

California bike ride

USA, Yosemite National Park to San Francisco



Ultimate Challenges

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Conquer California by bike on this awesome challenge

Our journey takes us from the mountains of the eastern edge of this bronzed and beautiful Golden State, to the Pacific Coast and into San Francisco.

We kick off our epic Californian adventure in one of the world's most celebrated national preserves – the monumental Yosemite National Park, within the Sierra Nevada mountain range. With its massive granite peaks and cliffs, towering forests, roaring waterfalls, sparkling lakes and lush meadows this really is a place not to be missed.

From Yosemite we cycle 380km in 5 days, over challenging mountain roads, down into farmed valleys and onto the plains. What a way to finish this stunning bike ride going across the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco.



DAY 1:

Depart UK to San Francisco, USA

Depart London on day flight to San Francisco. Upon arrival we will be met by our guides and transferred to our overnight hotel in Oakdale between San Francisco and Yosemite National Park.

DAY 2:

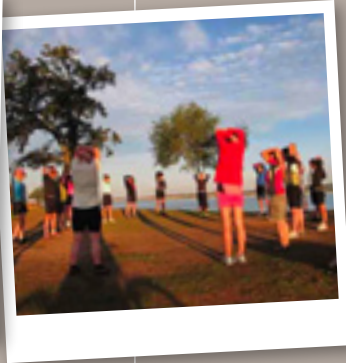
Transfer to Yosemite National Park

After an early breakfast we continue to Yosemite National Park. Our camp will be based in Yosemite Valley, which is divided by the rippling Merced River and hemmed in by some of the most spectacular chunks of granite, infamous in their own right! Once our camp is pitched, we will have lunch before fitting out our bikes. This afternoon we take on a short ride offering great views of all the famous Yosemite landmarks including Yosemite Falls, Cathedral Rocks, Half Dome, and the mighty El Capitan. We return to camp for supper and a full briefing about the bike challenge ahead.

DAY 3: 98KM

Yosemite – Turlock Lake

After a hearty American breakfast, we will break camp and begin our epic Californian challenge. We have a short transfer to the edge of Yosemite to our start point. We begin riding on the quiet Route 120 west where we start with a big ascent, the road then stays undulating for most of the morning. The scenery today begins to change as we head into Mariposa County, passing farmland and small communities. After lunch our route offers us great views over Lake McClure with beautiful pine and oak woodland backgrounds. We continue on a fairly flat road past agriculture land to our overnight camp on the shores of Lake Turlock.



DAY 4: 106KM

Turlock Lake - Camanche Lake

Our longest day in the saddle today, so we will need an early start. We head west out of camp, passing Turlock Lake and over Robert Ferry's Bridge and a number of canals. Today's route has a combination of long flat straight sections with some undulations thrown in as we pass small villages and ranches with white picket fences. After lunch we remain on quiet country lanes for the rest of the afternoon. Our ride finishes at the popular fishing lake of Camanche, filled with Trout and Tule. Our camp is nestled among Cottonwood and Eucalyptus trees.

DAY 5: 80KM

Camanche Lake - Walnut Grove

After breakfast, we are back on our bikes for our ride through San Joaquin Valley. Our route begins uphill and continues undulating until Clements Town with vineyards on either side. From here we pass over lots of waterways and the Sacramento River. The road hugs the river all the way to Walnut Grove where we will stop for a late lunch at a local vineyard and have a chance to sample some of the local wine and produce. From here we pack up the bikes and transfer approx. 2hrs to Rohnert Park.

DAY 6: 60KM

Ride Rohnert Park - Olema

After a good nights rest in we are back on our bikes and heading towards the Pacific coast. The first section today will be a little busy as we leave town, but the excitement will mount as we head towards the California coast. The scenery changes as we approach our lunch stop in Tomales Bay, near a local oyster farm (tasting available!). From our lunch spot the undulating coastline takes us all the way to Olema our finishing point for today.

DAY 7: 60KM

Olema - San Francisco

The last day of our cycling adventure! After a tough and undulating 14km section, it's not long before we reach Bolinas lagoon and reserve, and a chance for a well earned rest stop. The road continues along the coastline until we reach Stinson Beach, where we will regroup. Next are steep undulations and hair pins as we hug this beautiful rugged coastline before breaking for lunch at another stunning ocean viewpoint. We have our final ascent through John Muir Woods and once we've bagged this, excitement will mount, as we get closer views of the iconic, art deco Golden Gate Bridge. We ride across the bridge and down to Crissy Fields (Golden

Gate National Park Conservancy), to our finish line. After photos we have a short journey to our overnight hotel in the heart of this great city. In the evening we will have a special dinner to celebrate our achievements.

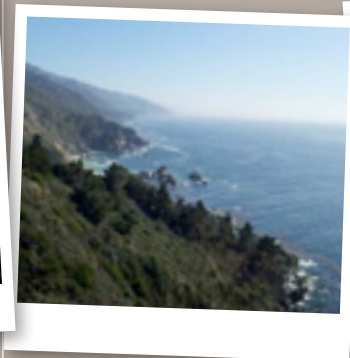
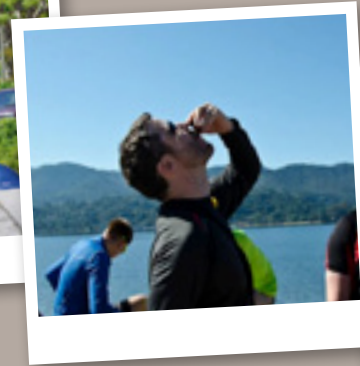
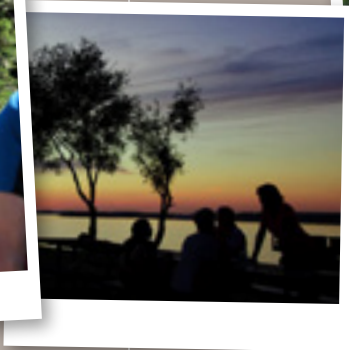
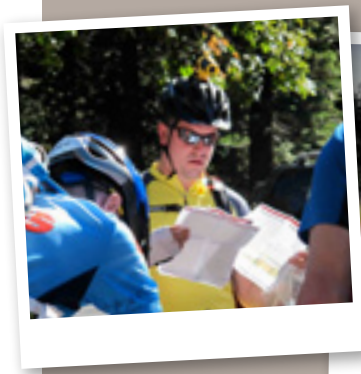
DAY 8:

San Francisco - London

A free morning to explore San Francisco. Late afternoon/ overnight flight back to UK.

DAY 9:

Arrive London



Why choose Ultimate Challenges?

- We have over 16 years experience running pioneering charity challenges e.g. Kilimanjaro , the Inca Trail, California Bike
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- We operate an Ethical Code of Conduct with all our ground handlers to ensure fair treatment of all our local staff. We have high health and safety expectations and all our partnerships are conducted with respect for local cultures and environmental concerns
- We offer an end-to-end service to ensure our charity partners are given full support from our experienced staff ensuring you maximise your income

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