

17 California: What to see and where to go

Presenter: Hi everybody, and welcome to our travel programme *Amazing Planet*. Today we are talking to David Schürer about America's most populated state: California. David, what is so special about the Golden State?

David: Firstly, California has been called the Golden State for a long time. In 1968 it was made the official nickname of California. I think it's from the time when a lot of gold was found in California. That was the Gold Rush in 1848.

Presenter: So why did you come to California?

David: I was born in New York City but when I was six years old, my family moved to Germany. My father is German, and he had been offered a good job. So, I spent the next 15 years in Germany, but then moved to California to study. I loved California and travelled a lot.

Presenter: What did you like most?

David: Well, there are so many different things to see: big cities, wonderful beaches, the biggest trees on earth, fantastic national parks with forests and mountains and you can go skiing and walking in the desert, too. It's amazing.

Presenter: Where would you go first if you were visiting California?

David: Los Angeles is probably the first place to visit. Some people think LA is the capital of California. But it isn't, it's the biggest city in California. The capital is Sacramento which is a lot smaller than Los Angeles. If you like movies you can visit the Hollywood Studios and the Walk of Fame in LA. I like San Francisco best. On the one side there are the hills and the ocean on the other. It's a very hilly city, so walking in San Francisco is like hiking. You can also travel on a cable car. They are a very typical San Francisco thing and a tourist attraction, too. A great tourist attraction is the Golden Gate Bridge. It's 1.6 kilometres long and was built between 1933 and 1937. It took 4 years 3 months and 14 days to build. And one fun fact: the architects wanted to paint the bridge black and yellow.

Presenter: Black and yellow? Why?

David: So, the ships coming into San Francisco Bay could see the bridge better. The builders decided to paint the bridge orange so the planes can see it.

Presenter: Thank you David for telling us about San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. Obviously, San Francisco is your favourite city in California. We are now going to take a break and then talk about national parks in California.