

California State History

SACRAMENTO, CA
2-DAY SAMPLE ITINERARY



DAY 1

ARRIVAL

Meet your WorldStrides Course Leader and prepare to see California state history come to life! As you visit the various historical landmarks in and around Sacramento, imagine how all of these events fit together to make California the state it is today.

CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

Why is the front door to the California State Capitol on the second floor? Find out when you visit Sacramento! Gather around the giant bronze California State Seal and test your knowledge of state symbols. Walk alongside state congressmen and their aides, and take a peek inside the chambers where state laws are made. You may even get the opportunity to meet with a state representative from your area!

CAPITOL PARK WALK

While you walk the beautiful grounds of Capitol Park, keep an eye out for interesting statues and memorials. Don't forget to look up at the towering redwood trees and sweet-smelling orange trees above your head! Stop by the Father Junipero Serra statue and the California Firefighters Memorial, and discuss the significance of each.

CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

This \$2.5-million memorial, designed by a Vietnam veteran, was dedicated in 1988. Get a feel for life as a soldier during the Vietnam War as you examine the statues inside the memorial. See if you can pick out what looks like an outline of a soldier within one of the marble columns.

LUNCH

SUTTER'S FORT

Relive the Gold Rush and understand its effects on the United States and the world at the fort built by Swiss immigrant John Sutter. Sutter's Fort is an amazing flashback to the past, right amid the hustle and bustle of Sacramento. Participate in a fun scavenger hunt and imagine life in the fort more than 150 years ago. Make sure to plug your ears as you watch one of the hourly cannon salutes!

OLD SACRAMENTO

Wander the streets of Old Sacramento, which has been preserved to appear much like it would have looked in the mid-19th century. Snap a photo next to the Pony Express statue, snag a souvenir at one of the many shops, or snack on some candy at an old-fashioned candy shop.

AUTHENTIC WAGON RIDE

Ride the cobblestone streets as they did in Old Sacramento during the 1800s, in a wagon drawn by horses!

OLD SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

Appreciate the differences between your class and the classes of pioneer children when you visit an 1850s-style, one-room schoolhouse. Practice writing and arithmetic on the chalkboard, and read from an old-fashioned textbook. Don't forget to sit up straight, or you may be scolded by the teacher!

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Imagine what it was like to help build the Transcontinental Railroad and the hardships that were a part of life for these brave men. Compare your height to a monstrous locomotive wheel and see a duplicate golden spike, which was unknown to the public until it was donated to the California State Railroad Museum in 2005. Can you see the difference between the 1869 A.J. Russell image, "The Last Spike," and the version that is printed in your textbooks?

DINNER

HOTEL CHECK-IN

DAY 2 – OPTION ONE: GOLD COUNTRY

BREAKFAST

HOTEL CHECK-OUT

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NIMBUS FISH HATCHERY

Did you know that the average female salmon lays more than 5,000 eggs? Discover the importance of conservation through the story of the salmon and steelhead fish migrations. Start out inside the Visitor's Center, where exhibits display the salmon life cycle, then head outside to see thousands of fish swimming upstream in special hatchery ponds.

TRAVEL TO COLOMA, CA

OLDE COLOMA THEATRE

How did people entertain themselves before iPods and video games? Find out with a visit to the Olde Coloma Theatre, and participate in a Gold Rush melodrama, where you become part of the show! Cheer for the heroes and jeer at the villain as you munch on popcorn and learn a few historical and life lessons.

LUNCH

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY PARK

Eureka! Find out how one small word marked a dramatic change in California's history. See the original spot where gold was discovered and learn why the settlers were in this area.

GOLD RUSH ACTIVITY

Make a trade bead necklace to take home as a souvenir.

PAN FOR GOLD IN THE AMERICAN RIVER

Interact with interpreters to fully understand the significance of James Marshall's discovery and get a lesson in panning for gold from a professional. Then, grab a pan of your own and hike down to the river just like thousands of people did in 1849. If you're lucky, you'll find a nugget of your own to take home!

RETURN TO SACRAMENTO FOR DINNER

DEPART SACRAMENTO FOR HOME

DAY 2 – OPTION TWO: SAN FRANCISCO

BREAKFAST

HOTEL CHECK-OUT

TRAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO

FERRY TO ALCATRAZ ISLAND

ALCATRAZ ISLAND

Learn firsthand about the strategic importance of Alcatraz during the Civil War and its transformation into the famed prison. What about the location makes this a perfect spot to build a fortress or a prison? Learn of the fates of 36 men who escaped The Rock during its tenure as prison. Fortunately, the prison was closed in 1963, so you won't run into any convicts during your visit!

LUNCH

PIER 39

Explore the sights and scenes of Pier 39, located along the San Francisco Bay. Laugh along with the sea lions and take a peek inside the many shops that line Fisherman's Wharf. Be sure to save a quarter for one of the many street performers, or take time out to watch the beautiful hand-painted carousel. Pick your favorite from a cast of 32 animals, including sea dragons, sea lions, dolphins, pandas, and of course, horses.

CABLE CAR RIDE

Soak in the sights of the city as you ride one of San Francisco's historic cable cars. Check out the amazing turntables that rotate the cable cars 180 degrees when they reach the end of their route. Find out what it takes to become a cable car driver, called a gripman. Less than 1/3 of the candidates who start the training course actually pass!

EXPLORATORIUM

You'll have a blast at this world-famous interactive science museum. Explore the more than 650 hands-on exhibits, which cover topics from the human body to outer space. You may not have considered how science relates to everyday things like the music on your alarm clock, the tricks you perform on your skateboard, and even the garden out back, but you will after your visit to the Exploratorium!

DINNER

DEPART SAN FRANCISCO FOR HOME

One-day itineraries for Sacramento, the Gold Country, and San Francisco are also available. Other destinations include San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Jose. Your Educational Travel Specialist can help you put together the perfect program based on your needs.

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DISCOVER YOUR WORLD

