

BACKROADS
THE WORLD'S #1 ACTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY

Alexander Valley

A WEEKEND AMONG THE VINEYARDS

TO RESERVE YOUR
TRIP CALL
800-462-2848 OR
SIGN UP ONLINE [HERE](#)



Important Facts
at a glance

3 DAYS, 2 NIGHTS

Click [here](#) for departure dates
and pricing details

ROUTE RATING

Levels 2–3

See [below](#) for details.

IN BUSINESS FOR
29 YEARS,
BACKROADS IS
RECOGNIZED YEAR IN
AND YEAR OUT AS
ONE OF THE WORLD'S
TOP 10 TRAVEL
COMPANIES BY
TRAVEL+LEISURE

Three days biking through the renowned wine-growing regions of Alexander, Dry Creek and Russian River valleys is the ultimate weekend getaway. Join Backroads for fun in the wine country and discover the scenic routes, picnic spots, acclaimed wineries and perfect vistas that make this pocket of Northern California so special. Bike along quiet country roads, past manicured vineyards, fertile orchards, bright golden meadows and mighty redwoods. Sample gourmet cuisine and world-class wines, and relax in style at an elegant Victorian manor.

DAY 1

On the first day of the trip, we meet at 10 a.m. at the gazebo in Pioneer Park, located in the heart of Calistoga in Napa Valley. **Please arrive dressed in your biking clothes and with your luggage.** Please note that Pioneer Park is within walking distance of most Calistoga hotels.

If you're driving to the wine country on your own, please arrive at 9 a.m. at the Madrona Manor in Healdsburg to catch a Backroads shuttle to Pioneer Park. **Please let your Trip Consultant know in advance if you'll be driving to the wine country.** See "Arriving & Departing" for additional logistics information.

MADRONA MANOR ROUTE 28 MILES (400-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHORTER OPTION: HANNA WINERY 18 MILES WITH SHUTTLE (300-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

Welcome to your weekend in the wine country! After arriving at Pioneer Park in the charming northern Napa town of Calistoga, your leaders fit your bike and give a brief demonstration of biking techniques. Then head across the Sonoma County line on a warm-up ride into the Alexander Valley, which has been compared to France's Bordeaux region. In the past two decades, several first-rate wineries have established themselves in this area, including Sausal, which offers a noteworthy zinfandel, and Alexander Valley, known for its cabernet. The mile climb up Franz Valley School Road is challenging, but you'll get a break with nice rolling downhill to our picnic spot at Hanna Winery, where all grapes are estate-grown. Here you'll have the chance to taste an excellent merlot.

The afternoon route leads into the Dry Creek Valley—an area recognized for producing some of the finest zinfandels in California—and then continues to the quaint town of Healdsburg, where we stay for the next two nights. Our hotel, Madrona Manor, is a stately Victorian manor-turned-guesthouse sitting on 8 wooded acres, and its relaxed ambience provides an ideal home base for our activities. Tonight we enjoy an outdoor wine reception followed by dinner in the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant, which has been praised by *Gourmet* magazine. *Lodging: Madrona Manor*



Our Accommodations
Premiere Inns

MADRONA MANOR

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this grand Victorian mansion and carriage house is furnished with antiques and surrounded by 8 acres of lawns, woods, orchard, gardens and a pool.

Healdsburg

phone: 800-258-4003
or 707-433-4231

www.madronamanor.com

EACH YEAR,
3 OUT OF 4 OF OUR
GUESTS HAVE
PREVIOUSLY
TRAVELED WITH US OR
BEEN REFERRED BY
SOMEONE WHO HAS

DAY 2

ALEXANDER VALLEY LOOP 43 MILES (300-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

SHORTER OPTION: MOSAIC WINERY 19 MILES

Today, we explore the rolling hills of the Alexander and Dry Creek valleys. The ride takes you into some of the most beautiful parts of Sonoma County, and with the exception of one climb along Lytton Springs Road, you'll encounter gentle terrain past acres of prized vineyards and farmland. Wineries worth visiting along today's route include Mazzocco Vineyards, Murphy Goode Winery, and Mosaic Vineyards and Winery, where we enjoy another fantastic Backroads picnic lunch. This afternoon, perhaps opt for a spa treatment in the town of Healdsburg.

This evening, we travel to the lovely town of Geyserville for dinner at Santi, famous for its Italian-Californian gastronomic mélange. *Lodging: Madrona Manor*

DAY 3

ARMSTRONG REDWOODS STATE RESERVE ROUTE 20 MILES (250-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

LONGER OPTION: BACK TO MADRONA MANOR 38 MILES (450-FOOT ELEVATION GAIN)

If you were wowed by the beautiful scenery of the past two days, you'll love the route we've chosen for our final ride—a guest favorite. Bike from the hotel along quiet roads through a quintessential wine country landscape of terraced vineyards and rolling pastures to Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve. As you ride into the forest, a sense of serenity settles in as all noise fades away, and the smell of wood and rich soil permeates the cool air. We enjoy a final picnic among the towering thousand-year-old redwood trees before shuttling (or riding!) back to the Madrona Manor, where our trip ends. After a quick shower at the hotel, you can catch a Backroads shuttle back to San Francisco. Please see "Arriving & Departing" for end-of-trip logistics.

ARRIVING & DEPARTING

Please note that meeting and departing times provided here were current at the time of printing, but are subject to change. **PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED ON YOUR VACATION AND HAVE VERIFIED THE DETAILS OF ARRIVING & DEPARTING WITH YOUR TRIP CONSULTANT.**

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

On the first day of the trip, we meet at 10 a.m. at the gazebo in Pioneer Park, located in the heart of Calistoga in Napa Valley. **Please arrive dressed in your biking clothes and with your luggage.** Please see the following page for information on shuttle service from downtown San Francisco to Calistoga.

If you're driving to the wine country on your own, please arrive at 9 a.m. at the Madrona Manor in Healdsburg to catch a Backroads shuttle to the park. Please let your Trip Consultant know in advance if you'll be driving to the wine country.

CONCLUSION OF THE TRIP

Our trip ends at the Madrona Manor at 3 p.m. Backroads provides a shuttle back to the Hotel Monaco in San Francisco, arriving between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., depending on traffic. If you plan to fly home this evening, please do not book your flight before 8 p.m.



Top Reasons Why *you should take this trip*

We provide a variety of route options so you can do as much or as little activity as you like each day.

You'll stay in the area's finest hotels, each carefully selected based on our rigorous quality standards.

You'll enjoy the best of the region's cuisine, as well as Backroads' trademark grand picnics.

Our Trip Leaders have undergone hundreds of hours of training and are the best in the industry.

**WHEN YOU SIGN UP
FOR A TRIP, YOU'LL
RECEIVE A
COMPREHENSIVE
TRAVEL PLANNER
WITH ALL THE
INFORMATION YOU
NEED TO PLAN
AND PREPARE**

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

We recommend flying into San Francisco International Airport (airport code: SFO; www.flysfo.com). For help arranging air transport to and from your Backroads trip, please work with your own travel agent, the airline directly or an online travel site. For assistance locating a travel agent, please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents and online travel sites charge a fee for their consulting services.)

TRANSPORTATION FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT TO DOWNTOWN

We recommend the following transportation options from the airport to downtown (the trip takes 30–40 minutes). All prices and times were accurate at the time of printing but are subject to change. Please call each company directly for the most current information.

Taxis are available from the airport for \$35–\$40.

SuperShuttle (800-258-3826 or 415-558-8500; www.supershuttle.com) has 24-hour service to downtown San Francisco on demand. Claim your luggage on the lower level and then proceed to the upper level and outside to the outer curb. Follow the blue SuperShuttle signs. Reservations are not required for pick-ups at the airport. The cost is about \$15 per person and \$8 for each additional passenger; groups of one to seven people may charter a van for \$65. To return to the airport, call 24 hours in advance to reserve your space. **Note:** SuperShuttle only accepts bicycles if the van is chartered.

Lorrie's Airport Shuttle (415-334-9000; www.sfovan.com) provides transportation to downtown San Francisco for about \$15 per person. Call to request a pickup, and the shuttle will meet you within 10–15 minutes outside, at the center island on the upper level. Lorrie's Airport Shuttle is in the red zone. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance for return shuttles to the airport. If you're bringing a bike on the shuttle, let the reservationist know at the time of booking; your bike must be in a bike box, and the additional cost per bike is \$5.

SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO AND CALISTOGA

Compass Transportation/SuperShuttle provides shuttle service from the Hotel Monaco in downtown San Francisco to Calistoga. **This is a special service available only for your scheduled Backroads trip start date; if you'll be arriving in the wine country early, please arrange for alternative transportation.** The price of the shuttle is \$50.00. Boxed bikes are accepted free of charge on a space-available basis.

Reservations are required, and must be made at least two weeks prior to your Backroads trip. Reservations made within two weeks of your trip will be accepted on a space-available basis only. Payment by Visa, MasterCard or American Express is required at the time of reservation, but your credit card will not be charged until after your trip. To reserve a space, please call Darice at 800-851-0701, ext. 110, or 650-246-2763, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific time. If your trip starts on a weekend, and your shuttle does not arrive at the scheduled time, please call Compass Transportation's dispatch line at 650-246-2768 for information.

When reserving your shuttle, you'll need to provide the following information:

1. The trip code and meeting location, which are BAVI-1, Pioneer Park, Calistoga.
2. The date your trip begins.
3. The name of the downtown San Francisco hotel (listed below) where you'll be picked up at **8 a.m.**



Route Rating
to map your activity level

Backroads' route rating system is the most comprehensive and accurate in the travel industry. To find out how these ratings translate into varying levels of physical challenge and activity, please visit our Web site www.backroads.com and select the route rating button for the trip of your choice.

LEVEL 2

21–30 miles/day
2–4 hours/day

LEVEL 3

31–40 miles/day
3–5 hours/day

**ASK FOR REFERENCES
FROM PAST GUESTS
WHO HAVE TAKEN THE
TRIP THAT INTERESTS
YOU**

Hotel Monaco, 501 Geary Street; Phone: 866-622-5284 or 415-292-0100. More information on this hotel can be found under “Where to Stay Before & After Your Trip.”

Please note that gratuities for your Compass Transportation shuttle driver are not included in the price.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO THE MADRONA MANOR IN HEALDSBURG

Healdsburg is approximately 65 miles (1½–2 hours) north of San Francisco off Highway 101.

From San Francisco, take the second Healdsburg exit off Highway 101 (central Healdsburg) and follow Healdsburg Avenue north. Turn left onto Mill Street (this is a sharp left at the railroad tracks) and go under Highway 101. Mill Street becomes Westside Road. The Madrona Manor is located 1 mile ahead, at the intersection with West Dry Creek Road. Look for the arched entrance.

From the north, take the Westside Road exit off Highway 101, then veer right onto Westside Road. The Madrona Manor is almost 1 mile ahead, at the intersection with West Dry Creek Road. Look for the arched entrance.

Free parking is available at the Madrona Manor for the duration of your trip. Backroads provides complimentary transportation from the Madrona Manor to Pioneer Park on the meeting day. Please be in the hotel lobby at 9 a.m. to catch this shuttle. Upon your arrival, check in with the front desk to find out where to park your car for the weekend. **Please let your Trip Consultant know prior to your trip if you'll be driving to the wine country.** If you're renting a car, Enterprise (800-261-7331) has a drop-off location within 2 miles of Madrona Manor; this location is closed on Sundays.

ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO HEALDSBURG

California Wine Tours (707-939-7225 or 800-294-6386; www.californiawinetours.com) provides transportation from the San Francisco airport to Healdsburg for approximately \$230 (including toll, parking, tax and gratuities) for two people and luggage. If your party includes 3–4 people, Suburbans are available for about \$255. Make sure to arrive at the Madrona Manor by 9 a.m. on the day the trip starts to catch the Backroads shuttle to Pioneer Park. (Please see “Meeting Time and Location” for details.)

WHERE TO STAY BEFORE & AFTER YOUR TRIP

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS

For help arranging pre- or post-trip hotels in conjunction with your Backroads trip, please work with your travel agent or the hotels directly. For assistance locating a travel agent please visit www.backroads.com/gettingthere. (Note that most travel agents charge a fee for their consulting services.)

Of course, we also recommend extending your stay at any of the hotels that we visit on this trip; see the sidebar above for details. Also worth noting: The Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn offers a special rate for Backroads guests: 10% off the Best Rate Available. When booking online, enter code “PRBAC1” in the Promotional Code box. Sonoma Airporter provides daily shuttle service from San Francisco International Airport to the Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn for \$45. Reservations are required; contact the company for more information (800-611-4246; www.sonomaairporter.com).

Please refer to the Hotel Room Rate Guide in the sidebar for starting double-occupancy

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

rates. Note that the chart reflects the Internet and/or Best Available rates, which were accurate at the time of printing, but **hotel rates are always subject to change.**

SAN FRANCISCO

HOTEL MONACO (SHUTTLE PICK-UP LOCATION ON DAY 1 AND DROP-OFF LOCATION ON DAY 3)

Located near Union Square in the theater district and just a short ride by cable car to Chinatown, North Beach and Fisherman’s Wharf, this *Condé Nast Traveler’s* Gold List member is an inviting and cheerful retreat. Dramatically furnished with vibrant colors and rich fabrics, guest rooms are equipped with every amenity—including a companion goldfish if requested. In the evening, enjoy wine and cheese in the lobby. Or how about a relaxing in-room massage, courtesy of the hotel’s Spa Equilibrium, before heading out for an unforgettable dinner in the Grand Café? 501 Geary Street; Phone: 866-622-5284 or 415-292-0100; www.monaco-sf.com; **Special Backroads savings: 10% off the best available rate for the dates of your stay, Web site only**; Backroads savings offer valid for Web site reservations only; use rate code “BAC” when booking. 201 rooms. Rates: ◆◆

MANDARIN ORIENTAL

A favorite of *Travel+Leisure*, featured on *Condé Nast Traveler’s* Gold List and a member of Leading Hotels of the World, this impressive hotel occupies the top 11 floors of San Francisco’s third-highest skyscraper, providing spectacular panoramic views of the city, bay and bridges. The Mandarin Oriental hotels are known for legendary service and high luxury standards, and this San Francisco property is no exception. What makes this hotel unique is its elegant Asian-influenced décor, sophisticated use of textures, colors and lighting, the 2,000-square-foot fitness center and the award-winning Silk’s restaurant, acclaimed for its contemporary California-Pacific Rim cuisine. 222 Sansome Street; Phone: 800-622-0404 or 415-276-9888; www.mandarin-oriental.com; 158 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆◆

HOTEL PALOMAR

Tucked inside a 1907 landmark building, Hotel Palomar is a sophisticated designer hotel. Jazzy French-Japanese décor helps to create an air of modern sophistication without being trendy. It’s located just two blocks from Union Square, the Sony Metreon multimedia entertainment center and an array of shopping and dining options. The chic Fifth Floor restaurant, with its celebrity chef, features trendy Lounge on Five and an impressive wine list, including many hard-to-find wines from American vintners. 12 Fourth Street; Phone: 866-373-4941 or 415-348-1111; www.hotelpalomar.com; **Special Backroads savings: 10% off the best available rate for the dates of your stay**; Backroads savings offer valid for Web site reservations only; use rate code “BAC” when booking. 198 rooms and 16 suites. Rates: ◆◆◆◆

HOTEL VITALE

Step into an urban oasis at Hotel Vitale, the newest hotel on the Embarcadero waterfront and a fresh face on *Condé Nast Traveler’s* Gold List. The modern motif melds luxurious touches with natural elements to create a uniquely soothing environment offers respite from the frenetic pace of the world outside. Here you’ll be revitalized, with the help of the stunning water and landmark vistas, an on-site spa with outdoor rooftop deep soaking tubs, complimentary yoga and stretching classes each morning, the signature restaurant Americano and the friendly staff. The hotel’s philosophy of service is all about authenticity, and it shows. Eight Mission Street; Phone: 415-278-3700 Reservations: 888-890-8688; www.hotelvitale.com; **Special Backroads savings: 10% off best available rate for the dates of your stay.** Let the reservationist know you’re a Backroads guest and

mention rate code “BKD” when booking. 199 guest rooms, including 8 suites. Rates:

◆◆◆◆

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

THE RITZ-CARLTON

This Nob Hill landmark is a neoclassical “architectural treasure.” Bordered by Chinatown and Union Square, it’s ideally located for discovering San Francisco on foot and offers a luxurious refuge at the end of the day. A la carte sushi, afternoon tea and pastries are served in the Lobby Lounge, and cigars and cocktails are served in the illustrious Ritz Bar. The Ritz’s Equilibrium Spa has been named one of the top Urban Hotel Spas by *Condé Nast Traveler*. The hotel also features a full fitness center and an indoor pool. 600 Stockton Street; Phone: 800-241-3333 or 415-296-7465; www.ritzcarlton.com; 336 rooms. Rates:

◆◆◆◆

HARBOR COURT HOTEL

You’ll feel the energy of this stylish hip hotel as soon as you enter the lobby. Located on the Embarcadero waterfront, Harbor Court is a quick trolley ride from Fisherman’s Wharf and adjacent to the popular Ozumo restaurant. The Embarcadero YMCA, a state-of-the-art health facility featuring an Olympic-size pool, adjoins the property and is available to hotel guests at a discounted charge. 165 Steuart Street; Phone: 866-792-6283; 415-882-1300; www.harborcourthotel.com; Special Backroads savings: 10% off the best available rate for the dates of your stay; Backroads savings offer valid for Web site reservations only; use rate code “BAC” when booking. 131 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆

HOTEL ADAGIO

The new and improved Hotel Adagio blends Spanish Colonial Revival architectural elements with a modern aesthetic for a clean and fresh design that is both elegant and stylish. Glowing candles, rich fabrics and flowers in bloom all add to the luxurious atmosphere. Located in the heart of San Francisco’s theater, dining and shopping districts, the Adagio offers easy access to all of the city’s attractions. Guest rooms feature complimentary high-speed Internet access. The hotel’s hip restaurant and bar Cortez, with its innovative Mediterranean dishes and unique artisan breads, has been recognized by *Condé Nast Traveler*. 550 Geary Street; Phone: 800-228-8830 or 415-775-5000; www.jdvhospitality.com/hotels/hotel/15; 171 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆

THE HUNTINGTON

A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World as well as Preferred Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, The Huntington has hosted an array of high-profile guests since it first opened in 1922. Located atop Nob Hill, the hotel enjoys a well-earned reputation as one of the finest in the world, thanks to its distinguished English-style interior and personalized service. Indulge in a spa treatment at the hotel’s serene Nob Hill Spa, which features an indoor pool (for guests 16 years and older), whirlpool, fireplace, wellness studio, fitness equipment, and men’s and women’s locker rooms with saunas and steam rooms. Be sure to try the award-winning cuisine at the Big Four Restaurant, a *Gourmet* magazine favorite. 1075 California Street; Phone: 800-227-4683 or 415-474-5400; www.huntingtonhotel.com; 135 rooms. Rates: ◆◆◆

PRESCOTT HOTEL

This luxurious boutique hotel exudes sophistication and warmth with its décor of rich colors, Italian linens, Ralph Lauren fabrics and custom-designed cherry wood furniture. Located just steps from Union Square shopping and fine dining, the Prescott allows you access to some of San Francisco’s top sites. In addition to its outstanding

Hotel Room Rate Guide	
(U.S. dollars per night)	
Up to \$100	◆
\$101–200	◆◆
\$201–300	◆◆◆
\$301–500	◆◆◆◆
\$501 and up	◆◆◆◆◆

service and accommodations, the hotel is adjacent to the celebrated Postrio restaurant, where you'll receive priority seating as a Prescott hotel guest. 545 Post Street; Phone: 866-271-3632 or 415-563-0303; www.prescotthotel.com; **Special Backroads savings: 10% off the best available rate for the dates of your stay**; Backroads savings offer valid for Web site reservations only; use rate code "BAC" when booking. 164 rooms. Rates: ◆◆

We hope you've found this information useful, but nothing substitutes for speaking with one of our experienced Trip Consultants. Please call 800-462-2848 Monday-Sunday, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific time.