

Tour of California: Trips for Dairy Challenge Teams 2018

We hope you make the most of your time here in California! If you have any questions, feel free to email Madeline Kuber at madelinekuber@gmail.com.

SAN FRANCISCO REGION (4 hours from Visalia)

Head northwest for the day to see the sights of San Francisco. It's about a 4 hour drive from Visalia, however it will allow the option to conveniently fly out of SFO. On your way up, stop by the Gilroy Outlets for premium brands and great prices. Arrive in the city early afternoon (better chance of fog being gone) and head to Twin Peaks for a panoramic view of the city skyline and a peek at the Golden Gate Bridge. After Twin Peaks, head down to Lombard Street to drive down the most crooked street in the world. From Fisherman's Wharf, take a boat tour to the infamous Alcatraz Jail and explore the retired cell blocks, walk Pier 39 and have dinner next to the sea lions. For dessert, head to Ghirardelli Square for some of the best chocolate treats and atmosphere the city has to offer. Don't forget to grab tickets for a cable car ride through the city. If you're itching to get to the ocean, Baker Beach boasts one of the best views of the Golden Gate Bridge and a chance to dip your toes in the Pacific Ocean. Check dates for "Off The Grid" events that bring together the best of the best food trucks in the city.

- Gilroy Outlets (<http://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/gilroy>)
- Twin Peaks – panoramic view of the city (<http://sfrecpark.org/destination/twin-peaks/>)
- Golden Gate Bridge (<http://goldengatebridge.org/bikesbridge/bikes.php>)
- Alcatraz Tour – group pricing options available (<https://www.alcatrazcruises.com/>)
- Fisherman's Wharf/Pier 39 (<http://www.sftravel.com/article/10-things-do-pier-39>)
- Ghirardelli Square (<http://www.ghirardellisq.com/>)
- Cable Car Rides (<http://www.sftravel.com/cable-cars>)
- Off The Grid – Check dates, suggesting Fort Mason location (<https://offthegrid.com/events/>)
- Baker Beach (<https://www.yelp.com/biz/baker-beach-san-francisco>)

LOS ANGELES REGION (3 hours from Visalia)

Before hitting the HWY 99 Grapevine, make a pit stop at the Outlets at Tejon for great deals on name brands! Head south and spend a day with Mickey and Minnie at the Happiest Place on Earth, fly through the Wizarding World of Harry Potter/Universal Studios, ride the roller coaster on the Santa Monica Pier, or spike your adrenaline with a stop at Six Flags Magic Mountain before flying out of LAX the following day.

- Outlets at Tejon (http://tejonoutlets.com/?utm_source=LBS&utm_campaign=Tejon)
- Disneyland (<https://disneyland.disney.go.com/>)
- Six Flags Magic Mountain (<https://www.sixflags.com/magicmountain>)
- Universal Studios (<http://www.visitcalifornia.com/destination/spotlight-universal-studios-hollywood>)
- Santa Monica – boardwalk (<https://www.santamonica.com/visit-santa-monica/>)

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK (3 hours from Visalia)

Yosemite National Park is home to a few of the most famous and breathtaking views, day hikes, and landmarks. It's about a 3 hour drive north of Visalia, so plan to leave early in the morning, pack a picnic, and spend the day stopping at sights along the Valley floor. A more convenient park to visit would be Sequoia National Park, which is about an hour east of Visalia. While it's views aren't as monumental as Yosemite, you can still see the largest and second largest trees in the WORLD!

- <http://www.visitcalifornia.com/destination/spotlight-yosemite-national-park>
- <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/index.htm>

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (1 hour from Visalia)

- <http://www.visitcalifornia.com/destination/spotlight-sequoia-kings-canyon-national-parks>
- <https://www.nps.gov/seki/index.htm>

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (2+ hours from Visalia)

Another option is to head straight west over to San Luis Obispo County. Wine Country is just east of the coastal range in the area surrounding Paso Robles. Paso is also the home of Firestone Walker Brewing Company. In SLO County you'll find a wide range of fresh seafood options and breathtaking coastal views from Cayucos Beach down to Pismo Beach. Montana de Oro State Park is home to tide pools and rigid coastline. Never been to an American Castle? Head up to Hearst Castle in San Simeon to experience one of the most eclectic properties California has to offer (allow 4-5 hours for full tour). From here you can head north to fly out of San Jose or SFO, or back to the Central Valley to fly out of Fresno.

- Visit SLO CAL (<https://www.visitsanluisobispocounty.com/blog/971/visit-slo-cal>)
- SLO Wine Country (<http://www.slowine.com/>)
- Firestone Walker Brewing (<https://www.firestonebeer.com/>)
- Hearst Castle (<http://www.hearstcastle.org/>)
- Duckies Chowder House – Cayucos, CA (<http://www.duckieschowder.com/>)
- Montana De Oro State Park (https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=592)
- San Luis Obispo, CA (<https://sanluisobispovacations.com/things-to-do/attractions-and-entertainment/>)

CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

If you're looking to stay local, travel down the road to Superior Dairy in Hanford and have a scoop (or three) of some of the best ice cream in California! Continue driving west for about 22 miles and you'll find the Naval Air Station in Lemoore. Plan ahead and call the Public Affairs Office (# below) to schedule a tour for your group of 25 people or less. If you are heading north on HWY 99, make sure to stop at Hilmar Cheese where you can see one of the biggest operations in action at their visitor center and café.

- Superior Dairy – Hanford, CA (<https://www.yelp.com/biz/superior-dairy-hanford-2>)
- Naval Air Station Lemoore
(https://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrsw/installations/nas_lemoore/about/pao.html)
*Contact the Public Affairs Office at least 30 days prior to visiting at (559) 998-3393.
Please note that your group cannot exceed 25.
- Hilmar Cheese – Hilmar, CA (https://www.hilmarcheese.com/visitor_center/)