

You Personalized America Exploration Program may include any of the following:

Northern California

Chinese American Schools, Alameda <http://casalameda.org/>

CAS Alameda provides opportunities for Asian students to study abroad through a variety of means. American Exploration is one of the programs which allow students to come experience America on a short-term basis. Students attending American Exploration are exposed to intense conversational English in a classroom context (mornings) and then given personalized guided tours of the educational, historical and scenic sites in the Bay Area in the afternoon. Below you will find a sampling of the typical sites that are included in our Northern California portion:

UC Berkeley <http://berkeley.edu/>

National rankings consistently place UC Berkeley's undergraduate and graduate programs among the world's best. Berkeley is home to top scholars in every discipline, accomplished writers and musicians, star athletes, and stellar scientists — all drawn to this public university by its rich opportunities for groundbreaking research, innovative thinking and creativity, and service to society. Campus life consists of a diverse student body in the middle of the busy and fast paced environment of the Bay Area.

Stanford University <http://www.stanford.edu/>

Stanford undergraduates have opportunities to study with faculty in small classes from their first days on campus, participate in study abroad or spend a quarter in Washington, D.C. Many students become involved in faculty research or develop their own projects and discover the excitement of being at the edge of a field and advancing the frontier of knowledge. Stanford's students have opportunities to participate in a remarkable range of activities: from academic courses taught by renowned professors and opportunities for research, independent study and public service to an extraordinary breadth of extracurricular activities.

Great Mall <http://www.simon.com/mall/default.aspx?ID=1250>

Great Mall features the best names in manufacturers' and retail outlets including, Coach Factory Store, Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5TH, Abercrombie & Fitch Outlet, bebe Outlet, Hollister Outlet, Victoria's Secret, and American Eagle Outfitters. If you're seeking entertainment, Dave & Buster's, Century Theaters and Outback Steakhouse are here to meet your needs!

Stanford Shopping Center <http://www.simon.com/mall/landing/841/>

We are San Francisco Bay Area's premier shopping and dining experience. Discover Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom, Macy's plus 140 other world class stores, restaurants and services. One of the few open air centers in the U.S., Stanford Shopping Center features spectacular, award winning gardens and picturesque sculptures by California artists. Enjoy our European-style street market where the scents of gourmet coffees, fresh flowers and international cuisine fill the air.

Chabot Space and Science Center <http://www.chabotspace.org/index.htm>

Founded as an observatory in 1883, today Chabot offers visitors the very latest in hands-on, interactive exhibits, displays, and Planetarium and large-screen shows that explore the mysteries of the universe and of life here on earth. Combined with a full program of activity-filled classes, workshops, summer camps, outreach programs and special events, Chabot Space & Science Center has become the Bay Area's go to destination for visitors of all ages who want to discover and learn about space and earth sciences.

NASA Ames exploration Center <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ames/home/index.html>

The NASA Ames Exploration Center is a place where visitors can experience NASA technology and missions first hand. The facility boasts the largest Immersive Theater on the West Coast. The theater presents panoramic views of Mars and Saturn's rings as well as other eye-popping movies and special effects on a curved 40 foot wide screen.

San Francisco <http://adventure.howstuffworks.com/san-francisco-city-guide11.htm>

S.F. Pier 39 <http://www.pier39.com/index.cfm>

PIER 39, San Francisco's Premier Bay Attraction, is a festive shopping mecca featuring 110 specialty shops and 14 full-service restaurants serving seafood, California cuisine, and casual fare with beautiful Bay views. At PIER 39 the picturesque scenery captures Alcatraz, the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges, Fisherman's Wharf and the city skyline.

S.F. - Ghirardelli Square <http://www.ghirardellisq.com/>

Ghirardelli Square, considered the first successful adaptive re-use project in the country, was originally a chocolate factory established by Domenico "Domingo" Ghirardelli. In 1966, when the chocolate manufacturing was sold and moved to San Leandro, unique shops and restaurants were created within the old factory combining the latest in retailing and fine cuisine with the flavor of old San Francisco.

S.F. - Lombard St <http://www.sftravel.com/lomabardcrookedstreet.html>

With eight sharp turns, or switch backs, between Leavensworth and Hyde streets on Russian Hill, Lombard Street is considered one of the most crooked streets in the world. This section of the street is so crooked in fact, that it is only one way going down Russian Hill.

S.F.- Ferry Building <http://ferrybuildingmarketplace.com/>

The Ferry Building in San Francisco is the center of a transit hub that connects all of San Francisco's neighborhoods and the surrounding bay communities. A place where local farmers, artisan producers, and independently owned and operated food businesses and the customers can come together buy and sell food all the while sharing their passion of food with each other.

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk <http://beachboardwalk.com/>

Recently named the world's "Best Seaside Amusement Park" by industry experts, the 102-year old Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk features both modern and classic thrill rides, restaurants, miniature golf, video game arcades, and family bowling, all located on a mile of sandy beach.

Southern California

College Tours <http://www.ucla.edu/> <http://www.usc.edu/>

There are a variety of private and public universities in Southern California. Two of the favorites are USC (University of Southern California – a private university) and UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles – a public university). Both campuses offer world class educational opportunities as well student led tours of the beautifully appointed facilities.

Disneyland <http://disneyland.disney.go.com/>

The original Disneyland is found in Southern California. Opened in 1955, it still is the “Happiest Place on Earth” In Disneyland, there is fun for all ages and attractions that will thrill, excite, and amaze you!

Universal Studios <http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com/>

Home of the Stars, Universal Studios is a actual working studio (they still make movies there!) that offers many rides and attractions – similar to Disneyland. You can take your picture with many characters that are found throughout the park, and who knows, maybe you will see an actual Hollywood movie star!

Magic Mountain <http://www.sixflags.com/magicMountain/rides/AllRides.aspx>

If you're into roller coasters, Magic Mountain is the place for you! With over 15 roller coasters in the park, you will certainly find one just for you.

Los Angeles Tour <http://adventure.howstuffworks.com/los-angeles-city-guide.htm>

There are many sights to see in the Los Angeles area. The tour takes in Hollywood: Avenue of the Stars, Grumman Theater, and the Kodak Theater. Other sites include famous homes, Rodeo Drive, as well as the beautiful beaches of Southern California.

Medieval Times Theme Dinner <http://www.medievaltimes.com/>

This dinner will make you feel like you've been transported back to medieval times. It includes a jousting tournament, sword play, as well as a King and Queen.