

Let's Go to Northern California!

- **San Francisco, Monterey and Carmel, Yosemite, Gold Country, Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley...all are legendary for their natural beauty and charm.** Each is a vacation destination in itself. In seven days and 980 miles you can experience them all. But be forewarned: you'll want to go back for more.
- **As long-time residents of Northern California, we often visited and enjoyed these very special places.** In this book, we've researched and planned a driving tour that we would want to take ourselves if this were our first vacation in the State. So, let us be your guides; we'd like to share our expertise with you.
- **What's the best time to tour Northern California?** The weather is also legendary, so almost any time is good. However, late spring or early fall is best; you'll miss most of the coastal fog, most of the Central Valley heat, most of the mountain snow, and most of the crowds.
- **What if you don't have seven days?** See the section on Maps and Tour Options, where we outline two four-day tours. Do you have fourteen days? That's easy: stay an extra day in each location and enjoy the alternative activities we've listed.
- **Where will you eat and sleep?** To be honest, we've visited many of the accommodations and restaurants we list here, but not all. Those we haven't are consensus recommendations by trustworthy local residents or innkeepers, by the American Automobile Association or Mobil guides, or by Woodall's (for campgrounds). We strongly recommend reservations, especially if you plan to spend the night in Yosemite Valley or in the Wine Country. If you prefer different foods or price ranges than those we've listed, simply ask your innkeeper or front desk person for recommendations.
- **What's it likely to cost?** If you keep your lodging, food and car choices in the moderate range, two people should be able to take this tour for \$2,000-\$2,200. That will include accommodations, food, car rental, gasoline, entrance fees, pet kenneling, and film developing, but not transportation to California.
- **What else should you know?** The tour has been carefully pre-tested, so all you need to do is get in the car and follow this book. But there are some other things you may want to know before you go; you'll find them in the appendices. *There are links to most attractions and establishments at www.pridepublications.com.*