

THE *Fairmont*
SONOMA MISSION INN & SPA

Great Day Trip Ideas

Armstrong Woods Giant Redwoods & Northern Sonoma Coast

Starting from the hotel, head north through the beautiful Sonoma Valley Wine Country. Drive past Santa Rosa and through Sebastopol and the old Gravenstein apple orchards. In Guerneville, you'll find the epic redwoods of the [Armstrong Woods](#), which offer everything from a casual stroll to an invigorating hike. Next follow the road along the river and through the redwoods, to where the Russian River meets the rugged coast of the Pacific Ocean. Stop for lunch at the [River's End Restaurant](#) in small coastal town of Jenner, which offers jaw-dropping views of the Russian River as it empties into the ocean. Next, stop and sink your toes in to the sand at the scenic **Goat Rock Beach** or popular surfing destination **Salmon Creek Beach**. If wine is what you are after, make the drive up to [Fort Ross Vineyard](#), the views and Pinotage will surpass your expectations. A few other great options for a casual meal back in Bodega Bay are [Spud Point Crab Co.](#), a very casual outdoor café with some of the best Clam Chowder on the west coast, [The Tides Restaurant](#) and [Lucas Wharf](#). From there, head southeast on Highway 1 and you'll pass through the town of Bodega, made famous as the location for **Alfred's Hitchcock's The Birds**. Then, head back inland through the many quaint and rustic towns.

(Driving time alone is 3 hours. Layered Clothing Recommended)

Muir Woods and Hwy 1

From the hotel, head south on Arnold Drive around the town of Sonoma to Hwy 116 West, through to the small agriculture town of **Petaluma**. Turn onto *D Street* and head across the river and out of town to the [Marin French Cheese Co.](#) for some delicious Brie. From there, head out to [Nick's Cove Restaurant](#) in the small town of **Marshall** made famous for their incredible [Hog Island Oysters](#). Then, after lunch, head out to the **Point Reyes Light House** and possibly catch a glimpse of a breaching whale. From there, head back south on the beautiful Hwy 1. You may recognize this stretch of road from many car commercials, as you venture away from the coast and into the redwoods. Stop at the amazing [Muir Woods \(Parking Reservations required\)](#) for a beautiful afternoon hike. From there it's back up to Sonoma via Hwy 101.

(Driving time alone is 4 hours. Layered Clothing Recommended)

Sonoma and Napa Sight Seeing Tour

Starting from the Hotel, head north through the beautiful Sonoma Valley Wine Country. At the first sign of a city take a right on Calistoga Road and venture back into the beautiful country side. Follow this small scenic road up and over the mountain. Stop at the ancient **Petrified Forest** for a glimpse at what the earth was like millions of years ago at time of an epic volcano explosion. From there head down the hill towards the small town of **Calistoga** and their **Old Faithful Geyser**. From there, head down Highway 128 to 29 and into the small town of **Saint Helena** to explore the local shops and maybe lunch at [Long Meadow Ranch](#). From there hit the crossroad to **Silverado Trail** and down to the town of Napa and then back to Sonoma.

(Driving time alone is 2 hours)

The Russian River, Healdsburg and Alexander Valley Loop

From the Hotel head north through the beautiful Sonoma Valley Wine Country and cut through Santa Rosa to Hwy 116 and the great artist town of **Sebastopol** for some antiquing or a visit to **the Barlow** for some wine tasting/shopping/nibbling/events by makers. Then drive through the old apple orchards to the redwoods and along the river. If you haven't had enough wine during you trip, pop into **Merry Edwards** or **MacRostie Winery**. From there, then head north on **Westside Road**, which is one of the most beautiful roads in all of Wine Country. Follow the directions as they lead to the small town of **Healdsburg**. Stop at their plaza for more shops and lunch. I like getting a deli lunch at the **Oakville Grocery** and picnicking in the plaza or walking into **SHED** and seeing what delicious options are on their menu. From there take the scenic route home through Alexander Valley, up and over the mountain.

(Drive time is about 2 ½ hours alone. Layered clothing is recommended)

Apple Country, Placerville - <http://www.applehill.com/> (September – November)

Take a great day trip to explore a simpler way of life, Apple farming. The beautiful and delicious Apple Country makes for a great day trip, especially with kids.

[Map & Directions](#)

Old Town Sacramento

Visit the Historic **Old Town Sacramento** for its great shops **Train Museum** and **Cal Auto Museum**. The **California Capitol Building**, **Golden 1 Center** and **Raley Field** are all located nearby as well.

[Map & Directions](#)

San Francisco

San Francisco is an amazing destination within its self. See below for some wonderful day trip activities -

Academy of Sciences - <http://www.calacademy.org/>

Alcatraz - <http://www.alcatrazcruises.com/>

Big Bus SF – <http://www.bigbustours.com/>

Blazing Saddles - <https://www.blazingsaddles.com/san-francisco/routes-tours/self-guided-tours>

Contemporary Jewish Museum - <https://www.thecjm.org/>

De Young Museum - <http://deyoung.famsf.org/>

Exploratorium - <http://www.exploratorium.edu/>

Fisherman's Wharf - <http://www.visitfishermanswharf.com/sport-fishing/>

Golden Gate Park - <http://www.golden-gate-park.com/>

Japanese Tea Garden - <http://www.japaneseteagardensf.com/>

JapanTown- <http://sfjapantown.org/>

Legion of Honor - <http://legionofhonor.famsf.org/>

Marin Headlands - <https://www.nps.gov/goga/marin-headlands.htm>

Museum of Ice Cream - <https://www.museumoficecream.com/>

Palace of Fine Arts - <http://www.palaceoffinearts.org>

Pier 39 - <http://www.pier39.com/index.cfm>

SF MOMA - <https://www.sfmoma.org/>

SF Tours - <http://supersightseeing.com>

SF Zoo - <http://www.sfzoo.org>

Twin Peaks - <http://sfrecpark.org/destination/twin-peaks/>

Union Square - <http://www.visitunionsquaresf.com/>

Walt Disney Family Museum - <https://www.waltdisney.org/>

[Map & Directions](#)