturesque bayside community of **Tiburon** (30 mi/48 km).
- After checking into your lodgings, stroll around Main Street and have dinner at a waterfront classic like **Sam's Anchor Café** or upscale newcomer, **The Bungalow by Michael Mina**—both serving up views of San Francisco's cityscape.
- Overnight in **Tiburon** (SFO is 29 mi/46 km away).