

Ah, the Golden State. Such a unique place to visit. In just a few hours you can go from soaking in the rays at your favorite palm-lined beach to riding the ski lift up a snow-covered mountain. From its popular national parks, delicious cuisine options, and breathtaking geological features, it's no wonder that California is deemed an RVer's utopia.

It won't take much convincing for you to visit this West Coast paradise, but figuring out a road trip route can be overwhelming when there's so much to see and do. And while it wasn't easy, we've narrowed down our list to the top six must-see places in California for a camper trip. We've broken it down by location, so you can better plan your journey. Take a look!

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Southern California, or SoCal, is known for its robust culture, gorgeous sunshine, and stunning Pacific Coastline. It includes popular cities such as San Diego, Coronado, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Orange. There's so much to see in this region of the state, we guarantee there will be something to excite all personalities!

### Balboa Park

Our first stop will take you to the coast of one of SoCal's most renowned shoreline cities, San Diego. [Balboa Park](#) is a 1,200-acre area where nature and culture meet. It's home to over 17 museums, lush gardens, and stunning architecture. While you're there, you can also pay a visit to the World Famous [San Diego Zoo](#), attend a play, or watch shows of heritage dancing.

Entry to the park is free, but fees may apply to the various attractions. However, there are different passes available to make exploration easier and more affordable!

Popular RV Parks nearby:

- [Mission Bay RV Resort](#)
- [Campland on the Bay](#)

### Venice Beach Boardwalk

If you drive about 2 hours north of San Diego, you'll find yourself in the eclectic city of Los Angeles. As the largest city in California, there's a lot going on in the City of Angels. One of the busiest and most free-spirited stops is [Venice Beach](#). This iconic site attracts approximately 28,000 people every day to its funky shops, colorful murals, relaxing beaches, and of course - bustling boardwalk.

[Venice Beach Boardwalk](#), also known as Ocean Front Walk, boasts an average of 10+ million visitors per year, crowning it the second most-visited destination in Southern California. This two-mile stretch is home to hundreds of street vendors, performers and privately-owned restaurants and

venues. The Venice Beach Rec Center offers plenty of activities from basketball, handball tournaments, tennis, and bodybuilding at the world famous [Muscle Beach Venice gym](#).

Popular RV Parks nearby:

- [Dockweiler RV Park](#)
- [Malibu Beach RV Park](#)

## **Sequoia National Forest**

Another couple more hours northeast will have you driving through the foothills of the Sierra Nevada aside the San Joaquin Valley, a dramatic landscape that “testifies to nature’s size, beauty, and diversity.” Nestled in this gorgeous landscape, you’ll also find [Sequoia National Forest](#), home to the giant Sequoia trees.

Nearly half the sequoia groves in the world are found here! These majestic trees can grow up to 270 feet high and 30 feet in diameter, truly a sight to see. In addition to marveling at the beauty, you can find plenty of activities to keep the energy flowing, including backpacking, fishing, caving, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing!

Popular RV Parks nearby:

- [Sequoia RV Ranch](#)
- [Sequoia RV Park](#)

## **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Northern California is a region stretching from Oregon to San Luis Obispo county. From the hilly sophistication of San Francisco, to the high-tech world of San Jose and the delicious wine-filled Napa Valley, NorCal is a land of contrasting beauty and excitement.

### **The Painted Ladies**

Cue up the *Full House* soundtrack and drive around the city to view the famed Painted Ladies. These Victorian-style homes are found around the Alamo Square area of San Francisco and probably one of the most visited and photographed attractions in the city.

In the nearby area are some wonderful spots to grab lunch, explore local shops and meet some new friends. If you want to learn more about the history of these iconic homes, consider booking a [Painted Ladies tour!](#)

Popular RV Parks nearby:

- [San Francisco RV Resort](#)
- [Treasure Island RV Park](#)

### **Lake Tahoe**

One of the most popular destinations in Northern California, [Lake Tahoe](#) is a must-see California spot regardless of the season. Summertime is ideal for all things watersports; jet skiing, kayaking, paddle boarding and boogie boarding are common activities to keep the adrenaline pumping. In the wintertime, skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling are spectacular things to do.

If you want to enjoy the beauty of the scenery, but don't want to spend your entire time in the water, there are plenty of hiking trails and scenic points for you to explore! If time allows, you can also visit [Emerald Bay State Park](#), an inlet along the southwest shore of Lake Tahoe that is recognized for its stunning panorama views and colorful granite cliffs.

- [Campground by the Lake](#)
- [Camp Richardson Campground](#)

### **Glass Beach**

This destination may be one of the most unique and picturesque beaches in all of California. [Glass Beach in Fort Bragg](#) is entirely covered in gorgeous sea glass of various colors and shapes. Interestingly enough, this beautiful spot has a not-so-lovely past. In the early 20th century, residents

would throw their household garbage over the cliff and into the ocean. Everything from appliances, to cars and glass bottles. Over the last 30 years, the waves washed the trash up and down the coast until it became smooth, colored pieces of sea glass!

It should be noted that it has recently become illegal to take sea glass from the beach, but don't let this stop you from going. You can hang out in the beautiful beach areas overlooking the ocean and search through unique pieces of nature.

Popular RV Parks nearby:

- [Sportsmans RV Park](#)
- [Dolphin Isle Marina and RV Park](#)

***While these six spots barely scratch the surface of all the must-see attractions in California, they're a good starting point! What's on YOUR California RV trip itinerary??***