

travel  
itinerary

# WORLD CUP BY AMTRAK: THE ULTIMATE WEST COAST RAIL JOURNEY

A curated rail itinerary connecting World Cup host regions through California's most compelling coastal and inland destinations. This refined journey prioritizes immersion over distance, transforming sports travel into a deeper cultural experience — ideal for long-haul clients who value time, connection, and meaningful exploration, not just match tickets.

visit  
California

# THE TRIP

## Itinerary overview

Transform World Cup travel into a premium West Coast rail journey designed specifically for long-haul travelers. Traveling aboard Amtrak's Coast Starlight and Pacific Surfliner routes, this itinerary reveals landscapes inaccessible by highway – dramatic coastal bluffs, fertile agricultural valleys, and mountain vistas – while connecting travelers to a curated selection of California's most distinctive destinations. Rather than rushing between numerous

stops, the journey is intentionally streamlined to a small number of meaningful locations with two-to-three-night stays, allowing travelers to settle in, explore neighborhoods, dine locally, and experience each place beyond the surface. Centrally located stations in walkable cities ensure seamless arrivals with immediate access to beaches, wine regions, cultural attractions and accommodations with character.



## The Stats

**Routing:** Los Angeles → Santa Barbara → San Luis Obispo / Paso Robles → Bay Area → Sacramento

**Total Journey Time:** 35 hours non-stop (recommend nine to 12 days with stops)

**Optimal Pace:** Two to three nights per major stop

**Ideal for:** Long-haul travelers, premium couples, first-time U.S. visitors, sustainable travel clients, travelers attending World Cup matches in multiple host regions.

**Booking Tip:** Reserve separate ticket segments for each planned stop to guarantee preferred departure dates and allow flexibility around match schedules.

**Sustainability Selling Point:** Rail travel significantly reduces carbon footprint compared to flying while enhancing the journey itself as part of the experience.

**Group Logistics:** Amtrak accommodates groups with advance notice; private coach sections can be considered for fan groups traveling together.

**Group Logistics:** Travelers with additional days can extend stays or add nearby experiences – from island excursions and culinary tours to national parks and wine country retreats – providing travel advisors with a flexible framework to tailor journeys around match attendance and client interests.



## ● Gateway: Union Station, Los Angeles

**The Departure Point:** Begin at Los Angeles Union Station (opened 1939), a masterwork of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture featuring soaring ceilings, Art Deco detailing, and a cinematic history spanning decades. Arrive early to appreciate the grandeur of the historic waiting room before beginning the journey north.

Allow time in Los Angeles to recover from long-haul travel, attend World Cup matches or fan festivals, and explore the city's iconic neighborhoods – from coastal Santa Monica to the Arts District.

**Pre-Departure Experience:** Walk to Olvera Street, LA's oldest marketplace, for authentic cuisine and a glimpse into the city's origins.



## Coastal California: The Pacific Surfliner Corridor

### ● Santa Barbara: The American Riviera

**Distance from LA:** 95 miles north

**Downtown-to-beach:** 10-minute walk

- Red-tile roofs and white stucco facades define Santa Barbara, a Mediterranean-inspired coastal city offering an ideal transition into California's relaxed lifestyle. With its walkable downtown, waterfront cycling paths, and renowned culinary scene, Santa Barbara rewards longer stays and slow exploration.
- Urban wineries allow visitors to sample Santa Barbara County wines without leaving the city, while State Street's pedestrian corridor offers boutiques, restaurants, and Spanish Colonial architecture.
- **Accommodation Range:** Historic luxury properties, boutique inns, and beachfront resorts.
- **Professional Note:** Santa Barbara's walkability and premium dining scene resonate strongly with long-haul travelers seeking a European-style coastal experience within the United States.
- **Extra Time Option:** Channel Islands National Park excursion, culinary tours in the Funk Zone, or a coastal spa retreat.



## Central Coast Wine Country

### ● San Luis Obispo: College Town Charm Meets Wine Culture

**Distance from Ventura:** 95 miles

- San Luis Obispo blends mission-era history with youthful energy from Cal Poly's student population. The compact downtown features independent boutiques, coffee culture, and creative dining, making it ideal for immersive stays rather than brief visits.
- **Extended Stay Option:** Day trip to Hearst Castle or coastal villages north of the city.

### ● Paso Robles: Wine Country Without Pretension

**Distance from San Luis Obispo:** 30 miles

- Paso Robles offers a relaxed alternative to Napa Valley, with over 200 wineries, olive groves, and farm-to-table dining. The town square serves as a gathering place surrounded by tasting rooms, artisan shops, and boutique hotels.
- **Professional Tip:** Particularly appealing to clients seeking authentic wine country experiences at a more accessible pace and price point.
- **Extra Time Option:** Vineyard experiences, hot springs, or scenic excursions toward Big Sur.



## Bay Area: Oakland & Berkeley

### ● Oakland: The Cultural Gateway

- **World Cup Venue Access:** Direct transit connections to San Francisco
- Oakland's diverse culinary scene, waterfront neighborhoods, and emerging arts culture provide a distinct perspective on the Bay Area. Jack London Square offers restaurants, markets, and maritime history, while nearby neighborhoods feature galleries, live music venues, and independent boutiques.
- **Lodging:** Boutique hotels and waterfront properties offering value relative to San Francisco.

### ● Berkeley: Bohemian Roots & Culinary Innovation

- One stop north of Oakland, Berkeley combines academic energy with culinary influence. Telegraph Avenue maintains its counterculture heritage, while restaurants rooted in the farm-to-table movement highlight the region's agricultural richness.
- **Culinary Pilgrimage:** Dining experiences inspired by the legacy of California cuisine.
- **Extra Time Option:** Day trips to Napa or Sonoma wine country, redwood forests, or coastal viewpoints.



## The Capital City

### ● **Sacramento: California's Capital**

**Distance from Bay Area:** 90 miles

Sacramento offers a relaxed finale with a celebrated farm-to-fork dining scene, Gold Rush history, and revitalized neighborhoods. Midtown features tree-lined streets, breweries, and locally driven restaurants, while Old Sacramento preserves the atmosphere of the 19th-century riverfront.

**Professional Tip:** Lower accommodation costs combined with strong culinary credentials make Sacramento an appealing addition to long-haul itineraries.

**Extra Time Option:** Extensions to Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe or Yosemite National Park.