

2012 RV Trip to Northern California

Tuesday, May 22 – Home to San Francisco to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park (252 miles; 5 hours)

Fly to San Francisco (Herb, Lorry, and Tommy)
Meet Andrew at airport
Pickup rental car
Drive 5 hours to John Muir Lodge in Kings Canyon
 Past San Luis Reservoir and through rich agricultural lands of central California
Drive (boys run) the 2.3 windy road up to Panoramic Point
 Great views of Kings Canyon and the Great Western Divide
Drive to Grant Grove and hike the ½-mile paved walk to the General Grant Tree
Stay at John Muir Lodge in Kings Canyon National Park

Wednesday, May 23 – Sequoia and Kings Canyon (94 miles; 2.25 hours)

Drive Generals Highway into Sequoia National Park
Stop at Lodgepole Visitor Center to watch film on bears in the park
Hike the 400 steps to the top of Moro Rock for spectacular 360 degree views
Drive through Tunnel Log on the way to Crescent Meadow
Hike the 1.8 mile round trip trail through Crescent Meadow
 Stop at Tharp's Log, a tiny cabin built from a fallen, fire-hollowed sequoia
Head back north on Generals Highway
Stop at General Sherman Tree (largest living thing on the planet)
Drive towards Kings Canyon
Stop at Hume Lake for a Swim
Stop to eat at the Kings Canyon Lodge
Drive the spectacular 31-mile Kings Canyon Scenic Byway to Cedar Grove
Hike the short ¼-mile trail to Roaring River Falls
Stay at Cedar Grove Lodge

Thursday, May 24 – Kings Canyon (10 miles; .5 hours)

Drive to trailhead at Roads End
Hike the beautiful 8-mile round trip trail to Mist Falls
 Take Gaidus annual Christmas photo
Have dinner at Cedar Grove Lodge – eat on picnic table beside Kings River
After dinner, hike 1.5-mile loop trail around Zumwalt Meadow
Stay at Cedar Grove Lodge

Friday, May 25 – Kings Canyon to Sebastopol (331 miles; 5 ½ hours)

Stop at Muir Rock before leaving Kings Canyon
Drive towards Sebastopol
Stop for lunch at In-N-Out Burgers

Stop for provisions at Trader Joes
Picnic dinner at Emery Point with view of the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge
Stay in Sebastopol

Saturday, May 26 – Sonoma County (38 miles; 1 hour)

Run/Hike Annadel State Park
Shop for brick-oven baked bread and scones at Wild Flour Bakery
Hike Willow Creek and have a picnic of bread, cheese, and wine
Stay in Sebastopol

Sunday, May 27 – Sebastopol (0 miles; 0 hours)

Go to the Sebastopol Farmers' Market
Walk along Florence Street, enjoying the whimsical, cartoon-like junk-art sculpture on many front lawns (done by Sebastopol resident sculptor Patrick Amiot)
Run at Ragle Ranch Regional Park
Stay in Sebastopol

Monday, May 28 – Mill Valley, Stinson, Beach, and Point Reyes Elk Refuge (126 miles; 3 ½ hours)

Drive to Mill Valley and buy a picnic lunch in the Mill Valley Market
Hike/Bike the steep steps and trails of the Dipsea Trail
Drive Panoramic Highway through Mt. Tamalpais State Park to Stinson Beach
Have picnic (freezing) on the beach
Drive to Point Reyes Elk Refuge (end of Pierce Point Road)
Hike the Tomales Point Trail
Stay in Sebastopol

Tuesday, May 29 – Bodega Bay, Sonoma Wineries, and Healdsburg (88 miles; 2 hours)

Drive to Bodega Bay
Hike the Bodega Bay Headlands 3 mile loop from Salmon Creek Beach
Go Wine Tasting at the Hop Kiln and Arista Wineries
Go to Healdsburg evening concert in the Healdsburg Plaza
Have dinner at Diavola Pizzeria and Salumeria in Geyserville
Stay in Sebastopol

Wednesday, May 30 – San Francisco (121 miles; 2 ½ hours)

Drive to San Francisco to see sights
Fort Point National Historic Site - Civil War era fort that is now a National Historic Site and part of the Golden Gate national Recreation Area
Tour Coit Tower, 210-foot art deco, concrete tower atop Telegraph Hill

Golden Gate Park

Drive down Lombard Street

Picnic and walk around Golden Gate Park – go to top of DeYoung Museum for great views of the city

Stop at Golden Gate Bridge scenic viewpoint

Stay in Sebastopol

Thursday, May 31 – Armstrong Redwoods, Pacific Coast Highway, Mendocino 124 miles; 3 hours)

Boys fly to start their internships and Herb and I head out on our own

Stop at Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve – hike the 1.5 mile Pioneer Nature Trail

Drive a 100-mile section of the spectacular Pacific Coast Highway from Jenner to Mendocino

Stop at Point Arena Lighthouse

Have a picnic dinner on the Mendocino Headlands

Stay at the Didjeridoo Dreamtime Inn in Mendocino

Friday, 6/1 – Mendocino and Lake Tahoe (300 miles; 6 hours)

Have a delicious breakfast at the Didjeridoo Dreamtime Inn

Walk out on the Mendocino Headlands to catch the morning light

Drive to Lake Tahoe (south end of lake)

Stop for a picnic lunch along the way at Clear Lake

Have wine and cheese at El Dorado Beach picnic tables and watch the sunset

Have dinner at the Brewpub on Lake Tahoe Blvd

Stay at Super 8 Motel on Lake Tahoe Blvd

Saturday, 6/2 - Lake Tahoe to Mono Lake and Yosemite Valley (185 miles; 4 hours)

Drive to Yosemite via Mono Lake

Hike the mile long trail in the Mono Lake South Tufa State Reserve

Have lunch at Whoa Nellie's Deli, located in a Mobil gas station overlooking Mono Lake

Drive to Yosemite – including the spectacular 56-mile Tioga Road from the East Gate through Tuolumne Meadows to Crane Flat

Have wine and some cheese in the Ahwahnee Meadow watching the sun set on Half Dome

Stay in Yosemite Housekeeping Camp

Sunday, 6/3 – Yosemite Valley

Hike the strenuous 7.2 mile round trip trail to the top of Yosemite Falls, 2,425 feet above the Valley floor

Hang out and swim in the Merced River from the nice sandy beach in Housekeeping Camp

Have wine and some cheese in the El Cap Meadow watching the sun go down on the tiny, tiny climbers on the wall

Monday, 6/4 – Yosemite Valley to Hayward (172 miles; 3 ½ hours)

Have lunch at the amazing Ahwahnee Hotel

Drive to Hayward (near SFO) and stay at the Days Inn

Tuesday, 6/5 – Fly Home

Drive to San Francisco International Airport

Fly back to New Jersey

Total Trip Mileage: 1851 miles
Average Miles per Day: 123 miles per day