

# Independent TRAVEL

# California Dreamin'

WHILST a visit to see Mickey Mouse is the first port of call in the USA for many families with young children, a stunning destination for a second visit, especially for families with teenagers is California.

Known as the Golden State, California is the third largest state of America and four times the size of the UK.

Holiday options here are tremendously varied, with cities, beaches and national parks offering a tremendous diversity of opportunity.

Any dream holiday to California should start in San Francisco...

A vibrant cosmopolitan city, with top quality shopping, museums, the famous Fishermans Wharf, and perhaps a visit to Alcatraz island and the former prison.

From San Francisco travel north, south or east. North of San Francisco is Napa Valley a beautiful wine growing area with the famous Napa Valley Wine Train excursion, a rugged coastline, Lake



Tahoe and Sacramento, the State capital. East is Yosemite National Park, about a 4 hour drive but a world away from San Francisco with its giant sequoia trees and stunning scenery.

Yosemite is a great location for outdoor activities of horseriding, walking, fishing, cycling and canoeing.

Travelling southwards many families will take Highway 1, one of the world's most scenic drives, through Carmel and Monterey and onward past the famous cliffs of Big Sur, the resorts of Santa Barbara and Santa Monica through to Los Angeles. Hol-



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iday accommodation ranges from budget motels to five star luxury and some strictly 'one off' places, for example The



Madonna Inn, where each room is themed in its furnishings and décor.

A stop in Los Angeles is a must for any itinerary, and for a family with teenage daughters especially, the shopping of Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive are a huge attraction.

A trip to Universal Studios or Disneyland will be a must for younger children and a tour of Hollywood, movie stars homes, and the Walk of Fame is another well known favourite.

Highway One becomes known as Pacific Coast Highway as it travels southward from Los Angeles to San Diego and the scenery changes too, and San Diego is popular for its beaches, watersports and gentle Mediterranean climate, as well as the world famous San

Diego Zoo, Seaworld and even Legoland.

Eastward from Los Angeles is another famous drive, through Death Valley to Las Vegas. Two days are recommended for this drive and accommodation is available en route.

On arrival in Las Vegas, visitors are surrounded by amazing themed hotels, fabulous shows and theme parks and great entertainment for all the families. If the lights and life of Las Vegas are not for you, there is some of the most stunning scenery in America on the doorstep.

Lake Mead and the Hoover Dam are about 30 miles away and the Grand Canyon is about a five hour drive away.

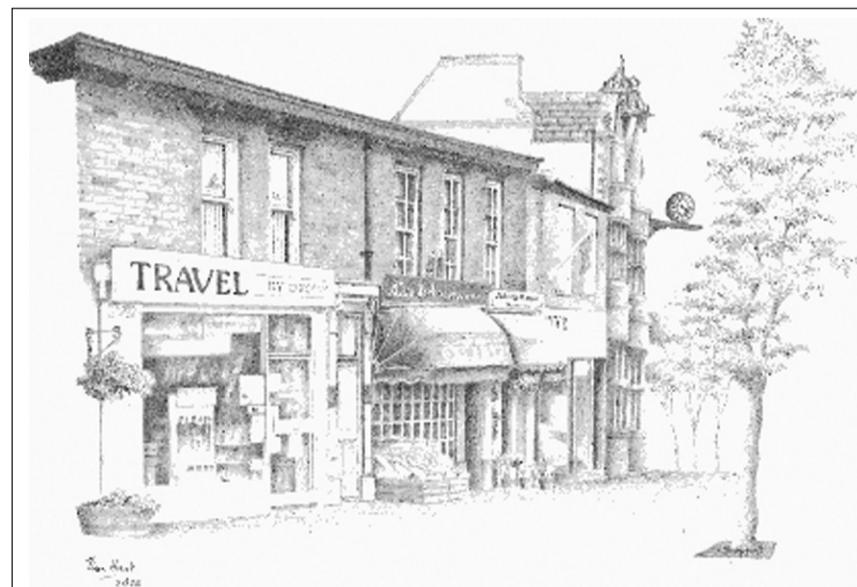
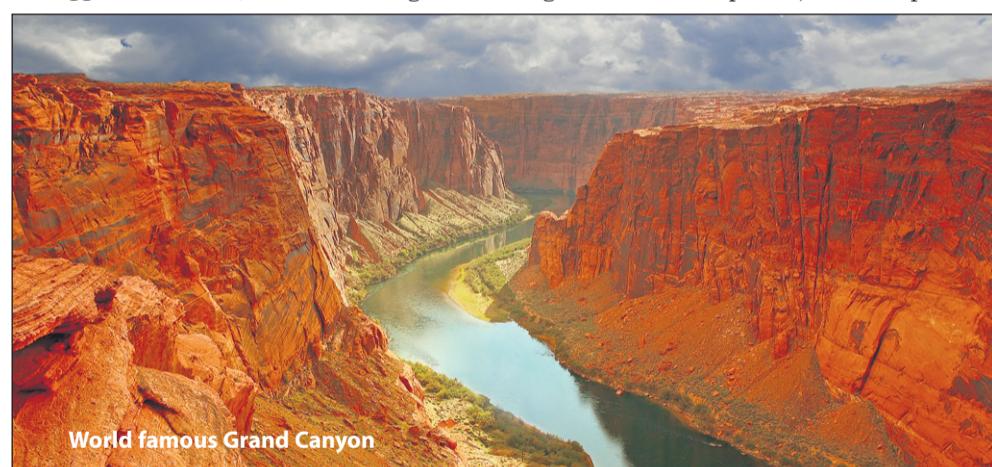
Most families will have two or three nights here to explore the area and walk the new Skywalk attraction with

its glass floored platform out over the canyon.

Flights from Manchester are either via London or one of the East Coast American cities, so why not break the journey in New York for a final stop in a thrilling itinerary.

Travel by Design are the only USA Travel Specialists in Alderley Edge and Wilmislow as appointed by the Visit USA Association, so to take advantage of our 20 years experience in booking America speak to Kristina, Irene, Diana and Karen for your next trip.

For an appointment phone us on 01625 584195, email to info@travelbydesigngroup.com or call in at our one and only location, 28 London Road, Alderley Edge and our post code for your satnav is SK9 7DZ.



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