

travel
itinerary
outdoors

OUTSIDE BOUND IN CALIFORNIA'S HIGH SIERRA

10 days traversing the great
outdoor landscapes of
**Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National
Park, Mammoth Lakes and
Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks**

visit
California

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- Day 1: **Sacramento to Nevada City**
Day 2: **Nevada City to North Lake Tahoe**
Day 3: **North Lake Tahoe**
Day 4: **South Lake Tahoe**
Day 5: **Lake Tahoe to Mariposa**
Day 6: **Yosemite National Park**
Day 7: **Yosemite National Park to Mammoth Lakes**
Day 8: **Mammoth Lakes**
Day 9: **Mammoth Lakes to Bakersfield**
Day 10: **Bakersfield to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks**

HIGH SIERRA

Itinerary overview

Get off the beaten path and tune into Mother Nature on a high-altitude road trip adventure with the Sierra Nevadas as your playground. Explore pristine alpine lakes, hike through majestic wilderness areas and experience authentic hospitality in charming towns. See traces of California's gold rush history in historic Nevada City and Truckee. Revel in the grandeur of the

national parklands in Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon—from dramatic waterfalls and crystalline rivers to iconic landmarks and the world's largest trees. Reflect upon Lake Tahoe's Big Blue and Mammoth's many lakes. At night, gaze up at pure inky skies to witness the Milky Way. This adventure is best suited for late spring through fall when all mountain passes are open.



● Day 1: Sacramento to Nevada City

- Drive from Sacramento Airport (SMF) to **Nevada City** (67 mi/107km).
- Check into the iconic, restored landmark **The National Exchange Hotel**.
- Explore the former mining town on foot and check out the eclectic shops.
- Dine at **Friar Tuck's**, **Lola** or **Sushi in the Raw**.
- Overnight in Nevada City.

● Day 2: Nevada City to North Lake Tahoe

- Start the day with a low-key trek on the **Deer Creek Tribute Trail** accessible from the hotel.
- Check out and drive to **Truckee** (52 mi/84 km via CA-20 E and I-80 E), the gateway to **North Lake Tahoe**.
- Wander around the **historic downtown** in Truckee, browsing the shops and tucking into one of the eateries.
- Sip a cocktail in the mountain chic **Living Room** lobby bar of The Ritz-Carlton Lake Tahoe.
- Overnight in **North Lake Tahoe**.

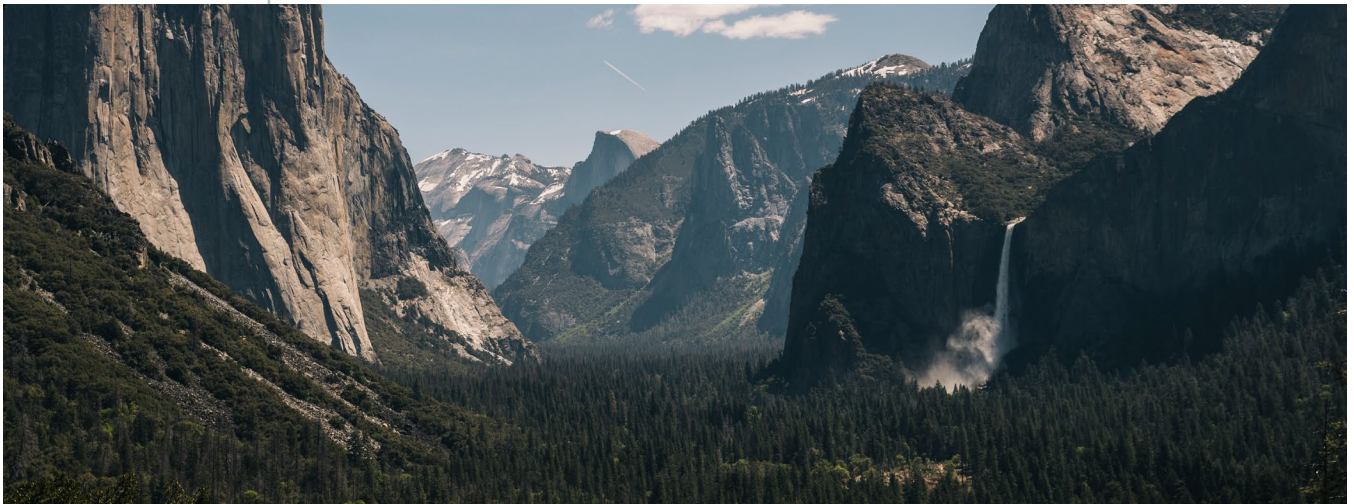


● Day 3: North Lake Tahoe

- Get close to North America’s largest alpine lake strolling along **Kings Beach**.
- Sample local brews and have lunch with a view of Crystal Bay at **Tahoe National Brewing Co.**
- Embark upon a guided hike or other land-based adventure with **Tahoe Adventure Co.**
- Catch an elevated sunset view of the lake on **Eagle Rock Trail**.
- Overnight in **North Lake Tahoe**.

● Day 4: South Lake Tahoe

- Go stand up paddle boarding with **SUP South Tahoe** or kayaking with **Clearly Tahoe**.
- Hike or mountain bike **The Big Meadow Trail** to Round Lake.
- Take a sunset cruise on **Emerald Bay**, a picturesque state park and National Natural Landmark.
- Overnight in **South Lake Tahoe**. (**Coachman** and **Margaritaville Resort Lake Tahoe** are the newest additions to the lodging scene.)



● Day 5: Lake Tahoe to Mariposa

- Drive to **Mariposa** via CA-89 S, CA-120 and CA-49 (180 mi/289 km).
- Daredevils can take flight with **Sky Dive Yosemite** for a one-of-a-kind aerial view of Yosemite National Park.
- Stroll around Mariposa's historic 1850s-era downtown district and stop by the **California State Mineral & Mining Museum** and **Mariposa Museum & History Center**.
- Overnight in **Mariposa**. (**AutoCamp Yosemite** offers nature glamping accommodations on the outskirts of town.)

● Day 6: Yosemite National Park

- Hit the road (CA-140 E 40 mi/64 km) to catch the sunrise in **Yosemite Valley** from the **Tunnel View** vista as you enter the park; reservations are required April through October.
- Wander through **El Capitan Meadow** and gaze up at **El Capitan** to look for climbers on the famous rock face.
- Walk to the base of **Bridal Veil Falls** and move onto the **Cooks Meadow** loop to see lower **Yosemite Falls** and admire **Half Dome**.
- Explore **Yosemite Village** and have dinner in the grand 1920s-era **The Ahwahnee Dining Room**.
- Overnight in **Yosemite National Park**.



Day 7: Yosemite National Park to Mammoth Lakes

- Leave the park heading east on **Tioga Pass CA-120** (open seasonally) towards Mammoth Lakes (104 mi/167 km).
- En route, catch the view from **Olmstead Point** and stop for a stroll around **Tenaya Lake** and **Tuolumne Meadows**.
- Stop in **Lee Vining** for a snack and take a detour to check out **Bodie State Historic Park**, an abandoned ghost town open seasonally.
- Returning south on US-395, stop by the **Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve**.
- Have dinner in **The Village at Mammoth**.
- Overnight in **Mammoth Lakes**.

Day 8: Mammoth Lakes

- Book a guided **Fly Fishing** excursion with an outfitter such as **The Troutfitter & Troutfly**.
- Head towards the Red Meadow area to see **Devils Postpile National Monument**.
- Hike to **Minaret Vista** on Mammoth Mountain for a sunset over the Minarets.
- Have a casual dinner at **Mammoth Lakes Brewing Co.** or treat yourselves to local favorite **Petra's Bistro & Wine Bar**.
- Overnight in **Mammoth Lakes**.



Day 9: Mammoth Lakes to Bakersfield

- Depart for **Bishop** (45 mi/72 km) and have a wander around the little town.
- Continue south on US-395 (62 mi/100 km) to see the **Alabama Hills** rock formations and **Museum of Western Film History** in Lone Pine.
- Make **Ridgecrest** (80 mi/129 km) your next road stop en route to **Bakersfield** (112 mi/180 km) via CA-58 W.
- Catch dinner and a show at **Buck Owen's Crystal Palace** and learn about California's Country music history and the **Bakersfield Sound**.
- Overnight in **Bakersfield**. (**The Padre** is a revitalized Western-chic boutique hotel.)

Day 10: Bakersfield to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

- Drive to **Sequoia National Park** (95 mi/152 km), stopping in **Visalia** for food and fuel.
- Spend the day exploring **Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks** along the scenic byway, stopping at highlights including **The Giant Forest** (home the world's tallest tree), **Crystal Cave** (seasonal; tickets required), the **Drive Through Log** and **Grizzly Falls**.
- Overnight in **Visalia** (LAX and SFO are both approx. 3.5-hour drive away.)