



# Private Napa Wine Tasting Tour - by Train from Denver to San Francisco

September 30 to October 7, 2024

Optional extension: Drive down the Pacific Coast Highway - Oct 7 to Oct 9, 24



8 Days - plus Optional 3 ★ Small Group, Limited to 15 Travelers

## OVERVIEW

Let's meet in Denver for an evening amid the incredible craft beer scene with welcome dinner at a local speakeasy. Then we'll board Amtrak's California Zephyr for a 33-hour train ride across the Rockies to San Francisco in First Class sleeper accommodations. Experienced travelers say the Amtrak California Zephyr is one of the most beautiful train trips in all of North America. As you climb through the heart of the Rockies, and further west through the snow-capped Sierra Nevada's, you'll understand why. The Zephyr runs between Chicago and San Francisco, but we'll be onboard through the most scenic part, starting in Denver! We'll have private rooms with sleeping berths, and access to bathroom with showers in our car or you can upgrade to a private bath in your room. You can roam around the Zephyr, enjoying the views of the majestic Rockies and mountain ranges in the observation deck, or go to the lounges to enjoy beverages. All meals will be provided on the Zephyr with first class service! On the way we'll have tastings and group lessons on the art of wine led by our guide, a Level 1 Sommelier; an enthusiastic wine expert with mighty plans for us in Napa Valley where we'll have many tastings.

Once we arrive in San Francisco, we'll spend 2 nights in the city exploring this magnificent city's cultural highlights with our private van and driver. Lots of options! Then on to Napa, with a two-night stay in the Calistoga Hot Springs area, for a comfortable, welcoming, home base with everything Napa Valley has to offer. We're going in October during Crush Season so we can experience the region during harvest and help process the grapes by stomping them. I Love Lucy style!

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Denver's hip districts of LoDo and RiNo and dinner at a Speakeasy with beer parings.
- Amtrak Zephyr Train Ride from Denver to San Francisco, with private rooms with sleeping berths, access to bathrooms with showers, and all meals with first class service.
- San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf
- Alcatraz Tour or visit Sausalito art galleries
- Private walking tour Chinatown & Little Italy
- Muir Woods Hike
- Napa Valley private van with driver
- Calistoga Hot Springs
- Napa Valley private tastings at 6 or more exclusive vineyards  
(will be selected two months before trip)
- Harvest time, Grape Stomp
- Our guide will create a list of suggested restaurants and make reservations as needed.

Questions? Call your  
trip leaders.

Deb Smith  
386-562-2213

Or Kathy Grabow  
386-451-5358

**Deadline to secure best train accommodations is 3/14/24 or until sold out!**

## COST INCLUDES

- All accommodations
- Amtrak Zephyr Train Ride from Denver to San Francisco (Emeryville)  
with Private Rooms with Sleeping Berths
- Meals as indicated on Itinerary (2x Breakfast/2x Lunch/4xDinner)
- San Francisco Hotel Accommodations for 2 nights
- Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, Little Italy,  
Alcatraz Tour or Sausalito option
- Private Van and Driver and all transfers once we arrive in Denver
- Muir Woods Hike
- Calistoga Hotel Accommodations for 2 nights
- 6 or more Private Wine Tastings at Premier Wineries
- San Francisco Airport Hotel Accommodations for last night

Recommendations:  
Air – Avid Travel, our trip  
curator will happily book our  
air. Flying out of DAB or MCO  
and coordinate all other  
transportation.

Trip Insurance by  
[Myra@TravelProtectors.com](mailto:Myra@TravelProtectors.com)  
Flyer document provided  
upon request

## ITINERARY

### Monday Day 1:



Today is the arrival day into Denver. We'll begin activities in the late afternoon, after checking into our hotel. We'll head off to two very cool neighborhoods; the LoDo and RiNo districts. There are all sorts of eclectic shops, cafes, and historic buildings to explore. We'll have an **included welcome dinner** at one of the cool speakeasies in one of these hip areas, and sample some craft beers Denver is famous for.

## Tuesday Day 2:

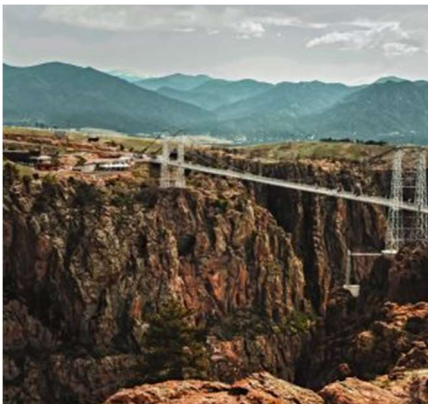
Today (**breakfast included at hotel**), bright and early, 8 a.m. - We board the California Zephyr for our 33-hour train ride. But don't worry, we'll be entertained with majestic views for much of the morning and afternoon. We'll get first class service with **all meals provided**, and we have access to lounges for drinks anytime we want.

Our rooms contain sleeping berths, and the sleeping cars have shared bathrooms with showers.



## Wednesday Day 3:

We'll continue our train ride through the beautiful western USA until late afternoon, with special entertainment just for our group. We'll be presented with lessons from our own sommelier on wine tasting and interesting history on Napa Valley. Be prepared to taste and learn something new.



Our Zephyr train ride ends at 4 p.m. in Emeryville, CA, so we'll take transportation to our San Francisco accommodations – the Hotel Zephyr!!!, for 2 nights. That evening we'll go to Fisherman's Wharf to walk along the piers and eat some great seafood in a restaurant on the wharf. We'll also visit Ghirardelli Square where the U.S. oldest, continuously-operating chocolate producer was incorporated in 1852.

## Thursday Day 4:



This morning, we head out to visit Alcatraz Island for a tour or you can venture over to Sausalito to explore their vibe and Art Galleries. Once we ferry back, you'll have some free time, maybe catch a trolley car and visit Lombard Street on your own and have lunch. That evening we have a private walking tour of Chinatown and Little Italy with a local guide. Dinner will take place during the tour.



We have a private driver and van lined up for these next two days as we venture out of San Francisco. We'll stop at the Golden Gate Bridge to see the views and take obligatory pictures, then drive into the magnificent Muir Woods, admire the redwoods and where we can do an easy hike for about an hour.



It's back to the van, Lunch at Andy's Local Market, a fantastic deli, then on to our first tasting. (vineyard itinerary to be detailed later)

In the evening we'll enjoy a hilarious and famous tradition! A Grape Stomp and **dinner (included)** at the vineyard, then transfer to Calistoga's Upvalley Inn & Hot Springs for 2 nights.

#### **Saturday Day 6:**

Breakfast at a local restaurant. We'll continue with more exclusive wine tours and tastings, in unique and luxury wineries. We'll learn about the history of wine making in the area, and visit some historic places.



4 p.m. - Choose between returning to the hotel for a spa evening (cost varies) or an early dinner at the Michelin rated French Laundry (time depends on reservation) \$\$\$\$\$

#### **Sunday Day 7:**

Breakfast at a local restaurant, Take an optional leisurely morning bicycle (or e-bike) ride with our guide. Lunch at a local farm-to-table restaurant or vineyard. Two more wine tasting tours. Drive to San Francisco and settle in at the Airport Hotel for the night. We'll have our **farewell dinner (included)** tonight included in the tour, at a very nice restaurant, to cap off our wonderful week.

#### **Monday Day 8:**

After breakfast we check out, then go to the San Francisco airport to fly home.



## OPTIONAL THREE DAY/TWO NIGHT EXTENSION TO PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

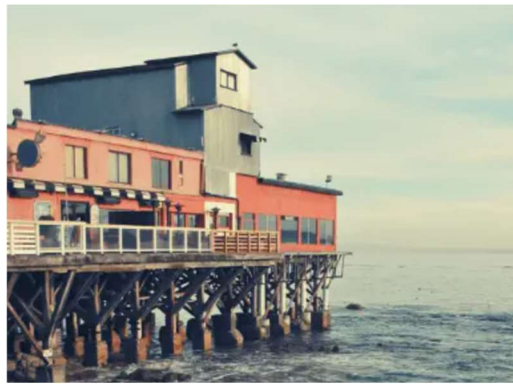
(6 minimum travelers for these extra days) Fly home from LAX

Drive down the Pacific Coast Highway through Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea to Santa Barbara

October 7 to October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Monday Day 8:

After breakfast leave San Fran hotel for Monterey, Cannery Row stop for free time and walk along the waterfront. Lunch on Cannery Row, with an included Whale Watching boat tour after. Check into Monterey Victoria Inn for the night. Dinner at Hogg's Breath Inn at Carmel-by-the-Sea (Maybe see Clint Eastwood?)



### Tuesday Day 9:

**Breakfast included** at the hotel. Drive toward Santa Barbara, stopping at the Bixby Bridge for the view. Lunch at Nepenthe in Big Sur, stop for a walk at the Julie Pfeiffer Burns State Park, admission included. Arrive in Santa Barbara and check into the Inn. Free time before dinner on the wharf. Stay at the Chumash Casino Resort.



### Wednesday, Day 10

After breakfast, drive to LAX



## WHERE YOU'LL BE STAYING

**Denver** – One night. Renaissance Denver Central Park Hotel.

Embrace the understated luxury found at our Renaissance Denver Central Park Hotel conveniently located just off I-70 between the Denver International Airport (DIA) and Downtown Denver. Every guest will indulge in luxurious guest rooms offering balconies with expansive views and luxurious amenities

**Amtrak Zephyr** – 1 night (option to upgrade to a room with an on-suite bathroom.)

We've booked Roomettes, which are 6'6" – 6'8" in length, and 3'6" in width. They feature:

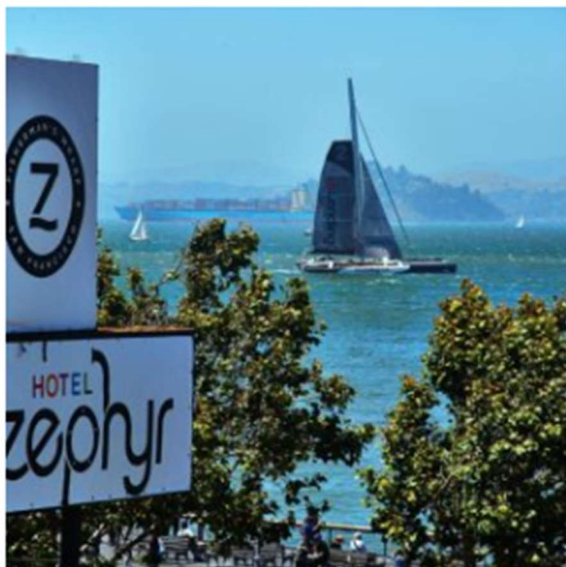
- Two comfortable seats by day transformed into upper and lower beds by night
- Newly upgraded bedding, pillows, towels and linens
- Access to a restroom and shower in your car
- A dedicated First-Class attendant
- Complimentary lounge access
- Priority boarding
- Complimentary meals

In addition to your roomette, you'll also have access to other areas on the Zephyr, such as lounge/dining cars and observation cars.



**San Francisco – 2 nights at the Hotel Zephyr (not related to the train)**

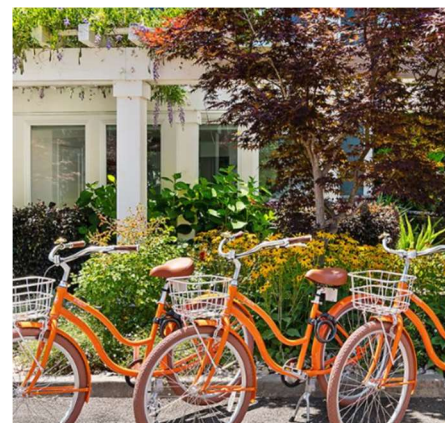
Hotel Zephyr is located in the heart of Fisherman’s Wharf. Its “ship-yard chic” feel pays perfect homage to the neighborhood, while bringing a totally new dimension to this unique part of town. Designed using materials such as recycled cargo containers and upcycled nautical goods, Hotel Zephyr is recognized for its unique, bold and distinctive style. Each of the stylish guest quarters give the experience of staying in a captain’s suite – where the very best accommodations onboard offer vistas of San Francisco Bay and the iconic Golden Gate Bridge.



**Napa Valley – 2 Nights at the Calistoga UpValley Inn & Hot Spring**

Find yourself within the heart of charming Calistoga, CA, yet feel a world away at this boutique hot springs hotel. Offering the luxury of convenience to neighboring wineries, shopping and dining, UpValley Inn is at the center of Napa Valley wine country’s premier attractions. Dip into the transformative, 100% natural geothermal mineral water swimming pool and whirlpool and wash your cares away. Breathe in the sites as you explore Calistoga and discover why it’s been touted as a world-renowned, sought-after wellness destination since 1862. Then nestle in for a quiet night’s sleep in your stylish, rustic-meets-modern guestroom. There’s no better way to experience a quintessential Valley escape while transforming mind, body and soul. (no elevator)

Come soak it all in.



**San Francisco – 1 night at the Regency Inn at San Francisco Airport**

Last night accommodations, conveniently located 2 miles from SFO.



## EXTENSION:

### Monterey 1 night at the Victoria Inn

Experience the tranquility of this seaside location when you stay at the Victorian Inn. Visit the unique shops and restaurants along Cannery Row, all within walking distance of our intimate hotel. Rest in accommodations with in-room marble fireplaces, and private patios, balconies or window seats where you can soak up ocean breezes. Their charming central coast property offers oversized guestrooms and suites perfect for couples and friends. All guests enjoy a complimentary breakfast and a daily Wine and Cheese hour from 5p.m.-6p.m. (Elevator available)



### Santa Barbara – 1 night at the Chumash Casino Resort

Their AAA Four Diamond-rated hotel features newly-remodeled guest rooms and suites that bring the beauty of the Santa Ynez Valley indoors. It's stress-free chic, designed to help you rest, relax and recharge. The casino is a two-minute walk away if you're interested and have time.

