

MOUNTAINS OF THE NORTHWEST

Summary

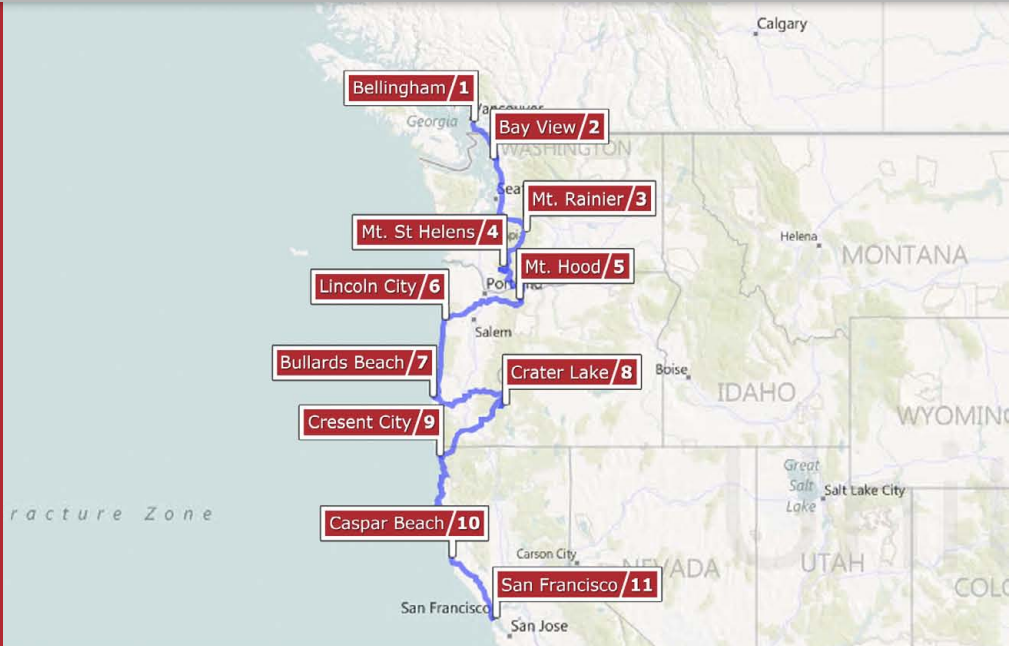
 Timescale: 11 DAYS

 Total Distance: 1469 miles

 Start: Bellingham

 End: San Francisco

Five of the best loved National Parks of the Pacific Northwest plus the rugged and scenic Pacific Ocean coast make this a wonderful journey of contrasts. The soaring volcanic mountains of Washington State, the beaches and coastline of Oregon and California, the world famous wine regions and the magic of San Francisco.



DAY 1 - BELLINGHAM TO BAY VIEW STATE PARK

34 miles - 35 minutes

After picking up your motorhome in Bellingham it's just a short drive south to your suggested first night stop in Bay View State Park (www.stateparks.com)

DAY 2 - BAY VIEW TO MOUNT RAINIER

162 miles - 3-4 hours

Washington State has over 24 million acres of forests. It makes you wonder how there's room for their world famous orchards that supply supermarkets in America, Europe and around the globe. After Seattle, Mount Rainier will be rising on the horizon (www.mount.rainier.national-park.com). Covered by glaciers and snowfields, Mount Rainier rises sharply to 14,400 feet. A third of the way up its southern slope you could finally make it to Paradise; the most popular

destination in this National Park. As a reminder of why National Park roads can be impassable in the winter months, no less than 1,122 inches of snow fell in one year on Paradise. It's suggested that you overnight in one of the National Park campsites. (www.nps.gov).

DAY 3 - MOUNT RAINIER TO MT. ST. HELENS

123 miles - 3 hours

Mount St Helens (www.mountsthelens.com) is best known for its savage eruption just 31 years ago. Still very impressive, the summit of this volcano is now 1,300 feet lower than it was before that catastrophe. A National Park Service campground would let you wake up closest to what you've come to see. (www.gonw.about.com)

DAY 4 - MT. ST HELENS TO MOUNT HOOD

93 miles - 2 hour

In less than an hour you'll be crossing into Oregon. Though 11,240 foot high Mount Hood (www.mthood.info) is less than 2 hours further south by the quickest route, a more leisurely way will be via the spectacular waterfalls of the Columbia River Gorge (www.crgva.org). The suggested Mount Hood campsite claims to be the finest in the Pacific Northwest and holds the highest possible 5 star rating. (www.rvonthego.com)



DAY 5 - MOUNT HOOD TO LINCOLN CITY

118 miles - 2 hours 30 minutes

Head for the beach and arrive in plenty of time to see the sun set over the Pacific Ocean. These will be a couple of days contrasting the grandeur of the National Parks with the broad sandy beaches along the Pacific coast. The suggested campsite is the Lincoln City KOA (www.koa.com).



DAY 6 – LINCOLN CITY TO BULLARDS BEACH

147 miles - 4 hours

A leisurely drive south hugging the coastline down to Bullards Beach State Park. There are lots of attractive places to stop along the way including Cape Perpetua and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. The suggested campground is close to the long sandy beach and the Coquille River lighthouse. (www.oregonstateparks.org)

DAY 7 – BULLARDS BEACH TO CRATER LAKE

186 miles - 4 hours

Crater Lake (www.crater.lake.national-park.com) has inspired people for hundreds of years and Oregon's only National Park now attracts visitors from around the world. The deep blue lake and its 2 picturesque islands are surrounded by cliffs almost 2000 feet high. The eruption that created the lake was over 40 times stronger than the devastating Mount St Helens blast. Suggested accommodation can be booked at (www.prospectrvpark.com) or (www.nps.gov).

DAY 8 – CRATER LAKE TO CRESCENT CITY

163 miles - 3 hours

Back to the Pacific Ocean and the suggested overnight stop is the Crescent City KOA. (www.koa.com) your route will take you right through the northerly section of the Redwood National Park (www.redwood.national-park.com). The tallest trees in the world, the mighty Redwoods, can grow as high as 350 feet tall or more. The film, Return of the Jedi, was set outside Crescent City.



DAY 9 – CRESCENT CITY TO CASPAR BEACH

225 miles - 4-5 hours

Plenty more Redwoods to be seen even after you leave the National Park and pass the Humboldt Redwoods (www.americansouthwest.net) and its Avenue of the Giants (www.avenueofthegiants.net). These trees can be more than 2000 years old. As John Steinbeck described them, they are "ambassadors of another time." The suggested campground for tonight is the Caspar Beach RV Park. (www.casparbeachrvpark.com). It borders the Casper Headlands State Natural Reserve which lies on a rugged bluff overlooking the Pacific.

DAY 10 – CASPAR BEACH TO SAN FRANCISCO

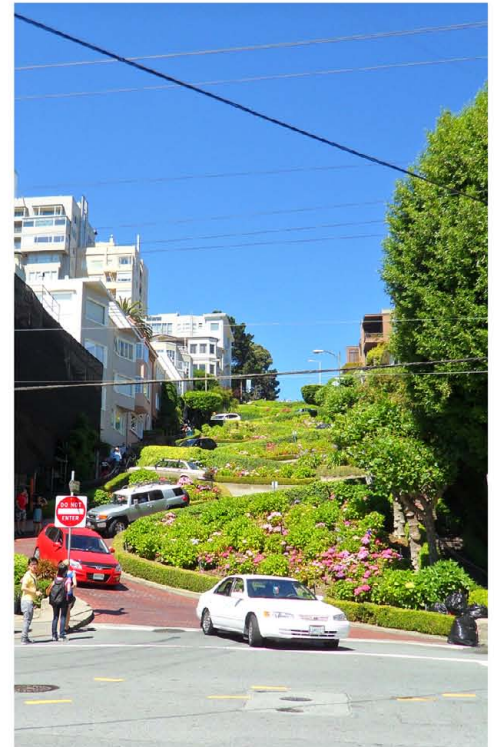
176 miles - 4 hours.

On your route south there is the opportunity to visit Jack London's ranch home (www.jacklondons.net) as well as to explore the wine country of Sonoma and Napa Valley (www.napavalley.com) and (www.sonoma.com). Since San Francisco is one of the most visited cities in America, the ideal campsite is right next door to famed Candlestick Park, home of San Francisco's 49ers. (www.sanfranciscorvpark.com). Once comfortably parked, thanks to the campsite's shuttle service to and from the city, you could be strolling Fisherman's Wharf or Ghirardelli Square this evening.

DAY 11 – RETURN YOUR MOTORHOME

42 miles - 1 hour

Take a short and easy journey to return your motorhome, full of petrol, by 11.00am.



Important Information:

The first few nights are in State Park campgrounds so make sure your fresh water holding tank is full on pick up, we recommend you prebook the State Park campgrounds as they can sell out fast.