

# California's Great National Parks

This trip combines all of the best and unique National Parks California has to offer from Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Park to stargazing and learning about early life in the Sierras, Mammoth Lakes and Death Valley.



General Sherman Sequoia, California

## The Trafalgar difference

Whether it's hand-picked hotels or inspiring Optional Experiences, we craft amazing trips. That's why our review ratings are so good. See for yourself our independent guest reviews through Feefo at [www.trafalgar.com/reviews](http://www.trafalgar.com/reviews)

### Your included sights

- See **General Grant Tree** in **Sequoia National Park**, **El Capitan**, **Half Dome** and **Bridal Veil Falls** in **Yosemite Valley**, **Devils Postpile National Historic Monument** and **Badwater Basin** in **Death Valley**
- Visit **Yosemite National Park**, **Sequoia National Park**, **Kings Canyon National Park**, **Giant Forest Museum** in **Kings Canyon National Park**, **Mammoth Lakes**, the summit of **Mammoth Mountain** on a scenic gondola ride and **Death Valley National Park**

### Your Insider Experiences

- **Authentic Accommodation** Enjoy historic elegance at the Millennium Biltmore in Los Angeles and rustic and authentic settings in Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks.
- **Local Specialist** A naturalist guides you through the star-filled landscape of the night sky, a history re-enactor at Wolverton Meadow regales you with tales of early life in Sierras and spend time with a Park Ranger in Yosemite.
- **Hidden Treasure** Enjoy at least one surprise Hidden Treasure.

**i** For more **Insider Experiences**, look for this symbol

### You'll enjoy Insider moments like...

enjoying the delicious smoky smells and tastes of BBQ lunch, made with the freshest of ingredients. A history actor takes you back to the times of early settlement in the Californian mountains.

### **i** Day 1 Arrive Los Angeles

Welcome to Los Angeles, the City of Angels. Get acclimated and relax at your hotel, located in the heart of the famous Sunset Strip, or explore on your own. At 6 p.m. meet your Travel Director and travelling companions for a Welcome Reception at your hotel. **(WR) Hotel: Millennium Biltmore Authentic Accommodation**

### **i** Day 2 Los Angeles – Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (2 Nights)

Head north through the Los Padres National Forest and the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley. Join the Majestic Mountain Loop, linking Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks. Ascend the spectacular Sierra Nevadas toward Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, a stunning area near the southern end of California's famous mountain range. Today, these two National Parks protect nearly half of the remaining sequoias in the world. Stop at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center and enjoy a short movie presentation on the history of the park inside the replica of a burned-out giant sequoia. Stretch your legs on a short hike to the General Grant Tree, the second largest tree in the world. Arrive at Wuksachi Lodge, a beautiful property crafted of cedar and stone, offering wonderful views of the forest and Sierra Nevada peaks. This evening, after dinner, immerse yourself at a star gazing program as a naturalist and **Local Specialist** guides you through the star spangled sky, far away from the city lights. **(FB, D) Hotel: Wuksachi Lodge Authentic Accommodation**

### **i** Day 3 Sequoia National Park Excursion

Explore this "Land of Giants" further with a walk along the General Sherman Tree Loop trail which culminates at the base of the General Sherman Tree—the world's largest living thing, estimated to be over 2,200 years old. Stop at the Giant Forest

Museum, where you learn about the history and ecology of the giant sequoias. Walk the Big Trees Trail while enjoying the fresh air of the giant redwood forest. Use the park's complimentary shuttle system to explore further on your own. Perhaps climb up Moro Rock, a massive granite formation right in the center of Sequoia National Park. Old West grilling doesn't get any more authentic than at lunch today as you enjoy an alfresco, all-you-can-eat barbecue and Regional Meal in beautiful Wolverton Meadow while a living-history re-enactor, a **Local Specialist**, tells stories of early life in the mountains. The rest of the day is yours to explore at your own pace. **(FB, RM)**

### **i** Day 4 Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks – Yosemite National Park

Continue along the Majestic Mountain Loop, winding through groves upon groves of majestic sequoias. Stop at Kings Canyon Lookout for a bird's eye view of the canyon. Later, enter Yosemite National Park, one of the crown jewels in the National Park system, and stop at one of the most photographed vistas in the world. It provides a panoramic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridal Veil Falls. Your accommodation tonight is at the Yosemite Valley Lodge, located inside the National Park, giving you more time to enjoy the park when the day visitors have left. **(FB) Hotel: Yosemite Valley Lodge Authentic Accommodation**

### **i** Day 5 Yosemite National Park – Mammoth Lakes (2 Nights)

Discover the natural wonders of Yosemite National Park aboard a special open-air vehicle, with opportunities to explore on foot. Led by a Park Ranger and **Local Specialist**, you'll get to see all of the valley highlights, as you learn about the natural history, indigenous peoples, the first non-indigenous settlers, flora and the fauna throughout the park. As



you prepare to leave Yosemite, drive past Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows and travel across the Tioga Pass. Heading south, you now drive on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and arrive in Mammoth Lakes late in the afternoon. **(FB, D)**  
**Hotel: The Westin Monachee Resort**

**Day 6 Mammoth Lakes and Devils Postpile Sightseeing and Free Time**  
 Enjoy a full day in Mammoth Lakes, California's premier mountain resort. The Sierra Nevada Mountain Range offers some of the most spectacular scenery in the world and Mammoth Lakes is right in the heart of it all. See for yourself with a ride up the Scenic Gondola to the top of Mammoth Mountain, where you'll enjoy 360-degree views of the Sierras. Next is Devils Postpile National Historic Monument, resembling a tidy 60 foot (18 metre) tall lumber pile created by giants. Continue on a short trail down to Rainbow Falls and indulge in the beauty that this area has to offer. The rest of the day is yours to do as you please—explore the town, go hiking, or relax by the swimming pool at your superb resort. **(FB)**

**Day 7 Mammoth Lakes - Death Valley National Park - Las Vegas**  
 Today, discover North America's lowest, hottest and driest point as you enter Death

Valley National Park, the largest National Park in the contiguous United States. Learn about the valley's unique geological features, and enjoy sweeping views of desert gorges, striking peaks, and miles of sand dunes as your Travel Director shares fascinating facts about the area's unique history and intriguing weather patterns. See if you can spot wild burros, bighorn sheep or lizard while taking in the views. After lunch at the historic Inn at Furnace Creek Resort, dip 282 feet (86 metres) below sea level at the Badwater Basin, the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere. No putter required at Devil's Golf Course—a massive saltpan of jagged spires—where "only the devil could play golf on such rough links." Enjoy scenic views at Zabriskie Point over the inferno that is Death Valley and continue through the desert to arrive at the self-proclaimed "Entertainment Capital of the World", Las Vegas. Tonight, join your Travel Director and newfound friends for a Farewell Dinner. **(FB, L, FD)**  
**Hotel: Tropicana Las Vegas**

**Day 8 Depart Las Vegas**  
 Today a transfer is provided to McCarran International Airport; or perhaps extend your stay in Las Vegas, or choose to connect with our popular The Trailblazer program on selected departures. **(FB)**



Devils Postpile National Historic Monument, California

## Trip Style: Country Explorer California's Great National Parks

8 days - 1 Country

From: **US\$2625** (per person twin share)

**Includes:** 7 nights' accommodation. 7 full breakfasts. 2 lunches. 3 dinners. All transport shown. All transfers shown. All our featured inclusions shown on page 12.

**NEW 2017**



WESTERN USA

Code: DCGP

	Starts		Ends		Price per Person		Price per Person	
	Los Angeles	Las Vegas	Los Angeles	Las Vegas	Twin Share	Single Supp. Option	Twin Share	Single Supp. Option
•	30 Apr Sun	7 May Sun	15 Aug Tue	22 Aug Tue	2625	1095	2625	1095
•	14 May Sun	21 May Sun	12 Sep Tue	19 Sep Tue	2625	1095	2625	1095
•	6 Jun Tue	13 Jun Tue	8 Oct Sun	15 Oct Sun	2625	1095	2625	1095
•	30 Jul Sun	6 Aug Sun			2625	1095		

• These departures connect with The Trailblazer - see pages 38-39.

**BOOK & PAY EARLY**  
**SAVE UP TO US\$263** p.p.  
 For details on Trafalgar's great savings see pages 26 & 27.

**For your chance to save, book by:**  
 28 Feb 2017 **save 10%**  
 30 Mar 2017 **save 7.5%**  
 11 May 2017 **save 5%**

Other savings	Past guest discount	Multiple trip discount
	SAVE up to <b>US\$131</b> p.p.	SAVE up to <b>US\$66</b> p.p.
	Young traveller discount <b>US\$263</b>	Triple room discount <b>US\$450</b> p.p.

^ Limited availability by departure; check [www.trafalgar.com](http://www.trafalgar.com)

### More about your trip

All prices are per person, twin share.

**WI-FI:** see page 118 for details.

**Gratuities:** Option to pre-pay gratuities for Travel Director and Driver, US\$80 per person.

For the best savings and to avoid disappointment book early. For extra nights' accommodation see pages 114-115.

**Treadright:** See page 21 for details.

Visit [www.trafalgar.com](http://www.trafalgar.com) for all definite departures and up-to-date information on itineraries and optional experiences.

## Authentic Accommodation

### Millennium Biltmore, Los Angeles, California, USA

This **Authentic Accommodation**, located in the heart of downtown Los Angeles, wows guests with its opulent charm. Known as the home of Hollywood glamour, the property has entertained celebrities, presidents and dignitaries from across the globe.

### The Wuksachi Lodge, Sequoia National Park, California, USA

The Wuksachi Lodge is Sequoia's signature hotel and your **Authentic Accommodation**, a striking stone-and-cedar mountain lodge situated in the heart of the park and surrounded by a mighty sequoia forest and soaring Sierra peaks.

### Yosemite Valley Lodge, Yosemite National Park, California, USA

As the closest property to Yosemite Falls, Yosemite Valley Lodge is an idyllic spot for visitors. Your **Authentic Accommodation** has a cosy, ski-lodge type atmosphere, designed with an emphasis on glass and wood detailing to blend harmoniously with its surroundings.

**KEY:** 1 Insider Experience WR Welcome Reception FB Full Breakfast  
 BB Buffet Breakfast L Lunch D Dinner RM Regional Meal  
 FD Farewell Dinner BG Be My Guest Dining DW Dinner with Wine