



# San Francisco

San Francisco is the fourth most popular city in California and the twelfth most popular city in the United States of America. About 900,000 people live in San Francisco. The city is very famous for the Golden Gate Bridge, its cable cars, and Chinatown.



**San Francisco's Chinatown** is the oldest Chinatown in North America and one of the biggest Chinese communities outside Asia. Chinatown was founded in the 1840s. Chinatown is about 1,6 kilometres long and 2 kilometres wide. More than 100,000 people live in this area.



**Cable cars** were invented in San Francisco in 1873. If you are in San Francisco, a ride on a cable car is a "must do." It's a sensation as the cable car grinds up the hills, reaches the top, then slowly descends. This is the best way to see the city. San Francisco is one of the richest areas in California. However, not everybody is rich. In the streets, you will see lots of homeless people.



The **Golden Gate Bridge** was built from 1933 to 1937. It rises 230 metres above the water and is almost two kilometres long. The bridge is part of the United States Highway 101, has got six lanes and a footpath on each side. 120,000 vehicles a day cross the bridge. You have to pay \$3 when you cross the bridge. The speed limit on the bridge is 45 miles (72 kilometres) an hour.



# Los Angeles

Los Angeles is a great place to live. The weather is always good - even in winter. The temperatures are usually between 19 degrees Celsius (January) and 26 degrees Celsius (July). Los Angeles is an exciting city and has something for everybody. Visitors can find a lot of attractions, from world-class museums to theme parks for families (Disneyland). Also, there are a lot of theatres, night clubs, and restaurants. You can go to rock, jazz, or pop concerts.

The mountains are great for skiing, but they keep the terrible smog in the city. The smog comes from five million cars. The car is king of the city. People think you are crazy if you walk.



Los Angeles is very big. More than four million people live there. The city is 129 kilometres from north to south and 112 kilometres from east to west. Los Angeles has got 1,100 kilometres of motorways, but there are still terrible traffic jams. Some people spend up to four hours a day in their car just to drive to work and back.



Hollywood is a part of Los Angeles. Hollywood is famous around the world because a lot of films and TV series are made here. A lot of film stars live in Los Angeles, and thousands of people work in the film industry. Of course, tourists love visiting the film studios (Universal Studios).



In Los Angeles, you can also walk on the “Walk of Fame” and have a look at the 2,000 stars. For example, you can see the star of Michael Jackson and even the star of Bugs Bunny. Tourists also love the Hollywood History Museum where you can learn a lot about the entertainment industry.



# Sacramento

Sacramento is the state capital of California. Today, around 400,000 people live in the city of Sacramento. Did you know that more than 1,7 million live in and around Sacramento?



Sacramento was founded in 1849 by John Sutter. The city played an important role during the time of the California Gold Rush in the 19th century. The Gold Rush was the time when a lot of people moved to California to find gold and get rich. Sacramento was the place where the new railroad ended.



Sacramento is close to the place where the American River meets the Sacramento River. This is important for Sacramento because ships can bring their goods to the city. Sacramento has got a nice harbour where big ships from the Atlantic Ocean can stop.



This is the California State Capitol. It is the government building. Here is the office of the Governor of California. The famous building was built between 1861 and 1874. However, it was damaged by two earthquakes in the 19th century. The building is 75 metres tall (from the bottom to the top of the dome).



# Death Valley

Temperatures in summer are over 50 degrees Celsius. You can drive around the valley in an air-conditioned car, but to really enjoy Death Valley, you need to get out and walk around. December is a lovely time to go – the weather is good and the days are warm.



Death Valley is one of the driest places on the planet because of its dry climate. Bring lots of water bottles and keep drinking water throughout the day. Even on a short trip, don't leave without plenty of water!



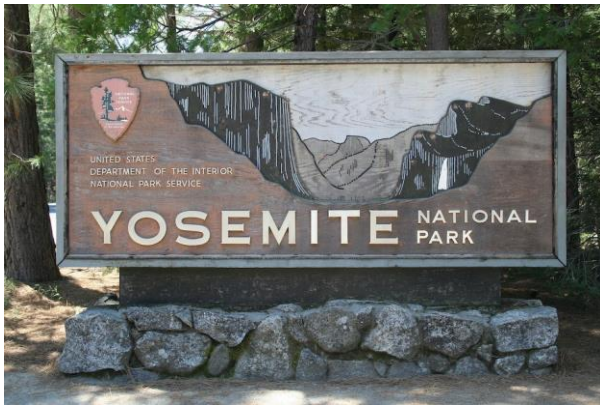
As you look out over the desert, it might seem that nothing can live in the heat and dryness of Death Valley, but there are plenty of animals. There are a lot of scorpions and lizards. If you're climbing on rocks, make sure you watch where you put your hands. Sometimes, a couple of coyotes come out to beg for food as cars drive by. Don't feed the coyotes.



Tourists can also visit the Death Valley National Park. This park is the hottest and driest of all national parks in the USA. The park was founded in 1994. 800,000 people visit the park every year. Sightseeing is possible by car, motorbike, or even by bike. Tourists can visit the old ghost towns, enjoy the soft colours of sunrises and sunsets, breath in the fresh air, or look at the landscape with mountains and sand dunes.



# Yosemite National Park



Yosemite is a famous American national park in California. Almost four million visitors come to the park every year. People love to enjoy the beautiful landscape with its mountains, cliffs, and trees. About 95 per cent of Yosemite is wilderness. The park is very big, but most of the visitors spend their time in Yosemite Valley, one of the most beautiful places in the park.



There are massive and tall trees in Yosemite National Park. They are called sequoias. Naturally, these trees only grow in California. With 84 metres, General Sherman is the largest living tree on our planet. This tree is almost 3,000 years old.



Visitors to the park have to follow some really important rules. For example, it is forbidden to leave rubbish behind! There are a lot of animals in the park: sheep, deer, coyotes, and bears. However, people are not allowed to feed animals. Visitors have to be careful if they ride their bikes because they have to stay on the official roads and trails.



# Sierra Nevada



The Sierra Nevada is a mountain range in California. *Sierra* is Spanish for *mountains* and *Nevada* can be translated with *snowfall*. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are well-known for their mild temperatures. The highest parts are still covered in snow in summer, but the temperatures are usually mild. Many people use the weather to go hiking. Between October and May, it is very rainy.



The highest mountain in the Sierra Nevada is Mount Whitney. Mount Whitney is more than 4,400 metres tall and one of the highest points in the United States of America. Tourists can use the Mount Whitney Trail to climb the mountain. However, people need a permit to do so. There is even a lottery where people can win tickets for the trail.



Lake Tahoe is a famous lake in the Sierra Nevada. With 500 metres, it is the second deepest lake in the United States. Lake Tahoe is a perfect place for outdoor activities. In summer, a lot of people go swimming in the clear water of the lake. There are a lot of hiking and mountain biking trails around the lake. In winter, tourists go skiing.