



## News Release

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For Immediate Release

### TRAVEL THE GOLDEN STATE IN STYLE

(SACRAMENTO, Calif.)— There's no shortage of ways to travel California in complete luxury. From high-end yachts and houseboats to top-of-the-line motorcycles, antique cars and recreational vehicles, California's transportation options are many.

"California offers the finest in luxury transportation modes making it easy for visitors to travel the Golden State in style," said Executive Director Caroline Beteta of the California Travel and Tourism Commission (CTTC).

Rent luxurious sport automobiles at Beverly Hills Rent-A-Car in Newport Beach, part of the **Orange County Region**. Clients chose from MINI Coopers to Ferraris and Rolls Royce. The company's VIP service includes free delivery; unit specific reservations where visitors can choose color, make and model of desired vehicle; and meet-and-greet at airports allowing for worry-free travel. Hornblower Cruises & Events, with the largest

fleet in Los Angeles and Orange County, provides guests with a unique alternative for events and celebrations aboard their luxury yachts (up to 545 guests) while cruising California's scenic waterways.

Shasta Lake, located just north of Redding in the **Shasta Cascade Region**, is the country's undisputed houseboating capital given the large number of houseboats homeported in its many harbors. New in 2006 is the 65-foot-long Titan operated by the Jones Valley Resorts. This boat features six private staterooms, three bathrooms and an expansive main salon with sunken gourmet galley. The triple-decked cruiser accommodates 22 people and comes with a sophisticated entertainment system with satellite tracking television and surround-sound system, fish finder and upper deck pavilion with crow's nest dining and barbeque, as well as a wet bar, spiral tube waterslide and eight-person hot tub.

The Burrard Car, part of the Sacramento River Train in Woodland and located in the **Central Valley Region**, has been coined "luxury travel fit for a queen." The open-platform car was built in 1954 and was once used by Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Canada. The Burrard is now available for charter through the Sacramento River Train, either along their railroad route between Woodland and West Sacramento or as part of an Amtrak train bound for any destination they serve. The private car can accommodate up to 15 passengers and features a rear observation platform, sleeping accommodations, dining room, full galley and bathroom with shower.

Hit the high seas in Marina del Rey, part of the **Los Angeles County Region**, with luxury yachts for charter. Charter Connection offers private charters on yachts (some to Catalina Island), as well as sport fishing yachts and sailboats for groups of six to

400 people. FantaSea Yachts offers the Admiral, which accommodates up to 12 visitors and includes deck hot tub, full kitchen and decorated rooms.

In Santa Cruz, part of the **San Francisco Bay Area Region**, fun is found aboard the 70-foot sailing yacht named Chardonnay II. Passengers cruise Monterey Bay on whale-watching excursions (January through March and June through August) with complimentary champagne and continental breakfast. There's also the Santa Cruz Harley Davidson Store and Museum in Santa Cruz. For visitors buying a new Harley, the company will pay for their trip to the area, including a one-way plane ticket, limousine service and one-night stay at the Seascape Resort Monterey Bay in Aptos. The Virginia City Rail Corporation, based in Redwood City, gives groups the opportunity to travel in a novel setting with a choice of a fleet of fully restored luxury, vintage railcars from the early 1900's. Railcars can be standstill or part of a moving train using Amtrak.

The summer of 2006, Oxnard, part of the **Central Coast Region**, will welcome an authentic paddle-wheeler riverboat named the Scarlett Belle. The 149-person boat is a custom-built replica of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century riverboat. It will operate out of Marine Emporium Landing, making the Channel Islands Harbor its home. The boat is 85 feet and contains two main decks, and was inspired by Mark Twain's stories. In Santa Barbara, Moto Loco of Santa Barbara is now renting Harleys, custom-built choppers, all-terrain vehicles and more. The 85-foot Channel Cat berthed in Santa Barbara Harbor is certified for 149 passengers, and features three levels, library/media room and solid maple throughout.

In Monterey guests get behind the wheel at Land Rover Experience Driving School to enjoy 80 acres of hills, wooded trails, sand traps and rock challenges. There's also the Skip Barber Racing School, where visitors can try road racing on the 2.24-mile,

11-turn track. Many motorists choose to rent authentic reproductions of the Model A Ford Roadster at the Monterey Rent-a-Roadster when driving the Big Sur Coast.

Get a glimpse of sea lions and seals along the San Diego coast, part of the **San Diego Region**, aboard luxurious sailing vessels. Harbor Vacations Club offers floating villas, while Aaron's Ocean Adventures offers lunch and dinner sightseeing cruises on express yachts. There's also Charter Connection which holds a fleet of 30 vessels, and Harbor Yacht Club which offers sailing rentals with or without a skipper. Royal Yacht Charters represents the Jada Royale, a presidential suite on water, and the Wooden Yacht Fleet features classic yachts chartered by a captain with U.S. Coast Guard certification.

In the **High Sierra Region**, the Thunderbird at Lake Tahoe is a 55-foot wooden speedboat that was commissioned by millionaire George Whittell and is now available for charter. The triple-planked mahogany and stainless steel boat was once used to entertain the likes of Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra and Bill Cosby. There's also Tahoe Sailing Charters, where guests can enjoy the waters of Lake Tahoe aboard the 50-foot Tahoe Cruz or 35-foot Avalanche, a J-105 class race boat. Northstar-at-Tahoe, in conjunction with Lake Tahoe Cruises, offers a unique way for South Lake Tahoe residents to spend a memorable day skiing on the North Shore by traveling to the area aboard the Tahoe Queen, an authentic paddle wheeler, and then shuttle service on a luxury coach. There's also the Heavenly Gondola, which takes guests 2.4 miles up the mountain in 12 minutes to enjoy the spectacular views of Lake Tahoe.

Motorcycle riders tour their high-end hogs along the Eastern Sierra on U.S. 395 in Mono County, widely recognized as one of the finest motorcycle routes in the West. Bikers as far away as Germany are seen regularly heading down the highway or

exploring high plains off-road trails. Favorite spots include the historic Bridgeport Inn in Bridgeport, where impromptu concourses of luxury touring bikes are often parked.

The CTTC is a non-profit organization with a mission to develop and maintain marketing programs - in partnership with the state's travel industry - that keep California top-of-mind as a premier travel destination. California is currently the number one travel destination in the country. According to the CTTC, travel and tourism expenditures total \$82.5 billion annually in California, support jobs for nearly 900,000 Californians and generate \$5.2 billion in state and local tax revenues. For more information about the CTTC and for a free California vacation packet, go to [www.visitcalifornia.com](http://www.visitcalifornia.com) or call 800-862-2543 (domestic) or 916-444-4429 (international).

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