ROAD TRIP · UNITED STATES

The West with kids

Disneyland and the sea at Los Angeles and San Diego, then Joshua Tree, Zion and the Grand Canyon, in short drives.

Length	14 days, 13 nights
Distance	1,900 km, 9 driving days
Behind the wheel	25 h 10 min
Travellers	2, 1 room, 1 car
Hotels	Comfort: a good hotel (3 stars)
Flights	Amsterdam – Los Angeles (LAX), Las Vegas (LAS) – Amsterdam

CONTENTS

Los Angeles	Days 1–3	**8**
San Diego	Days 4–5	**10**
Twentynine Palms	Day 6	**12**
Las Vegas	Day 7	**14**
Springdale	Days 8–9	**16**
Page	Day 10	**18**
Grand Canyon Village	Days 11–12	**20**
Las Vegas	Day 13	**22**

Day by day

DAY	DATE	NIGHT	KM	DRIVE	°C
1		Los Angeles	30	30 min	
2		Los Angeles			
3		Los Angeles			
4		San Diego	190	2 h 20 min	
5		San Diego			
6		Twentynine Palms	260	3 h 20 min	
7		Las Vegas	290	4 h	
8		Springdale	250	3 h 10 min	
9		Springdale			
10		Page	190	2 h 50 min	
11		Grand Canyon Village	220	3 h	
12		Grand Canyon Village			
13		Las Vegas	440	5 h 20 min	
14		Flight home from LAS	20	50 min	

1,900 km · 25 h 10 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 4	Los Angeles, drive to San Diego · About 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 20 min
Day 6	San Diego, drive to Twentynine Palms · About 260 km (160 mi), 3 h 20 min
Day 7	Twentynine Palms, drive to Las Vegas · About 290 km (180 mi), 4 h
Day 8	Las Vegas, drive to Springdale · About 250 km (160 mi), 3 h 10 min
Day 10	Springdale, drive to Page · About 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 50 min
Day 11	Page, drive to Grand Canyon Village · About 220 km (140 mi), 3 h
Day 13	Grand Canyon Village, drive to Las Vegas · About 440 km (270 mi), 5 h 20 min
Day 14	Las Vegas to Las Vegas airport (LAS), fly home to Amsterdam · About 20 km (10 mi), 50 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 1–3

Los Angeles CA

Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood

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

3 nights

DON'T MISS

- Disneyland Park in Anaheim
- Universal Studios Hollywood
- Santa Monica Pier

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Disneyland, 1 day — roughly €150 a person
- [ ] Universal Studios Hollywood, 1 day — roughly €130 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

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DAYS 4–5

San Diego CA

The zoo and the sea lions of La Jolla

Los Angeles, drive to San Diego: about 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 20 min

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- San Diego Zoo
- La Jolla Cove
- USS Midway Museum

With an extra night

A day at Legoland in Carlsbad.

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] San Diego Zoo — roughly €70 a person

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

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DAY 6

Twentynine Palms CA

Scrambling in Joshua Tree

San Diego, drive to Twentynine Palms: about 260 km (160 mi), 3 h 20 min

1 night

TWENTYNINE PALMS · DAY 6

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

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DAY 7

Las Vegas NV

The lights of the Strip

Twentynine Palms, drive to Las Vegas: about 290 km (180 mi), 4 h

1 night

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

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DAYS 8–9

Springdale UT

Wading the Virgin River in Zion

Las Vegas, drive to Springdale: about 250 km (160 mi), 3 h 10 min

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- Riverside Walk
- Emerald Pools

SPRINGDALE · DAYS 8–9

HOTEL

- [ ] Best Western Plus Zion Canyon Inn & Suites · 3★ — roughly €170
  668 Zion Park Blvd
- [ ] Desert Pearl Inn · 3★
  707 Zion Park Blvd.
- [ ] Canyon Vista Lodge · 3★
  2175 Zion Park Boulevard
- [ ] Cable Mountain Lodge · 3★ — roughly €180
  147 Zion Park Blvd.
- [ ] Hampton Inn & Suites Springdale/Zion National Park · 3★ — roughly €200
  1127 Zion Park Blvd

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DAY 10

Page AZ

Antelope Canyon and Horseshoe Bend

Springdale, drive to Page: about 190 km (120 mi), 2 h 50 min

1 night

EXCURSIONS

- [ ] Lower Antelope Canyon tour — roughly €80 a person

HOTEL

- [ ] 1 Mi to Canyon Tours: Vibrant Page Paradise! · 3★
  13 14th Ave
- [ ] 3 Mi to Lake Powell: Home w/ Patio & Waterfall · 3★
  8 18th Ave
- [ ] 3 Mi to Lake Powell: Pet-friendly Page Home · 3★
  192 Schoppman Lane
- [ ] 4 Mi to Lake Powell: Retreat w/ Game Room! · 3★
- [ ] Fire Pit & Mountain Views: Horseshoe Bend Retreat · 3★
  861 Heron Drive

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DAYS 11–12

Grand Canyon Village AZ

The Junior Ranger badge at the South Rim

Page, drive to Grand Canyon Village: about 220 km (140 mi), 3 h

2 nights

DON'T MISS

- Mather Point at sunset
- Rim Trail

GRAND CANYON VILLAGE · DAYS 11–12

HOTEL

Name, address, confirmation number:

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DAY 13

Las Vegas NV

Back, and the flight home

Grand Canyon Village, drive to Las Vegas: about 440 km (270 mi), 5 h 20 min

1 night

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

What it costs

DAY	PLACE	HOTEL	TOURS	CAR	TOTAL
1	Los Angeles	€160	–	€60	**€220**
2	Los Angeles	€160	–	€60	**€220**
3	Los Angeles	€160	–	€60	**€220**
4	San Diego	€160	–	€60	**€220**
5	San Diego	€160	–	€60	**€220**
6	Twentynine Palms	€160	–	€60	**€220**
7	Las Vegas	€160	–	€60	**€220**
8	Springdale	€160	–	€60	**€220**
9	Springdale	€160	–	€60	**€220**
10	Page	€160	–	€60	**€220**
11	Grand Canyon Village	€160	–	€60	**€220**
12	Grand Canyon Village	€160	–	€60	**€220**
13	Las Vegas	€160	–	€60	**€220**
14	Flight home from LAS	–	–	€60	**€60**

Flights	€1,700
Hotels	€2,080
Excursions	€0
Car hire	€840
Total	**€4,620**
	€2,310 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/tours/west-with-kids/

PHOTOS

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MAP AND TYPE

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