

MPD TOUR AMERICA, INC.

SMG –California Experience Tour

FEB 26 to MARCH 4, 2011

Dear Traveler and Host Family:

We hope that you are looking forward to your tour of California! Your tour will begin in San Francisco, “The City by the Bay”, where you will visit Fisherman’s Wharf, North Beach and Chinatown, ferry ride past Alcatraz Prison to Sausalito for lunch stop and see so many other great sites. Of course no tour of San Francisco would be complete without a walk over the “Golden Gate Bridge” to see the breathtaking view of the San Francisco Bay and a cable car ride through the city streets. Then take a stroll on the famous Berkley Campus of the University of California.

Then along with other exchange students from around the world, your tour guides and chaperones you will board the deluxe motor coach and head down the “Coast”. After making some picturesque stops along the way, it’s on to Los Angeles, “The City of Angels”. Here Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Venice Beach and the Southern California sun await you. Oh! And don’t forget a full day at Universal Studios, you’ll take a tour where movies are really made plus Universal’s spectacular attractions. Time to relax after a full day at the Park with dinner at Universal Studio’s Hard Rock Café on the famous “City Walk”. Wow! What a trip, see you on the Coast!

You will be staying at the following hotels:

This hotel you will be lodging at for 3 nights: Feb26th, 2011 Checkout March 1st.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

373 S. Airport Blvd.

San Francisco, CA 94080

Telephone: 650-589-0600

This hotel is located near San Francisco Airport close to the city.

This hotel you will be lodging at for 3 nights: March 1st Checkout March 4th.

FOUR POINTS SHERATON - LAX

Located: 9750 Airport Blvd. Los Angeles, Ca

Telephone: 310- 645-4600

This hotel is located near Los Angeles (LAX) airport and is approximately 5 minutes from the airport. Also, this hotel has an outdoor heated swimming pool.

.....

REMINDER OF TRIP RULES!

2.

There will be a curfew every night. This trip has long days, and many night time activities. We do room checks each night to make sure everyone is in their own rooms; we expect cooperation with these rules.

We expect everyone to abide by all U.S. laws, as well as rules of your host organizations.

We have zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol. If drugs or alcohol are found in your room, we will assume the whole room is involved.

We do not discipline students: We send you back to your host families at your own expense and allow your host organization to punish you in any manner they see fit.

This is an English speaking tour. There are many languages and countries represented on this trip, please try to keep this in mind.

This is a group trip, which means that all the activities are geared to the whole group. There are opportunities to shop in little groups, but never alone. We have a policy of having at least 2 or more students together when breaking off from large groups for shopping etc.

SMOKING: This is a non-smoking trip. If you plan on smoking you will need to bring a copy of your host organization paperwork allowing you to smoke, and we will allow you to smoke as well. No paperwork means no smoking! Also you must abide all smoking laws in the states we are traveling to.

Your guides will review further rules for this tour with you when you arrive. Just remember we want to have a safe and fun trip for All!

.....

AIRPORT INFORMATION

3.

**WHEN DEPARTING FROM YOUR DEPARTURE CITY AIRPORT:
PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK IF STUDENT HAS IDENTIFICATION WITH
THEM BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE AIRPORT JUST IN CASE THEY
NEED IT FOR SOME REASON DURING THE TOUR!**

Please arrive at your departure airport at least 1-1/2 hours before your flight, and allow more time if you are departing from a busy airport, airline, or terminal. Please be aware of restrictions on what you are not allowed to carry-on luggage (sharp items, liquids up to 3oz in a clear baggie etc.) All airports require you to check in and get a boarding pass before going through to security check and then onto gate area. Also you can print a boarding pass on some airlines online before going to the airport. You may want to call your airline and find out if your flight is on time and confirm yourself on that flight. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOU OR ANOTHER PICTURE I.D (Identification). IN CASE YOU NEED IT.** Sometimes you need this for identification when you are using Travelers' Checks etc.

WHEN CHECKING IN BAGGAGE (LUGGAGE) – MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A TAG WITH YOUR HOST FAMILY'S NAME, ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER ON IT! TAKE OFF YOUR NATURAL FAMILY'S TAG INFORMATION FOR THIS TRIP. IF YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE PLEASE KEEP CHARGER WITH YOU IN YOUR CARRY ON LUGGAGE.

If you are making connection flights, when you check in for your first flight, get assigned seats and boarding passes for your whole trip. Also, make sure you tell agent at check-in counter to put your luggage through to your final destination which is San Francisco (SFO) airport. When departing on March 12th you are departing from Los Angeles (LAX) have luggage go to your final destination (your host family town, airport.).

If your flight is cancelled or delayed more than 60 minutes, or if you are transferred to another airline, please call MPD Tour America, Inc. office at **1-800-983-7780** so we know where and when to meet you when you arrive. Do not miss your flight in order to telephone us. We will try and track your flight anyway if this should happen provided you gave us your flight itinerary prior to traveling.

ALSO, AS AN ALTERNATE NUMBER IF THE LINES ARE BUSY WITH OTHER STUDENTS, HOST FAMILIES, PLEASE WRITE DOWN THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND KEEP IT WITH YOU IN YOUR WALLET AT ALL TIMES.

1-917-376-7225 this will be the emergency number for airport days and also throughout the tour.

ARRIVAL DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO (SFO AIRPORT)

4.

Please go straight to baggage claim area – this is where our staff will be looking for you. Look for our staff holding a sign that reads:

MPD TOUR AMERICA



We will do our best to meet you at baggage claim area on time, however if other flights are delayed, it throws off our schedule. If you do not see us upon arrival, we are with other students. Please give us time to get there. Staff is all over airport in different terminals and it takes time to get to each terminal for different flight arrival times. We will be looking for you at baggage claim areas – so please stay in this area. Please do not panic, we are at the airport until each and every student on the tour arrives, but we are also helping students board buses, get baggage claim reports, etc. and sometimes this does take time. So please do not wonder off around the airport, especially if you meet other students. We need to make sure you arrived and we now responsible for you.

If your luggage is lost, please let staff know as soon as they meet you so that they can assist in filing a lost luggage claim form if you did not file one already. (Claim office is near baggage claim area).

Once a student is met we advise them to call the host family and tell them you have arrived safely! Atleast 50% will not call. PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT IF YOUR STUDENT DOES NOT SHOW UP WITH THEIR SCHEDULED FLIGHT WE WILL CALL YOU. IF YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM US – THIS MEANS EVERYTHING IS OK.

NOTE: ON DEPARTURE DAY FROM LOS ANGELES (LAX) TO YOUR HOST FAMILY WE WILL TRANSFER YOU FROM THE HOTEL TO (LAX AIRPORT) AND MAKE SURE FLIGHTS ARE GOING OUT. IF THERE IS A CANCELLATION OR DELAY WE WILL NOTIFY YOUR HOST FAMILY. BUT IF A CANCELLATION OR DELAY IS ON A CONNECTING FLIGHT WE WILL NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US SO YOU NEED TO NOTIFY YOUR HOST FAMILY OF CHANGES ONCE YOU FIND OUT IF ANY, BUT ONLY IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CALL THEM – DO NOT MISS A FLIGHT BY MAKING A TELEPHONE CALL!

BRIEF ITINERARY

- Day One:** Airport arrivals all day in San Francisco. Check in hotel. Get to know your activities. Dinner at hotel.
- Day Two:** A full day begins with a tour of San Francisco, making stops at Civic Center, Painted Ladies (Victorian Houses), Castro, Twin Peaks, Golden Gate Park. Walk over the Golden Gate Bridge. Lunch at Fisherman's Wharf. Visit Berkley Campus. Dinner at the Metro Citron Mall. Ride the famous San Francisco Cable Car back to our motorcoach pick-up area and transport back to hotel.
- Day Three:** Depart hotel for ferry at Fisherman's Wharf area and sail pass Alcatraz Prison to Sausalito for siteseeing and lunch stop. Lunch at Fisherman's Wharf. Board Motor coach to Ghirardelli Square shop for great chocolates. Board Motor Coach for Pier 39. Dinner and group photo on Pier dock. Meet Motorcoach with stops at North Beach, Chinatown and Lombard Street. Return to hotel via motorcoach.
- Day Four:** Travel to Los Angeles via motor coach. Stops along the way, dinner enroute to hotel in Los Angeles. Early Evening arrive at Hotel in Los Angeles.
- Day Five:** Depart hotel for Los Angeles city tour. Stops at Venice Beach, Santa Monica Beach and Mall (Lunch Food Court). Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Sunset Blvd.. Dinner at the Famous Farmer's Market. Board Motor coach for Melrose Ave. Return to Hotel via motorcoach.
- Day Six:** Depart hotel for Olvera Street and Union Station. Continue onto Universal Studios all day with lunch on own in Park. Group meets and walks to Hard Rock Café for dinner in the Universal City Walk. Free time after dinner to walk around City Walk for shopping. Board motor coach for hotel.
- Day Seven:** Breakfast at hotel. Time to say goodbyes and transfer to airport.

WEATHER INFORMATION:

Usually temperatures in San Francisco this time of year is usually comfortable high 50's - 60's. It usually is quite windy and cools down especially around Fisherman's Wharf around low 50's. Los Angeles and Southern California average in the low 60's to the high 70's. Temperatures can range from the 50's in the early morning to the high 70's in the afternoon and early evening drop again to 65-70's.

WHAT DO I BRING?

The trip is for 7 days, casual dress is okay for everywhere we go to. You will need a jacket or coat for the San Francisco days in am and pm and in Los Angeles a light jacket at nights. One suitcase and a light backpack or carry on is all you need to bring.

Bring a SWIMSUIT. Our hotels have outdoor heated pools. Hotels provide towels but you can bring your own beach towel if you would like to. Some times in Los Angeles walking around Parks etc. you may need suntan lotion or sun block.

Bring comfortable shoes. There will be a lot of walking in some areas we visit.

Please do not bring a lot of jewelry or other expensive items. Please consider Travelers Checks instead of cash. Travelers Checks can be replaced if lost or stolen. You are responsible for taking care of your own property. Los Angeles and San Francisco are big cities and tourist theft is something we should always be aware of. Keep your money and wallets in your front pockets and try not to pull your money out on the street. Watch your possessions at the airport as well.

You will need enough money for snacks, (\$5-8) for lunches each day and for souvenirs and shopping.

Bring a camera. Since there are a lot of great places to take pictures of but I'm sure you know that already. Film should be packed in your carry on bag and not in your checked in luggage since x-ray machines can destroy film, but most of you have cameras with no film needed.

You will need to bring your health insurance cards and identification.

We know most of you have cell phones but it's a good idea to have a phone card with you as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE NOTE: ADJUST WATCH FOR TIME!

Keep in mind the time difference you will be on the Pacific Standard Time.

So once you arrive into the San Francisco airport adjust your watches to this time.

Los Angeles is the same time as San Francisco on the West Coast. Usually the flight crew announces the local time before departing the aircraft and if not just ask someone at the airport or look for a clock at the airport most of the time it is correct.

BE SAFE, AND HAVE FUN - ENJOY YOUR TRIP!