

# Los Angeles Loop

Explore five national parks on this 1,081-mile ocean-to-desert adventure.



MANHATTAN BEACH

**F**rom classic Southern California beaches to giant sequoias, granite domes and desert country, this road trip has it all. Plus, you can tackle five national parks along the way.

Start in L.A. for your beach and arts fix before heading north. Within three hours, you'll reach Sequoia National Park where you can walk among giant sequoias and see the world's largest living tree. Next to Sequoia lies Kings Canyon National Park, a hidden gem offering spectacular caves, mountain terrain and the world's second largest tree, the General Grant Tree. Nearby historic towns of Visalia and Exeter make for great stopovers [see page 70].

Then point your wheels north to Yosemite. Leave the crowds by driving Tioga Road to alpine meadows and exit the park at its East Entrance. From there explore small towns like Bishop that dot this stunning high-desert landscape lined by 14,000-foot peaks. What follows are some highlights south of Yosemite. For details on the eastern Sierras, turn to pages 65-71.



PHOTO BY SHUTTERSTOCK, MAP BY PETER SUCHESKI

# FIELDS OF DREAMS

It's not easy to feed the world, but someone's got to do it. See how it's done.



FOX THEATRE IN VISALIA

by the McKellar family in Ivanhoe. Bob McKellar offers tours by appointment only. You also can spend the night on the farm in Hummingbird Cottage, a farm-style home ([mckellarfamilyfarms.com](http://mckellarfamilyfarms.com)).

Next, head to Bravo Farms' cheese factory off Hwy. 99 in Traver to sample cheese and Californian wine, watch staff make artisanal cheese, climb the award-winning treehouse, visit the petting farm and get a scoop of gourmet ice cream. You can even dine at Wild Jacks restaurant ([bravofarms.com](http://bravofarms.com)).

For olive lovers, stop at the Bari Olive Oil gift shop and tasting room in Dinuba to discover infused and organic olive oil lines. Owners Ryan and Kyle Sawatzky are the fifth-generation to farm the property founded in 1936 ([barioliveoil.com](http://barioliveoil.com)).

Amid all the agriculture, you'll find an artistic bent. In Exeter, 31 vibrant murals tell the story of the quaint town where even restaurant names like Monet's Wine Bistro are a tribute to the arts, as well

as to the farm-to-fork movement. Check out the "When Emperors Ruled" mural that captures an era before the county's popular Emperor grapes were upstaged by seedless varieties.

In Visalia, Fox Theatre, one of many built by Fox Film Corp. across the country in the 1920s, is home to the town's symphony, as well as comedy shows, old movies and big-name acts like Dwight Yoakam. Fire hydrants are painted in creative ways, including one of Tipper the Holstein cow, the mascot of the Visalia Rawhides, the minor league baseball team. It's a nod to Tulare County's position as one of the country's top dairy-producing areas.

"People have always felt we need our souls like we nurture the food we grow," Bianco says.

Stop in Tulare County on your way to or from Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

Learn more at [SequoiaVisitorsGuide.com](http://SequoiaVisitorsGuide.com)

It's a nice twist of fate that actor Kevin Costner who starred in the 1989 film *Field of Dreams* attended high school in Tulare County.

Today the county has a minor league team that serves as a feeder to the Arizona Diamondbacks. But the majority of fields, which roll up to the towering Sierra Nevada mountains to the east, are filled with the intoxicating scent of peaches, table grapes, nectarines, kiwis, oranges, walnuts and beyond.

"We feed the world," says Suzanne Bianco, director of Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau, noting that nestled against Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks is one of the most productive farming areas in the world [learn more on page 38].

More than 89 countries import food from the county, which makes it a fantastic place to see where your food comes from and how it is grown. Start off at McKellar Farms, an orange and mandarin farm established in 1927





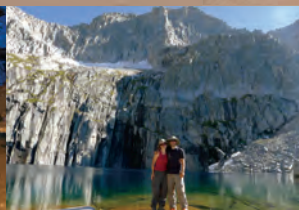
Find your awe.

GENERAL SHERMAN

ONLY 4-HR DRIVE FROM YOSEMITE



Be awe-struck by the biggest tree, the highest peak, the deepest canyon in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest. Make Tulare County the hub for your next adventure: hiking, camping, fishing, art festivals, murals, dining, antiquing, microbrew tasting, and more awe-inspiring adventures. For a FREE visitors guide, go to [SequoiaVisitorsGuide.com](http://SequoiaVisitorsGuide.com).





# MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN LOOP

Visit three stunning national parks in three days.

If the only national park you visit in California is Yosemite, you'll miss seeing the world's largest living tree, which grows a short drive away.

Just five hours north of Los Angeles, the legendary General Sherman Tree lives in Sequoia National Park. Part of the fun is getting there as you drive through

the awe-inspiring Tunnel Log, formed when a giant sequoia fell across the park road in 1937. The General Sherman Tree reaches 275 feet up to the sky and is 102 feet in circumference at its base.

"People do not realize how close the three national parks are," says Rhonda Salisbury, CEO of Visit

Yosemite|Madera County, referring to Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Yosemite national parks. "If you are in California for a week, you can see three amazing parks in three days."

In Kings Canyon National Park, next to Sequoia, you can explore the General Grant Tree and Boyden Cave, giving you a rare opportunity to see the Earth from the inside. A huge bonus is you see incredible natural wonders without the crowds. While more than 4 million visitors flock to Yosemite each year, only 1.7 million make it to Sequoia and Kings Canyon.

But Yosemite's beauty is not to be missed, so drive two hours north to the park. Before you get to Yosemite's South Entrance, stop in Oakhurst to fuel up on supplies, food, gas and fun. Then head to Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad to ride a steam train, pan for gold and learn about the area's history. By the time you get to Yosemite, you'll already have two additional stamps on your National Parks Passport. See pages 6-21 for details on Yosemite.

Learn more at [majesticmountainloop.com](http://majesticmountainloop.com).







← **Visit 3 of California's National Parks in 3 days!** →

Explore the unrivaled beauty of Sequoia, Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks in as little as 3 days. Whether you fly in, drive in or take a guided tour, the "loop" can fit your travel needs. Visit all three parks and you will have completed the Majestic Mountain Loop!



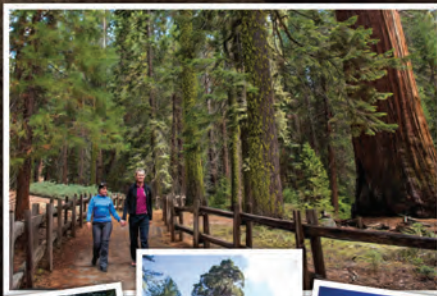
**Sequoia National Park**

- STOP 1 - GIANT FOREST MUSEUM
- STOP 2 - MORO ROCK
- STOP 3 - TUNNEL LOG
- STOP 4 - GENERAL SHERMAN TREE
- STOP 5 - WUKSACHI LODGE



**Kings Canyon National Park**

- STOP 1 - GENERAL GRANT TREE
- STOP 2 - BOYDEN CAVERN
- STOP 3 - ROARING RIVER FALLS
- STOP 4 - ZUMWALT MEADOW
- STOP 5 - THE ROAD'S END



**Yosemite National Park**

- STOP 1 - YOSEMITE MOUNTAIN SUGAR PINE RAILROAD
- STOP 2 - WAWONA PIONEER VILLAGE
- STOP 3 - GLACIER POINT
- STOP 4 - TUNNEL VIEW
- STOP 5 - YOSEMITE VALLEY



**SEQUOIA  
KINGS CANYON**  
NATIONAL PARKS  
BY DELAWARE NORTH

**VISIT YOSEMITE**  
MADERA COUNTY

**VISALIA**  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

*More Info*

[www.MajesticMountainLoop.com](http://www.MajesticMountainLoop.com)



# All-In

Relax at Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino near Yosemite's South Entrance.



THE POOL AT  
CHUKCHANSI GOLD  
RESORT & CASINO

If spending time outdoors has you dreaming of swimming pools, a massage and a clean hotel room, consider getting pampered for a night or two at Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino.

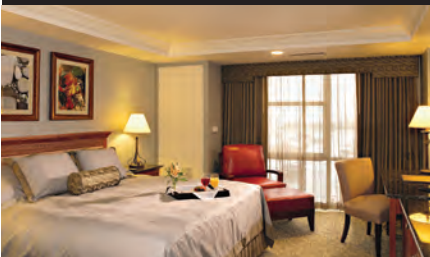
Just 30 miles from Yosemite's South Entrance, you can swim up to a poolside bar in a heated indoor and outdoor pool, get a pedicure or roll the dice in the 56,000-square-foot gaming area at Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino. Chukchansi also has an outdoor summer concert series and monthly comedy shows for those 21 and over.

Owned by the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, the resort has five restaurants offering something for everyone. Head to the Vintage Steakhouse for fine dining that includes steak and seafood. For Asian food, try the Noodle Bar that serves authentic Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese dishes. Those with a sweet tooth should stop in at The Bakery for pastries, cakes and panini sandwiches.

*Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino is located off Hwy. 41 three miles south of the town of Coarsegold, 12 miles south of Oakhurst and 30 miles south of Yosemite's South Entrance. Learn more at [chukchansigold.com](http://chukchansigold.com).*

PHOTO BY MIKKI PIPER COURTESY CHUKCHANSI GOLD RESORT & CASINO

## STAY, EAT & PLAY!



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# THE OTHER SIDE

There's a reason why locals call Bishop a small town with a big backyard.

**N**ot long after the mammoth went extinct and before Stonehenge was built more than 4,000 years ago, a young bristlecone pine seedling burst through the soil near Bishop, Calif.

Today, that bristlecone pine tree, known as the “Methuseleh” tree, is still alive after 4,773 years, making it the oldest living thing on Earth. Walk among it and other ancient bristlecone pines, many more than 2,000 years old, in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the White Mountains an hour’s drive east of Bishop.

It’s just one of many unique experiences you can have in the Bishop area where crowds are non-existent, trout-fishing and bouldering are world-class and locals are happy to see you. It’s the kind of place where you can drive

20 miles and it takes 20 minutes because there's no traffic.

“It’s a different part of California,” says Tawni Thomson, executive director of the Bishop Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau. “You think of Hollywood with its glitz and glamour. We don’t have that here. We’re just real people. We have wide open spaces and people are relaxed here.”

Discover the area’s history in Bishop’s vibrant downtown murals and see its artsy side in downtown galleries. A big surprise is its diversity of restaurants from Thai and Chinese to Italian.

*Stop by the Bishop Visitor Center at 690 N. Main St. or learn more at [bishopvisitor.com](http://bishopvisitor.com).*

## Museum Stops

While the scenery in Inyo County is absolutely mesmerizing, so is its local culture. Here are three museums to see.

### Manzanar National Historic Site

Six miles south of Independence

The best and worst in human nature are tied up in Manzanar’s history where an estimated 10,000 Japanese Americans were held after the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II. While most of the internment camp was destroyed after the war, the high school auditorium remains as a visitor center; *5001 Highway 395 or go to [nps.gov/manz](http://nps.gov/manz).*

### The Eastern California Museum

Independence

Peer through a window into the area’s rich past at this museum. You’ll find baskets from Owens Valley Paiute-Shoshone and Death Valley Panamint-Shoshone, tales of local mountaineer Norman Clyde, a replica of a Manzanar barracks “apartment” and a petrified mammoth leg from the Ice Age; *155 N. Grant St.; [inyocounty.us/ecmsite/exhibits](http://inyocounty.us/ecmsite/exhibits).*

### Laws Railroad Museum

Five miles north of Bishop

Go back in time to see what early railroad settlements looked like at this museum. Each restored building and train help paint a picture of life in the Owens Valley more than 100 years ago. Ride the green 1927 Death Valley Railroad car during the summer. Located north of Bishop off of U.S. 6, *find the museum details at [lawsmuseum.org](http://lawsmuseum.org).*



# Death Valley

Despite its intimidating name, this remarkable landscape has inspired people for centuries.

**T**he largest national park in the contiguous United States, Death Valley National Park is just 142 miles from Las Vegas, but you might as well have landed on the moon. Stretching 3.4 million acres, the park is made up of a patchwork of salt flats, badlands, artfully colored hills and ruins from those who dared to settle in this unforgiving landscape. You'll also find the lowest point in North America in Badwater Basin, which sits 282 feet below sea

level and is home to nearly 200 square miles of salt flats.

Stop by the Furnace Creek Visitor Center to get tips on how best to spend your time. Popular choices include watching the sun rise or set from Zabriskie Point and driving to Dante's View to look 5,000 feet down at Death Valley. For a dose of culture, enjoy a cold drink on the Stargazers Deck at the elegant Inn at Furnace Creek built in 1927.

*Learn more at [nps.gov/deva](http://nps.gov/deva).*



VIEW FROM  
ZABRISKIE POINT

## HIT NATURE'S JACKPOT

The flash flood at Springs Preserve in Las Vegas started with a crack of thunder, sending a torrent of 5,000 gallons of water rushing down the slick, narrow canyon walls.

But the five people standing on the metal platform just several feet above the deafening rush of water weren't in harm's way. Consisting of recycled water, the flash flood happens every 20 minutes at Springs Preserve, a stunning 180-acre natural oasis with three miles of footpaths, botanical gardens and a state-of-the-art indoor interpretive center just minutes from Las Vegas' legendary Strip.

Learn about the native peoples who inhabited the area and see live Mojave Desert inhabitants like a Gila monster, desert tortoise and gray fox. Tour the outdoor shade-dappled paths, climb aboard an early 20th-century replica train and watch original news coverage of the Hoover Dam construction.

Visit Springs Preserve at 333 S. Valley View Blvd.; 702-822-7700; [springspreserve.org](http://springspreserve.org).



# Home in the Park

**T**ucked in a wilderness setting in the heart of Yosemite National Park are a collection of private homes, condos and cabins available to rent for even the budget-conscious.

Enabling you to cook and have downtime at home but be minutes from Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area, Yosemite's Scenic Wonders rents properties right off the junction of Wawona Road and Glacier Point Road.

"We are located through the gates and in the heart of Yosemite National Park," says Ken LeBlanc, company founder and president. "It's an amazing location."

The company has more than 100 properties, including rentals in the park's Wawona area, home to Yosemite's golf course and the awe-inspiring Mariposa Grove to reopen in summer 2017. Yosemite Scenic Wonders received Trip Advisor's 2015 Hall of Fame award for being voted number 1 in speciality lodging five years in a row.

*Learn more about Yosemite's Scenic Wonders, which also has properties in the Oakhurst/Bass Lake area, at scenicwonders.com.*



**Winter in Yosemite  
Homes & Condominiums**



*Why Stay  
In A Hotel?*

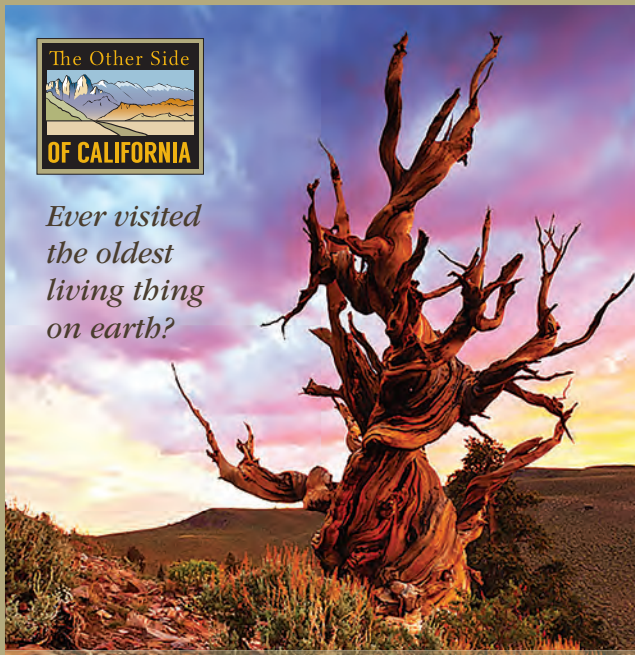
Centrally located, Scenic Wonders is the closest accommodations to Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area, Yosemite Valley and much more. Stay cozy during your winter adventures when you stay with Yosemite's Scenic Wonders.

*With over 100 properties to choose from*  
**BOOK YOUR WINTER STAY NOW!**

[www.scenicwonders.com](http://www.scenicwonders.com)

7403 Yosemite Park Way, Yosemite, CA 95389

1-888-YOSEMITE (967-3648)



The Other Side  
OF CALIFORNIA

*Ever visited  
the oldest  
living thing  
on earth?*

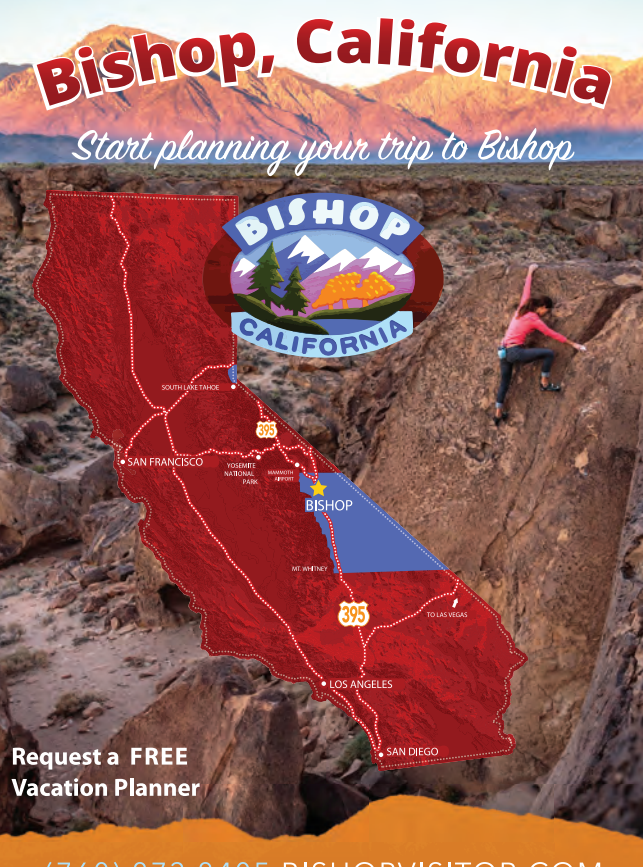
*Might just be time to...*

# THE OTHER SIDE

[www.theothersideofcalifornia.com](http://www.theothersideofcalifornia.com)

# Bishop, California

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