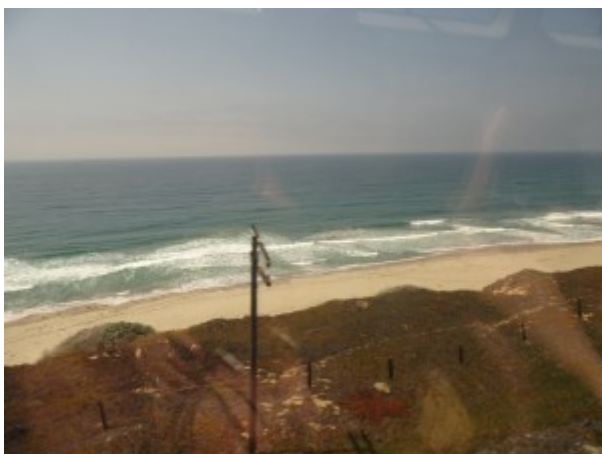


American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
then onto Yosemite National Park and
back home.

It was our last trip on the Amtrak trains, and
one we had been looking forward to, as we
knew some of it hugged the dramatic coast-
line of the West Coast of America, The Pacific

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Ocean! We couldn't believe that we had
then onto Yosemite National Park and
made it to the west coast, over 3000 miles,
back home.
from New York where we had started, and
over 5000 miles away from London!

It was a long journey lasting over 11 hours,
but we spent some time in the observation
lounge watching the ever changing coastline-
we even saw a school of dolphins swimming
just off the shore.



American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Yosemite National Park and
back home.



Lunch and Dinner was taken on the train,
and we disembarked around 21:30 at Oak-
lands, just outside of San Fransisco.



American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Yosemite National Park and
back home.

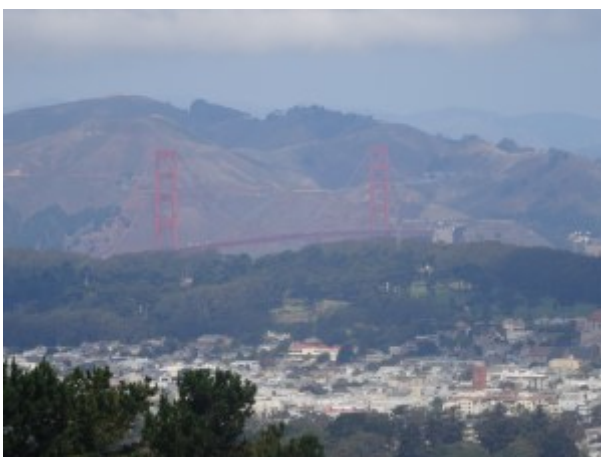


We were up early the next day as we were off on a guided coach tour of San Fransisco, which was fabulous, it took in all the sights, including the famous Lombard Street (a very steep and windy picturesque road), The Palace of Arts, The Golden Gate Bridge and even a fine view of the city from Twin Peaks. Our guide was really knowledgable and we thoroughly enjoyed the morning. We were dropped off at Fishermans Wharf, a lively area by the sea at lunch time, and along with our friends, Steve and Arlene, we popped for

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
a swift beer followed by some local crab for
then onto Yosemite National Park and
lunch. It was a lovely spot, and we even saw
back home.
the famous San Fransisco sea lions.



American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Yosemite National Park and
back home.

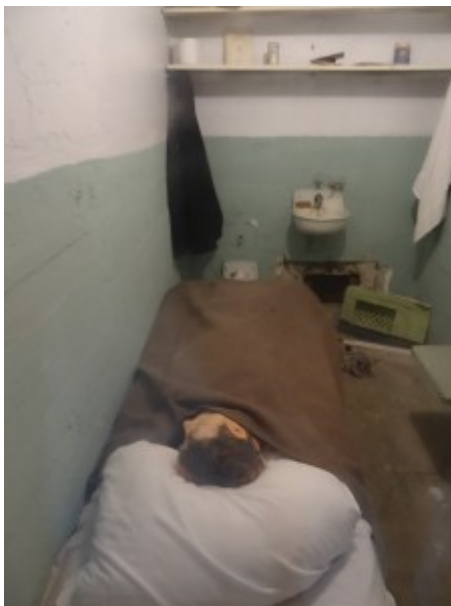


American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Yosemite National Park and
back home.



Later that afternoon we visited the infamous Alcatraz. We had booked our tickets well in advance, and a good job too, as it was totally sold out for the time we were there. It was an incredible trip- what an interesting place to visit. The old prison has been left as it was when it was in use- the cells are all available

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak "Coast
Starlight" from LA to San Francisco
to view and the audio tour was fascinating,
then onto Yosemite National Park and
telling tales of prisoners who had been held
back home.
at Alcatraz and also those who escaped.



That evening we joined Steve and Arlene on
a trip into Chinatown for dinner. We travelled
on the famous San Francisco "Cable Cars"- in-
teresting, as we all thought they were going
to be up high in the air, but in fact they are
little wooden boxes that travel on the middle

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
of the road- more like trams, come to think
then onto Yosemite National Park and
about it. They are fascinating to ride on, back home.
even a little scary actually, they whiz up and
down the hills and the braking system is noth-
ing other than a wooden block that traps un-
der the wheel!! Also, the health and safety
regs obviously aren't a priority over there as
there was nothing to prevent you hanging
out of the side as the carriage was hurtling
up or down the hill!



American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Yosemite National Park and
back home.



Next day was a free day, and our last free day in San Fransisco. We were up fairly early and got the metro bus down to Golden Gate park. We enjoyed a visit to The Japanese Tea

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Francisco
Gardens, then had a pleasant walk through
then onto Yosemite National Park and
the park, and onto Haight Street, famous in
back home.
its day for the “hippy” part of town. In fact,
back in The Summer of Love, this was where
the hippy subculture began. Nowadays,
traces of these hippy days are still evident,
the street hosts independent stores, restau-
rants, book stores, smoke shops, and even a
naked man with nothing other than a sock on
his you know what! We enjoyed a nice Thai
meal before carrying on. This section of town
was home to some of our favourite bits of ar-
chitecture in the whole city. Beautiful wood-
en townhouses, with turrets and bags of
style.

American adventures on Amtrak- Part 10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco



tional Park and
back home.



American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Francisco
then onto Yosemite Park and
back home.

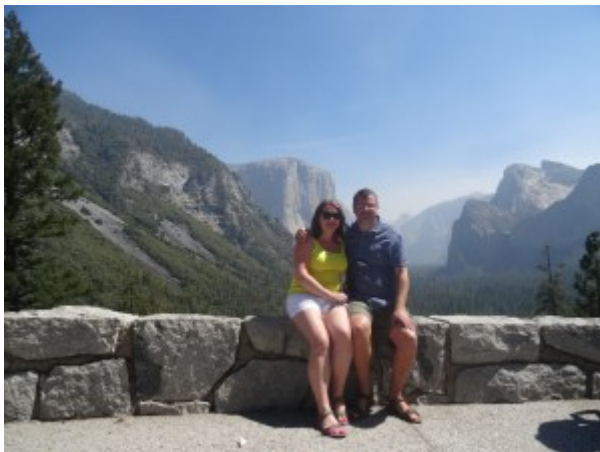


American adventures on Amtrak- Part 10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco into Yosemite National Park and back home.



Once back at the hotel, it was time to say farewell to the rest of our tour group, including the tour manager. They were all flying back to England Monday afternoon, but Keith and I were staying on for an extra couple of nights as we had booked an extension to Yosemite National Park. There were a couple of hiccups on this final chapter of our journey, but I won't discuss them online yet as its currently under investigation. Despite the hiccups, we were pleased to take in

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Yosemite, its a breathtakingly beautiful part
of the world. then onto Yosemite National Park and
back home.



There is an excellent free shuttle which operates around the National Park making it accessible without the huge hikes, however there are plenty of trails for different abilities. We did a short walk on our first afternoon taking in Yosemite Falls, which sadly had dried up as California is in the middle of a 3 year drought. Still the glacier cliff face was amazing, and the tall trees were HUGE!

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Francisco
into Yosemite National Park and
back home.



Next day we did the trail up to Vernon Falls-
around a 3 mile circular trail which went
quite steep! Still, it was worth it as we found
some water in the waterfall. The views are
just beautiful.

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
Yosemite National Park and
back home.



Soon, it was time for our transfer back to San Francisco for our final night before our flight home. We were feeling sad that our adventure was over, but satisfied and in awe of the places that we had travelled to. It had been our first experience on an organised tour, and we absolutely LOVED it. Having a tour manager with us throughout was a luxury, he took the stress and the thinking out of every aspect, meaning we could relax and just enjoy. For anyone thinking of exploring USA, we would **highly recommend Great Rail USA**

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak "Coast
Starlight" from LA to San Fransisco
Coast to Coast. All the Americans that we
then onto Yosemite National Park and
met on our journey were impressed with the
itinerary, several saying that we were seeing
more of America than 80% of Americans. It
was extremely well organised and our tour
manager, John Levick was a true pro. He
stayed calm no matter what, was informa-
tive, friendly and totally in control. He took
care of our cases, our tickets, everything. All
we had to do was turn up on time and follow
like sheep!

Seriously, if you fancy taking a trip of a life-
time, without the hassle of driving (I still can-
not get my head around HOW BIG America
is!!!) this tour is for you.

American adventures on Amtrak- Part
10 travelling on the Amtrak “Coast
Starlight” from LA to San Fransisco
then onto Yosemite National Park and
back home.

Share this:

- **Share on X (Opens in new window) X**
- **Share on Facebook (Opens in new window) Facebook**
- **Share on Pinterest (Opens in new window) Pinterest**
- **Share on WhatsApp (Opens in new window) WhatsApp**
- **Email a link to a friend (Opens in new window) Email**