

電子報四 (California Road Trip)

After my quarter ended in March, my friends and I decided to take a road trip down to LA and then back. The trip took around 10 days and was one of the best experiences of my life. If you are one of those people who love to travel I definitely recommend renting a car with some friends and hitting the road. The west coast is actually insanely beautiful but you will not be able to see these places without a car. Here are some things to take into consideration.

1. Car rental

Link: <https://www.enterprise.com/en/car-rental/locations/us/wa/seattle.html>

Rental Fee: \$809

Gas: \$400

Per person: \$303.3

Car rental expenses is definitely a big part of your budget. We had three people to go on the trip so each person ended up spending about \$300 just for the car and gas. The reason why the rental fee is so expensive is that the car company charges an extra \$100 if you are under 25 and also an extra \$200 for insurance. The insurance is optional but I recommend it because if you wreck the car it's going to way more than just a mere \$200. Plus, we are covering too much mileage and too young to take such a risk. Also, if you A租B還 the price will double because they count in the expense to ship the car back! All in all, renting a car is a must if you want to experience the full beauty of the west coast!

2. Accommodation

Link: www.Booking.com, www.trivago.com

Around: \$80 per night

The motels in the states look a bit sketchy at first on the outside, but the interior is actually quite nice. Just be careful to choose hotels that have a higher rating and don't pick hotels that are extremely cheap. Also, there are some districts in the big cities that are super dangerous such as Compton in LA. These districts are flooded with gangs and you will never want to step foot in there. Don't worry, they are not easily accessible by tourists though.

3. Route Planning

day 1

Mount Saint Helens

Portland

Day2

portland

outlet

Bend

Day3

Crater lake

Crescent City

Day 4

Crescent city

Redwoods National Forest

Confusion Hill

Santa Rosa

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park [Camp]

Day 5

San Francisco

Day 6 (March. 20)
Yosemite [Camp]

Day7 (March. 21)
San - LA

Day8 (March. 22)
DisneyLand

Day9 (March. 23)
LA - Redding

Day10 (March. 24)
Redding - Seattle
22:30 return car

This was our plan for your reference. Basically, a perfect time length to drive is about 3~4 hours each day. A bit more than that then it gets really tiring. We were unlucky that it rained a lot during the trip so if you plan on camping, you should consider a plan b just in case the weather is bad. in the last two days, we drove the car from LA all the way back to Seattle because the car rental would be cheaper that way as mentioned above. With enough rest, it was a tiring but doable trip back. In conclusion, this was one of the most fun trips for me in my entire life and I strongly recommend going with a couple of friends! Drive safe and enjoy the amazing view of the west coast!