



MISSIONS & MANSION "CHRISTMAS"

FEATURING *COAST STARLIGHT* TRAIN, MONTEREY, CARMEL, HEARST CASTLE, *APPLE FARM INN*

DECEMBER 4-8, 2014 ~ 5 DAY TOUR



TOUR PACE Leisurely On the Go ACTIVITY LEVEL Low High

~DAY BY DAY ITINERARY~

On this holiday-themed journey we follow the footsteps of Father Junipero Serra as we tour several California Missions and the grandest Mansion in all of California – Hearst Castle. Stay at the charming Apple Farm Inn, the Cambria Pines Lodge and at a hotel in the heart of Old Town Monterey during "Christmas in the Adobes". We'll travel by train, travel the backroads and see first-hand how spectacular California is beautifully decorated for the holidays.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ride along California's coast aboard Amtrak's deluxe *Coast Starlight* with the ocean and farmland as gorgeous backdrops
- ◆ Attend Monterey's annual *Christmas in the Adobes* and stroll through 23 historic adobes which are illuminated and decorated in historical style and alive with docents in period attire, music and refreshments
- ◆ Tour the Monterey and Carmel area with a local guide including 17 Mile Drive, Cannery Row, time for shopping in Carmel, and an optional visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium
- ◆ Stay overnight at both the *Apple Farm Inn* and the *Cambria Pines Lodge*, both beautifully decorated for the holidays
- ◆ Travel back in time and tour Hearst Castle with docents in period costumes to see it decorated for Christmas as it may have been in the 1920s
- ◆ Visit three California Missions along El Camino Real



Hearst Castle

restaurant. You also have the option of going to the San Luis Obispo's open-air Farmers' Market which fills four blocks of historic downtown. Buy just-picked produce and sample a variety of barbecued specialties from local restaurants or stroll the many booths while you are entertained by local performers.

◆DAY 1 ~ COASTAL TRAIN RIDE◆

This morning we set out from our departure points for the tranquility of the *Apple Farm Inn* and California's Central Coast. We'll travel by motorcoach to Oxnard to board Amtrak's *Coast Starlight*. We'll embark on a memorable journey along California's coastline and through fertile valleys to San Luis Obispo. Traveling by rail will allow you to see much of the California coast and backroads normally hidden from the roads traveled by car. You are free to move around the train, get lunch from the snack bar or sit in the dining car. Check out the view from the sightseeing dome viewing car or just relax in your seat. Upon our arrival in San Luis Obispo, our coach will be waiting to take us the short distance to the quaint *Apple Farm Inn* – our accommodations for tonight. Nestled by San Luis Obispo Creek and surrounded by mountains, the *Apple Farm Inn* is a beautiful Victorian style 4-diamond Inn situated among a lush, quiet garden setting. The Inn blends the country charm of yesteryear with all of the modern comforts we expect today including a fireplace in every room and a heated pool year round. This time of year the Inn will be beautifully decorated for the holidays. Enjoy the *Apple Farm Inn's* complimentary reception prior to dinner at leisure at the *Apple Farm Inn*



Apple Farm Inn

◆DAY 2 ~ S.L.O. TO MONTEREY◆

Enjoy an included breakfast this morning before we continue north from San Luis Obispo. Today we journey to Monterey while traveling along the **El Camino Real**, better known as US-101. A footpath, called The Camino Real, or Kings Highway, was created to connect outposts created by Spaniards and Mexicans. Each outpost, called a Mission, was a day's travel apart and were linked by the El Camino Real. This morning we stop and tour **Mission San Miguel Arcangel**, the 16th Mission built in California. It's a fascinating look into the great history of California's past. This afternoon is set aside for you to enjoy time at your leisure at Monterey's **Cannery Row**, made famous by John Steinbeck. The ocean canyon surrounding Monterey Bay is deeper than the Grand Canyon and harbors a rich variety of sea life, which can be seen this afternoon on

FINE HOTELS / GREAT LOCATIONS

- ◆ Night 1 **Apple Farm Inn**
San Luis Obispo, CA
- ◆ Nights 2-3 **Portola Hotel & Spa**
Monterey, CA
- ◆ Night 4 **Cambria Pines Lodge**
Cambria, CA

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ◆ 4 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 6 Meals – 2 dinners, 4 breakfasts
- ◆ Services of a professional GTT tour director
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing with a local guide
- ◆ Admissions per itinerary
- ◆ Transportation on a deluxe motorcoach
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour
- ◆ Applicable taxes, fees and most gratuities

PER PERSON PRICES

Double \$999 / Single \$1,299 • Deposit \$200
Travel Protection/Cancellation Plan – see reverse

RESERVATIONS

Santa Ana College
Community Services Program
1530 W. 17th St., Room S-201
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone (714) 564-6594
www.sac.edu/community/services

Tour operated by *Good Times Travel*
California Seller of Travel License #: 2018390-40

PAYMENT INFORMATION

◆ Deposit due at time of booking to the address above (*Good Times Travel* will contact you for the travel protection)

◆ *Good Times Travel* will invoice you for the balance payment 6-8 weeks prior

TRAVEL PROTECTION / CANCELLATION

Travel protection/cancellation insurance is highly recommended for all multi-day tours. If travel protection has not been purchased, only recoverable funds less a cancellation charge of \$50 will be reimbursed once payment has been made. Amount of reimbursement depends on the date of cancellation.

If travel protection has been purchased and you must cancel prior to departure or leave the tour enroute for a reason approved by the insurance company, you will receive a full refund (or partial if enroute), minus the cost of the premium. Other benefits of travel protection include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, and lost/stolen/damaged luggage. Pre-existing medical conditions are only covered if protection is purchased at the time of deposit. See travel protection plan for full details and exclusions.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Park and join this tour at one of the following locations:

Fountain Valley - Good Times Travel office

Long Beach - City College - Lot "O"

*Departure time depends on location
Exact times are provided 2 weeks prior to departure*

ACTIVITY LEVEL / WALKING

Tour pacing and physical demands (walking/stairs, etc.) varies by each tour however every tour involves some walking and climbing stairs to enter/exit the motorcoach. On any tour you may stay on the motorcoach should you not wish to disembark at a specific location

FURTHER INFORMATION / TERMS

See *Good Times Travel* catalog
or www.goodtimestravel.com

an optional excursion to the world-famous **Monterey Bay Aquarium**. Here you can explore the hidden world of this spectacular ocean realm at the heart of the nation's largest marine sanctuary. Our accommodations for the next two nights will be at a hotel in the heart of Monterey's Old Town and adjacent to Fisherman's Wharf. This evening we'll enjoy an **included dinner** at a local favorite. (Breakfast, Dinner)



◆ DAY 3 ~ MONTEREY PENINSULA ◆

After an included breakfast at our hotel this morning we embark on a tour of the **Monterey Peninsula** with a **local guide**. Landscape artist Francis McComas once claimed the Monterey Peninsula to be "the greatest meeting of land and sea..." For centuries, artists, poets, explorers and novelists have been drawn to the rugged beauty here. The crashing surf. The towering redwoods. The unspoiled wildlife. These exceptional qualities join together, delivering a sense of timelessness and reconnection. The Monterey Peninsula is the embodiment of the quintessential California spirit. We'll travel through historic **Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, Carmel** and along 17-Mile Drive. Take in the views of Cannery Row, **Cypress Point**, the **Pebble Beach Golf Course** and the tenacious **Lone Cypress**. You will have ample time to enjoy the quaint town of **Carmel** at your leisure. This popular retreat for writers, artists and celebrities has great boutiques and galleries. This afternoon we tour the **Carmel Mission**, considered one of the most beautiful missions in the chain of nine missions that stretches along California's Central Coast. Officially "Mission San Carlos Borromeo Del Rio Carmelo", it sits behind adobe walls and features Moorish architectural elements including a bell tower and golden exterior. See two separate museums, a replica of the Mission's kitchen and library, and a recreation of Father Serra's ascetic "cell." At the foot of the main altar lies the final resting place of the founder of the Californian Missions, Father Junipero Serra, who died in 1784 at the age of 71. This evening we step back into Monterey's past during **Christmas in the Adobes**. The twenty three 19th-century adobes, lit by luminaries are within an easy walk of each other and our hotel. Walk from adobe to adobe and enjoy refreshments and live performances as volunteers in period attire welcome you into historic homes decorated in historical style.

Many of these buildings are only open to the public during this celebration. (Breakfast)

◆ DAY 4 ~ MONTEREY TO CAMBRIA ◆

Following an included breakfast this morning we travel south from Monterey to Paso Robles where we will cross over the Santa Rosa Mountains to **Cambria**. This afternoon, enjoy time for lunch and browsing in the quaint and unique shops of Cambria – beautifully decorated this time of year. This evening, following an included dinner, take a docent-guided tour of **Hearst Castle**, once the hilltop estate of newspaper publisher, film producer and art collector William Randolph Hearst. During the holiday season, the Castle is lavishly decorated and docents are in period costumes allowing you the opportunity to experience the Castle as it might have been on Christmas in the 1920s or 1930s. We stay overnight at the **Cambria Pines Lodge**, surrounded by its unique gardens and Monterey pines, it too is magically decorated for the season. (Breakfast, Dinner)



◆ DAY 5 ~ SANTA BARBARA, FAREWELL ◆

After an included breakfast this morning, we continue south to explore the beauty of **Santa Barbara**. This afternoon, time for lunch at leisure and browsing in downtown **Santa Barbara**. Known as "America's Riviera", Santa Barbara offers fabulous shopping along State Street and Paseo Nuevo, the Mediterranean-style shopping district. We'll then visit the "Queen of the Missions" – **Mission Santa Barbara**. Enjoy a docent-guided tour of the mission, founded on December 4, 1786, it was the tenth of 21 Franciscan missions in California and still functions as a church today. Arriving at our drop-off points this evening, we'll relish in the memories of our early California "Christmas". (Breakfast)