

APOGEE ADVENTURES

2023 California's Coastal Mountains

Summarized Itinerary

Trip Begins: San Francisco, California

Trip Ends: San Francisco, California

Days 1-2: Our group will meet at the San Francisco Airport this afternoon. After the last bag has been collected, we'll load up our van and head north of the city to rural Marin County. We'll spend our first evening together getting to know one another, playing games, and talking about our trip. On our first full day together, we'll hit the trails to take in our first glimpse of the beautiful coastline.

Days 3-4: We'll start Day 3 bright and early at Point Reyes National Seashore, where we'll meet our professional kayaking guides. After a thorough safety briefing, we'll hit the water to paddle along the protected coastline of Tomales Bay, with a keen eye out for the wildlife for which the area is famous. After the sun sets, we'll climb back into our boats for a bioluminescent paddle – a truly magical experience. After one night sleeping on bayside beaches under some of the brightest stars we've ever seen, we'll paddle back to civilization.

Days 5-8: Wasting no time at all, we'll spend the next four days and three nights backpacking through the Point Reyes National Seashore wilderness. Along the way, we'll hike through Douglas Fir forests and along stunning coastal bluffs as we take in the panoramic views of the Pacific. We'll camp a short walk from the beach, where we may even be able to enjoy an afternoon stroll to Alamere Falls, the 40-foot waterfall that is one of only four falls in the United States that flows directly into the ocean. On Day 8, we'll emerge from the backcountry and enjoy some well-deserved showers after we transit south of San Francisco.

Days 9-10: From our new basecamp in the redwoods near Monterey, we'll enjoy all that this famous coastline has to offer. We'll have the option to day hike in Big Sur State Park, explore any of the charming coastal beach towns, and enjoy some more beach time after our challenging, but fulfilling backcountry expedition in Point Reyes.

Days 11-13: Our last full days together will be spent taking a surf lesson with professional instructors in Santa Cruz, working on a community service project with the park rangers at Half Moon Bay State Beach, and exploring San Francisco by foot. We will finish our trip by celebrating our accomplishments with a festive dinner out, topped off by dessert in Ghirardelli Square. On the last morning of the trip, we will transfer back to the San Francisco Airport for pickups and flights home. We'll part with hugs and promises to keep in touch with new friends.

Please note that we often run California Mountains & Coast with two groups in the field concurrently, an "A" and "B" group. Both groups will include very similar activities but might be in a different order. Students will be placed into groups and will receive their night-by-night itinerary a few weeks before the trip begins. All itineraries are subject to change.

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