Contents and Highlights

A Special Place
Maps and Tour Options - There are detailed maps throughout this book. Is seven days too long? Try four. Too short? Try fourteen
What You Should Know About Costs, Reservations and Yosemite
The Day Before Day One - Choose between two great half-day options
Day One: San Francisco - Ride a cable car. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge. Visit Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown, and Ghirardelli Square8
<i>Day Two</i> : Monterey and Carmel - Enjoy the oceanfront, Monterey's Aquarium, Cannery Row, Carmel's Mission, and the 17-Mile Drive29
Day Three: The Valley and Yosemite - Learn about the fertile San Joaquin Valley. Feast your eyes on Yosemite Valley and its wonders44
Day Four: The Gold Country – Visit three historic mining towns. Learn about gold mining, bandits, and Mark Twain's start as a writer
Day Five: Lake Tahoe – View the lake from atop the Sierras. Ride a paddlewheeler to Emerald Bay. Learn how the wealthy lived and played, and about a pioneer disaster
Day Six: Sacramento and Sonoma - Tour authentic Old Sacramento, Sutter's Fort, and the State Indian Museum. Explore Mexico's northernmost outpost
Day Seven: The Wine Country - Tour a vineyard. Learn about winemaking. Taste the grape at five (or more) wineries. Enjoy a special picnic lunch. Alternatives to Napa Valley

What to Wear, What to Bring	147
For Your Health and Safety	148
Geography, Weather, Facts, History, and Visitor Centers	150
If You Have Kids Along	153
Selected Readings	155