



The California Trail Journey

Your travel group will experience the natural beauty of the East Humboldt Mountains as generations of immigrants saw it. Tour the California Trail Center to see how they accomplished this arduous journey, rest and regroup in Carlin's peaceful Chinese Gardens, take in the crag-bound beauty of Angel Lake – and be back in Elko in time for a Basque-style dinner.



Itinerary Highlights

- Visit the new California Trail Center and see life from the eyes of travelers along the trail during its peak.
- Spend some tranquil time in the town of Carlin before heading out to Carlin Canyon Historical Wayside for a dose of history and geology.
- In Wells, discover the Trail of the 49ers Interpretive Center, which houses a museum and an extensive collection of Western history books. Then stop at Angel Lake, one of the most beautiful spots in the Elko area.



California Trail Journey Itinerary

1. Start in **Elko, Nevada**, where the Ruby Mountains provide a photoworthy backdrop for this history-rich journey. Travelling 8 miles west of town brings you to the **California Trail Center**, a

\$20 million project that reveals just how much work it took for families to come out west. You'll see everything from dioramas depicting life on the trail to artifacts that tell stories of their own. And don't forget to "See the Elephant", and find out what that expression meant to the 250,000 people who made the trek down the California Trail.

2. From the California Trail Center, your group will travel to Carlin, just a few miles west along Interstate 80. Carlin's history was heavily influenced by two things: the Gold Rush and the building of the railroads. The latter brought an influx of Chinese immigrant workers; their influence is felt in the **Chinese Gardens Nature Study Area**. After a soothing stroll, you'll go on to **Carlin Canyon Historical Wayside**, where you can see more than 3,000 years of geological history in the rock formations. Informative historical markers also highlight the experiences of the Native American, European, and Chinese workers and wanderers who were so instrumental in establishing this site.
3. From Carlin, it's back to **Elko** for lunch. Groups can be accommodated at a number of local restaurants, where cuisine choices include Japanese, Italian, Chinese, American, Mexican, and more.
4. After lunch, your travel group will head east on I-80 to nearby Wells. Here you'll start out at the **Trail of the 49ers Interpretive Center**. This building is dedicated to the history of the Old West, right down to the period covered wagon. In addition to artifacts and exhibits, the Center is also home to a gift shop and Wells' Visitor Center.
5. From the town of Wells, groups can take Highway 231 up to **Angel Lake**. At 8,400 feet above sea level, this beautiful lake is surrounded by the craggy peaks of the East Humboldt Mountain Range. It's a popular spot for hiking, fishing, or just taking snapshots of the magnificent flowers, birds, and wildlife.
6. After Angel Lake, you and your group return to **Elko** for dinner at one of the town's Basque restaurants. What better way to round out a memorable day with food inspired by a unique culture?

The people who travelled down the California Trail went in search of dreams and freedom, prosperity and a better life. Groups who travel the California Trail Journey will not only have a better understanding of the perseverance that trek required, they'll also have an unforgettable trip among some of the world's most unique and beautiful scenery!