

travel
itinerary

WAVES TO WILDERNESS: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UNFILTERED

7–9 Days from the beaches of Orange County and San Diego to the wide open expanses and starry skies of the desert.



visit
California

Day 1–2: **Huntington Beach & Laguna Beach**

Day 3–4: **La Jolla & San Diego**

Day 5: **San Diego to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park**

Day 6–7: **Greater Palm Springs**

THE TRIP

Itinerary overview

Tap into the sun-soaked Southern California lifestyle on a journey designed for depth, not distance. This coastal-to-desert experience blends relaxed beach immersion with the dramatic landscapes and restorative pace of the desert. Starting with iconic beach towns and ending in

the expansive quiet of Greater Palm Springs and Anza-Borrego, travelers experience surf culture, creative coastal communities, desert art, canyon hikes, and poolside downtime – with time to settle in and connect to each place.



Who This Trip Is For

Ideal for travelers seeking a balanced California experience that pairs coastal living with desert landscapes – well suited to first-time visitors wanting iconic highlights delivered at a relaxed pace, as well as repeat visitors looking to go deeper into Southern California’s lifestyle regions. Best for couples, active travelers, and premium leisure clients who value scenery, outdoor experiences, and distinctive accommodations over fast-paced sightseeing.

Trip Notes for Agents

Accommodations range from boutique coastal resorts to desert luxury properties. The compact routing minimizes long drives while maximizing time in destination. Works well as a pre- or post-event extension with arrivals via LAX or San Diego International Airport and departures from Palm Springs or return to LAX.

Total Journey Mileage: Approximately 253 miles (407 km)



● Day 1–2: Huntington Beach & Laguna Beach

Surf Culture and Coastal Immersion

Mileage: Arrival + local exploration

Begin with a two-night stay to ease jet lag and settle into California's beach lifestyle.

Highlights

- Private or small-group surf lessons in Huntington Beach
- Visit the Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum
- Walk the Huntington Beach Pier at sunset
- California beach bonfire experience
- Explore Laguna Beach's galleries, coves, and scenic viewpoints
- Coastal walk through Crystal Cove State Park
- Harbor cruise or electric Duffy Boat experience in Newport Beach

Why Two Nights Here

Allows travelers to acclimate after long-haul flights while experiencing both surf culture and art-forward coastal towns without rushing.

Overnight: Laguna Beach or Huntington Beach (two nights)



● Day 3–4: La Jolla & San Diego

Coastal Elegance Meets Urban Culture

Mileage: 60 mi / 97 km

Travel south to San Diego for a two-night stay combining seaside sophistication with cultural depth.

Highlights

- Paragliding or scenic viewing at Torrey Pines Gliderport
- La Jolla Cove coastal walk and wildlife viewing
- Balboa Park museums and gardens
- San Diego Zoo or alternative cultural attractions
- Coronado Island beach time and historic Hotel del Coronado
- Craft brewery scene in North Park
- Rooftop dining or harbor sunset cruise

Why Two Nights Here

San Diego offers substantial cultural, culinary, and outdoor experiences that benefit from extended time rather than a brief stop.

Overnight: Downtown San Diego or Coronado Island (two nights)



● Day 5: San Diego to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Transition from Coast to Desert

Mileage: 90 mi / 145 km

Drive Time: Approximately 2 hours

Experience one of California's most dramatic landscape shifts.

Highlights

- Scenic desert drive into California's largest state park
- Guided hike in Borrego Badlands or Wind Caves
- Visit Font's Point overlook (conditions permitting)
- Stargazing in an International Dark Sky Community

Overnight: Borrego Springs (one night)



● Day 6–7: Greater Palm Springs

Desert Design, Culture, and Restoration

Mileage: 85 mi / 137 km

Drive Time: Approximately 1.5 hours

Two nights in Greater Palm Springs allow time to relax, explore, and enjoy the region's distinctive style.

Highlights

- Galleta Meadows sculpture installations
- Shields Date Garden experience
- Shopping and dining along El Paseo
- Uptown Design District galleries and vintage shops
- Indian Canyons hiking or guided Red Jeep tour
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway experience
- Resort pool and spa time

Why Two Nights Here

Greater Palm Springs is as much about relaxation as sightseeing – a key selling point for long-haul travelers seeking space and downtime.

Overnight: Greater Palm Springs (2 nights)



● Extra Time Options (Add 1–3 Days)

Joshua Tree National Park Extension

Add a high-desert experience featuring iconic landscapes, creative communities, and wellness activities.

Additional Coastal Nights

Extend the stay in Laguna Beach or San Diego for deeper beach immersion, marine excursions, or culinary experiences.

Luxury Desert Retreat

Add spa days, golf experiences, or private guided tours in Greater Palm Springs.

● Essential Planning Notes

- Compact routing minimizes travel fatigue
- Best traveled October–May for optimal desert conditions
- Summer viable with adjusted outdoor activity timing
- Consider premium accommodation upgrades for long-haul clients
- Private transfers recommended for desert segments

● Lodging Recommendations

- **Coastal:** Boutique beachfront resorts, luxury coastal hotels, or upscale surf-town properties
- **San Diego:** Downtown waterfront hotels or Coronado Island resorts
- **Borrego Springs:** Desert resorts or boutique lodges emphasizing stargazing access
- **Greater Palm Springs:** Luxury resorts, mid-century modern boutique hotels, or wellness-focused properties



Professional Tips for Travel Advisors

- Position as a “Coast to Desert” signature California experience
- Emphasize lifestyle immersion over sightseeing volume
- Ideal as a standalone trip or event extension
- Works well for clients seeking variety without long travel days

Agent Notes

This journey offers strong visual storytelling – surf culture, art communities, dramatic landscapes, and architectural design – making it highly marketable across multiple traveler types.