

travel  
itinerary

# THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING; INTO THE WILD: CALIFORNIA'S HIGH SIERRA

9 Days Exploring Lake Tahoe,  
Yosemite National Park, Mammoth  
Lakes, and Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
National Parks.

visit  
California

Day 1–2: **North Lake Tahoe**  
Day 3–4: **South Lake Tahoe**  
Day 5–6: **Yosemite National Park**  
Day 7: **Mammoth Lakes**  
Day 8: **Mammoth Lakes**  
Day 9: **Sequoia & Kings Canyon Region**  
Day 10: **Departure**

# THE TRIP

## Itinerary overview

Get off the beaten path and tune into Mother Nature on a high-altitude journey through California’s legendary Sierra Nevada. This immersive itinerary prioritizes longer stays in fewer destinations, allowing travelers to truly connect with the landscapes, wildlife, and mountain communities that define the region.

From Lake Tahoe’s cobalt waters to Yosemite’s granite cathedrals, Mammoth’s volcanic wilderness, and the ancient giants of Sequoia & Kings Canyon, this journey is designed to feel restorative rather than rushed – a powerful contrast to the energy of the World Cup host cities.



## Who This Trip Is For

Designed for active travelers seeking meaningful outdoor experiences and time in nature. Ideal for first-time visitors wanting iconic national parks as well as repeat travelers seeking a deeper, less urban California experience. Best suited for couples, adventure-oriented families with older children, and premium travelers who value space, scenery, and authenticity over packed schedules.

Peak conditions run late May through October when mountain passes are open.

## The Stats

**Total Journey Mileage:** Approximately 800 miles (1,287 km)

### Trip Notes for Agents

Allow time to acclimate to altitude and avoid over-scheduling early in the trip. Accommodations range from rustic lodges to refined resorts and can be tailored to client preferences. National park reservations, entrance fees, and seasonal road closures should be confirmed when booking.

Fly into Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) or Sacramento International Airport (SMF) and depart from Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT) for efficient routing.



## ● Day 1–2: North Lake Tahoe

### **Alpine Welcome: Where the Sierra Meets the Sky**

Begin with two nights to settle into mountain pace and recover from long-haul travel.

#### **Highlights:**

- Explore Kings Beach and scenic shoreline trails
- Visit historic downtown Truckee for boutiques and mountain dining
- Optional lake cruise or guided kayak experience
- Sunset cocktails overlooking the lake

**Overnight:** North Lake Tahoe (Truckee, Tahoe City, or Kings Beach)

## ● Day 3–4: South Lake Tahoe

### **On the Water: Emerald Bay & Tahoe's Crown Jewel**

**Driving:** 50 mi / 80 km

A short scenic transfer allows travelers to experience Tahoe from a different perspective without losing valuable exploration time.

#### **Highlights:**

- Paddleboarding or kayaking on the lake
- Hike Eagle Falls or explore Emerald Bay State Park
- Scenic gondola ride for panoramic views
- Relaxed evening dining and lakefront strolling

**Overnight:** South Lake Tahoe



## ● Day 5–6: Yosemite National Park

### **Into the Valley: Granite Cathedrals & Cascading Falls**

**Driving:** 200 mi / 322 km

Two nights allow meaningful exploration beyond photo stops.

#### **Highlights:**

- Tunnel View and Yosemite Valley orientation
- Walks through meadows and along the Merced River
- Optional guided hike or cycling tour
- Sunset views of El Capitan and Half Dome
- Dinner at The Ahwahnee Dining Room

**Overnight:** Yosemite National Park

## ● Day 7: Mammoth Lakes

### **Over the Crest: High Passes & Alpine Lakes**

**Driving:** 104 mi / 167 km via Tioga Pass (seasonal)

Cross the Sierra via one of California's most dramatic drives, stopping frequently to experience high-altitude scenery.

#### **Highlights:**

- Olmsted Point, Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows
- Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve
- Arrival in Mammoth Lakes for a relaxed evening

**Overnight:** Mammoth Lakes



## ● Day 8: Mammoth Lakes

### **Volcanic Wonders & Mountain Adventure**

A full day to immerse in the Eastern Sierra's unique geology and outdoor culture.

#### **Highlights:**

- Devils Postpile National Monument
- Scenic gondola ride on Mammoth Mountain
- Fly fishing or guided hiking experiences
- Village dining and local breweries

**Overnight:** Mammoth Lakes

## ● Day 9: Sequoia & Kings Canyon Region

### **Among the Ancients: Walking with Giants**

**Driving:** 200 mi / 322 km

Travel south through dramatic high-desert landscapes before entering the realm of giant sequoias.

#### **Highlights:**

- Alabama Hills rock formations
- Giant Forest and General Sherman Tree
- Scenic drives through Kings Canyon

**Overnight:** Three Rivers or Visalia

## ● Day 10: Departure

**Driving:** 75 mi / 121 km to Fresno Yosemite International Airport



## Professional Tips for Agents

- Position this as a restorative wilderness journey following urban experiences
- Emphasize fewer destinations with deeper exploration
- Highlight seasonal timing due to mountain access
- Recommend early reservations for national park lodging

## Destination Background

California's High Sierra is home to some of North America's most iconic landscapes – glacier-carved valleys, alpine lakes, ancient forests, and dark skies. The region offers a distinctly different California experience defined by nature, adventure, and small mountain communities.

## Essential Planning Notes

- Tioga Pass typically open late May–October
- Weather conditions vary significantly by elevation
- Book park accommodations well in advance
- Consider private guides for premium travelers



## ● **Lodging Suggestions**

Options range from national park lodges and boutique mountain hotels to luxury resorts.

## ● **Agent Notes**

This itinerary pairs exceptionally well with World Cup host city stays in Los Angeles or the San Francisco Bay Area, offering a compelling contrast between global event energy and tranquil wilderness.

## ● **Extra Time Options**

If clients have additional time, consider:

- Extending stays in Yosemite or Tahoe
- Adding Napa Valley or Central Coast
- Including Death Valley National Park