

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Please review the enclosed USI Travel Insurance Services brochure and letter. This insurance is designed to protect you from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 15 days (Plus Option) or 21 days (Elite Option) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Waiver of the Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, to cover certain injuries and illnesses that would not otherwise be covered by the policy, 2) Protection for Certain Terrorist Acts if you cancel your trip due to a terrorist incident occurring in any city on your trip itinerary, within 30 days before or after our scheduled departure date, 3) Cancel for Any Reason Coverage, if the Elite Option is purchased, and 4) Protection for Financial Default of an airline, cruise line, or tour operator. If you wish to take advantage of the special above provision, you must enroll within 15 days (21 days for the Elite Option) of the date your initial trip deposit is received. **Please Note:** Although purchasing the Travel Insurance is not mandatory for you to travel with our group, if you purchase insurance, it **must** be through USI Travel Insurance Services.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815/753-1512.

To make your reservation visit myniu.com and click on travel.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Alumni Association

Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, IL 60115

815-753-1512



The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
& The Office of Alumni Relations

Present

America's Treasures



California's Redwoods and Wine Country

June 12 - 19, 2011



\$2,499 per person, double occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations.



We invite you to join us on an America's Treasures Vacation featuring breathtaking San Francisco and the natural beauty of California's Redwoods and Wine Country. San Francisco has consistently been rated as one of the world's top travel destinations known for its richly diverse cultural attractions. Combining the unparalleled scenic beauty of the towering Sierra Nevada Mountains with the world-renowned wineries of the Napa and Sonoma Valleys, California's central region is a destination waiting to be explored.



Day By Day Itinerary

Sunday, June 12 – CHICAGO/SAN FRANCISCO (D)

Early this morning we depart Chicago on a non-stop flight to San Francisco, California. On arrival, we'll be met by our local Tour Guide who will introduce us to the "City by the Bay". As we'll soon find out, San Francisco is a unique and breathtaking city. Built on a series of hills that offer memorable views of the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco offers visitors much more than the great Golden Gate Bridge or its famed trolley cars.

Monday, June 13 – SAN FRANCISCO (B)

We begin our day by taking in the city sights around Fisherman's Wharf, the city's most popular tourist destination, which is also home to Lombard Street, known as the "crookedest street in the world", and North Beach, the birthplace of the Beat Generation where today the hip community boasts a variety of boutiques and coffee houses. Then we're headed through Chinatown to Nob Hill, the highest summit of the city center known for its ritzy past and stunning views of the Bay and downtown area. Next up is the Pacific Heights area of town where we'll see the millionaire's mansions gaze in haughty splendor at the Bay as we make our way through the Presidio to the Golden Gate Park, one of America's largest urban parks, a gem complete with flora from around the world, lakes, museums, walking trails and more. Leaving the flat expanses of Golden Gate Park behind, we'll end our tour by traveling to Haight-Ashbury. Originally a place to escape from the city center in the late 1800's, it later developed into a residential area which dramatically changed between the 1930s to 1960s from a middle class suburb to center of the "Flower Power" world. Today it is one of the liveliest and most unconventional places in the city, with an eclectic mix of people, excellent book and record stores, and good cafes.

Following our tour, the afternoon is free to explore the city on your own. Be sure to visit Ghirardelli Square for shopping, waterfront dining, entertainment and sweet temptations, or return to Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39 where you'll find the famous California sea lions, and for those interested, a motor launch for legendary Alcatraz Island, once home to America's most hardened criminals.

Tuesday, June 14 – SAN FRANCISCO/THREE RIVERS (B,D)

Today we depart San Francisco and travel across the Golden Gate Bridge to the picturesque waterfront village of Sausalito. World renowned for its Mediterranean flair and breathtaking views, Sausalito is an artist colony whose waterfront and hillside homes may remind you of a village on the Italian Riviera. We'll allow plenty of time to soak up the ambiance in the open-air cafes and to browse through the unique boutiques. Following our visit to Sausalito, we'll travel inland to central California's High Sierras, an unforgettable wilderness of forests, alpine meadows, breathtaking waterfalls, imposing granite rocks, and giant Sequoia redwoods. As we'll soon find out, both Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks offer visitors a degree of beauty and variety that is truly mesmerizing.

Wednesday, June 15 – THREE RIVERS/OAKHURST (B,D)

Today we will explore Sequoia National Park, an unspoiled treasure of some of the most striking scenery in the world. Established in 1890, Sequoia National Park is California's first national park and America's second oldest.

Leaving Three Rivers, we'll travel along Generals Highway and stop at Amphitheater Point to enjoy views of Moro Rock and points beyond as we climb over 3,000 feet on our way to the Giant Forest, home of giant redwood and sequoias. As we make our way to way to Moro Rock, we'll stop for a stunning view of the peaks of the Great Western Divide. Afterward, we'll enjoy a stroll along Crescent Meadow, stopping in for a visit at the new Giant Forest Museum with its panoramic displays depicting the history of the Giant Sequoias. Then its time for lunch on our own at the Wuksachi Lodge where you can sit back and enjoy a view of the breathtaking scenery. After lunch, we'll continue our tour and stop to view the General Sherman Tree. Towering at 274.9' and 102.6' in circumference at its base, the General Sherman Tree earns the title of the "World's Largest Living Thing". Our next stop will take us to the Lodgepole Visitor Center and market, where you can enjoy sandwiches or ice cream while browsing the gift shop and bookstore. Leaving Sequoia National Forest, we'll set our sights on Yosemite National Park.

Thursday, June 16 – OAKHURST

(Yosemite National Park)

(B,L)

Established in 1890, Yosemite's 1,000 square mile park is an enduring legacy to the conservation efforts of naturalist John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club. Our day will begin with a visit to the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias, where the venerable Grizzly Giant, about 2,700 years old, was in its youth when Socrates dispensed his wisdom to students in ancient Greece. Next, we'll travel along Glacier Point Road, where the vistas are among the park's most spectacular, and include the silhouette of Half Dome cliff, the symbol of Yosemite. Next, we'll descend to the glacial carved valley floor and follow the course of the Merced River for a spectacular view of Bridalveil Falls and El Capitan, the world's largest piece of exposed granite. Our journey continues as we travel through Yosemite Valley to Yosemite Village, where the Visitor Center offers information and exhibits. From here, a short walk will take you to the Ansel Adams Gallery and to Yosemite Falls. At 2,425 feet, Yosemite Falls is the highest waterfall in North America, twelve times higher than Niagara Falls and twice the height of the Empire State Building!



Friday, June 17 – OAKHURST/SANTA ROSA (B)

This morning we leave the scenic vistas of Yosemite National Park behind and travel to California's Central Valley, the largest agricultural region in the United States. Along the way, we'll stop in the City of Modesto in the San Joaquin Valley for a tour and tasting at the Sciabica Olive Oil Company to witness the family tradition of California olive oil production. Afterward, we'll be on our way to the crescent-shaped Sonoma Valley, the birthplace of the California wine industry. Our home for the next two evenings is beautiful Santa Rosa, a walkable town complete with a creekside promenade from one side to the next. Santa Rosa's historic town plaza offers charming boutiques, superb cuisine and educational landmark buildings.

Saturday, June 18 – SANTA ROSA

(Napa and Sonoma Valleys)

(B,L)

Today we explore the art of winemaking as we make our way through California's Wine Country. Our first stop is Cuvaision Estate Wines, where we'll start with a guided walking tour through the gently rolling hills and dense clay soils of the vineyard before heading to the warm and intimate tasting room. Next, our journey will take us to the Tuscan style Viansa Winery, where we'll have lunch on a hilltop terrace under olive trees and grape trellises before a tasting in the rustic marketplace. Afterward, we'll enjoy a tour through the villa for a glimpse at the Italian inspired winemaking as well as an informative look at present day winemaking methods.

Sunday, June 19 – SANTA ROSA/CHICAGO (B)

Early this morning we depart Santa Rosa and return to San Francisco International Airport in preparation for the journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our California Vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

*** Welcome Home ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying local Step-on Tour Guides.
- First-class hotel accommodations.
- Breakfast each morning, two afternoon lunches and three evening dinners.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as airline checked baggage fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s) and Step-on Tour Guides; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.