ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

Your 14-day road trip from Los Angeles

Cities: 7 towns, flying home from Los Angeles.

Length	14 days, 13 nights
Distance	1,650 km, 8 driving days
Behind the wheel	19 h 50 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – Los Angeles (LAX), Los Angeles (LAX) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

Los Angeles	Days 1–2	**8**
Las Vegas	Days 3–4	**10**
Kingman	Days 5–6	**12**
Seligman	Days 7–8	**14**
Twentynine Palms	Days 9–10	**16**
Palm Springs	Day 11	**18**
San Diego	Days 12–13	**20**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		Los Angeles	30	30 min	
2		Los Angeles			
3		Las Vegas	430	5 h	
4		Las Vegas			
5		Kingman	160	2 h 10 min	
6		Kingman			
7		Seligman	120	1 h 20 min	
8		Seligman			
9		Twentynine Palms	430	4 h 50 min	
10		Twentynine Palms			
11		Palm Springs	80	1 h 10 min	
12		San Diego	200	2 h 30 min	
13		San Diego			
14		Flight home from LAX	200	2 h 30 min	

1,650 km · 19 h 50 min behind the wheel · on average 210 km a driving day

Kilometres and drive times by road (OSRM, OpenStreetMap), without stops: plan generously.

The route



Map: US Census Bureau (public domain) · roads © OpenStreetMap contributors

ON THE ROAD

Day 1	Land at Los Angeles (LAX), drive to Los Angeles · About 30 km (20 mi), 30 min
Day 3	Los Angeles, drive to Las Vegas · About 430 km (270 mi), 5 h
Day 5	Las Vegas, drive to Kingman · About 160 km (100 mi), 2 h 10 min
Day 7	Kingman, drive to Seligman · About 120 km (70 mi), 1 h 20 min
Day 9	Seligman, drive to Twentynine Palms · About 430 km (270 mi), 4 h 50 min
Day 11	Twentynine Palms, drive to Palm Springs · About 80 km (50 mi), 1 h 10 min
Day 12	Palm Springs, drive to San Diego · About 200 km (120 mi), 2 h 30 min
Day 14	San Diego to Los Angeles airport (LAX), fly home to Amsterdam · About 200 km (130 mi), 2 h 30 min

Well prepared

ESTA

Dutch and Belgian travellers need no visa for a holiday of up to 90 days, but do need an approved ESTA before boarding. It costs about $40, is valid for two years (or until your passport expires) and is applied for online. Apply at least 72 hours before you fly, and only on the official site.

esta.cbp.dhs.gov

Passport

An electronic passport (with the chip symbol), valid for the whole stay. Children need their own passport and ESTA.

nl.usembassy.gov

Driving licence

Your Dutch driving licence is accepted for renting and driving a car as a visitor. An international driving permit next to it helps with police and some rental desks.

anwb.nl

Renting a car

The renter is the main driver and pays with a credit card in their own name (no debit or prepaid card); the deposit is held on it. Usually from 21, and from 21 to 24 you pay a young-driver fee of about $25 a day. Book from home with insurance included (CDW/LDW and extra liability, SLI) and an extra driver if you want to take turns. Returning the car elsewhere (a one-way trip) costs extra. Fuel is sold by the gallon (3.8 litres); fill it up yourself before you bring it back.

Driving in the USA

Keep right; speeds are in miles an hour (65 mph is 105 km/h). Turning right on red is allowed after stopping, unless a sign says no. At a 4-way stop, whoever stopped first goes first. For a stopped yellow school bus with flashing lights you stop in both directions. Toll roads are often electronic only: ask your rental company about its toll pass. On remote stretches (parks, desert) there's little signal and a long way to the next pump: fill up at half and download the map.

Renting an RV

You can rent an RV from about 21 with an ordinary car licence. On top of the rent, count on mileage (often per mile), a kit with bedding and kitchen things, cleaning and the campsite: in the popular parks you book those months ahead on recreation.gov. Big RVs aren't allowed on every park road. Take photos of the RV when you pick it up: damage and missing items are the most heard complaint.

recreation.gov

National parks

Most big parks charge per car. Visitors from abroad pay $100 a person extra at 11 popular parks; the annual pass for non-residents is $250. Some parks need a timed-entry reservation in high season.

nps.gov

Money and tipping

Prices are without sales tax, which is added at the till. In restaurants a tip of 15 to 20% is usual. Cards are accepted almost everywhere; at the pump you may be asked for a ZIP code, so pay inside.

Travel insurance and health

Care in the USA is very expensive: take travel insurance with worldwide medical cover, and check whether your health insurance covers the USA. Cancellation insurance covers the trip if you can't go; insure the rental car with the rental company (see Renting a car). Take medicines in their original packaging, with a prescription in English. Emergency number: 911.

Power, phone and time

110 volt with flat two-pin plugs (type A/B): bring an adapter. A US eSIM is cheaper than roaming. The mainland has four time zones, Arizona mostly without daylight saving time.

Customs

Fresh food, meat and fruit may not be brought in. Declare food you carry.

Packing list

- [ ] Passport (valid for the whole trip)
- [ ] ESTA, printed
- [ ] Driving licence (and an international one)
- [ ] Credit card in the driver's name
- [ ] Travel and cancellation insurance
- [ ] Confirmations: flights, car, hotels
- [ ] America the Beautiful pass for the parks
- [ ] Plug adapter for type A/B (110 volt)
- [ ] Car charger and phone holder
- [ ] eSIM or offline maps
- [ ] Sunscreen, sunglasses and a cap
- [ ] Water bottles for the desert
- [ ] Hiking shoes
- [ ] Layers: the coast and the nights get cold
- [ ] Medicines, in your hand luggage
- [ ] A pen, for this booklet

DON'T FORGET

Notes



DAYS 1–2

Los Angeles CA

Sunset Boulevard's palm trees

Land at Los Angeles (LAX), drive to Los Angeles: about 30 km (20 mi), 30 min

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- The Hollywood Walk of Fame and the Hollywood sign
- Griffith Observatory at sunset
- Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach
- The Getty Center

With an extra night

With a second night: Universal Studios or Warner Bros., or Malibu's beaches along Highway 1.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Warner Bros. studio tour — roughly €70 a person
- [ ] Universal Studios Hollywood — roughly €110 a person
- [ ] Hollywood sign hike — roughly €50 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] FOUND Hotels, Santa Monica, Series by Marriott · 3★ — roughly €200
  12311 Santa Monica Blvd
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Los Angeles LAX/Century Boulevard · 3★ — roughly €150
  5933 W Century Blvd
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express Hollywood Walk of Fame by IHG · 3★ — roughly €220
  1921 N Highland Avenue
- [ ] Holiday Inn Express West Los Angeles by IHG · 3★ — roughly €350
  11250 Santa Monica Blvd
- [ ] Residence Inn by Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE · 3★ — roughly €190
  901 W Olympic Blvd

NOTES



DAYS 3–4

Las Vegas NV

The Strip at night

Los Angeles, drive to Las Vegas: about 430 km (270 mi), 5 h

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- The Strip at night
- The Bellagio fountains
- Fremont Street
- A show

With an extra night

With a second night: Hoover Dam and the Valley of Fire, or a helicopter over the Strip.

EXCURSIONS

- ☐ Hoover Dam tour — roughly €80 a person
- ☐ Las Vegas helicopter night flight — roughly €130 a person
- ☐ Valley of Fire tour — roughly €130 a person

HOTEL

- ☐ South Point Hotel, Casino, and Spa · 3★ — roughly €60
  9777 Las Vegas Blvd S
- ☐ Hilton Vacation Club Desert Retreat Las Vegas · 3★ — roughly €240
  5165 S Decatur Blvd
- ☐ Silverton Casino Lodge · 3★ — roughly €100
  3333 Blue Diamond Rd
- ☐ Home2 Suites By Hilton Las Vegas Northwest · 3★ — roughly €130
  8906 W Deer Springs Way
- ☐ Hilton Grand Vacations Club Paradise Las Vegas · 3★ — roughly €70
  455 Karen Avenue

NOTES



DAYS 5–6

Kingman AZ

Route 66 on the way back

Las Vegas, drive to Kingman: about 160 km (100 mi), 2 h 10 min

2 nights

KINGMAN · DAYS 5–6

HOTEL

- ☐ Kid-friendly Kingman Home Near Parks & Dining · 3★
  2524 Chambers Ave
- ☐ Best Western Plus A Wayfarer's Inn & Suites · 3★ — roughly €100
  2815 E Andy Devine Ave
- ☐ La Quinta by Wyndham Kingman · 3★ — roughly €100
  3419 Hotel Way
- ☐ Hampton Inn & Suites Kingman · 3★ — roughly €100
  1791 Sycamore Ave
- ☐ Wingate by Wyndham Kingman · 3★ — roughly €100
  1149 E Sunrise Ave Building 1 & Building 2

NOTES



DAYS 7–8

Seligman AZ

Route 66 diners and neon

Kingman, drive to Seligman: about 120 km (70 mi), 1 h 20 min

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- Route 66's diners and neon in Seligman
- Hackberry General Store
- Grand Canyon Caverns
- The old road through Oatman with its wild burros

With an extra night

With a second night: drive further along Route 66 to Kingman and Oatman, or ride the Grand Canyon Railway from Williams.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Grand Canyon Railway from Williams — roughly €90 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Deluxe Inn · 3★ — roughly €80
  22295 Old Highway 66

NOTES



DAYS 9–10

Twentynine Palms CA

Joshua Tree National Park

Seligman, drive to Twentynine Palms: about 430 km (270 mi), 4 h 50 min

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- Joshua Tree National Park: Hidden Valley and Skull Rock
- Cholla Cactus Garden
- Keys View over the Coachella Valley
- The darkest night sky of the trip

With an extra night

With a second night: Palm Springs and its aerial tramway, or a sunrise climb in the park.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Joshua Tree guided hike — roughly €90 a person
- [ ] Joshua Tree stargazing tour — roughly €70 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] Cali Desert Oasis w/ Hot Tub + Mtn Views! · 3★
  6244 Mojave Ave
- [ ] Chic Joshua Tree Pad w/ Mountain Views & Hot Tub · 3★
  72616 2 Mile Rd
- [ ] Cowboy Pool, Fire Pit, Backyard Chic Ranch Retreat Asteroid by Avantstay · 3★
  6929 Mantonya Rd
- [ ] Serene Home w/ Yard - 8 Mi to Joshua Tree! · 3★
  4435 Bullion Ave
- [ ] Twentynine Palms Desert Oasis w/ Pool & Hot Tub! · 3★
  80277 Wikieup Rd

NOTES



DAY 11

Palm Springs CA

Past the wind farms into the desert

Twentynine Palms, drive to Palm Springs: about 80 km (50 mi), 1 h 10 min

1 night

PALM SPRINGS · DAY 11

HOTEL

- [ ] Hotel California - A Town & Desert Boutique Hotel · 3★ — roughly €250
  424 E Palm Canyon Dr
- [ ] Holiday House Palm Springs · 3★ — roughly €440
  200 W. Arenas Rd.
- [ ] Inn at Palm Springs · 3★ — roughly €130
  2525 North Palm Canyon Drive
- [ ] Del Marcos Hotel · 3★ — roughly €210
  225 W Baristo Rd
- [ ] The Monkey Tree by AvantStay – Mid-Century Modern Oasis with Pool · 3★
  2388 E Racquet Club Road

NOTES



DAYS 12–13

San Diego CA

La Jolla and Balboa Park

Palm Springs, drive to San Diego: about 200 km (120 mi), 2 h 30 min

2 nights

SAN DIEGO · DAYS 12–13

HOTEL

- [ ] Courtyard San Diego Airport/Liberty Station · 3★ — roughly €220
  2592 Laning Rd
- [ ] Homewood Suites by Hilton San Diego Airport-Liberty Station · 3★ — roughly €240
  2576 Laning Rd
- [ ] Hotel Z - Gaslamp San Diego · 3★ — roughly €100
  521 6th Avenue
- [ ] Homewood Suites by Hilton San Diego-Del Mar · 3★ — roughly €140
  11025 Vista Sorrento Pkwy
- [ ] SpringHill Suites by Marriott San Diego Downtown/Bayfront · 3★ — roughly €170
  900 Bayfront Court

NOTES

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	Los Angeles	€200	–	€60	**€260**
2	Los Angeles	€200	–	€60	**€260**
3	Las Vegas	€130	–	€60	**€190**
4	Las Vegas	€130	–	€60	**€190**
5	Kingman	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Kingman	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Seligman	€110	–	€60	**€170**
8	Seligman	€110	–	€60	**€170**
9	Twentynine Palms	€140	–	€60	**€200**
10	Twentynine Palms	€140	–	€60	**€200**
11	Palm Springs	€160	–	€60	**€220**
12	San Diego	€160	–	€60	**€220**
13	San Diego	€160	–	€60	**€220**
14	Flight home from LAX	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€1,960
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€840
Total	**€4,500**
	€2,250 a person

An estimate to plan with (prices of 2026-10): hotels, the ticked excursions, car hire and flights. No fuel or meals.

Notes

About this booklet

Made on rondreis.expert. Your trip is still there, to change and print again: usa.roundtrip.expert/planner/?theme=cities

PHOTOS

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MAP AND TYPE

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