

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Embark on a journey through Yosemite National Park, from the towering El Capitan to the valley's finest sights
- ▶ Dive into the wonders of Monterey Bay with a private kayaking adventure, spotting diverse marine life
- ▶ Enjoy an exclusive tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, gaining insight into the remarkable sea life of the region
- ▶ Immerse yourself in the breathtaking scenery of Big Sur as you hike through its iconic landscapes
- ▶ Experience culinary delights and luxurious accommodations at refined and intimate lodges

TRIP ROUTE



CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures

QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrival in San Francisco, lively group welcome dinner
- Day 2 transfer to Yosemite National Park, hike in Maripose Grove of Giant Sequoias, check-in at Tenaya Lodge
- Day 3 full-day hike in Yosemite National Park, dinner at château de Sureau, a premiere fine dining destination in the area
- Day 4 free morning at the lodge or optional shared horseback ride, mission San Juan Bautista, check-in at luxurious and intimate Bernardus Lodge
- Day 5 kayak excursion at Elkhorn Slough, lunch at iconic Sly McFly's, private guided tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Day 6 waterfall, caves, and beaches of Big Sur, lunch at iconic Nepenthe, Carmel-by-the-Sea exploration, farewell dinner
- Day 7 transfer to the San Francisco Airport or extend your stay in the Napa Valley

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Active

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$6,495

Optional Single Accommodations: \$2,800

TRIP DATES

September 12 - 18, 2025

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



DAY 1
Friday
9/12/25

Arrive in San Francisco, California

Eclectic, colorful, historic and avant-garde, San Francisco is a lively city with a little something for everyone. From famous sights, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf and Alcatraz Island to legendary neighborhoods like North Beach, Chinatown and Haight-Ashbury, the City by the Bay appeals at every turn. Visitors come from around the world to stroll its fog-draped hills, ride its iconic cable cars and marvel at its well-preserved Victorian architecture. Highly regarded for its superb dining, especially seafood, San Francisco is also noted for its central role in groundbreaking cultural and artistic movements.

Arrival Information

Arrive at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) by 2 PM today. Group transfers from the airport to the hotel will be provided.

Welcome Dinner

Enjoy a lively welcome dinner where you can connect with your fellow travelers this evening. Share stories and discover the unique reasons each woman in your group is excited to explore Northern California.

Accommodations

Argonaut Hotel

Meals Included

dinner

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



DAY 2
Saturday
9/13/25

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park's waterfalls, alpine meadows, and granite peaks drew early conservationist John Muir to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. His passion for the Yosemite Valley and giant sequoia trees prompted the protection of this area, one of the crown jewels of America's national park system (along with Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon).

Transfer to Yosemite National Park

Following breakfast, meet your private driver-guide for a four-hour journey to Yosemite National Park.

Mariposa Grove Hike

Upon arrival, delight in a hike through the majestic Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, followed by a picturesque picnic lunch in a beautiful setting.

Check-in

Proceed to your hotel and settle in for a restful overnight stay. Please note that dinner will be on your own tonight.

Today's Hike

7 miles (11.3 km) round trip, approximately 2.5 hours, 5,600 feet (1,700 m) elevation at trailhead, 1,200 feet (360 m) of elevation gain

Accommodations

Tenaya Lodge

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



DAY 3
Sunday
9/14/25

Yosemite National Park

Visitors can enjoy hiking some Yosemite's trails, watching rock climbers on the towering granite cliffs, or basking in the mist from one of the park's famous waterfalls. Yosemite's breathtaking landscapes and rich biodiversity make it a cherished destination for nature enthusiasts and adventurers alike.

Full Day Tour at Yosemite National Park

Meet your private guide this morning within the Yosemite park entrance for a day-long tour. Discover the renowned highlights of Yosemite, including its major waterfalls, and striking rock formations within Yosemite Valley. In addition, your guide will unveil hidden gems, and off-the-beaten-path trails.

Dinner at Château du Sureau

Tonight, savor a delightful group dinner at Chateau du Sureau. For over three decades, The Elderberry House has stood as the pinnacle of fine dining in the region. Situated amidst the Sierra Mountains, a few minutes from Yosemite National Park, this European retreat promises an evening of unparalleled delight for food connoisseurs and wine aficionados alike. Every meal at The Elderberry House is a sensory journey, featuring locally sourced ingredients handpicked from nearby farms, ensuring freshness and seasonality. Your dining experience is complemented by elegant surroundings and welcoming service.

Today's Hike

10 to 12 miles, 4 to 5 hours, 4,000 ft (1,200 m) at trailhead, up to 1,900 ft (580 m) of elevation gain

Accommodations

Tenaya Lodge

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



DAY 4
Monday
9/15/25

Carmel

Carmel, situated along the picturesque California coast, is a charming coastal town renowned for its beauty and artistic ambiance. With its fairytale-like cottages, white sandy beaches, and quaint streets lined with art galleries and boutiques, Carmel exudes a timeless allure.

Optional Horseback Trail Ride

Indulge in a shared two-hour horseback adventure along Yosemite's Vista Pass Trail, guided by your seasoned Yosemite Cowboy. Traverse a scenic river canyon trail, meandering through verdant forests and crossing Rainer Creek, while soaking in panoramic vistas of the park's breathtaking natural wonders atop Vista Pass. Please note that, for the safety of our guests, there are weight and height restrictions for this activity. Each participant's weight and height must be provided to secure a booking. The rider's Body Mass Index (BMI) should not exceed 32, and the total weight must not exceed 250 lbs. Your AdventureWomen trip manager is available to help guests who wish to reserve their spot (at an additional cost). For those who choose not to participate in the horseback ride, your guide can recommend a short hiking route or you can take advantage of the lodge's superbe amenities and spa services. It is advisable to book spa treatments in advance to ensure availability.

Mission San Juan Bautista

Depart with your private driver-guide for a scenic four-hour journey to Carmel. En route, take a moment to explore the historic Mission San Juan Bautista. Founded on June 24, 1797, by Father Fermín Lasuén of the Franciscan order, this mission stands as the fifteenth of the Spanish missions established in present-day California.

Arrive at Your Lodge

Arrive at the Bernardus Lodge, your home for the next three nights. Nestled on 28 acres in Carmel Valley, it's a luxurious getaway. Dinner will be at your leisure tonight. Don't miss the chance to try the lodge's famous restaurant, known for its outstanding wine selection from their impressive 25,000-bottle cellar.

Accommodations

Bernadus Lodge

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



DAY 5
Tuesday
9/16/25

Carmel and Monterey

Located on California's central coast, Monterey is a captivating seaside destination with a rich history and stunning natural surroundings. It is famed for its picturesque coastline, abundant marine life, and historic Cannery Row. Visitors can explore attractions such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where they can marvel at fascinating exhibits showcasing the diverse marine ecosystems of the region. Additionally, Monterey offers opportunities for outdoor adventures. With its blend of cultural heritage, outdoor activities, and breathtaking scenery, Monterey captivates visitors with its coastal charm and timeless appeal.

Moss Landing Kayak Excursion

This morning, meet your private driver-guide and transfer 30 minutes to Moss Landing for a private guided kayak excursion. The Elkhorn Slough is abundant with life ranging from minute creatures to harbor seals, sea otters and an array of shorebirds. The Slough, protected from the large swells of Monterey Bay, is a perfect introduction to sea kayaking and marine wildlife.

Lunch in Downtown Monterey

Continue to downtown Monterey for lunch at a local favorite, Sly's Refueling Station (also known as Sly McFly's). Located in the heart of Cannery Row, Sly McFly's offers fresh seafood, craft burgers, and premium local eats. You can choose to dine outside and look over the bay and the iconic Cannery Row monument or enjoy the cozy family-friendly environment inside.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Unlock the secrets of the Monterey Bay Aquarium with a special guided tour. Follow your guide through staff-only doors to see a different side of the world-famous facility with many amazing displays, including the 28-foot-tall Kelp Forest, one of the tallest aquarium exhibits in the world. Discover what it takes to run a world-class aquarium, learn about the exciting research projects they are conducting and find out how they prepare food for over 10,000 animals. Afterwards, enjoy time on your own to explore the Aquarium.

Dinner

Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Accommodations

Bernadus Lodge

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



DAY 6
Wednesday
9/17/25

Big Sur and Carmel-by-the-Sea

Big Sur is a breathtaking stretch of coastline renowned for its dramatic cliffs, pristine beaches, and lush wilderness. It's a haven for nature lovers and adventurers seeking solace in its unspoiled beauty.

Hiking in Big Sur

This morning, meet your private guide in the lobby of your hotel to embark on a hiking adventure through Big Sur. Delve into the enchanting realms of waterfalls, caves, and beaches under the expert guidance of your guide. The Monterey Peninsula and the wilderness of Big Sur are known for incredible foliage and landscapes that contrast against the sea cliffs and ocean.

Lunch at Iconic Nepenthe

Sitting up on the hills by the coast in Big Sur, Nepenthe is a place to stop for lunch. The views from there are stunning. Try their special homemade burger with ambrosia sauce while you take in the amazing views of the cliffs and scenery that make Big Sur so popular.

Visit Carmel-by-the-Sea

Make your way to the historic town of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Enjoy stops at galleries, unique village homes, and beautiful boutiques as you learn about the town's history.

Farewell Dinner

Gather with your group for a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends at La Bicyclette. This cozy restaurant specializes in European Country Cuisine made with local ingredients and traditional techniques. Their dishes are simple yet creative, combining flavors in a spontaneous way. The menu changes weekly to showcase the freshest local produce. Despite the small kitchen, everything is prepared on a six-burner stove and in a wood-fired oven. Witness and savor the delicious options available while reflecting on the cherished memories you've created and celebrating the conclusion of an amazing journey through this truly remarkable region.

Accommodations

Bernadus Lodge

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



DAY 7
Thursday
9/18/25

Depart San Francisco

Enjoy some last moments at the Lodge before bidding farewell to this enchanting land. Say goodbye to the incredible guides and fellow travelers who have shared this memorable journey with you.

Departure and Transfer Information

Following breakfast, meet your designated private driver for a two-hour transfer to San Francisco Airport (SFO). Please ensure that your return flight is scheduled for after 12 PM today.

Alternatively, consider extending your stay in Northern California to discover the wonders of Napa Valley. Feel free to inquire about our Wine Country Extension package for further details.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures

Accommodation Details

Argonaut Hotel

Nestled in the heart of San Francisco's vibrant Fisherman's Wharf, the Argonaut Hotel epitomizes the essence of a boutique hotel. Housed within the historic Haslett Warehouse, a magnificent structure dating back to 1907, the Argonaut boasts a captivating blend of exposed brick, Douglas Fir beams, and coastal charm.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, bathrobes, coffee / tea maker, minibar, cable / satellite flatscreen TV, air conditioning

Tenaya Lodge

Tenaya Lodge is a AAA Four-Diamond resort located just two miles from Yosemite National Park's south entrance. Surrounded by towering pines, this property invites you to embark on a Sierra adventure like no other. A beautiful destination throughout the year, this property serves as your premier gateway to the breathtaking Yosemite National Park.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, refrigerator, safe, flatscreen TV, air conditioning, private balcony, or patio

Bernadus Lodge

Tucked away on 28 acres in Carnel Valley, the Bernardus Lodge seamlessly combines sumptuous accommodations, captivating landscapes, and acclaimed farm-to-table dining, ensuring an unparalleled experience for all guests. Its 72 guest rooms and suites have vaulted ceilings, French oak floors, featherbeds, fireplaces, patios, and bathrooms with heated-tile floors and soaking tubs. The spa offers an indoor-outdoor experience with a body-temperature soaking pool. In the center of the resort, you'll find two other heated pools, an adults-only Jacuzzi and compact gym with new Precor workout machines. The critically-acclaimed restaurant has one of the best wine lists in the country.

Amenities: complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, bathrobes, coffee / tea maker, refrigerator, safe, cable/satellite flatscreen TV, air conditioning, private balcony

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures



Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Beer and wine with dinner
- ▶ Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ All gratuities

Not Included:

- ▶ Domestic airfare
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Spa, other services and optional activities booked directly at the lodging

CALIFORNIA

Yosemite and Big Sur Adventures

Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellation must be made in writing to AdventureWomen, LLC (email will be accepted). Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date.

- For cancellations received 89-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the package price is non-refundable and non-transferable.

- For cancellations received 59-0 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the package price is non-refundable and non-transferable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase **trip cancellation insurance** to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Deposit Transfer

You can transfer your deposit to another trip with no additional fee if you notify us within 120 days of the original trip departure date. We can hold your deposit for up to six months as a credit. Failure to book a new trip within this timeframe will result in the forfeiture of your deposit. Please note that this policy doesn't apply to extensions purchased with the main trip, for which the deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. Please note that the deposit for extensions is non-refundable and non-transferable.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen trips.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes trips all over the world for women who want an active, out of the ordinary experience, and meet new friends. **Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!** In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure trips, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!