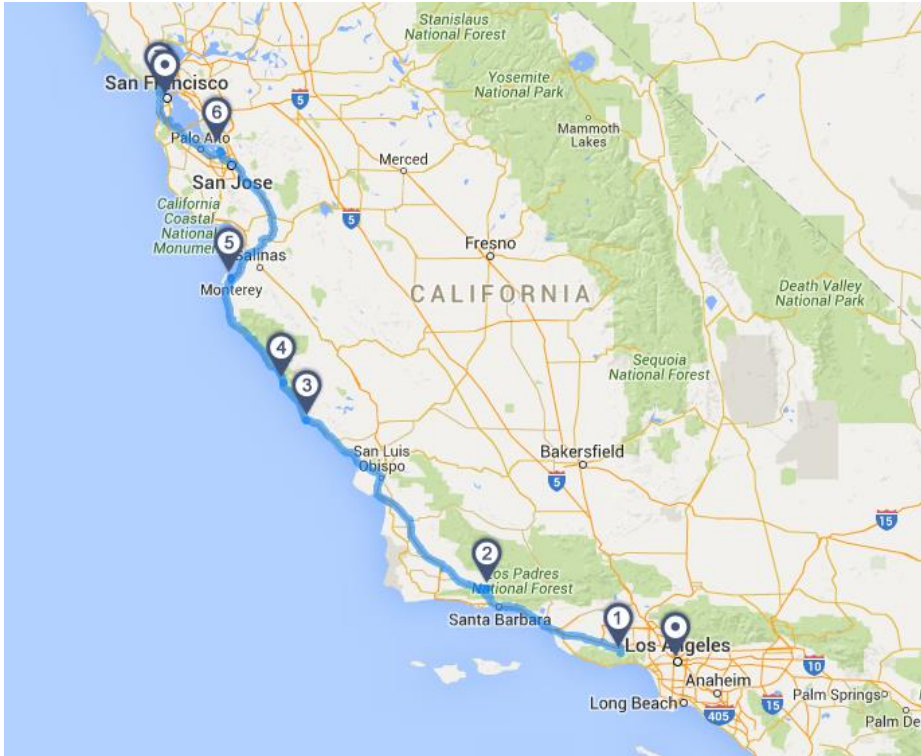




## Los Angeles to San Francisco Road Trip

*miles of trails, light house tours, amazing ocean views*



### HIGHLIGHTS

Traveling along the coastal highway from Los Angeles to San Francisco is a trip you won't soon forget. Experience these scenic destinations along the way.

### KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

- Trails along the coast to spectacular ocean views
- Lighthouse tour
- Beachside campgrounds
- Abundant and exciting wildlife viewing at National Marine Sanctuaries and the California Coastal National Monument
- Intriguing historic sites, like the Piedras Blancas Lightstation and the Inn at the Presidio, Historic Hotel of America

### Build a Trip by Recreation.gov

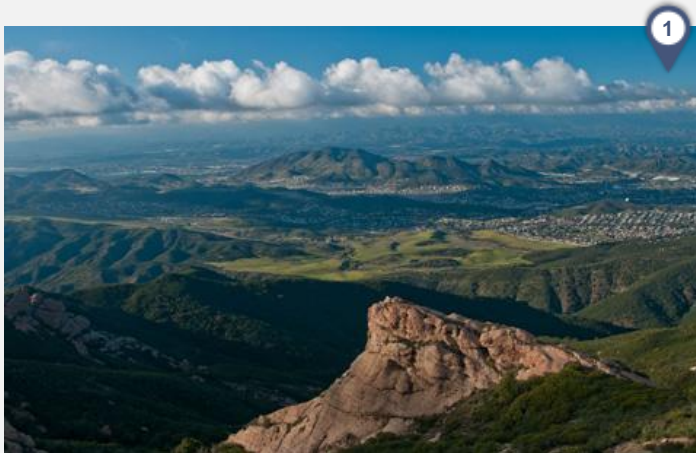


**Build a Trip**  
Create your adventure now

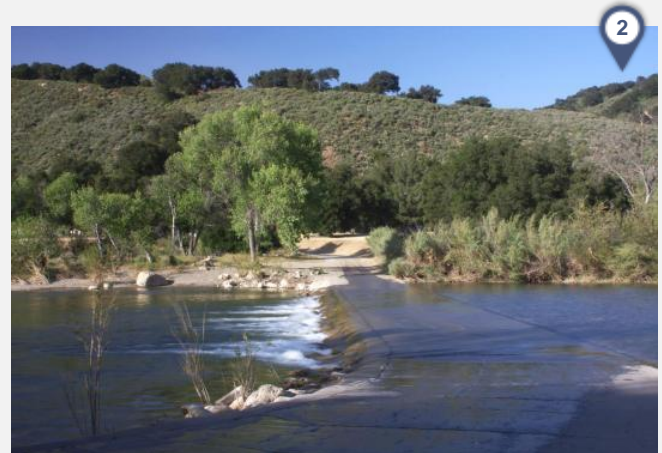
We've created road trip itineraries to show you how you can discover iconic landmarks, great camping and amazing landscapes anywhere you want to go within the U.S.A. Build your own adventure here: [Build a Trip](#).

### Trails, Camping, Beaches, Cultural Sites Galore!

The [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#) is a short distance, yet a world apart, from the urban experience of Los Angeles. Explore 500 miles (804.6 km) of trails, witness movie history at the still-operating Paramount Ranch, and enjoy the wildlife. About an hour up the road, take a rest within the [Sage Hill Campground](#) on the Los Padres National Forest, ideal for groups and at the base of Santa Ynez Mountains.



Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
(National Park Service)



Sage Hill Campground, Los Padres National Forest  
(U.S. Forest Service)

### Historic Light Station and Beachside Camping

A drive along the coast would not be complete without a lighthouse visit. Explore the [Piedras Blancas Light Station Outstanding Natural Area](#) for a tour of this navigational beacon that continues to alert ship traffic today. As you continue up the coast, consider a stay at the [Plaskett Creek Campground](#), which provides access to Sand Dollar Beach, one of largest and most popular central California beaches.



Piedras Blancas Lightstation  
(Carole Adams/Share the Experience)



View from Plaskett Creek Campground, Los Padres  
National Forest (Michael Long)

### National Marine Sanctuaries and the Coastal Monument

As you gaze at the Pacific Ocean, marine sanctuaries and the [California Coastal National Monument](#) are always in view. Snorkeling, diving, and wildlife viewing are popular at [Channel Islands National Park](#) and [National Marine Sanctuary](#) near Santa Barbara. And don't miss the [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#) with visitor centers in San Simeon and Santa Cruz.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
(National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration)



### Historically Important and Plenty of Outdoor Recreation

The [Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#) is one of the largest urban refuges in the USA and is an island of wildlife habitat. Also in the area is the [Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#), an attraction as popular for outdoor recreation as it is for its significant historical legacies. Also consider a historically authentic experience at the [Inn at the Presidio](#), a Historic Hotel of America originally built in 1776 as Army officer's quarters at Golden Gate.



Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge  
(US Fish and Wildlife Service)



Marshall Beach, Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
(Eric DaBreo/Share the Experience)