Daily Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive San Francisco Bay Area
Today board your flight bound for the Bay Area to begin your California Rail Discovery. Upon arrival meet your Tour Director and transfer to your hotel to begin a two-night stay in one of the world’s most beautiful cities, San Francisco. Tonight enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers.

Meals: (D)  Overnight: San Francisco

Day 2: San Francisco City Tour - San Francisco Bay Cruise
Today enjoy a San Francisco City Tour to see the Civic Center area, Chinatown, Golden Gate Park, Union Square, Seal Rocks, Pier 39 and a stop at Vista Point for spectacular photos. Later experience a San Francisco Bay Cruise featuring views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz & the city’s skyline. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure in "The City by the Bay" which highlights fascinating museums, world-class cuisine & amazing shopping. Maybe browse the storefronts along Fisherman’s Wharf, sample a chowder filled sourdough bread bowl or take a Cable Car ride.

Meals: (B)  Overnight: San Francisco

Day 3: San Francisco - Sausalito - Sacramento
Enjoy the morning at leisure in the great city of San Francisco. Maybe join a morning optional excursion to Muir Woods to see some of the oldest and the tallest Redwood trees in the world. This afternoon cross the Golden Gate Bridge to visit the picturesque city of Sausalito, where you can browse the numerous art galleries and shops. From Sausalito the views looking back at the San Francisco Bay Area are spectacular. This afternoon travel to Sacramento and visit Old Town Sacramento, the commercial hub of the Gold Rush Era is filled with shops, restaurants and entertainment venues yet retains 1800’s charm with original storefronts and wooden sidewalks. The Old Town visit includes admission to the California State Railroad Museum to see beautifully restored railroad cars and locomotives that illustrate rail history in California and the West. Later check into your hotel for a two-night stay.

Meals: (B)  Overnight: Sacramento

Day 4: Napa Valley Wine Train - Town of Napa
After breakfast travel to California’s famous Napa Valley where hundreds of wineries prosper. Board the Napa Valley Wine Train to enjoy a Wine Tasting & Lunch as you roll along the tracks through this incredibly scenic wine region. This memorable dining experience in faithfully re-created railroad cars evokes the spirit of early 1900's luxury rail travel. Then visit the historic and vibrant town of Napa to shop, sample food & wine and explore on your own. Later travel back to Sacramento, California’s capital and River City for your overnight.

Meals: (B, L)  Overnight: Sacramento

Day 5: Sacramento - Sierra Nevada Rail Journey - Lake Tahoe
Today board an Amtrak Train for a Sierra Nevada Rail Journey through the beautiful snow capped Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Lake Tahoe area. Disembark your train in Truckee and board your motorcoach to drive to the spectacular year round resort area of Lake Tahoe to spend the next two evenings in the popular and revitalized South Lake Tahoe/Stateline area.

Meals: (B)  Overnight: Lake Tahoe

Day 6: Virginia City - Lake Tahoe Cruise
This morning travel through historic Carson City, capital of the Silver State of Nevada enroute to visit Virginia City, site of the Comstock Lode and once the richest place in the world. The famous Old West town was once the west’s mining metropolis and featured notable residents Mark Twain & Bret Harte. Later enjoy a Lake Tahoe Paddlewheelers Cruise for spectacular views of picturesque Emerald Bay & the surrounding Sierra Nevada Mountains. Tonight’s Farewell Dinner will be at a popular local restaurant.

Meals: (B, L, D)  Overnight: Lake Tahoe

Day 7: Lake Tahoe - Sacramento Airport
Today transfer to the Sacramento airport & return home with wonderful memories of your California Rail Discovery.

Meals: (B)
Dear NC State Alumni and Friends,

A crimson bridge, cable cars, a sparkling bay and streets lined with elegant Victorian homes—San Francisco is undeniably one of the world’s great cities and an excellent starting point for our spectacular seven-day journey through Northern California on the California Rail Discovery.

We’ll begin our trip with a two-night stay in the Fisherman’s Wharf area of San Francisco. A tour of the “City by the Bay” will offer a San Francisco Bay Cruise with views of Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and the beautiful city skyline. An afternoon and evening at leisure will let you explore this great city on your own. Then we’ll cross the Golden Gate Bridge for a visit to the picturesque town of Sausalito before heading inland to Sacramento, a unique 28-acre National Historic Landmark District and State Historic Park that pays homage to California’s 1849 Gold Rush. A visit to the world-renowned California State Railroad Museum caps off the day. Next, we’ll explore the Napa Valley Wine Country aboard the famous Napa Valley Wine Train where we will enjoy lunch and a wine tasting. Relive history as we roll through the Napa Valley onboard vintage Pullman rail cars. After stopping in the town of Napa for some free time, we will board Amtrak’s California Zephyr to head east into the spectacular snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains, disembarking in Truckee near Lake Tahoe. Enjoy two nights at a resort in the scenic and popular South Tahoe area. Discover the historic town of Virginia City, once considered America’s richest city during its mining days. Finally, enjoy a paddlewheel cruise on Lake Tahoe and a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. With airfare from Raleigh-Durham included (call for pricing from other departure cities), we hope you can join Wolffreks for this exciting trip.

Cheers,

Kathy Hart
Associate Executive Director
Communications, Marketing & Alumni Travel

NC State Alumni presents
California Rail Discovery
featuring San Francisco, Lake Tahoe & the Napa Valley Wine Train

7 Days March 22 - 28, 2017