



HEALEY 75th ANNIVERSARY MEET

PRE/POST TOURS

YOSEMITE AND SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARKS TO LAS VEGAS

or

YOSEMITE, TIOGA PASS, JUNE & MAMMOTH LAKES, TONOPAH TO LAS VEGAS

If you are heading South after the Meet (or arriving from Las Vegas) you have some excellent choices. However, you will have to make some decisions as you can't do it all. Basically, there are two routes, one east and one west of the **Sierra Nevada Mountains**.

The **Western route** takes in Yosemite National Park, Sequoia/Kings National Parks and Las Vegas. The total driving time is about 18 hours so you will want to budget several days. You need at least a full day in Yosemite (two nights). You can do the major sites in Sequoia/Kings as a drive through, but you'll probably want to overnight nearby.

The **Eastern route** takes in Yosemite National Park, Tioga Pass, June Lake, Mammoth Lakes, Tonopah, Beatty/Rhyolite and Las Vegas. The total driving time is about eight hours, but you will want to budget at least three days to see it all, with overnights at Mammoth Lakes and Tonopah.

WESTERN ROUTE

851 miles, 17:30 drive time

This route takes in the best of the great California "Big Trees" National Parks before heading across the desert to Las Vegas.

DAY ONE: Depart Lake Tahoe on Hwy 50 South to Meyers, then take Hwys 89 and 88 over Carson Pass to Jackson (90 miles). Turn south on Hwy 49 to San Andreas (28 miles), then Hwy 4 south to Copperopolis (17 miles) and onto Hwy 120 to Yosemite (about 60 miles to the Park Entrance). Total about 185 miles, 4 hours.

You will have already made your hotel reservations. Here are your choices:

In Yosemite Valley: (Book WAY ahead, they will all be sold out).

- **The Ahwahnee**, iconic hotel with stunning views. This is by far the best choice if the budget allows.
- **Yosemite Valley Lodge**, more pedestrian and reasonable. Likely lots of kids.
- **Curry Village**, fancy a tent cabin?
- **Wawona Hotel**, historic Victorian-era hotel near the south entrance to the Park (check for renovation status)

DAY TWO: Unless you are staying at the Wawona, you have already seen most of Yosemite Valley on your way in. Not to be missed are **Tunnel View**, **Glacier Point**, and **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**. If you are staying at the Wawona, you will want to drive the Valley Loop. No matter what, try lunch at the Ahwahnee. Tons of trails and sights for those with energy.

Note that Glacier Point and the Big Trees are in the direction of Wawona (outside the Valley) and on your way to Sequoia/Kings National Parks. Mileage depends on the route you select.

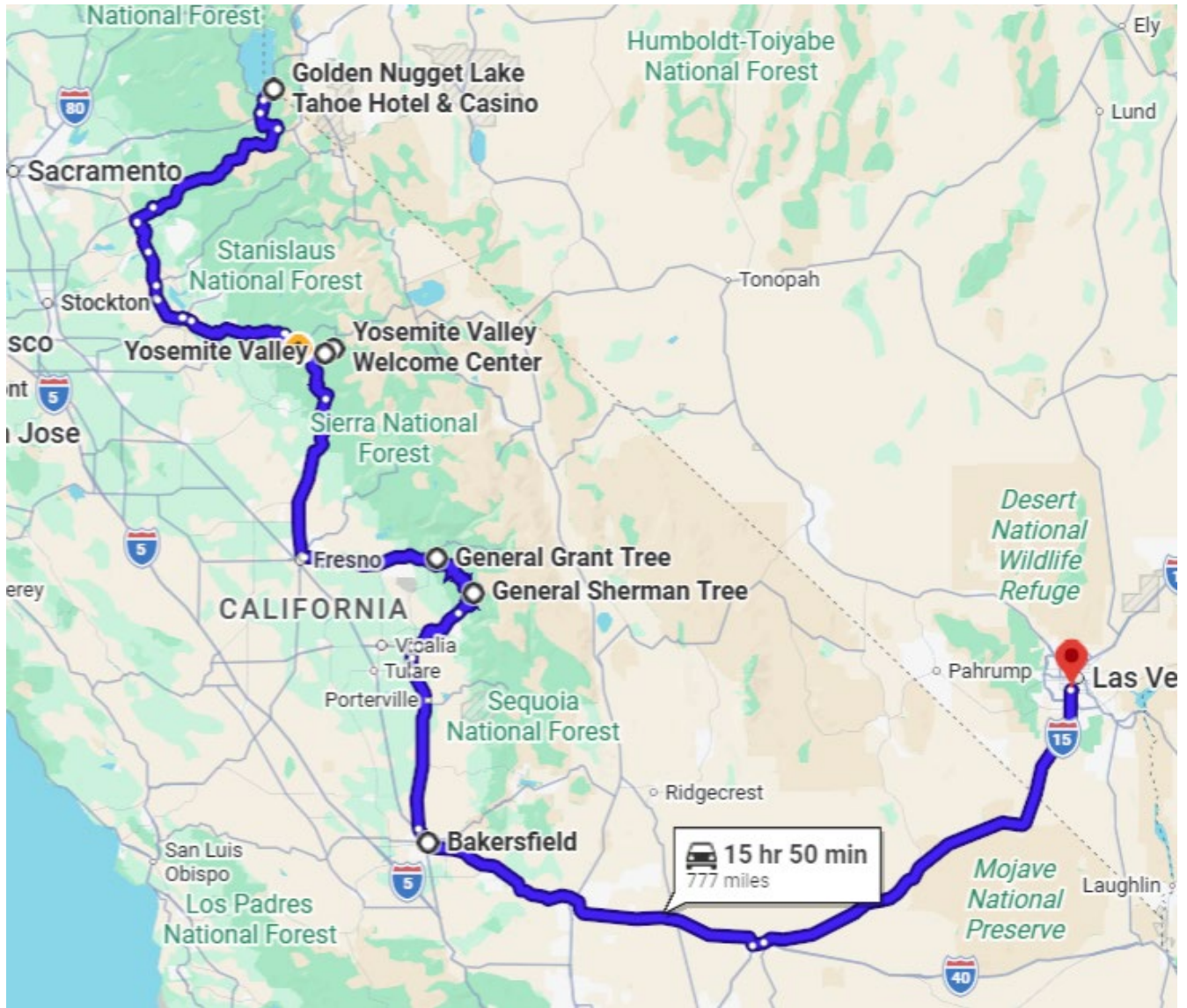
DAY THREE: On to **Sequoia/Kings NP**. Leave the Valley and take the turn off to Wawona. In 26 miles, past Wawona, exit the Park on Hwy 49 south. In 60 miles, in Fresno, take Hwy 180 West (Mendota). In 54 miles, turn left onto Grant Tree Road. In 1 mile stop to see the **General Grant Tree**. Then return to the nearby **John Muir Lodge** for the night (866-807-3598). 150 miles, 3 ½ hours. You have time to detour to Glacier Point and/or the Mariposa Giant Sequoias enroute.

DAY FOUR: **Leaving** the hotel, drive 2 miles to Generals Highway and turn left (sign for Sherman Tree). In 27 miles, arrive at the **General Sherman Tree**. Continuing on Generals Hwy for 19 winding miles, the road becomes Sierra Drive. In another 23 miles, the road becomes Hwy 198. After 18 miles, merge onto CA 99 South toward Los Angeles. In 73 miles arrive in Bakersfield and take exit 24 onto Hwy 58 East (Mohave). (If its lunchtime consider the nearby **Chalet Basque Restaurant**). From the John Muir Lodge it's 163 miles to Bakersfield where you might want to stay overnight.

Bakersfield is the "Country Music Capital of California", and **Buck Owen's Crystal Palace** (combination steakhouse and music venue) is worth a visit if it is open. The Bakersfield Marriott makes a good stop and it's not far from one of the few remaining **Woolworth's Luncheonettes**.

3 ½ hours, 157 miles.

DAY FIVE: Now it's just another 126 miles to Barstow on Hwy 58 and 150 miles on I-15 to Vegas. 4 ¼ hours.



Tahoe to Las Vegas on the “Western Route”

EASTERN ROUTE

353 miles, 8:00 drive time

This route takes in Yosemite, Tioga Pass, several beautiful lakes and the old West town of Tonopah, NV.

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- **Curry Village**, fancy a tent cabin?
- **Wawona Hotel**, historic Victorian-era hotel near the south entrance to the Park (check for renovation status)

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Note that Glacier Point and the Big Trees are in the direction of Wawona (outside the Valley) Mileage depending on the route you select.

DAY THREE: Today it's over spectacular **Tioga Pass** into Lee Vining and then on to **June Lake**. 2.5 hours, 88 miles.

Out of Yosemite, take Hwy 120 east over Tioga Pass (9,945 feet). A great mountain drive with a descent almost as spectacular. At the junction of Hwy 395 in Lee Vining, you'll find a Chevron station and good restaurant. After lunch, take Hwy 395 south (**Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway**). In 5 miles, turn right onto Hwy 158 (**June Lake Loop**). This 17-mile scenic loop will take you past several places to stop and shop or eat.

Then press on another 20 miles to the ski resort at Mammoth Lakes where you will find abundant accommodation and plenty of restaurants. Info at:

<https://www.visitmammoth.com/hotels-lodging/>

DAY FOUR: Continue on Hwy 395 south. In five miles left onto Benton Crossing Road in the direction of Hwy 120. In 30 miles, right onto Hwy 120 and then in 7 miles left onto US-6 in the direction of Tonopah and Las Vegas. In 80 miles arrive in the old mining town of **Tonopah**. You must stay at the haunted **Mizpah Hotel**. Day's drive 2 ½ hours, 150 miles.

DAY FIVE: Today it's on to Vegas but first make a stop in **Beatty** (1.5 hours, 93 miles) with a side trip to the ghost town of **Rhyolite** (a six-mile detour). If it's lunch time, try **The Happy Burro Chile and Beer** on Main Street in Beatty. After lunch, you have 2 hours and 155 miles to Vegas via Hwy 95 south.



Lee Vining to Las Vegas (Tioga Pass not shown)