

The West Coast

California – Part 3

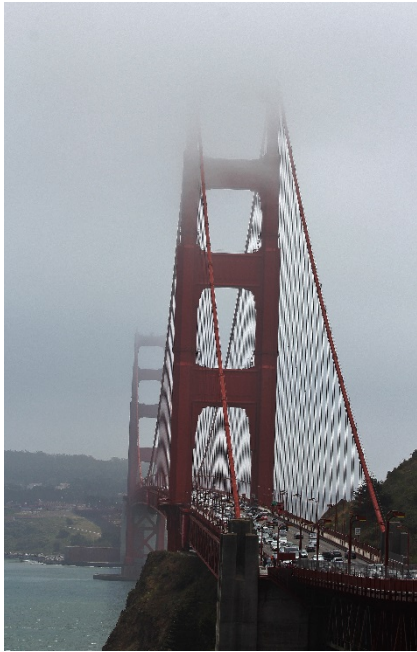
I had such a wonderful time in Yosemite and I know I'll be back for another visit. It's one of those places that no matter how many times you visit you can never get enough of it. The road calls my name and I head west toward the San Francisco area. I've chosen a small county park to call home base for a few days. Away from the city traffic but close enough to enjoy a day trip or two. Little did I know that I would have some very interesting neighbors. The park is home to a muster of Peacocks. Beautiful to look at but gosh they can be loud. I did see a family gathering with maybe six peachicks. The adults were so protective they would gather them before I could get close enough to count.

Camping World will take one of my day trip days so I decide to spend my other day visiting the Point Reye area outside of San Francisco. I've visited the city a number of times so a drive through will be my visit this time. My day starts off with a pony roundup and I'm actually participating. I drive by a miniature horse farm and I spot a youngster playing in a field so I stop to take some photos. The owner walks out and asks if I'm busy – would I help him get this youngster back to its momma. So after a few minutes of trying to outsmart this pony – we are finally successful and I'm thinking this is going to be a really good day.

I drive across the Golden Gate Bridge, the thick fog sometimes blocking the view of the bay. It lifts though and I find a parking spot to get out and enjoy the beautiful view of the city. Next trip to San Francisco I plan to walk across the bridge – it's on my bucket list now. Continuing to Point Reyes, the scenery opens to views of the ocean with steep cliffs. It's a pleasant ride and I stop to visit the Point Reyes shipwreck. Soon I'm making my way to the Point Reyes Lighthouse and views of a large open beach area which I haven't seen very much recently. There is a group of sea lions playing in the water near the lighthouse and they really put on a show. I stop by the elephant seal overlook on the way out hoping to see at least one. My wish was granted – the beach area was filled with seals and there were some elephant seals, including young, among them. What a great way to end my visit to Point Reyes and the San Francisco area. I'll be heading north with a drive through Napa Valley to my next stop – a State Park on the coast near Ft. Bragg.

Photos include campground neighbor, a pony roundup, San Francisco and Golden Gate, Point Reyes shipwreck, lighthouse, sea lions, coastline, seal beach.







What a difference between the desert of the Southwest and the lush Napa and Alexander Valleys with vineyards covering the countryside. Acres of grapes just waiting to delight the palate. I would sometimes see rosebushes growing along the planted areas – sometimes white, sometimes shades of red. I wonder if they were planted to indicate the type of wine that will be produced? Didn't get an answer on this visit so I guess that means I have to go back and do some more research! I enjoy my travel through the valley but am not able to stop and enjoy any winetasting. Another reason to visit. I've miles to go and the temptation to have more than just a taste would be too great.



MacKerricher State Park is located right along 9 miles of the coastline and home to land and sea based wildlife. Tidal pools, kelp forests, rock formations all provide sanctuary to sea life. There were many harbor seals along the coast and I saw quite a few pups. This is a popular area to watch gray whales migrate between the Bering Sea and Baja but it was past the December to April migration window. I had read an article about the Glass Beach and wanted to visit. It's a popular location to look for sea glass and I can always use more of that. The sea glass is a result of the locals dumping their garbage over the cliffs into the ocean. The waves have tumbled the glass over time and the beach is covered with small pieces of smooth colorful pebbles and I filled a small bag to add to my sea glass collection. The beach access at the park is open to dogs so Tipper enjoyed walking in the Pacific waves. The seals were all along the beach and I was treated to some beautiful sunsets. A short stay comes to an end and soon I'm packing up to head north into the Redwoods. Photos include coastline, Pacific sunset, Glass Beach.

