

THE TRAVEL NURSE'S GUIDE TO:

Southern California



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Why Southern California?

What could be better than a job in your chosen profession that lets you live, rent-free, in Southern California for three months? The region is a favorite destination for many travel nurses, thanks to the wide array of professional opportunities, diverse cities, and the endless opportunities for fun and adventure. A travel nursing assignment in Southern California can open up a world of possibilities!

If you haven't truly experienced this region before, this Travel Nurse's Guide to Southern California can serve as a one-stop resource to help you know what to expect, what to do and how to get started on your own SoCal adventure.

Lifestyle Benefits

Why do nurses want to work in Southern California? Some crave the great weather, the year-round recreation and the laid-back lifestyle. Many have a bucket list of things to see and do. Others are searching for a career opportunity that can help them refine their skills and earn an excellent income. Fortunately, you can find all of that and more—in one travel assignment!

While the locals are paying premium rents, you'll also enjoy free housing or a healthy stipend to help you live in this desirable region while on assignment.

Other benefits of travel nursing in Southern California:

- **You'll have hundreds of assignment options.** Travel nursing jobs in Southern California are plentiful, encompassing all specialties and types of working environments. And you can choose from locations ranging from downtown Los Angeles or Burbank to Orange County, Santa Barbara, San Diego or Palm Springs.
- **The fun never ends.** Southern California is famous for its beaches—and for good reason: they're spectacular, and each beach community is a unique destination. But spending time at the beach isn't your only option for fun and relaxation. Enjoy biking? Golf? Tennis? Running? Hiking? Paddle boarding? Shopping? Entertainment? Arts festivals and farmers markets? Fun eateries and world-class dining? Okay, you get the picture.
- **You can set your schedule.** Travel nurses can book subsequent assignments but leave a few weeks in between, allowing time to return home or enjoy a vacation before returning to work. You may also be able to choose your shift schedule. Once that is set, be sure to plan some day trips and long weekends to go exploring in the area—along the coast, in the nearby mountains, in the desert, or in another nearby city.
- **Your loved ones can join you.** Another benefit of taking a travel nursing assignment in Southern California: you can bring your pets, your significant other or your entire family along to share in the adventure! Just let your recruiter know, because it can affect your housing.

Facilities

What kind of healthcare facility would you prefer for your next travel nursing job? In Southern California, your choices cover every setting, from inpatient to outpatient to home health. The region is home to some of the nation's top-rated hospitals and health systems, and a number of ANCC Magnet-designated hospitals. Just ask your recruiter for specific opportunities, or if you have a particular healthcare facility in mind.

American Mobile has travel nursing assignments in:



Large Academic
Medical Centers



Mid-Size
& Smaller
Hospitals



Magnet
Facilities



Clinics



Rehabilitation
Facilities



Home Health
Companies

You can search our extensive jobs database for openings in your travel nurse specialty, including critical care, emergency nursing, labor and delivery, medical-surgical nursing, the dialysis unit, pediatrics, the cardiac catheterization lab, and more. Any specialty certifications and training can increase the demand for your skills.

Ultimately, taking a travel nurse assignment in a Southern California hospital or healthcare organization can boost your career. The experience will make you a more desirable candidate for future jobs, wherever you go.

Things to do

We *could* leave the star attractions off this list, but they're well known (and well loved) for a reason! Don't miss out on the most popular attractions if they're calling to you, but make time for some of the lesser-known pursuits that the locals rave about, too. Trust us, this is just a start to all that you will find to see and do in Southern California.

1 Balboa Park

[Balboa Park](#) often tops the list of "places to visit in San Diego" for good reason: not only is it the site of the world-famous San Diego Zoo, but it is also home to 17 (yes, 17!) museums, 19 gardens and cultural institutions, plus some pretty darn good restaurants. And yes, they're building a [Comic-Con Museum](#) in Balboa Park, too.

2 Catalina Island

Santa Catalina Island is a small, scenic island off the coast of Los Angeles. Most people take a high-speed ferry to get there. Once you arrive, you can choose from a dizzying array of recreational pursuits including zip lining, hiking, riding a glass-bottom boat, renting a bike, kayak or a paddleboard, touring the island in your own golf cart, and snorkeling. To really boggle the minds of your friends, consider the open-air [Bison Expedition](#) tour. Or you can tour the island's historic casino and theater, or just wiggle your toes in the sand while enjoying a cocktail at the Descanso Beach Club.

3 Disneyland & California Adventure

Visiting Disneyland is a given when it comes to fun things to do in SoCal. Whether you love the classics like Haunted Mansion and It's a Small World, or you're eager to ride the new Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance attraction, be sure to add Disney to your list! If you're a superhero fan, you'll also want to check out Disney's new Avengers Campus in the adjoining California Adventure Park. Some words of advice: wear comfortable shoes because you're going to be putting in a lot of steps, and check into Park Hopper tickets to enjoy both parks at a reduced price.



Things to do

4 Hollywood Sign

Visiting the iconic Hollywood sign is one of those SoCal experiences that you really have to do at least once. Take one of the three main [hiking routes](#) up to the sign so you can get your photo for Instagram fame. You can also get a good view of the sign from the [Griffith Observatory](#), a great place to visit in its own right.

5 Joshua Tree National Park

You almost can't believe that Joshua trees are real until you see them in person. These spiky, Dr. Seuss-like plants are members of the Agave family and are native to the Mojave Desert in Southern California. Plan a trip to the desert and go hiking or rock climbing in [Joshua Tree National Park](#) and see these unusual plants for yourself. If you have time to camp overnight, you'll be astounded by the wealth of stars overhead, too.

6 La Jolla Seals

You don't really need an excuse to visit the picturesque seaside community of La Jolla, in the northern part of San Diego. It is famous for its expansive beaches, scenic views, high-end shopping and incredible restaurants. But if you want an excuse, how about this? The [seals and sea lions](#) love to frolic on the shore by the Children's Pool and the sea caves in La Jolla. They put on quite a show—and it's free!

7 Palm Springs Villagefest

Palm Springs is the place to be on Thursday evenings. Every Thursday evening, Palm Canyon Drive becomes a big party. It's almost not fair to describe [Villagefest](#) as a "street fair" because it's so much more than that. Grab your dinner from one of the food trucks, enjoy the art and culture, pick up a souvenir, and mingle with thousands of other people who are ready to relax and celebrate an early start to the weekend. You can even drop by the [Palm Springs Art Museum](#) for free. And if you're up for a thrilling ride with spectacular views, check out the [Palm Springs Aerial Tramway](#), any day of the week; in just 10 minutes, you'll travel from the desert to the fresh mountain air in Mt. San Jacinto State Park, at 8,500 feet elevation.



Things to do

8 Temecula Valley Wineries

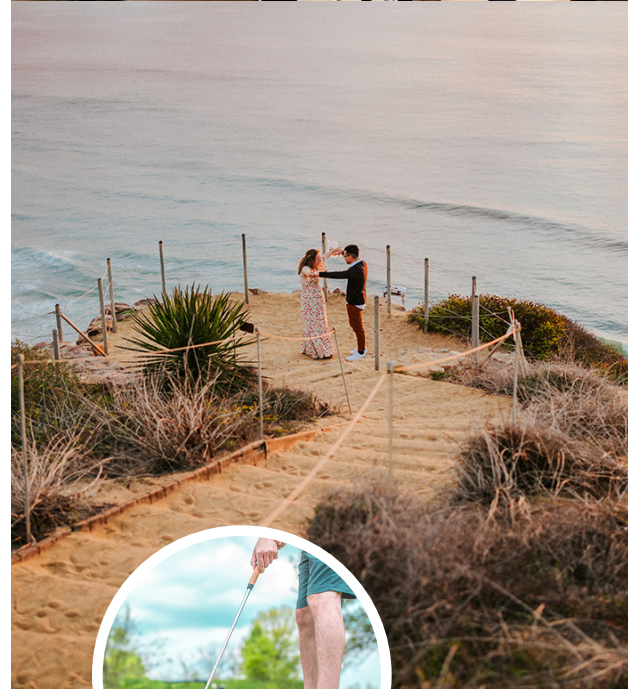
Most people automatically assume that all the best wine from California comes from Northern California, but you might be very pleasantly surprised by the quality of wine from the 50-plus wineries of the [Temecula Valley](#) in Southern California. Go for a tour, enjoy a few tastings, dine al fresco, or even stay at one of the wine resorts. Feeling really adventurous? Sign up for a hot air balloon tour over the valley and see the vineyards from the sky!

9 Torrey Pines

If you love spending time in nature, especially if there's also an ocean view, plan a visit to [Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve](#) in northern San Diego. The 1,500+ acres of [protected land](#) on the coast of the Pacific Ocean contain hiking trails and opportunities to see beautiful wildflowers, California quail, and the nation's rarest pine tree, the *Pinus torreyana*. Golf enthusiasts may also want to try the famous [Torrey Pines Golf Course](#), but you'll need to book tee times far in advance, or make friends with a local who has priority access.

10 Watts Towers

If you're in Los Angeles and want to do something a little off the beaten path, consider a visit to the Watts Towers Arts Center in the Watts district. A towering series of sculptures made of steel, wire mesh, and mortar and festooned with glass, porcelain and tile, the [Watts Towers](#) were built by Sam Rodia, who actually named his creation "Nuestro Pueblo." The inside tours have been temporarily halted for restoration, but you can still take a tour around the outside.



Why work for American Mobile?

As the nation's top travel nursing agency, American Mobile is proud to offer an incredible variety of well-paying travel nurse jobs, including many in the St. Louis area. We're also proud of our dedicated staff of recruiters, our clinical experts and others who support travelers, the excellent benefits, and all the other opportunities that we can offer to travelers.

Here are a few key reasons to consider signing on with American Mobile:

- **We make it easy for you.** We designed the [AMN Passport](#) app to make it easy to search for jobs and book assignments. You can also use the app to manage your assignments.
- **You'll get access to our database of travel nursing jobs.** We have the largest, most comprehensive database of nursing jobs in the industry, including exclusive contracts with a number of leading healthcare organizations, including prestigious magnet hospitals.
- **We offer full-time support.** Our team wants you to succeed, so we offer support and make sure you get everything that you need. Your recruiter is always available to talk with you about current or future assignments. We also have dedicated team members to answer questions and troubleshoot problems if you have need help with housing, credentialing, or payroll.
- **We offer round-the-clock clinical support.** If you run into a question about a clinical matter on the job, you can call our clinical team and receive urgent assistance at any time of day or night.
- **We offer licensure assistance.** If you haven't worked in a compact licensure state before, we are here to help you with that, so you'll be fully licensed and ready to go when you start your assignment.



Why work for American Mobile?

American Mobile also offers the best benefits in the travel nursing industry.

- **Premium health benefits.** Perhaps more important than ever before, our health benefits will give you the peace of mind to know that you have access to healthcare when you need it, too. Our options include PPO and HMO health benefits, as well as life insurance, vision insurance, and disability insurance – for you *and* your family. Plus, you don't have to wait a month or three for these benefits to kick in. Coverage starts on day one.
- **Retirement savings.** American Mobile offers a generous 401(k) matching program that will help you save money for your retirement (when you can travel even more!).
- **Free continuing education.** Nursing leaders will tell you that lifelong learning is a hallmark of the nursing profession. To make it easier for you to stay up-to-date on the latest evidence-based research and developments in your profession, we offer free continuing education unit (CEU) courses.

Interested in working in Southern California?

Contact an American Mobile recruiter to start the application process or visit our job search page to find an assignment that's a great fit for you!



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