



ETV Endowment Presents....

# California Dreamin' *with Austin Jenkins*

San Francisco, Napa Valley, Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Redwoods, Yosemite National Park, Whale Watching

May 31–June 8, 2025 – 9 Day Tour

## About Your Guides



**Austin Jenkins** is a native of Camden, SC. He received his undergraduate degree studying biology and education at The Citadel and graduate degrees from Clemson University

studying various organisms. He is an instructor for the popular SC Master Naturalist Program through Clemson Extension and the SC Wildlife Federation, where he is a former chair and emeritus board member. Austin teaches at USC Sumter, where his courses include Environmental Biology and Natural History of South Carolina.



**Sally Lane** has directed ETV Endowment trips for more than 20 years and has been involved in all aspects of the tourism industry since the early 1990s, from being an operations manager

to escorting tour groups around the United States and abroad. She successfully ran two of New Mexico's largest destination management companies for more than two decades, but her greatest love has always been being a top-notch tour guide. Sally lives by the motto "Give them service, and take it a step beyond."

## Accommodations

- ♦ Nights 1-3 **Argonaut Hotel**  
San Francisco, CA
- ♦ Nights 4-5 **Portola Hotel & Spa**  
Monterey, CA
- ♦ Nights 6-7 **Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite**  
Yosemite South Entrance, CA
- ♦ Night 8 **The Westin SF Airport**  
Milbrae, CA



## Itinerary

Join the ETV Endowment and Austin Jenkins on this unforgettable journey to California! This comprehensive, 9-day journey features the most iconic sights in the "Golden State" along with diverse landscapes, charming towns and unforgettable experiences, including a whale watching cruise in San Francisco Bay, wine tasting in the scenic Napa Valley, a stroll beneath towering California Redwoods, the thunder-ing waterfalls in Yosemite National Park and so much more!

### Day 1 – Welcome to San Francisco!

Upon arrival at the San Francisco International Airport, we'll meet Sally Lane, our Tour Director, our driver and a local guide who will provide a driving tour of the "City by the Bay" to showcase its diverse neighborhoods and iconic landmarks, including Union Square, Haight/Ashbury, Golden Gate Park and the Embarcadero. Later we'll arrive at our upscale, nautical-themed, boutique hotel in the heart of San Francisco's **Fisherman's Wharf**, known for its historic waterfront, delicious seafood, spectacular sights and unique shopping. This evening we'll enjoy an included **Welcome Dinner** at a locals' favorite. (Dinner)

### Day 2 – Angel Island, Whale Watching

After an included breakfast, we'll board a ferry for **Angel Island**, the picturesque San Francisco Bay island referred to as the "Ellis Island of the West." On the island we'll enjoy a guided nature walk to the **U.S. Immigration Station Museum**, a restored structure offering a window into the history of Pacific Coast immigrants. Back in San Francisco we'll enjoy time at leisure for exploration and lunch on your own at **Pier 39**, known for its historic waterfront, spectacular bay views, delicious seafood and two levels of unique specialty shops. This afternoon we'll embark on a narrated **whale watching cruise**. We'll

## Tour Inclusions

- ◆ \$1,200 tax-deductible contribution to the ETV Endowment
- ◆ Expert guidance of Austin Jenkins, PhD
- ◆ 8 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 14 Meals – 2 dinners, 4 lunches, 8 breakfasts
- ◆ Services of a professional tour director and comprehensive sightseeing with local guides
- ◆ Admissions per the itinerary
- ◆ Time at leisure for additional sightseeing, relaxing or shopping
- ◆ Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- ◆ Roundtrip airport transfers
- ◆ Luggage handling of one piece of luggage per person throughout the tour
- ◆ One ETV Endowment luggage tag
- ◆ Customary gratuities to the tour director, driver and local guides

## Not Included

- ◆ Airfare to/from San Francisco
- ◆ Services, meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- ◆ Laundry, telephone calls and expenditures of a personal nature
- ◆ Travel protection/insurance

## Tour Price/Payment

Double Occupancy: \$8,654 per person  
Single Supplement: \$1,274

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,200 per person is required to secure your place on this tour.

To reserve your space, send the registration form with check or credit card information for the deposit to:

ETV Endowment *California Dreamin'*  
401 E. Kennedy Street, Suite B-1,  
Spartanburg, SC 29302

## Please Note

**Itinerary is subject to change. You should plan to arrive to/depart from San Francisco International Airport. Do not book airfare until instructed to do so by ETV Endowment.** This is a nature tour, and there will be moderate-to-active walking throughout the tour, sometimes over varied, uneven or slippery terrain. You should feel comfortable participating in full days of activities.

Questions?

Contact Amy Raffo at the ETV Endowment at 864-591-0046 or [araffo@etvendowment.org](mailto:araffo@etvendowment.org)



## Itinerary

cruise past Alcatraz Island and beneath the Golden Gate Bridge as we make our way out of San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. While humpback whales are the most common whales seen along the California coast this time of year, other mammals, including dolphins and seals, as well as a variety of sea birds may also be seen – increasing our chances of seeing wildlife today – which is always unpredictable. Return to the hotel with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast)

### Day 3 – Napa Valley, Marin Headlands

Following an included breakfast, we'll travel north to **Napa Valley** – one of the most picturesque and widely recognized wine regions in the world. Rolling hills, vineyards and charming towns provide the idyllic landscape for us to enjoy an **included lunch and wine tasting** at an award-winning win-ery. On our return to San Francisco we'll stop amongst the picturesque **Marin Headlands** to enjoy a guided nature walk and views of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. We return to the hotel late this afternoon with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

### Day 4 – Redwoods, Monterey

After an included breakfast, we'll travel south to the Santa Cruz Mountains and arrive at **Roaring Camp**, resembling a 1880s logging town, complete with an old-fashioned general store, train depot and covered bridge. We'll board the **Redwood Forest Steam Train** and travel over trestles, through towering redwood groves and up a winding narrow-gauge grade to the summit of Bear Mountain as the conductor provides narration. After an included **boxed lunch**, we'll enjoy a guided nature walk beneath towering redwoods in **Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park**. Later this afternoon we'll arrive in **Monterey** and begin a two-night stay at an elegant, bayfront hotel situated adjacent to **Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf**. Enjoy the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

### Day 5 – 17-Mile Drive, Carmel-by-the-Sea

Following an included breakfast, we'll join a local guide for a driving tour of the Monterey Peninsula. For centuries, artists, poets, novelists and explorers have been drawn to the rugged beauty here – from the crashing surf and towering redwoods to the unspoiled wildlife. We'll explore the famed **17-Mile Drive**, an enchanting journey full of dramatic coastal cliffs, snow-white beaches and mystical forests. Along the way, we'll encounter **The Lone Cypress**, **Bird Rock**, celebrity homes and the world-renowned **Pebble Beach Golf Links**. Enjoy time at leisure for lunch on your own in the charming seaside town of **Carmel-by-the-Sea**, featuring great restaurants, boutiques and galleries. This afternoon enjoy time at leisure exploring **Cannery Row** or a guided nature walk along the **Monterey Bay Coastal Trail**. We return to the hotel with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast)

### Day 6 – Fresno, Yosemite

After an included breakfast, we'll travel east into California's fertile **Central Valley**. In Fresno we'll enjoy an included, traditional family-style **Basque meal** at a locals' favorite. We'll continue east into the **Sierra Nevada** and arrive in **Yosemite National Park** where we'll enjoy a guided nature walk through the **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**. Late this afternoon, we'll begin a two-night stay at the Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite, situated amongst a noble evergreen forest just outside the entrance to Yosemite National Park. Enjoy the balance of the evening at leisure with dinner on your own at this full-service resort that offers an experience that is classic, yet perfectly modern. (Breakfast, Lunch)

### Day 7 – Yosemite National Park

Following an included breakfast, we'll be joined by a **Yosemite Conservancy guide** for a full day of touring in Yosemite National Park, home to a grand collection of picturesque waterfalls, peaceful meadows and historic structures amongst a pine forest and unique, glacier-shaped cliffs and rock faces. We'll make multiple stops in the **Yosemite Valley**, the eight-mile long, geologic marvel lined by towering cliffs and glacially sculpted, polished rock. Enjoy an included **boxed lunch** and time at leisure to explore **Yosemite Village**. This afternoon, enjoy a guided nature walk to the base of the thunderous **Yosemite Falls**. At 2,425 feet, it is the highest waterfall in North America! We'll return to our lodge with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

### Day 8 – Yosemite to San Francisco

Following an included breakfast, we'll travel north to the **Hilmar Cheese Company** to learn how they produce more than 1 million pounds of cheese each day! We'll continue to **Coyote Hills Regional Park** on the southeast shore of San Francisco Bay for a guided nature walk providing views of the San Francisco Bay. Enjoy an included **Farewell Dinner** at a locals' favorite followed by an overnight stay at an upscale hotel near the San Francisco International Airport. (Breakfast, Dinner)

### Day 9 – Journey Home

After an included breakfast, make the short, included transfer to the San Francisco International Airport for flights home. (Breakfast)