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Resources for those who are stranded here



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## Ufomind Places

# Las Vegas-California Loop Tour

For a newcomer to the West, I recommend a grand tour of California, beginning and ending in Las Vegas, where rental cars and airfares are usually cheap. The recommended itinerary can be done in either direction. You can do it in a week, two weeks or as long as you choose to spend.

1. Do the [Las Vegas](#) sights for a day or two, run down to Hoover Dam for a couple of hours at least to see it. (Unless you are interested in power plants, the dam tour isn't necessary.) Enjoy a [Buffet](#).
2. Leave Vegas in the morning. Go north on US-95, then cross Death Valley (to get to the other side), via Armagosa Junction and Death Valley Junction to Panamint Springs and Route 395.
3. Head north on Highway 395 in California, east of the Sierra Nevada. Spend the night in or near Bishop, CA. (Camping in the desert is possible. If you prefer a motel, reservations are recommended.)
4. Visit Mono Lake and the town of Bodie just north -- the best preserved authentic ghost town in the West, now a state park.
5. Cross the Sierras to Yosemite National Park (pass closed in winter). Time your visit to take in as much of the park as possible in a day, without having to spend the night there, since the place is crowded and lodging and campgrounds are invariably full.
6. Head to San Francisco, again timing your visit so you don't have to spend the night in the city. There should be plenty of cheap motels about a hour east of the city. Be forewarned that San Francisco is almost as dense as New York, and getting around isn't easy. Do the usual tourist things as much as you can tolerate, then cross the Golden Gate bridge to see the Muir Woods (big trees). Route 1 north from there is spectacular but tiring and heavily touristed; worth a day to drive as far as you can go.
7. Eventually, head south from San Francisco toward L.A., probably on the I-5 freeway, since you're probably so exhausted from the S.F. and Route 1 experience you'll long for the open road. (If you've seen Route 1 north of San Francisco, then you can skip Route 1 south. Monterrey is a tourist trap, in this reviewers opinion and can be avoided.)
8. Detour onto Route 58 near Bakersfield to Mohave. Lots of interesting desert and military attractions in this vicinity, including Edwards AFB, but you need to do your homework first. The vision of hundreds of windmills

near Tahachapi is startling.

9. Spend night at Motel 6 in Palmdale so you'll hit L.A. afresh.
10. Do Los Angeles. Griffith Park Observatory. Tourist stuff. You need to know where you want to go before you arrived, since it is easy to get lost in Southern California.
11. Come back to Vegas via I-15. Lots of refreshingly empty desert again. L.A. to Vegas takes about 5 hours, but there is plenty to do in the Mojave desert if you choose to linger. Visit the BLM Mojave Desert visitors center in Barstow for ideas. There is plenty of cheap lodging in Barstow. Just south of Las Vegas, I suggest staying at one of the big casino hotels near the California border: Rooms are under \$25 on weekdays.

Supporting books for this tour, sold by us:

- [Delorme Southern California Atlas](#)
- [Delorme Northern California Atlas](#)
- [Northern California Handbook](#)
- [Las Vegas Compass Guide](#)

If you linger in Nevada:

- [Nevada Handbook](#)
- [DeLorme Nevada Atlas](#)

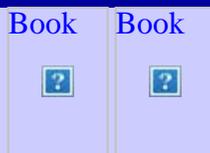
-- Glenn Campbell

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## Books from our Catalog

Listed in Random Order



- [Las Vegas Compass Guide](#) by Deke Castleman - \$12
- [Nevada Handbook](#) by Deke Castleman - \$18.95

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