

*A Sweeping Journey Through California's Most
Iconic Landscapes from the Sierra to the Sea.*

WEST COAST SWING

May 8 - 18, 2027 & April 15 - 25, 2028

For nearly four decades, we've refined a signature spring journey that brings together the romance of rail travel and the ease of coastal cruising into one seamless adventure. Our West Coast Swing returns and it's better than ever, combining California's legendary scenery with a relaxed pace, intimate group touring, and thoughtfully planned two-night stays along the way.

Our journey begins in historic Old Sacramento before following famed Highway 49 through the heart of Gold Rush country. Travel through storied towns such as Angels Camp, Columbia, and Coloma, where the discovery of gold in 1848 forever changed the American West. A nostalgic ride aboard the Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad leads into a full day exploring the grandeur of Yosemite National Park, including Tunnel View, Yosemite Valley, and the Ansel Adams Gallery.

From the Sierra Nevada, we continue south to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, home to towering ancient giants and some of the most awe-inspiring landscapes in California. The adventure then turns toward the Pacific coast, where we explore magnificent Hearst Castle before enjoying a relaxing two-night stay in beautiful Pismo Beach. While on the coast, discover scenic Morro Bay, known for its iconic volcanic rock, working waterfront, and outstanding seafood.

A memorable finale awaits as we board Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner for one of the most scenic rail journeys in America, hugging the Southern California coastline en route to Los Angeles. There, we embark Princess Cruises for a delightful Pacific coastal voyage featuring relaxing days at sea, fine dining, and engaging onboard experiences. Ports of call include San Francisco and Victoria, British Columbia, before our journey concludes in Vancouver.

Beautifully paced and richly rewarding, West Coast Swing is filled with extraordinary scenery, fine hotels, memorable experiences, and just the right amount of time to slow down and enjoy it all.

All aboard!

Tour Highlights

- ◆ Scenic Highway 49 through Gold Rush country
- ◆ Steam train ride through the Sierra forest
- ◆ Full day in Yosemite National Park
- ◆ Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
- ◆ Hearst Castle and the Central Coast
- ◆ Coastal wine tasting experience
- ◆ Two nights in Pismo Beach
- ◆ Pacific Surfliner oceanfront rail journey
- ◆ 5-day Pacific Coast cruise aboard Princess Cruises
- ◆ Fully hosted from start to finish



Yosemite National Park



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Daily Itinerary

Day 1 Gold Rush Country & Sugar Pine Railroad D

Late morning, we leave the city behind and wind our way into the softly rolling foothills of the Sierra Nevada along historic Highway 49. Oak-dotted hills, weathered barns, and wooden storefronts tell the story of California's Gold Rush at every turn.

We pass through storied towns like Angels Camp, Columbia, and Coloma—where gold was first discovered—each one echoing with the spirit of another time.

As evening settles in, the day turns magical. Aboard the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad, a vintage steam locomotive pulls us through towering forest, the scent of pine in the air and the rhythmic chuff of the engine carrying us back in time. A relaxed welcome dinner completes a day rich in history and atmosphere.

Day 2 – Yosemite National Park B

Today is nothing short of extraordinary. Yosemite reveals itself in grand, sweeping scale—sheer granite walls rising thousands of feet, waterfalls tumbling in silver ribbons, and wide, peaceful meadows framed by forest.

Stand in the shadow of El Capitan, feel the mist of Bridalveil Falls, and take in the iconic view from Tunnel View, where the valley opens before you in one of the most stunning panoramas in the world.

There is a stillness here, a sense of space and grandeur that stays with you long after you leave.

By late afternoon, we descend from the high country to Fresno for a comfortable two-night stay.

Day 3 – Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park B L

Today, nature humbles and inspires in equal measure. In the Giant Forest, you walk beneath ancient sequoias—massive, silent sentinels that have stood for thousands of years. Sunlight filters softly through their immense branches, and the forest feels almost cathedral-like in its stillness.

Standing beside the General Sherman Tree, the largest living tree on Earth, is a moment that puts everything into perspective.

Beyond the forest, the landscape opens into deep canyons, rugged ridgelines, and sweeping Sierra views that stretch endlessly into the distance. It is a day of awe, beauty, and quiet wonder.

Day 4 – Hearst Castle & California's Central Coast B L

From mountains to ocean, the scenery shifts dramatically today. The road leads west, where golden hills give way to the deep blue of the Pacific.

Perched high above the coastline, Hearst Castle rises like a Mediterranean dream. Marble columns, glittering pools, and priceless art collections create a world of opulence and vision, all set against a backdrop of endless ocean views.

Later, we slow the pace with a coastal wine tasting, savoring the flavors of California before arriving in Pismo Beach. Here, the sound of waves and the scent of salt air welcome us for a relaxing two-night stay by the sea.

Day 5 – Morro Bay & Pismo Beach B

Morning light shimmers across the water as we arrive in Morro Bay, where fishing boats drift gently in the harbor beneath the towering presence of Morro Rock. Sea otters float lazily, gulls circle overhead, and the pace of life slows to match the rhythm of the tide.

Enjoy time to wander the waterfront, browse small shops, or settle in for fresh seafood with a view of the bay.

Back in Pismo Beach, the afternoon is yours—walk the long pier, feel the cool Pacific breeze, or simply sit and watch the waves roll in under a wide California sky.

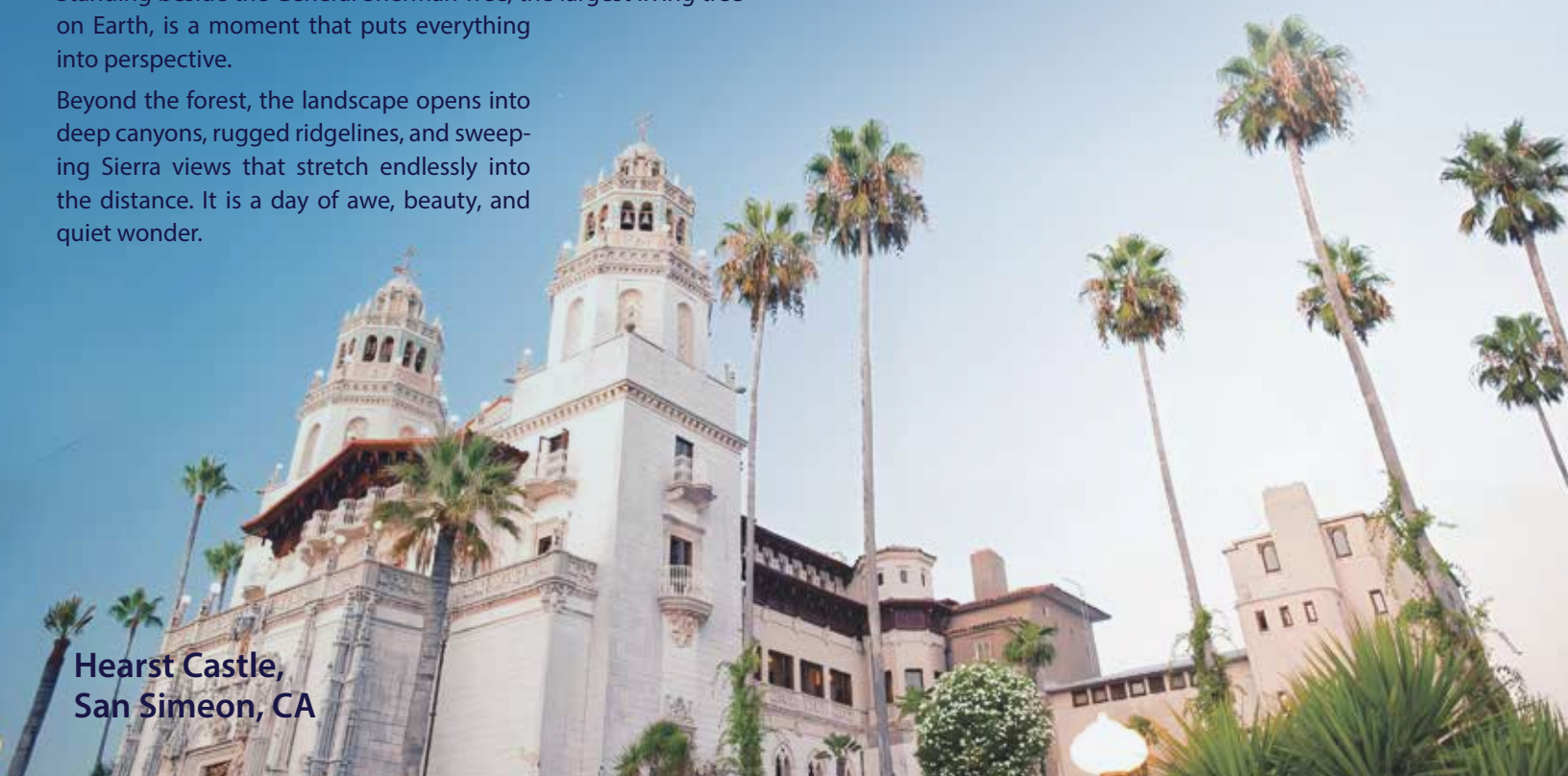
Day 6 Cruise Embarkation B L D

This morning, the journey continues along one of the most beautiful rail routes in America. Aboard the Pacific Surfliner, the tracks trace the edge of the continent—golden beaches, crashing surf, and rugged cliffs unfolding just beyond your window.

It's a perspective few travelers experience, and one you won't soon forget.

In Los Angeles, we board the Princess cruise ship, where comfort and ocean views set the tone for the next stage of your adventure.

Hearst Castle,
San Simeon, CA



Day 7 At Sea

A day to fully unwind. The vast Pacific stretches in every direction, the horizon blending sea and sky. Whether you choose a quiet corner on deck, a spa treatment, or lively onboard entertainment, the day is entirely your own.

Day 8 San Francisco

There are few arrivals as unforgettable as San Francisco by sea. The Golden Gate Bridge rises from the mist as you sail beneath, the city unfolds beyond in layers of hills, architecture, and history.

Spend the day exploring—ride a cable car, wander through Chinatown, sip espresso in North Beach, or stroll along the bustling waterfront. Every neighborhood offers its own flavor, its own story.

Day 9 At Sea

Another peaceful day off the coast of Oregon. Enjoy the simple pleasures of life at sea—morning coffee with ocean views, a swim in the heated pool, or the timeless ritual of afternoon tea served with pastries and soft ocean light.

Day 10 Victoria

Elegant and refined, Victoria feels like stepping into another era. Flower-filled streets, classic architecture, and the graceful Inner Harbour create a setting of quiet beauty.

Visit the world-famous Butchart Gardens, where vibrant blooms unfold across acres of carefully designed landscapes, or enjoy a drink at the storied Fairmont Empress Hotel overlooking the harbor.

Day 11 – Vancouver

Your journey concludes in stunning Vancouver, where mountains meet the sea and glass towers reflect the surrounding natural beauty.

From Gold Rush trails and towering sequoias to coastal railways and Pacific horizons, this has been a journey filled with contrast, beauty, and unforgettable moments—one that lingers long after the journey ends.



Sequoia National Park



Pacific Surfliner



Central Coast Wine Tasting

King's Canyon National Park





Emerald Princess

Classic Cruising with Modern Comforts

The Emerald Princess from Princess Cruises is an elegant, mid-sized cruise ship known for its relaxed atmosphere, classic style, and destination-focused travel experience. Guests enjoy a wide variety of dining options, live entertainment, pools, lounges, a full-service spa, and Princess' Medallion Class technology for personalized onboard service. The ship offers a comfortable and refined cruising experience without the overwhelming feel of today's mega-ships.

In 2028 aboard Royal Princess.

Fares by Ship Accommodation



	Suite	Mini-Suite	Balcony	Oceanview	Inside
Superior	\$ 5,695 PP	\$ 5,195 PP	\$ 4,895 PP	\$ 4,595 PP	\$ 4,295 PP
Standard			\$ 4,795 PP	\$ 4,495 PP	\$ 4,195 PP
Single Fares					
Standard	BY REQUEST	\$ 6,495	\$ 5,795	\$ 5,495	\$ 4,995

Sacramento pre-tour stay: to avoid concerns about same day connections, arrive in Sacramento the day before with our optional package including a choice hotel in Old Sacramento, room, tax, breakfast and admission to the acclaimed California State Railroad Museum for \$165pp double occupancy or \$310 pp single occupancy .

Hotels included:

Sacramento, Holiday Inn Downtown Old Sacramento; Oakhurst, Best Western Plus Yosemite Gateway; Fresno, Hilton Garden Inn; Pismo Beach Pacific Point Resort

BOOKING REQUIREMENTS

A 35% deposit of the Total Fare is required to confirm reservations aboard any tour or program. After 5 days, confirmed reservations without deposit will be automatically cancelled by our reservation system. Final Payment is due 120 days prior to the departure date. Payment by American Express, VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, or check is accepted. Cancellation penalties do apply and for this reason trip cancellation insurance is recommended. Trip insurance is available at a modest cost and additional information may be obtained from your travel professional or the insurance carrier of your choice. We strongly suggest that you purchase travel insurance to cover 100% of your tour cost as there are no exceptions to the cancellation penalties. CST20447949-40 . For details about cancellation as well as terms & conditions, please visit <https://uncommonjourneys.com/terms-conditions/>



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