



# CALIFORNIA MANSIONS, GARDENS & RAIL

FEATURING 3 TRAIN RIDES, 9 MANSIONS, CENTRAL COAST, GOLD COUNTRY, CENTRAL VALLEY

APRIL 16-22, 2015 ~ 7 DAY TOUR

TOUR PACE  Leisurely  On the Go ACTIVITY LEVEL  Low  High

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Three Amtrak train rides, including one along the coast aboard the *Coast Starlight*
- ◆ Stay overnight at a quaint inn along Cambria's Moonstone Beach and visit Hearst Castle with a docent-guided tour
- ◆ Stay two nights at San Jose's Hayes Mansion, a Spanish Colonial Revival-style manor that has been meticulously renovated into a hotel
- ◆ Docent-guided tour of the Filoli Mansion, a 36,000 square foot Georgian country house with a spectacular English Renaissance garden
- ◆ Visit the Winchester Mystery House for a docent-led tour of this unique mansion
- ◆ Sacramento sightseeing including docent-guided tours of the Governor's Mansion, Leland Stanford Mansion and State Capitol
- ◆ Travel into California's Gold Country to tour the Empire Mine mansion
- ◆ In the Central Valley, tour both the McHenry and Kearney Mansions

## FINE HOTELS / GREAT LOCATIONS

- ◆ Night 1 **FogCatcher Inn**  
Cambria, CA
- ◆ Nights 2-3 **Dolce Hayes Mansion**  
San Jose, CA
- ◆ Nights 4-5 **Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza**  
Sacramento, CA
- ◆ Night 6 **DoubleTree Hotel**  
Fresno, CA

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ◆ 6 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 10 Meals – 3 dinners, 1 lunch, 6 breakfasts
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing and services of a professional GTT tour director
- ◆ Transportation on a deluxe motorcoach and aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight*, *Capitol Corridor* and *San Joaquin* trains
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour

## PER PERSON PRICES

Double \$1,399 / Single \$1,849 • Deposit \$250  
Travel Protection/Cancellation Plan – see reverse

## ~DAY BY DAY ITINERARY~

*On this rail journey across California we'll be in search of the largest and most unique mansions as well as the most beautiful gardens at a perfect time of year. From the Hearst Castle on the Central Coast... to the Filoli Mansion and Winchester Mystery House in the Bay Area... to the mansions in Sacramento and the California Gold Country... and the Victorian mansions of the Central Valley, this unique itinerary features incredible sights, impressive experiences and intriguing history to create indelible memories.*



Coast Starlight Train

### ◆DAY 1 ~ COASTAL TRAIN RIDE◆

We set out this morning from our departure points for the tranquility of California's Central Coast. We'll travel by motorcoach to Oxnard to board Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train. Here begins our first train adventure as we embark on a memorable journey along California's coastline and through its fertile valleys to San Luis Obispo. On this **4-hour rail journey**, we'll travel along Point Conception and through Vandenberg Air Force Base where you'll see the beautiful undeveloped coastline only visible by train. You are free to move around the train, get lunch from the snack bar or enjoy lunch in the dining car. Check out the view from the observation car or just relax in your comfortable seat. Upon our arrival in San Luis Obispo, our motorcoach will be waiting to complete our journey to the quaint seaside village of **Cambria**. We'll stay overnight at a quaint thatched-roof inn (with fireplaces in every room) that is located on a spectacular stretch of rugged coastline and just steps from **Moonstone Beach**, offering an extraordinary array of tide pools and walk-able boardwalks. This evening, an included **Welcome Dinner** at a local favorite. (Dinner)

### ◆DAY 2 ~ HEARST CASTLE, SAN JOSE◆

Following an included breakfast we'll visit the largest mansion in California – **Hearst Castle** –



the 134-acre hilltop estate of William Randolph Hearst. You'll have your choice of three different **docent-guided tours** to see some of the 127 acres of gardens and 165 rooms filled with splendid antiques, art treasures and exotic possessions. Enjoy time to browse the gardens, terraces and walkways at leisure. This afternoon we travel north along the El Camino Real, better known as US-101. Upon our arrival in **San Jose** we'll check-in to the Hayes Mansion, a Spanish Colonial Revival-style manor that has been meticulously renovated into a hotel. This hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and stands as one of the Santa Clara Valley's most impressive historical structures. (Breakfast)



Filoli Mansion

### ◆DAY 3 ~ SANTA CLARA VALLEY◆

After an included breakfast at the hotel we'll travel to Woodside and the **Filoli Mansion**, a historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and one of the finest remaining country estates of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Filoli has served as the set for many films and television shows including *Dynasty*, *Heaven Can Wait* and *The Game*. On a **docent-guided tour** you'll see the 36,000-square-foot Georgian country house containing an extensive collection of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century English antiques. Also visit the exquisitely beautiful and ever-changing 16-acre English Renaissance

## RESERVATIONS

Santa Ana College  
Community Services Program  
1530 W. 17th St., Room S-201  
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone (714) 564-6594

[www.sac.edu/cms](http://www.sac.edu/cms)

Tour operated by *Good Times Travel*  
California Seller of Travel License #: 2018390-40

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

♦ Deposit due at time of booking to the address above (*Good Times Travel* will contact you for the travel protection)

♦ *Good Times Travel* will invoice you for the balance payment 6-8 weeks prior

## TRAVEL PROTECTION / CANCELLATION

Travel protection/cancellation insurance is highly recommended for all multi-day tours. If travel protection has not been purchased, only recoverable funds less a cancellation charge of \$50 will be reimbursed once payment has been made. Amount of reimbursement depends on the date of cancellation.

If travel protection has been purchased and you must cancel prior to departure or leave the tour enroute for a reason approved by the insurance company, you will receive a full refund (or partial if enroute), minus the cost of the premium. Other benefits of travel protection include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, and lost/stolen/damaged luggage. Pre-existing medical conditions are only covered if protection is purchased at the time of deposit. See travel protection plan for full details and exclusions.

## DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Park and join this tour at one of the following locations:

Fountain Valley - Good Times Travel office

Long Beach - City College Lot "O"

*Departure time depends on location*

*Exact times are provided 2 weeks prior to departure*

## ACTIVITY LEVEL / WALKING

Tour pacing and physical demands (walking/stairs, etc.) varies by each tour however every tour involves some walking and climbing stairs to enter/exit the motorcoach. On any tour you may stay on the motorcoach should you not wish to disembark at a specific location

## FURTHER INFORMATION / TERMS

See *Good Times Travel* catalog  
or [www.goodtimestravel.com](http://www.goodtimestravel.com)

garden. Enjoy time to browse at leisure and have lunch on own at the café here. We return to San Jose for a **docent-guided tour of the Winchester Mystery House** – certainly the most unique mansion in California. This extravagant maze of Victorian craftsmanship contains miles of twisting hallways, secret passageways and stairs and doors that go nowhere. Enjoy time at leisure to wander the original garden paths designed by Mrs. Winchester to see the extensive plantings, fountains and outlying buildings. Dinner on own this evening at **Santana Row**. (Breakfast)

### ♦ DAY 4 - OAKLAND, TRAIN, SACRAMENTO ♦

Following included breakfast this morning we travel north along the East Bay to Oakland to visit the **Pardee Home**, one of the greatest architectural and historical treasures of Northern California. From the outside, the beauty of the house and gardens is striking enough – but once you get inside, you'll be astonished by the unique interiors and artifacts from around the world. And on a **docent-guided tour** you'll discover its outstanding historical importance as the home of one of California's most influential families. This afternoon, following time at leisure for lunch on own in **Jack London Square**, we board the train for our **2-hour rail excursion from Oakland to Sacramento**. After arriving in the capital city of **Sacramento** this afternoon we'll visit the **Governor's Mansion State Historic Park**. California's executive mansion was built in 1877 by the Gallatin family and purchased by the state to use as a home for California's first families in 1903 – in fact the first residents were the Pardee family. It eventually housed 13 of California's governors, the last being Ronald Reagan. On a **docent-guided tour** you'll see marble fireplaces from Italy, gold framed mirrors from France, and exquisitely handcrafted hinges and doorknobs, all of which are reminders of the Gallatins and the Victorian era. Outside some of the mansion's flowers, shrubs, and trees date back to 1877. Enjoy an **included dinner** this evening aboard the **Delta King Riverboat**. (Breakfast, Dinner)

### ♦ DAY 5 - SACRAMENTO, GOLD COUNTRY ♦

An included breakfast at the hotel before we visit the **California State Capitol** for a **docent-guided tour** of this neoclassical building. Originally built in the 1860s and expanded several times, it was completely restored in 1982. The marble mosaic floors, chandeliers, murals, antiques and portraits of the governors are truly stunning. We'll take a leisurely walk through **Capitol Park** featuring trees from around the world and memorials to significant events in California's history. We then visit the **Stanford Mansion**, built in 1856 by railroad baron and California governor, Leland Stanford. The mansion is a stunning example of the splendor and elegance of the Victorian era in California. After a 14-year, \$22 million restoration and rehabilitation, the

mansion now serves the citizens of California as the state's official reception center for leaders from around the world. On a **docent-guided tour** of the 19,000-square-foot mansion we'll see the spectacular 17-foot ceilings, gilded mirrors and exquisitely detailed carved moldings, elegant 19<sup>th</sup> century crystal and bronze light fixtures and original period furnishings that belonged to the Stanfords. Take a leisurely walk through the 19<sup>th</sup> century-style gardens. Enjoy time for lunch on own in historic **Old Sacramento** – the 28-acre national historic landmark and state historic park with more than 50 Gold Rush-era buildings. This afternoon we journey into the **California Gold Country** and visit **Empire Mine State Historic Park**. The Empire Mine is the oldest, largest, and richest gold mine in California. In existence for more than 100 years, the mine produced 5.8 million ounces of gold. With that amount of gold, it's no surprise that the owners would build a spectacular "cottage" styled after the noble estates of 19<sup>th</sup> century England. Built in the late 1890s, the architecture is distinguished by a remarkable redwood interior, leaded glass windows and massive granite walls. A **docent-guided tour** of the restored mansion, gardens and grounds. (Breakfast)

### ♦ DAY 6 - CENTRAL VALLEY MANSIONS ♦

Following an included breakfast we'll travel south through the Sacramento Valley to **Modesto** for a **docent-guided tour** of the **McHenry Mansion**. Built in 1883 by Robert McHenry, a prominent local rancher and banker, it is a fine example of the Victorian Italianate style of architecture. The mansion recently completed a full restoration and is decorated and furnished with antiques from the period in which Robert and his wife, Matilda lived in the mansion. Following lunch on own in Modesto, we continue south to **Fresno**. Here we'll embark on a **docent-guided tour** of the **Kearney Mansion**, an early 1900s French Renaissance-style mansion with original Victorian furnishings. M. Theo Kearney was known as the "Raisin King" and pioneered much of the agricultural industry in Central Valley. Enjoy an **included dinner** at a local favorite in Fresno. (Breakfast, Dinner)

### ♦ DAY 7 - TRAIN, FINAL FAREWELL ♦

Following an included breakfast we'll embark on our third railroad adventure – from Fresno to **Bakersfield**. This **2-hour rail journey** will take us past the small towns and farms of California's fertile **San Joaquin Valley**. Upon our arrival in Bakersfield we'll visit a Basque restaurant to enjoy an **included traditional family-style Basque lunch**. We continue south by motorcoach to Southern California and return to our departure points this evening. But we'll take with us the sounds of the rails and the memories of the beautiful mansions and gardens while on this unique and exciting journey! (Breakfast, Lunch)