Los Angeles Times

WEST COAST 101

CALIFORNIA

- Sleep by the sea amid the Norwegian woodland at Deetjen’s Big Sur Inn
- Queue up with college kids and cowboys at the Downtown SLO Farmers Market
- Spend the night at the East Brother Light Station on a San Francisco island
- Take in the postcard-worthy views at Emerald Bay State Park
- Hike Fern Canyon, the lush trail with “Jurassic Park” vibes
- Walk, ride or glide from San Francisco’s Ferry Building to the Golden Gate Bridge
- Enter a subterranean world at Forestiere Underground Gardens in Fresno
- Graze the world at DTLA’s Grand Central Market
- Look up at 300-foot redwoods in the Grove of Titans
- Roam Hearst Castle, California’s first mega-mansion, in San Simeon
- Hike beneath waterfalls in Yosemite’s Hetch Hetchy Valley
- Hug a boulder in Joshua Tree’s Hidden Valley
- Hike the Indian Canyons of Palm Springs
- Paddle a redwood canoe on the Klamath River in Yurok country
- Tour the coves and caves of La Jolla
- Go over the top at San Diego’s LaFayette Hotel
- Tread the sand and probe the tidepools of Laguna Beach
- Dig for rare books and vinyl in The Last Bookstore in DTLA
- Prospect for treasures in Lone Pine’s western movie museum
- Get dressed up and deceived at Hollywood’s Magic Castle
- Meander the supremely charming Main Street, Half Moon Bay
- Drive scenic Highway 395 to Mammoth Mountain
- See the barracks that held the prisoners of Manzanar
- Listen for Mexican echoes in Mariachi Plaza
- Make some driftwood magic on Moonstone Beach in Cambria
- Take a bite out of Big Sur at Nepenthe
- Examine a watershed moment in history at the Nixon Library and Museum
- Savor Italian food and bohemian books in North Beach
- Save room for dessert at the Orange Works Cafe in Strathmore
- Drink from a jar in Pappy & Harriet’s in the desert
- Get schooled in marine biodiversity at Point Lobos
- Watch passing boats — and a show — at San Diego’s Rady Shell
- Spot a fox or launch a kayak from Santa Cruz Island
- Blend into the rugged coast at Sea Ranch
- Roam the electric superbloom that is Sensorite in Paso Robbies
- Listen for history in Sonoma Plaza
- Hike, bike or kayak at Two Harbors on Catalina Island
- Walk on the UCLA campus, starting with the Hammer Museum
- Travel back to 1939 at Union Station, the last great American train depot
- Stroll or roll along Venice Beach
- Learn what keeps the Watts Towers upright
- Take in Shakespeare under the oaks at Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum in Topanga Canyon
- Spend a full day on Wilshire Boulevard’s Museum Row
- Feel the roar of waterfalls in Yosemite Valley

OREGON

- Enjoy the glow of a bonfire on Cannon Beach
- Dive into Astoria’s dramatic Columbia River Maritime Museum
- Stand on the rim of a sleeping volcano at Crater Lake
- Explore the culinary delights of Portland’s thriving food pod scene
- Play lightkeeper at the historic Heceta Head lighthouse, which still shines in Florence
- Seek glass floats along the Oregon coastline in Lincoln City
- Catch your breath beneath the roar of waterfalls at Multnomah Falls
- Shop for handmade goods at the Portland Saturday Market
- Browse the largest bookstore in the world, Powell’s Books in Portland
- Take a fast and furious jetboat ride down Oregon’s Rogue River
- Glide by sandboard on dunes at Florence’s Sand Master Park
- Camp, hike and climb at Smith Rock State Park in Oregon’s high desert
- Stuff yourself with cheese at the Tillamook Creamery

WASHINGTON

- Ramble through wine country in Oregon’s Willamette Valley
- Prowl Ballard’s locks, shops and troll
- Row, row, row at the Center for Wooden Boats
- Gawk at Chihuly Garden and Glass
- Soak in a floating hot tub boat on Lake Union
- See fish fly and busskers jam at Seattle’s Pike Place Market
- See Seattle’s big hammering man at Seattle Art Museum
- Soar and swoop in a Seattle seaplane
- Zip to the top of Seattle’s Space Needle
- Sleep in a treehouse outside Seattle at Treehouse Point
- Study Huskies on Seattle’s University of Washington campus

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Roam among riotous flowers at Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island
- Tiptoe high above a misty forest on the Capilano Suspension Bridge
- Cruise False Creek by ferry
- Taste and shop postindustrial Granville Island
- Board HAVN, a WWII warship turned floating day spa
- Chase history around Victoria’s Inner Harbor on Vancouver Island
- Climb and slide the open-air Malahat Skywalk
- Savor the game at Salmon & Bannock, Vancouver’s only Indigenous restaurant
- Pedal (or walk or skate) along the scenic Stanley Park seawall
- Meet a pioneering painter in the Vancouver Art Gallery

NOTE: Highlight denotes a Top 10 pick