



## **California Dreamin' Tour to Northern California April 16-21, 2011**

First Day/Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (Dinner included)

The group will arrive San Francisco International Airport at 9:33 AM after the flight(s) from the Midwest and will be met at the airline baggage claim by the group's local Tour Director.

Upon arrival the group will board a deluxe motorcoach for a sightseeing tour of San Francisco, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Even if you have been to San



Francisco before, this most beautiful "city by the bay" always has something special to witness and experience. If this is your first visit, you will quickly be seduced by the city's charm, uniqueness and beauty. And all along the way, you will absorb the sights and sounds of the many neighborhoods which make San Francisco so vibrant. The tour begins with a stop at Alamo Square, site of a famous postcard setting that features the San Francisco skyline overlooking a row of picture-perfect Victorians. Then it is off to Twin Peaks, a 65 acre park overlooking the city that is known for its breathtaking views of the entire Bay area. Next is Golden Gate Park, certainly one of the largest and most spectacular metropolitan parks in the country. The group will then drive to that venerable city landmark, the Cliff House, which overlooks the majestic Pacific Ocean and beautiful Ocean Beach. Following the drive through the wooded Presidio, one of the country's newest national parks, the group will make a stop at the Golden Gate Bridge, one of the most awesome man-made structures in the world. The tour continues past the Palace of Fine Arts and the restored Victorians along fashionable Union Street.



Then it is off to exciting Chinatown, San Francisco's fabled city-within-a-city, the largest Chinese community outside of the Orient. Chinatown offers a wide variety of world-renowned restaurants, exotic shops, food markets, temples, museums, and night spots. Here the group will take a walking tour which will provide a fascinating glimpse of Chinese culture and lifestyle. Afterwards individuals will have time to shop at the stores along Grant Avenue for fine silk, jade, and pearls.

At 3:00 PM, following the drive along the Embarcadero, the waterfront, the tour will conclude at the Radisson at Fishermans Wharf, a contemporary-style hotel located in the heart of the waterfront attractions.

Following pre-registered check-in at the hotel individuals will have plenty of time to relax and freshen up.

Tonight the group will take the short stroll to Pier 39, a shopping and restaurant complex which overlooks the bay. After viewing the sea lions which frolic on docks below the pier the group will enjoy a gala welcome dinner at the Fog Harbor House, a popular restaurant which features excellent cuisine and beautiful views of the Golden Gate.

Following dinner individuals can enjoy the specialty shops and street performers at Pier 39 before the group heads back to the hotel.

### Second Day/Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (American Breakfast & Lunch)

Each morning guests will have breakfast at their leisure at the hotel between 7:00 and 9:00 AM (specific times may vary due to the itinerary).

This morning the group will travel across the world renowned Golden Gate Bridge and make a photo stop at Vista Point which offers commanding views of the distant cityscape and beautiful bay.

The tour continues to Muir Woods, a national monument featuring ancient and towering redwood trees. In size, antiquity, and awe-inspiring grandeur, there are no other living things in the world that can compare with the impressive California redwoods.



The group will then drive past a colorful houseboat community to picturesque and charming Sausalito where tour members will have time to shop at the stores along Bridgeway, to explore the marinas and yacht clubs, and to just relax in this spectacular setting.

Lunch follows at Horizons which overlooks the bay and the San Francisco skyline.



The group will then board the ferry for the bay crossing which passes within yards of the former island prison of Alcatraz, "the Rock." During the course of the bay cruise individuals can enjoy the refreshing bay air, the graceful flight of colorful seagulls, and take-in views of the city's landmarks.

Mid-afternoon arrival at the Fisherman's Wharf area with the remainder of the day free. Many individuals will want to ride a cablecar, the only national landmark on wheels, to Union Square to shop at the department stores which include Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom's, Bloomingdale's, and Gump's. Others may want to visit one of the city's outstanding museums,

Tonight the tour director will make suggestions for dining spots and evening entertainment. Some individuals may want to simply purchase some sourdough bread, clam chowder, and cracked crab at Fisherman's Wharf. Members of the group looking for after-dinner entertainment will want to visit the Buena Vista Cafe for an Irish Coffee, watch "Beach Blanket Babylon" at the Club Fugazi, or dance the night away at a popular nightclub.

### Third Day/Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (American Breakfast & Lunch)

Today the group will travel north to the beautiful tapestry of the wine country. Passing fabled hills, valleys, and lush vineyards, the group will first make a stop at Gloria Ferrar, a beautiful red-tiled roofed winery in Sonoma that overlooks San Pablo Bay. Owned by Freixenet, the Spanish makers of the highly successful Cordon Negro, the romanesque winery recalls its Barcelona heritage with its hillside caves for aging the wines. Encompassing 250 acres, the vineyards yield some of California's finest Pinot Noir and Chardonnay - the classic grapes of fine sparkling wine. On the private guided tour, members of the group will learn about the methode champenoise, the special techniques and equipment used to create the winery's renowned sparkling wines. Following the excellent tour, members of the group will taste some of the winery's the sparkling wines on the patio overlooking Jack London's "Valley of the Moon."



The tour continues to the Napa Valley where the group will enjoy a memorable lunch onboard the Wine Train, a nostalgic return to the gracious era of elegant rail travel. Guests will board one of the meticulously restored dining cars replete with etched glass, polished brass, fine fabrics, and mahogany for the relaxing journey north through the heart of the Napa Valley. Individuals will be pampered with a superb full course meal during the course of the three hour adventure which focuses on the combination of fine wine and food.



The group will then return to San Francisco via the Oakland Bay Bridge. A stop will be made here at Treasure Island for a brilliant view of the city skyline, with arrival back at the hotel in the late afternoon.

The evening is at leisure. Suggested activity tonight would be a cocktail at the Top of the Mark on exclusive Nob Hill followed by dinner at one of San Francisco's world class gourmet restaurants. Some may want to enjoy a wonderful dinner and entertainment at Teatro ZinZanni. Others may prefer to take in a San Francisco Giants baseball game at AT+T Park, considered to be one of the finest ballparks in the country (if the Giants are not scheduled to play then individuals can take the Bay Area Rapid Transit to Oakland to watch the Oakland Athletics).

#### Fourth Day/Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (American Breakfast & Dinner)



At 8:30 AM the group will drive south along the scenic coastal highway to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, the art capital of the West, the golf capital of the world, and the gateway to Big Sur country. California's scenic coastal highway is one of the most spectacular coastal drives in the world. There are few places where land and sea meet as dramatically as in Big Sur country, where the thundering surf and rocky cliffs crash head-on.

Upon arrival the group will make a lunch stop at charming Carmel-by-the-Sea, a simple yet sophisticated shopper's paradise. This one square mile community attracts millions of visitors each year to its peculiar mix of English village, ramshackle beach town, and cosmopolitan shopping district. Individuals will want to shop at the upscale stores along Ocean Avenue, have lunch at one of the popular restaurants, see some of the art galleries, or just stroll along the white sanded beach.

The group will then take the famed 17-Mile Drive, a private community known throughout



the world for its natural scenic beauty and affluence. The drive affords an insiders view of sheltered coves that are home to sea lions, seals, and otters. Groves of cypress and pine shelter free-roaming deer. A protrusion of rare grasses, shrubs and wildflowers in a rainbow of color flourishes along the length of the drive. During the course of the driving tour the group will make featured stops at the

Lodge at Pebble Beach, the Lone Cypress, and Bird and Seal Rocks.

The group will then will visit Cannery Row, immortalized by the author John Steinbeck, which features restaurants, factory outlet stores, specialty shops, and wine tasting rooms that overlook beautiful Monterey Bay.

Following some free time the group will dine at the Fish Hopper Restaurant. While watching the never ending water show of playful harbor seals, soaring seagulls, and an occasional sea otter, tour members will dine on fine seafood featuring the harvests of the sea.

After dinner the group will head back to San Francisco through the fertile Salinas Valley, “the salad bowl of America”, and through Silicon Valley where many of the country’s computer and high tech companies are based, with arrival back at the hotel by 10:00 PM.

Fifth Day/Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (American Breakfast & Dinner)

At 9:00 AM the group will take the short walk along the Embarcadero and board the ferry for the 1 1/2 mile bay crossing to Alcatraz Island, now a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. During the bay cruise, individuals can enjoy the refreshing bay air, the graceful flight of colorful seagulls, and the city's famed landmarks. The site of the first lighthouse built on the Pacific Coast, “the Rock” is best known as the infamous former federal prison that once held such notorious criminals as Al Capone, the Birdman of Alcatraz, and Machine Gun Kelly. Tour members will take a special guided tour of the prison cellhouse; their audio guides for this tour will be the guards and inmates who occupied the island during the Federal Penitentiary era.

Midday arrival back at the hotel with the rest of the afternoon unstructured so that individuals can enjoy San Francisco at their own pace. The serious shoppers will want to head for the discount shopping outlets in the South-of-Market district. Many individuals will want to walk across the Golden Gate Bridge, take the ferry to Alcatraz or Tiburon, visit the San Francisco Zoo, or return to Golden Gate Park to visit the Botanical Gardens and Japanese Tea Garden. There's golf, fishing, boating, hiking, and bicycling. Perhaps the best way to truly experience San Francisco is on a walking tour through the city's diverse and colorful neighborhoods and hilly terrain.



This evening the group will transfer along the Embarcadero to the waterfront where guests will board the California Hornblower, a luxurious passenger vessel designed to resemble the grand steamships that once sailed under the Golden Gate. During the course of the public sunset dinner cruise, the group will discover the grace and grandeur of another age onboard this absolutely classic ship. As the ship parallels the Fisherman's Wharf area, individuals will want to enjoy the dramatic views of the cityscape, the refreshing bay air, and the graceful flight of colorful seagulls on one of the open decks. As the California Hornblower slips under the famed Golden Gate Bridge and passes the picturesque communities of Sausalito and Tiburon, guests can dance to the music of a band on one of the enclosed decks. After the sun sets the group will enjoy a lavish dinner. Guests will dine in an elegant salon amidst beautiful mahogany bars, gleaming brass appointments, fine china and crystal. Following the sumptuous dinner, individuals will enjoy the glittering lights of the city and the radiant stars in the sky before the spectacular night comes to an end.



Sixth Day/Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 (American Breakfast)



Following checkout of the Radisson at Fishermans Wharf the group will transfer to the airport for the return flight home, with fond remembrances of the tour to San Francisco. Individuals may have indeed left their hearts in San Francisco but are bound to take home many wonderful memories of the *SEE THE WORLD TOURS TRIP TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA*.

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