



California Loop: Coast, Concrete & Conifers

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Log: Feb 7 – Feb 10 (4 Days), 2026

Vector: Bay Area → Monterey → Los Angeles → Sequoia → Berkeley

Pre-Departure Protocol

Essentials & Logistics

- ☐ **Provisions:** Stock the trunk with water, easy snacks, and emergency meals.
- ☐ **Thermal Regulation:** Heavy down jacket required. The transition from LA sun to Sequoia snow is drastic.
- ☐ **Hydro-Logic:**
 - *Monterey:* Pristine water. Pack swimwear (if you can brave the cold).
 - *Santa Monica:* Avoid the water (turbid/touristy); stick to the pier.
- ☐ **Offline Mode:** Sequoia has zero signal. Download Google Maps for the area beforehand.
- ☐ **Vehicle Health:** Check tire pressure, oil levels, and wiper fluid.

☐ **Power:** Cold weather drains batteries. Bring car chargers and external power banks.

Day 1: The Valley & The Bay

Focus: *Stanford, Tech Giants, and the Pacific Coast*

- **08:00 | Logistics**
 - Bus to Albany for vehicle pickup. Wheels rolling.
 - **11:00 | "The Farm"**
 - **Stanford University:** Walking tour of the Main Quad, Hoover Tower, and Memorial Church.
 - **15:00 | Industry Check**
 - **Google Visitor Experience:** Quick stop at the HQ.
 - **Apple Park Visitor Center:** Coffee and architecture. Book Vision Pro at least 2 days earlier!
 - **16:30 | Pacific Coast Highway (PCH)**
 - Southbound drive catching the golden hour along the cliffs.
 - **19:00 | Monterey Basecamp**
 - Dinner and a stroll down **Cannery Row**. Check-in at the motel.
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Day 2: Marine Layers to City Lights

Focus: *Coastal Ecology & La La Land*

- **09:00 | 17-Mile Drive**
 - Scenic loop. The Lone Cypress and Pebble Beach.
- **11:30 | Marine Life**
 - **Monterey Bay Aquarium:** Exploring the kelp forest exhibits.
- **13:00 | The Long Haul**
 - Drive south to Los Angeles.
 - Experience In-N-Out DriveThrough along the road.
- **19:00 | Griffith Observatory**

- Night view of the LA basin grid. (Classic *La La Land* vibe).
 - **20:30 | K-Town Fuel**
 - Dinner at **Sun Nong Dan**. *Note: The Galbi Jjim is mandatory.*
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Day 3: Hollywood & Hardwood

Focus: *Cinema History, Micheline Thai, & The Lakers*

- **9:30 | The Tourist Trap**
 - **Hollywood Walk of Fame:** Quick walk.
 - Drive up for the **Hollywood Sign** photo op.
 - **12:30 | Lunch**
 - **Luv2eat Thai Bistro:** Michelin Guide spot. Spicy and authentic. Fried rice w/ Crab meat strongly recommended. Portion is huge, don't order too much.
 - **14:00 | Santa Monica**
 - Pier walk and ocean breeze. Swimming here not recommended, as you'll miss the clean ocean in Monterey.
 - **19:00 | Gameday**
 -  **Crypto.com Arena:** Lakers game.
 - **22:00 | Strategic Positioning**
 - Post-game drive north to Bakersfield to shorten tomorrow's morning drive load.
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Day 4: The Giants

Focus: *Sequoia National Park & Return Leg*

- **08:00 | Ascent**
 - Depart Bakersfield for the Sierra Nevada mountains.
- **09:30 | Sequoia National Park**
 - Full day in the forest.
 - **General Sherman Tree:** Visiting the largest tree on Earth by volume.
 - Hike and enjoy the fresh air.

- Find a place to picnic.
- **18:00 | Return Vector**
 - The final 4.5-hour stretch back to Berkeley.
- **+1 Day | Wrap up**
 - Vehicle drop-off in the morning.