

The Golden State

Experience Sonoma & Napa

Northern California combines rolling landscapes of tidy vineyards with backdrops of golden hillocks, making it a great place for bikers! In Napa and Sonoma counties, you're likely to find a "mom and pop" winery next to a world-famous appellation; an antique-stuffed country store kitty corner to a world-class hotel. Scenic bike routes wind through small towns and meandering walking trails exist only a few hours from bustling San Francisco. Even better, the population density drops noticeably as soon as one reaches the outer limits of Healdsburg.

THE B&R DIFFERENCE

"Travelling with B&R is what being alive all about. It's action packed and incredibly invigorating with so many personal highlights that it's hard to single out just one." — Andrew Crowe

Other questions?
Call us at 800 678 1147

the journey p.2 [view](#) > / notes from the road p.5 [view](#) > / the details p.6 [view](#) > / next steps p.7 [view](#) >



the journey

Days 1 & 2

San Francisco to Healdsburg

YOUR GUIDE(S) WILL MEET YOU IN THE BUSTLING CITY BY the bay and we'll traverse the iconic Golden Gate Bridge to kickstart this Northern California adventure. Arriving in Bodega Bay, a sleepy fishing village along the Northern California coast, we'll hop on our bikes and pedal along the rugged coastline before heading inland along the renowned Russian River. After lunch in nearby Duncans Mills, enjoy a select tasting at Thomas George Winery, well celebrated for its pinot noirs and chardonnays. A short drive will bring us to our accommodations for the next few nights in the small town of Healdsburg, at heart of Dry Creek Valley. Here, you can check in and unwind in your spacious modern suite. We'll meet later this evening before venturing out into the plaza for dinner at Barndiva.

The next day's cycling route is sure to be one of your favourites, as we pass by small "ma and pa" vintners on the tranquil backroads of the Dry Creek region, which afford some spectacular valley views. Our lunch stop today is at a trip favourite—the surprisingly upscale Dry Creek General Store. We'll hang up our helmets at Dry Creek Vineyards, the region's first winemaker that had a vision of producing Loire Valley wines in a region that was previously limited to family farming and prune orchards. Here, we'll have an in-depth, hands-on experience, as we're given the tools to take a stab at the art of blending varietals in a Meritage: Art of Blending tutorial. This afternoon, if you want more miles, you're welcome to pedal along one of our additional routes—an option each day for those who want more time in the saddle. If you're content with the standard distance,

we'll gladly shuttle you back to the hotel. Relax there by the pool or treat yourself to the spa before dinner on your own this evening.



HOTEL

Hotel Healdsburg

Located in the heart of North Sonoma Wine Country, Hotel Healdsburg is the ideal venue for a romantic weekend, celebration or company meeting. A resort unto itself, the Hotel Healdsburg offers a full-service spa, pool, country gardens, and Charlie Palmer's Dry Creek Kitchen.

THE BIKING

Day 1: 32 km (20 mi) of gently rolling terrain that follows the coast before heading inland. There is an option today for a longer 53 km (33 mi) ride.

Day 2: 34 km (21 mi) through Dry Creek vineyard country, with an option to keep pedaling up to 69 km (43 mi).

Days 3 & 4

Geyserville to Napa Valley

Today we'll say au revoir to Sonoma County, but not before we pedal east into the warmer Alexander Valley, famous for world-class Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel varietals. Along the way, our morning ride will first bring

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us to the small town of Geyserville, where you can sip a cappuccino and soak in the California sun. Afterward, we'll arrive by bike into the heart of Alexander Valley, where we'll stop at the picturesque Robert Young Estate. Here, we'll learn about the five generations of farming that have culminated into one of the most outstanding winemaking operations around. You can judge for yourself as you sip on their Signature Chardonnays and Cabernet Sauvignons, overlooking the valley below. Lunch today will be a gourmet picnic for you to enjoy alongside the estate wines at Robert Young. Lie on the grass and stare at the clouds as you digest lunch and the amazing experiences that Sonoma has to offer before we make our way to Napa Valley. There you'll settle into the region's most famous resort, where another opportunity for a massage awaits to assist with those weary muscles from the last few days of riding and playing. Dinner tonight is a real treat as we take a table in one of acclaimed chef Cindy Pawlcyn's restaurants, Cindy's Backstreet Kitchen.



Rise and shine. Odds are that the sun will make another brilliant appearance today in a region that gets over 300 days of sunshine annually—and we'll revel in it as we explore by bike. Our ride today will take us into bucolic Pope Valley where ranching seems as prolific as

winemaking. Birds of prey soar overhead and deer graze in fields while you pedal along virtually car-free roads. We'll freshen up at ride's end before setting out to Yountville for lunch on your own. You may consider Bistro Jeanty, the only French-owned and operated restaurant in Napa Valley. From lunch, we'll head over to the Silver Oak winery for a private tour and tasting. You'll have time to enjoy the resort amenities and relax back at Auberge du Soleil this evening before we head down for dinner in the hotel's Michelin starred restaurant.



HOTEL

Auberge du Soleil

Its renowned restaurant has made Auberge du Soleil a destination in and of itself in Napa. One feels as though they are at a Mediterranean hideaway nestled among the olive groves. All rooms offer lavish amenities and every comfort imaginable. Its position in a gorgeous natural setting is perfect for relaxation, yet only five minutes away from St. Helena.

THE ACTIVITY

Day 3: Either 32 or 64 km rolling km (20 or 40 mi) through to lunch and the Robert Young Estate.

Day 4: 27 km (17 mi) (or 48 km (30 mi) if you opt for the long route) as we wind our way towards St Helena.

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Day 5
Homeward Bound

Another full day awaits before saying our goodbyes today! We'll pedal to the famed Oakville Grocery Store—another iconic gourmet food shop, before lunch at the multiple award winning Bistro Jeanty. A tasting at one of our favorite producers of artisan Napa wines will round out our trip together before we head back to San Francisco.



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Notes From the Road

By **Jonathan Lansdell**

Given our affinity for great cycling, fantastic wines, charming hotels and a slower pace of life it's no surprise to find us here in Northern California—or to learn that we have been rolling down these quiet roads and sipping the award winning wines now for a number of years!

We've sent private groups here, seen our guides (and former CEO!) move here, and it seems half of our staff have vacationed here at some point in their lives. So after much deliberation over which vineyards to visit and which routes to take, we designed this four-night trip that brings people together in a small and intimate group.

We visit our favourite vintners for select tastings of the estates' best vintages, whilst making time to relax and enjoy world class hotels. The rolling countryside and terrain would be enticing enough for any keen cyclist, as we pedal through the Sonoma Valley flanked by mountain ranges to either side. Vineyards are mixed in with more traditional farms, reminders of why European and Mexican settlers started staying here nearly 200 years ago.

Our journey takes us into the rolling hills of Napa and a hotel that will prove hard to leave, for all of the right reasons. This is a part of the world that you'll want to keep coming back to (we certainly do!)



B&R TRIP PLANNER

Jonathan Lansdell

Born and raised in Britain, John claims to have become a travel researcher at the age 16—the summer he first went backpacking through France “on scholarship funds”. Nowadays, this creative thinker keeps busy organizing our portfolio of trips in South East Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East.

Other questions?

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The Details



the details

2018 Price:

From \$4,995
(\$2000 single supplement)

Single supplement is based on the most affordable rooms within B&R's allocation. Upgrades often available.

Duration

5 Days / 4 Nights

Please see our website for list of departures.

Start

San Francisco

W Hotel

9:00 am

Finish

San Francisco

Downtown

Approx. 4:30pm

HOTEL TYPE

Signature Hotels

Hotels on our Signature trips are unique expressions of the region. Oftentimes that means they've had a previous life as a monastery or a castle, but in every case it means they offer both an exceptionally comfortable stay and a taste of the region's culture. Best of all, we're friends with our hoteliers. (Translation? Preferential treatment for you.)

LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

Enthusiast

Rides focus on rolling hilled terrain, and range from 27 km (17 mi) to 69 km (43 mi), with option of a long or short ride every day.

HOTEL W, SAN FRANCISCO

Smartly styled and a dynamic design combined with the cool comfort of downtown San Francisco, Hotel W will help you absorb the energy of this vibrant city. Rooms are spacious and expertly styled to offer you the utmost comfort on your West Coast journey.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All accommodation
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Services of B&R guide(s) and support vehicle
- All special events, private tours, guest experts and entrance fees
- Choice of either a Cannondale hybrid or road bike, and helmet
- Detailed maps, route suggestions and water bottle
- All transportation from rendezvous to drop-off
- All gratuities for baggage, porters, hotel service and local support

MORE INFO

How do I get to San Francisco?

Since most international flights use San Francisco airport, just 14 miles outside of San Francisco, this will most likely be your point of arrival, unless you have pre-trip plans elsewhere in California. There are numerous ways of getting into San Francisco from the airport, but the most trouble-free is by taxi. The taxis stands are located outside of the arrival luggage area and are marked by yellow paint. The ride takes 30 minutes and costs approximately US\$40. Another alternative to the city is the shuttle. These are located outside on the second level at the departure area.

Other questions?
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The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather may also necessitate minor alterations. Prices are per person and in USD. © 2017 Butterfield & Robinson Inc.



your next steps

At Butterfield & Robinson, the guiding starts while you're still at home. We make sure you know everything you need to know before you've even left your living room.

READY TO BOOK?

- Call or email a Travel Advisor (or your travel agent) with any remaining questions, and to reserve your space.
1-800-678-1147 / info@butterfield.com
- Reserve your flights to and from the region.
- Book your hotel accommodation for the night before your B&R trip.
- Make sure your passport is up to date.
- Enquire after travel insurance.

Once you are confirmed on a B&R trip, you will receive a Confirmation Email that contains tons of information to help you prepare for your trip. Then, about a month before you leave, we will send you a list of your fellow travellers, final rendezvous instructions and your hotel contact numbers.

Weather: Napa, California

month	high	low
Jan/Feb	57	38
Mar/Apr	66	41
May/Jun	75	48
Jul/Aug	79	53
Sep/Oct	77	45
Nov/Dec	60	38

YOUR BIKE

We pride ourselves on having the very best equipment for each activity and locale, maintained by expert staff and custom tweaked just for you. To learn about our biking equipment and see pictures of what you'll be riding, visit us at butterfield.com/about/equipment/bikes. And don't forget that we will modify your bike to accommodate most special gear requests. Just ask.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Sign up to receive *The Slow Road* our newsletter that is full of travel news, unique offers and B&R insider info.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about your B&R experience—big, small or downright quirky—please call a Travel Advisor, or consult your Travel Professional. We are always happy to help.

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