

INTRO WESTERN HIGHLIGHTS

As the name of the tour reveals - this adventure presents you the highlights of the Western United States. Riding in style, your Harley-Davidson will take you through the four states of California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah. Being the most diverse of all, this tour offers vibrant cities like Los Angeles and Las Vegas, the solitude of the Mojave Desert, the unforgettable impression of a sunset at Grand Canyon, a hike into Bryce Canyon, the mystic appearance of the iconic Monument Valley and many more attractions.

Discover things from a different angle as you maneuver your bike through sweeping curves and hairpin turns at Zion National Park before you hit the gaming oasis of Las Vegas. After you leave the hustle and bustle of Glamour Town behind, it's back to open road and the heat of Death Valley. Cool off while climbing up the 10.000 feet Tioga Pass in Yosemite National Park on your way to San Francisco, probably the most European City in the U.S. Have you ever cruised across the Golden Gate Bridge on a Harley? It'll be one of your most crucial experiences along this trip before you soar south on Highway 1 through Big Sur and conclude this great journey back in Los Angeles. Countless miles on scenic side roads, hours of riding without any traffic and all the major famous sights of the West are incorporated in this fabulous tour.

DAY 1 - Arrival Day

Welcome to Los Angeles!

After arriving at the airport take the complimentary shuttle to the arrival hotel in Los Angeles.

DAY 2: Los Angeles to Palm Springs

190 miles / 306 km

After you receive your bike(s) we head south and out of L.A. to San Juan Capistrano. We choose the route to be Ortega highway, one of the best and curviest roads through the Cleveland National Forest. After a great American style lunch in an isolated town at Lake Elsinore, you continue riding through the valley to the Mountains of the Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness. At Lake Hemet you hook up with the Pines to Palms Highway and the continuously twisty and windy road takes you down to the oasis of the desert, Palm Springs. After soothing your dusty throat with an ice cold beverage you jump into the hotel pool and enjoy the evening across the road along Palm Springs' Indian Canyon Drive.

DAY 3: Palm Springs to Laughlin

240 miles / 385 km

You say goodbye to Palm Springs and head north, passing through one of the oldest and largest wind power farms in the United States. Soon you arrive in Twentynine Palms and the natural splendor of Joshua Tree National Park. After lunch you continue north into the Mojave Desert and continue your ride on a section of Historic Route 66. You stop to cool down in Amboy and then make your way to the gambling town at the Colorado River, Laughlin. You will be staying at one of its many casino hotels; enjoy a swim in the pool or try your luck at a game of Blackjack or Roulette.

DAY 4: Laughlin to Grand Canyon

245 miles / 395 km

Today you start out the day with a visit to the historic gold mining district of Oatman, Arizona and its wild donkeys wandering the streets. Then it's on to the curvy and twisty Oatman Road over Sitgreaves' pass to Kingman, home of MotherRoad Harley-Davidson®. Back on Historic Route 66, you can hang out at Hackberry General Store on your way to lunch in the famous Route 66 town of Seligman. After lunch you'll have some time to get your hands on some Route 66 souvenirs offered in town. Afterward you get on the Interstate for a short section and climb up the Kaibab plateau passing the town of Williams. Here you can take a brief rest stop before riding to your hotel in Tusayan, gateway to one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Grand Canyon. If you arrive early enough you can take a ride into the park to see the colors change rapidly during the most amazing sunset over the canyon.

DAY 5: Grand Canyon to Monument Valley

210 miles / 336 km

This morning you'll have the opportunity to experience one of the most thrilling things to do at Grand Canyon, by taking a helicopter ride before you start riding for the day. You leave Tusayan and take your time riding along the south rim of the canyon, stopping frequently at lookout points to take pictures and savor the mesmerizing vistas. After leaving the park we recommend to stop at the Cameron Trading post for lunch, fuel up the bike and do some more Navajo Indian artifact shopping. Back on the bike you're up for a ride through the Navajo Nation, to one of the most beautiful locations in the southwest, Monument Valley Tribal Park. Made famous by the numerous Hollywood movies filmed here over the last seventy-plus years, it somehow looks familiar. If you look closely you can almost see John Wayne riding his horse amongst the monuments.

DAY 6: Monument Valley to Bryce Canyon**300 miles / 480 km**

You should start out early today on one of the longest days of the tour. A photo stop of the Mexican Hat Monument gives you a short break before you choose a road that seems to end right at the foothills of a massive cliff formation. But the road winds its way up and into the Vermillion Cliffs, over a thousand feet to the top of the Colorado Plateau overlooking the Valley of the Gods. From here you continue onward through some of the most spectacular scenery the southwest has to offer. You soar through Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to your rest stop in Hanksville – enjoy a Buffalo Burger at the gas station on the left when you enter town! After lunch you ride through Capitol Reef National Park, and then up and over Boulder Mountain in Dixie National Forest. This particular stretch seems to be made in motorcycle heaven and you can't really decide which is better: the perfect road or the amazing scenery. One last stop and a quick coffee settle the day before you reach your hotel at Bryce Canyon National Park.

DAY 7: Bryce Canyon to Las Vegas**250 miles / 400 km**

After breakfast this morning you ride into the park for a look around and an optional short hike down into Bryce Canyon. Before you start your approach to Las Vegas you are presented with another tidbit southern Utah has to offer: Red Canyon State Park; along a sparkling river through a picturesque valley you cruise to your next destination, Zion National Park. You ride through Zion; this time with a different view at the amazing scenery, as the curvy road leads you further and further to the bottom of the park. You pull over at several vista points in order to take photos before getting lunch just outside the park boundary at the Majestic View Lodge. After you've loaded on great food you continue on through southern Utah until you drop down through the Virgin River George into the desert that leads to Las Vegas. You'll reach Las Vegas early evening and park your bike for some exiting Las Vegas nightlife.

DAY 8: Rest day in Las Vegas

Today is a day to explore the great city of Las Vegas and all the entertainment it has to offer. Take a day off the bike and enjoy yourself.

DAY 9: Las Vegas to Mammoth**315 miles / 505 km**

The longest day of the trip awaits you today. You say goodbye to Las Vegas and head out on the open road. After leaving the gambling mecca you head through the mountains west of town and into the spectacular scenery of Death Valley National Park. As you ride into Death Valley you soon understand how it got its name as one of the hottest places on the planet, and also one of the lowest points in the western hemisphere. Stop in the park for an early lunch at Furnace Creek, and then continue on through the unique beauty of the park. After leaving Death Valley you ride north up California's Owens Valley on the west side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range to our hotel in the ski resort town of Mammoth Lakes.

DAY 10: Mammoth to Yosemite**150 miles / 240 km**

Compared to yesterday, today's mileage is rather short as you need plenty of time to explore the National Park. You continue north to Lee Vining, where you enter Yosemite National Park. Weather and road condition permitting National Park you ride over the 10,000 ft high Tioga pass into the heart of the park, where you will spend most of the day. Ride up to Glacier Point for a view that will stay forever in your memory.

DAY 11: Yosemite to San Francisco**200 miles / 320 km**

This morning you will ride through the canyons into the central valley of California. You head north from Mariposa on state route 49, an extremely beautiful and curvy road out of the hills and on to the valley below. Enjoy this cruise as much as you can, because after that there is unfortunately no way around the freeway to reach Oakland and get across San Rafael Bridge into Sausalito for a late lunch stop. You ride up through Golden Gate National Recreation area for a rewarding view of the San Francisco skyline and the Golden Gate Bridge. Now the moment has come and you ride across the famous Golden Gate Bridge with the Mama's & Papa's song "California Dreaming" playing along in your head.

DAY 12: Rest day in San Francisco**mileage varies**

You spend the day in the beautiful and diverse city of San Francisco, nicknamed "The Paris of the West". Take today to go out and explore this incredible city, perhaps go for a walk down to Fisherman's wharf, take a cruise out to see America's most notorious prison Alcatraz Island, and then maybe have lunch in Chinatown. There are many museums and world class shops located in downtown; whatever you do, don't forget a ride in one of the cable cars that are still making their way up and down the steep hills of San Francisco. No matter what you decide to do, enjoy this amazing city and all it has to offer.

DAY 13: San Francisco to Carmel**125 miles / 205 km**

This morning you head out of town, stopping briefly at the top of Twin Peaks; another lookout point that offers a fantastic view overlooking San Francisco from the south. Now it's time to hit Pacific Coast Highway 1, to begin your upcoming, thrilling journey down the California coast. You head down PCH stopping occasionally to take pictures and enjoy the views. If you look closely you might even see whales just off the coast. Then it's back on the road winding

your way to Monterey. You should arrive early enough to take some time to explore Cannery Row or the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which is known as one of the best aquariums in the world.

DAY 14: Carmel to Pismo Beach**155 miles / 250 km**

You start the day by riding a short distance into town; Clint Eastwood once was the mayor of Carmel for some time. He stills owns a lot of property out there and if you're lucky...you never know! Take some time for a coffee and stroll up and down Ocean Ave, looking at some of the several art galleries and do some window shopping at the cute but expensive little shops. After spending a few thousand imaginary dollars it's time to get back on the road. What lies ahead is some of the best and most magnificent scenery the Pacific Coast has to offer; going through Andrew Molera & Pfeiffer Big Sur state parks and Los Padres National Forest. A nice dinner at the best local seafood restaurant concludes another great day of riding.

DAY 15: Pismo Beach to Los Angeles**225 miles / 360 km**

Your last day of riding takes you down PCH for the morning until you cut inland to experience a breathtaking back road that will lead to another little gem, hidden deep in the brush of the Los Padres National Forest. You're very close to another sun drenched city stop for lunch right on the pier in Santa Barbara. After you've recharged you continue down the coast through Malibu and into the greater Los Angeles area. If you have time you can stop at Santa Monica pier for a brief visit before you reluctantly return your motorcycle which has reliably carried you over 2500 miles for the past 14 days.

DAY 15: Departure**0 miles / 0 km**

Today is the day to pack your bags, filled with the experiences and memories of a great tour of the West, and head home. Have a safe journey home and we hope to see you back for another motorcycling sunride through the United States, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand or Europe. Bon Voyage, Auf Wiedersehen, Adios, Arrivederci and See Ya!