



Fresno Chaffee Zoo Courtesy of Fresno Chaffee Zoo

Family Learning Adventure

Ask the kids whether they'd rather go to a museum or a theme park, and you might get a predictable response. But nothing about this collection of attractions is conventional. Start in San Francisco with a hands-on educational museum, then head into Silicon Valley to show the kids how their devices became so magical. Drive down the coast to explore two above-and-beyond wildlife institutions, and visit a theme park that will blow your mind with its creative flourishes. This family road trip covers about 300 miles and is equal parts fun and illuminating.



1 Exploratorium

Start your educational odyssey at San Francisco's Pier 15 in the Embarcadero, where this beloved museum invites visitors inside scientific discovery—like standing in a fog cloud, or walking into the totally dark Tactile Dome. *Distance to next stop: 38 miles*

2 Computer History Museum

Head south of the city on U.S. 101 toward tech haven Silicon Valley. At this Mountain View museum, learn about the birth of the computer, driverless cars, and tech heroes like Ada Lovelace. *Next stop: 13 miles*

3 The Tech Museum of Innovation

Before you leave Silicon Valley, stop in San Jose at The Tech to build your own robots or play cyber detective. For some outdoor-style learning, go to the nearby interactive **Children's Discovery Museum**, where kids can blow giant bubbles, climb trees, and learn about rain catchment systems. *Next stop: 33 miles*

4 Gilroy Gardens

Head down U.S. 101 to the garlic-loving town of Gilroy. Zoom and twirl on agriculture-themed rides like the Artichoke Dip, splash in the water park, and check out more than 20 incredible Circus Trees, grown in whimsical shapes. *Next stop: 46 miles*

5 Monterey Bay Aquarium

Continue south on U.S. 101 to Monterey and this world-class bayside aquarium (book tickets online to avoid a wait). Check out tours, like the one where kids can try SCUBA, and the family overnight option. *Next stop: 152 miles*



Snap photos of the fresh fruit—then stock up for the ride—at Casa de Fruta.

6 Fresno Chaffee Zoo

Take highways 152 and 99 through farm country to Fresno. This recently revamped zoo has a seriously global community of wildlife, with red kangaroos and wildebeest, and kids can feed giraffes by hand.