Daily Itinerary
Day 1: Arrive San Francisco Bay Area
Today board your flight bound for the Bay Area to begin your California Rail Discovery. Upon arrival meet your Tour Director and transfer to your hotel to begin a two-night stay in one of the world’s most beautiful cities, San Francisco. “The City by the Bay” highlights fascinating museums, world-class cuisine & amazing shopping. Tonight enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers.

Meals: (D)  Overnight: San Francisco

Day 2: San Francisco City Tour - San Francisco Bay Cruise
Today enjoy a San Francisco City Tour to see the Civic Center area, Chinatown, Golden Gate Park, Union Square, Seal Rocks, Pacific Heights & Pier 39. Experience a San Francisco Bay Cruise featuring views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz & the city’s skyline. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to browse the storefronts along Fisherman’s Wharf, sample a chowder filled sourdough bread bowl or take a Cable Car ride. Maybe join an optional excursion to Muir Woods to see some of the oldest & tallest Redwood trees in the world.

Meals: (B,D)  Overnight: San Francisco

Day 3: San Francisco - Sausalito - Winery - Sacramento
This morning cross the Golden Gate Bridge to visit the picturesque city of Sausalito, where you can browse the numerous art galleries and shops. From Sausalito the views looking back at the San Francisco Bay Area are spectacular. This afternoon enter California’s most popular wine region for a Winery Tour & Tasting to sample the famous local product and learn about wine making. Later travel to Sacramento, California’s capital and River City to check into your hotel for a two-night stay.

Meals: (B,D)  Overnight: Sacramento

Day 4: Napa Valley Wine Train - Old Town Sacramento
After breakfast travel to California’s famous Napa Valley where hundreds of wineries prosper. Board the Napa Valley Wine Train to enjoy a Wine Tasting & Lunch as you roll along the tracks through the incredibly scenic wine country. This memorable dining experience in faithfully restored Pullman rail cars evokes the spirit of early 1900’s luxury rail travel. Later travel back and visit Old Town Sacramento, the commercial hub of the Gold Rush Era is filled with shops, restaurants and entertainment venues yet retains 1800’s charm with original storefronts and wooden sidewalks.

Meals: (B,L)  Overnight: Sacramento

Day 5: Sacramento - Sierra Nevada Rail Journey - Lake Tahoe
Today board an Amtrak Train for a Sierra Nevada Rail Journey through the beautiful snow capped Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Lake Tahoe area. Disembark your train in Truckee and board your motorcoach to drive to the spectacular year round resort area of Lake Tahoe to spend the next two evenings in the popular and revitalized South Lake Tahoe/Stateline area.

Meals: (B,D)  Overnight: Lake Tahoe

Day 6: Virginia City - Lake Tahoe Cruise
This morning travel through historic Carson City, capital of the Silver State of Nevada enroute to visit Virginia City, site of the Comstock Lode and once the richest place in the world. The famous Old West town was once the west’s mining metropolis and featured notable residents Mark Twain & Bret Harte. Later enjoy a Lake Tahoe Paddlewheeler Cruise for spectacular views of picturesque Emerald Bay & the snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains. Tonight’s Farewell Dinner will be at a popular local restaurant.

Meals: (B,D,L)  Overnight: Lake Tahoe

Day 7: Lake Tahoe - Sacramento Airport
Today transfer to the Sacramento airport & return home with wonderful memories of your California Rail Discovery.

Meals: (B)
Dear Alabama Alumni and Friends,

A crimson bridge, cable cars, a sparkling bay, and streets lined with elegant Victorian homes—San Francisco is undeniably one of the world’s great cities. Reason enough to join us on a spectacular seven day journey through Northern California on the California Rail Discovery.

Begin your trip with a two night stay in the Fisherman’s Wharf area of San Francisco. A tour of the “City by the Bay” will show the city’s many highlights & features - a San Francisco Bay Cruise for spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and the beautiful skyline. An afternoon and evening at leisure will let you explore this great city on your own. The next day cross the Golden Gate Bridge for a visit to the picturesque town of Sausalito, before heading inland for a Winery Tour & Tasting and then onto Sacramento. Old Sacramento is a unique 28-acre National Historic Landmark District and State Historic Park that lives in homage to California’s beginning with the Gold Rush of 1849. Explore the Napa Valley Wine Country as you board the famous Napa Valley Wine Train for lunch and wine tasting. Relive history as you roll through the Napa Valley onboard vintage Pullman railcars – this is sure to be a highlight. Continuing your travels, board another train, Amtrak’s California Zephyr which heads east into the spectacular snow-capped Sierra Nevada Mountains and disembark in Truckee near Lake Tahoe. Enjoy two nights at a resort in Lake Tahoe in the scenic and popular South Tahoe area. Discover the historic town of Virginia City, once considered the richest city in America during its’ Old West mining days. Finally a Paddlewheeler Cruise on Lake Tahoe and a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant will cap off your western adventure.

Please review the itinerary details and count the extras. We hope you can join us and agree this is an amazing and exciting trip.

Cheers,

Jamie Burke
University of Alabama Alumni Association
Travelin’ With the Tide