



The International DX Convention is held every year in Visalia, California. Attendees have a wonderful opportunity to attend IDXC and combine the trip with a pre-convention or post-convention vacation. This document summarizes key attractions in several major locations around the State:

As you plan your visit to IDXC, please take some time to consider an extended stay in one or more of these beautiful vacation destinations.

For more information about Visalia, CA, please contact the Visitor's Bureau:

Visalia Convention and Visitor's Bureau
Address: 303 E Acequia Ave, Visalia, CA 93291
Phone:(559) 334-0141

Best Regards
IDXC Planning Committee

VISALIA, CALIFORNIA



Visalia (*/var'seɪljə/ vy-SAYL-yə*) is a city situated in the agricultural San Joaquin Valley of California.

Things to do and see in the Visalia area:

ImagineU Museum: Children can explore and learn from fun, hands on exhibits in the field of science, reading and health.

Antique Farm & Equipment Museum:

The Central Valley is known for its rich agricultural heritage. The Antique Farm and Equipment Museum showcases the men, women and equipment that have made our valley so valuable.

Mural Tour: Take a leisurely stroll downtown to admire many murals within walking distance of one another. Several murals were completed within 30 days by teens participating in the Teen Mural Program.

Enchanted Playhouse Theatre: Enchanting tales of heroes, villains, and far-away places come to life throughout the year.

Seven Sycamores Ranch: Historic Seven Sycamores Ranch is a citrus farm located just minutes outside of Visalia. Let your senses do the talking as you see, touch, smell, and best of all, taste, some of California's juiciest gem.

The Peña Planetarium : Astronomy is the oldest of the sciences and the one which has held the strongest grip on our imagination over the centuries. The Peña Planetarium features a 30-foot Spitz dome screen and a fully-automated Spitz A3P star projector. Programs are presented utilizing a full-dome digital projection system.

For more things to see and do in Visalia check out these websites:

downtownvisalia.com
visitvisalia.org

San Francisco and the surrounding area



From Visalia it is approximately a 4 hour, 230 miles (370 km) drive northwest to San Francisco. Be sure to bring your jacket, even though the weather is warm and sunny in Visalia it can be cold, damp and foggy in San Francisco.

On your list of things to do and see (just to name a few) should be:

Golden Gate Bridge: Crissy Field is a key spot to appreciate the whole span. Into walking be sure to bring a jacket, it can get very windy, but the view is spectacular.

Fisherman's Wharf: A bustling waterfront strip filled with shops and restaurants. Sea lions laze the day away sunbathing and posing for photo ops on Pier 39.

Chinatown: A 24 block of restaurants, markets, temples and shops where an ancient culture survives and flourishes.

Alcatraz Island: A short ferry ride away. Also known as "The Rock" the forbidding maximum security penitentiary is now a National Park.

Cable Cars: They clank up and down the city's steep hills and it's from here that get the best views of San Francisco unfold.

Bay Bridge: Connecting San Francisco to Oakland. Not as famous as the Golden Gate the Bay Bridge is a site to behold.

Lombard Street: Know as the "Crookedest Street in the World"

Los Angeles and the surrounding area



Four hours southwest, 190 miles (310 km) from Visalia will get you to the greater Los Angeles area. Weather in and around Los Angeles tends to be warm and sunny.

On your list of things to do and see (just to name a few) should be:

Universal Studios Hollywood: One of the world's oldest continuously operating movie studios

Griffith Park: The park embraces an outdoor theater, the city zoo, and observatory, two museums, golf courses, tennis courts, playgrounds, bridle paths, hiking trails, Batman's caves, and even the Hollywood sign.

Venice Beach: Southern California's quintessential bohemian playground,

Getty Center Museum: In its billion-dollar in-the-clouds perch high above the city, the Getty Center presents triple delights: a stellar art collection, Richard Meier's cutting-edge architecture; and the visual splendor of seasonally changing gardens. On clear days, you can add breathtaking views of the city and ocean to the list.

Disneyland Resort: With two Disney Theme Parks—Disneyland® Park and Disney California Adventure™ Park,

Hollywood: This is the shrine to the movie industry: stars in the sidewalks, the sign, glorious old theaters, the places where the movie industry grew up. Most of the sights line up neatly along a 1-mile (1.6 km) stretch.

Beverly Hills: Glitzy, glamorous Beverly Hills cuts through Los Angeles like the grand dame of royal cruise ships. Palm tree-lined streets, chic boutiques, palatial homes, and posh restaurants all sparkle on her haughty decks with the security and charm befitting the supremely rich. Though it's pricey and pretentious, no trip to Beverly Hills would be complete without a saunter along Rodeo Drive, the famous three-block ribbon of style where the beautiful people browse Prada and Escada.

Sunset Strip: This legendary 1.5-mile stretch of Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood extends east-west from Beverly Hills to Hollywood, laid end to end with music venues, comedy clubs, boutiques, restaurants and hotels that attract music, TV, film and fashion celebrities.

La Brea Tar Pits: Set beside the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in Mid-City's Hancock Park, these are real live cesspools in the heart of Tinseltown.

Capitol Records Building: Rising 13 round stories above Hollywood Boulevard and the Walk of Fame, this city landmark, built in the mid-1950s to house the first West Coast outpost of a major record label,

The Queen Mary: Once the most elegant ocean-going vessel in the Cunard Line, this Art Deco-era cruise ship was in service from 1947-1965. The Queen Mary has been docked ever since in Long Beach Harbor, and now serves as a floating hotel, special event venue, and tourist attraction.

National Parks



Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks are located in the nearby Sierra Nevada mountains, the highest mountain range in the contiguous United States.

Just a short 45 minute drive, 36 miles (58 km) east of Visalia and you are in the Sequoia, King Canyon National Parks.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain big trees, high peaks, and deep canyons, but the diversity goes far beyond that. The parks are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, weather permitting. The parks' elevations extend from 1,300 feet (418m) in the foothills to 14,491 feet (4,417m) at the summit of Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous 48 states. Plunging in the opposite direction far below the surface are over 200 marble caverns, many with endemic cave fauna.

Sequoia National Park spans 404,063 acres. Spring drives in the parks are full of delightful contrasts. A foothills redbud is in bloom while a spring storm dusts Moro Rock with snow. Sites within the park and a must see are the giant sequoia trees; the General Sherman Tree, Grant Grove, "Big Trees" in Giant Forest. Also make sure to visit one or more of the miles of underground caverns.

Monterey Bay Area



Three and half hours west, 189 miles from Visalia will get you to the Monterey Bay area. Weather in and around the Monterey Bay can be foggy in mornings warming up to the high 60's. The Carmel Valley tends to be warm and sunny.

On your list of things to do and see (just to name a few) should be:

Monterey Bay Aquarium: A public aquarium located in Monterey. The aquarium was founded in 1984 and is located on the site of a former sardine cannery on Cannery Row.

Cannery Row: The waterfront street in the New Monterey section of Monterey. It is the site of a number of now-defunct sardine canning factories. The last cannery closed in 1973.

Fisherman's Wharf : A historic wharf in Monterey. Used as an active wholesale fish market into the 1960s, the wharf eventually became a tourist attraction as commercial fishing tapered off in the area.

Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca: A paved road racing track in central California used for both auto racing and motorcycle racing, built in 1957 near both Salinas and Monterey.

Monterey State Historic Park: A historic state park , includes part of the Monterey Old Town Historic District, a historic district.

Colton Hall Museum: Visit the building where the State of California was born. Built to serve as a public school and town meeting hall, Colton Hall now offers visitors a re-creation of the meeting room where California's first Constitution was drafted in October 1849 and exhibits on early Monterey. Colton Hall is a landmark in the City of Monterey, once the capital of Alta California.

Pebble Beach: Combines a dramatic coastline and mystical forest with a rich history. Play the fabled golf courses. Pebble Beach is also a perfect family getaway for kids of all ages. There's so much to explore throughout the Monterey Peninsula, from hiking trails and kayaking to horseback riding and cycling.

Pinnacles National Park: A quiet chaparral covered park with nice hiking, climbing, cave exploring. The west side is a little more desert-like, while the east side is a bit more forested. The wildflowers are especially nice in Spring. Lots of birdwatchers enjoy the park as well. Pinnacles is very popular with rock climbers. There is a high-caves area and a lower caves area. It is really fun for the kids to explore. . At the bottom of the caves there is a small dam and reservoir. It is a nice place for a picnic or snack after going through the caves.

The Cathedral of San Carlos Borromeo: Also known as the Royal Presidio Chapel, is a Roman Catholic cathedral located in Monterey. .

Fort Ord Dunes State Park: The park has 1,500 foot trail to 4 miles of ocean beach with beautiful views of Monterey Bay. Interpretive signs describe both Fort Ord Dunes State Park's history as a training area for the United States Army and its current use as a habitat for endangered species.

The Presidio of Monterey: An active US Army installation with historic ties to the Spanish colonial era. Currently it is the home of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve: Long considered the “crown jewel” of the California State Park system, Point Lobos is a magnet for nature lovers the world around. From its breathtaking beauty to its fascinating wildlife, Point Lobos is a place where one can escape to the serenity of nature at its best.

Tor House, Hawk Tower: Building in Carmel-by-the-Sea built by poet Robinson Jeffers

The 17 Mile Drive: The 17-Mile Drive is a 17 miles (27 km) long scenic loop having five entrances and is one of the most wonderful attractions in Monterey County. This is a private enclave straddling the Pacific Grove, Monterey and Carmel Towns and is where the world famous pebble beach golf course, home of the US Open, is located. Other assorted areas of interest are the rocky outcroppings along the drive in the beaches, and the famous lone cypress. This Rare Monterey Cypress is the Iconic Symbol of Pebble Beach and the 17 mile drive plus The Lone Cypress Tree is the only living entity to be trademarked.

Mission Carmel: Also known as the Mission San Carlos Borroméo del río Carmelo, one of the 21 Spanish missions running through California. It is also a minor basilica and was visited by Pope John Paul II. Father Sierra is also buried there.

San Diego and surrounding area



A 5 hours (309 mile, 497 km) drive southwest will get you to the San Diego area. Weather in San Diego and the surrounding area tends to be warm and sunny.

SeaWorld: An animal theme park, oceanarium, outside aquarium, and marine mammal park, located in San Diego. Experience some of the most thrilling San Diego attractions at SeaWorld®, where you can ride the ray on our double-launch roller coaster Manta®, take in amazing live shows and enjoy special attractions such as Turtle Reef and the Shark Encounter®. Most importantly, SeaWorld is about animals: From Shamu® to sea lions, polar bears to penguins and bottlenose dolphins to beluga whales, marine life abounds!

San Diego Zoo: In Balboa Park, housing over 3,700 animals of more than 650 species and subspecies.

San Diego Zoo Safari Park: Also known as the San Diego Wild Animal, is an 1,800 acre zoo in the San Pasqual Valley area, near Escondido.

The USS Midway Museum: A maritime museum located in the Mission Bay area of San Diego, California. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier Midway Midway. The USS Midway was an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy. Commissioned a week after the end of World War II, Midway was the largest ship in the world until 1955.

Aquatica San Diego is located in Chula Vista. The park covers 32 acres with more than 20 waterslides, a huge wave pool and lazy river. It is within easy driving distance of the San Diego Zoo and to SeaWorld San Diego.

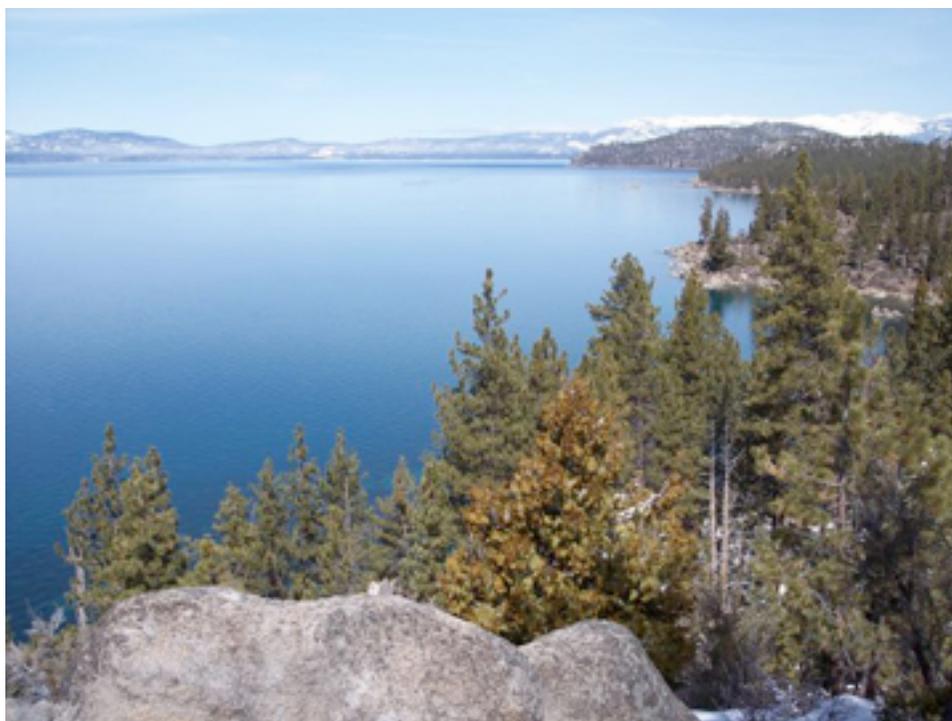
San Diego Model Railroad Museum: At 27,000 sq. ft., it is the largest indoor such exhibit in North America, and one of the largest in the world.

Star of India: Built in 1863 at Ramsey in the Isle of Man as Euterpe, a full-rigged iron windjammer ship. After a full career sailing from Great Britain to India and New Zealand, she became a salmon hauler on the Alaska to California route.

Point Loma Lighthouse: The Old Point Loma Lighthouse stood watch over the entrance to San Diego Bay for 36 years. What seemed to be a good location 422 feet above sea level, however, had a serious flaw. Fog and low clouds often obscured the light. On March 23, 1891, the light was extinguished and the keeper moved to a new lighthouse location closer to the water at the tip of the Point.

The San Diego Hall of Champions: An American multi-sport museum recognized as the largest multi-sport museum in the United States.

Lake Tahoe and surrounding area



If you have more time and want to venture a little farther out, Lake Tahoe is approximately a 5 ½ hours (531 km) drive northeast of Visalia.

Depending on the weather in April it could be snowing giving you a chance to experience world-renowned chutes, bowls, glades and groomers at more than a dozen Lake Tahoe ski and snowboard resorts. If you've got little ones, definitely check out snow tubing, sledding or backcountry snowmobile tours — all safe, exciting and kid-friendly ways to enjoy the Tahoe winter. Lake Tahoe resorts have restaurants, rentals, childcare, entertainment, non-skiing activities like snowshoeing, tubing, ice skating and much more. Snowmobiling is a great way to see the snow-covered backcountry. Tahoe has hundreds of trails and various outfitters specializing in snowmobile rentals and guided tours.

If it's been a mild winter you could spend your April visit enjoying summer like activities. This is the ideal time for mountain biking, hiking, off-roading, and boating. Try camping at a fully developed campground or rough it backpacking in the extraordinary Desolation Wilderness. Nothing says summertime like a boat, kayak or jet-ski rental out on the crystal-clear blue water.

The Tahoe Treetop Adventure Park is the only aerial adventure park in the Tahoe area and is the first one in California. Comprised of 65 tree platforms connected by a variety of bridges and zip lines, the Treetop Adventure Park is suitable for ages 5+. There are two different zones; the Flying Squirrel zone is best suited for smaller kids ages 5 – 10 and includes 20 tree platforms and bridges and five zip lines ranging from 80' to 350' in length; the Monkey zone features five different courses with 45 tree platforms and bridges with 11 zip lines mixed among the courses.

Then of course no matter what the weather, Lake Tahoe is the place to be for Reno/Las Vegas-style gambling without the major crowds. Visit one of the many casinos on the Nevada side of the lake with its gaming and live entertainment to enjoy during your stay.

For more information visit www.tahoe.com

