



One of the best and most beautiful road trips is along the Amalfi Coast in Italy. A two-day trip, this drive will show you a breathtaking route with the sea on one side and mountains on the other! You could take the Autostrada route to Naples and then the coast road.

The coastal road along the Amalfi Coast is well known for its dangerous bends and a thrilling experience! And since most of the

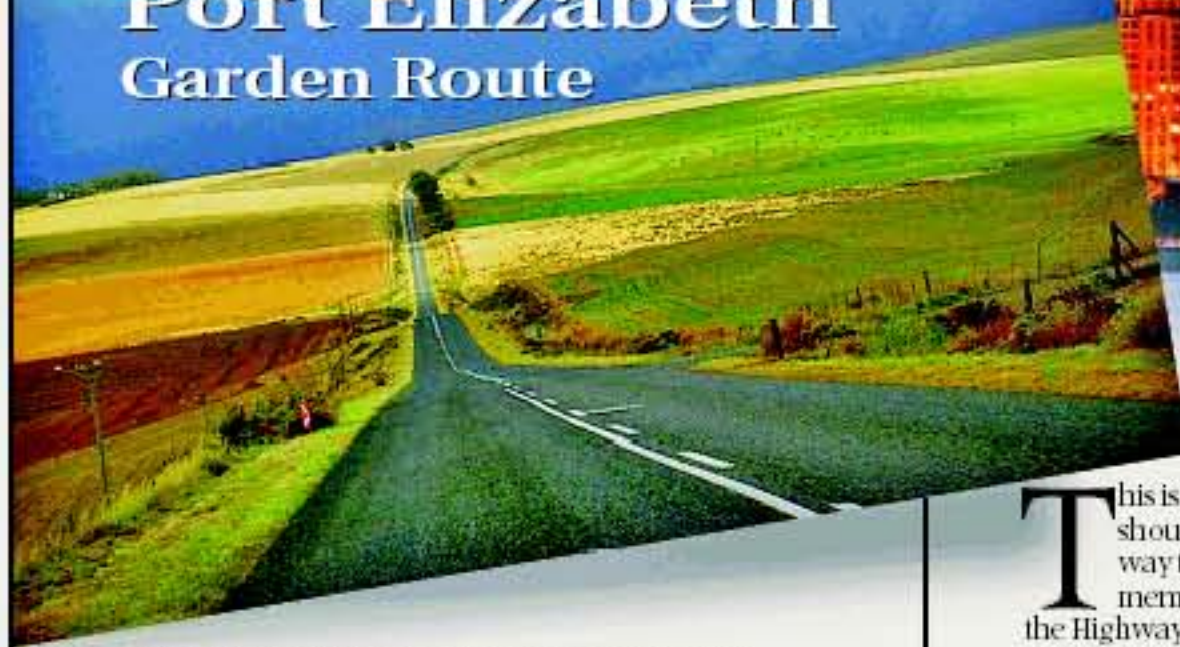
## Rome to Amalfi Coast

towns are constructed at a sharp angle, many buildings can be seen only via steep alleys and stairways! So adventure is something that you will get aplenty on this fascinating road route. You will also get to see the popular tourist hub Sorrento, the starting point of Amalfi, located on cliffs that give way to the sea. After you drive through the Amalfi Coast, you can get back on the highway and reach back Rome.

ITALY



## Capetown to Port Elizabeth Garden Route



If you want to experience the beauty of nature all around you, think about a self drive to Garden Route in South Africa. You could complete this trip between 8-10 days. You could start by heading out to the Stellenbosch wine route which is quite famous and open to the public for wine tasting and getting to know the South African way of life. You can then go to Hermanus and opt for whale watching or you can just stroll at the beaches. Make some time for Knysna town which is the starting point of the Garden Route. Located on South Africa's National Lake, Knysna is home to many mountains, lakes, sea and greenery. You will then be moving towards the famous Garden Route which is an extension of Knysna town. A nature lovers' paradise, you will be lost in a magnetic world of beaches, forests and estuaries here. Your last stop will be Port Elizabeth which is a bustling seaport destination.

SA



## USA San Diego to San Francisco



This is one road trip that you should not miss! A good way to make this a memorable trip is taking the Highway 1, the Pacific Coast Highway. There are a number of stunning places, winding ways and oceanic views along the way that will make this trip extremely worthwhile. A total of about 6-7 days would be good to make the most of this road trip. Santa Barbara will be your first halt. A popular tourist destination, it is home to many beaches, scenic

views and Spanish architecture. Next, you should find some time for cities such as Pismo Beach and Morro Bay. Both cities will offer you a range of options in sports, leisure, shopping and food outlets. There are a number of other places along the way that you should make time for. Cambria, a seaside village, has beautiful rock cliffs and beaches, including a number of entertainment options. And there is more to see. You must stop at Monterey, a city that also houses Monterey Bay Aquarium, a well-known tourist spot. Don't forget to spend sufficient time in Carmel which also has several

famous mayors to its credit, including actor director Clint Eastwood! The last stop before you reach San Francisco will be Santa Cruz, which houses beaches such as Lighthouse Field State Beach and Seabright State Beach. Enjoy the last one and a half hours of your drive from Santa Cruz and San Francisco with good memories.

## Auckland to Bay of Islands



NZ

Bemesmerised by a coastline that shows off sand dunes, peaceful harbours and scenic islands. You can complete the journey from Auckland to Bay of Islands in three or four days. Auckland, in itself, is a very urbane city and has wonderful views across the harbour to the seaside village of Devonport. Once you leave Auckland, you will first pass through Whangarei which boasts of stunning coastal sights. You can also make a stop over at Hokianga Harbour to see gigantic sand dunes. Finally when you reach Bay of Islands, you can spend your time in a number of activities such as Maori ceremonies, sailing, dolphin watching and boat trips.



# High On The Way

For your next vacation, plan a self-drive holiday to some of the world's best routes. Just hit the road and have a rocking time, says Neha Dewan



## Las Vegas to San Francisco via Death Valley

USA

A very popular road route, this one can be easily done in 2-3 days. Death Valley actually showcases the lowest, hottest and driest parts of North America. But it also shows landscapes that are unique and most enigmatic in sight. After Death Valley, you can stay the night at Mammoth Lakes and head over to the east entrance of Yosemite the next day. This route will offer engaging views as you go via the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Don't miss out the Yosemite Falls which is also the highest waterfall in North America and, of course, a tourist favourite. After this you can depart for San Francisco and be witness to the buzz of the city.

**W**ANT TO experience something unforgettable in your next holiday? Plan a getaway through a self-drive vacation. Just get out there, explore different routes, interact with the locals and have a whale of a time!

There are a number of fascinating self-drive options internationally that will make your vacation a memorable one. Luxury travel firms such as Luxury Escapes and Abercrombie & Kent say there has been an increase in demand for such road trip holidays over the years. Says Ketaki Kapur Pantle, chief executive officer of luxury custom travel firm Luxury Escapes, "The scenario has changed in the last five years. People want to do something offbeat. But we get more enquiries from those in their early and mid 30s to self-drive. For instance, sometime back we had organised a bachelor holiday party from Las Vegas to San Francisco via Death Valley for a group in Convertible Porsches!"

For those who don't want to self-drive, Pantle also organises chauffeur-driven vehicles. And the costs include the car, accommodation and organising the international driving license as well.

Abercrombie & Kent, a leading travel company, also organises such tailor-made vacations. Says Vikram Madhok, managing director, Abercrombie & Kent, "A lot of people want to opt for such holidays where they can be engaged with the local community and discover the place at their own leisure. It has picked up over the last 2-3 years."

So the next time you want to plan something different, appealing and extraordinary, you know that you just have to head out on the road!

## Lake District to Loch Lomond

UK

A very popular and common self-drive route, the trip from Lake District in England to Loch Lomond can be completed in a few hours. Known for its lakes and mountains, Lake District is also good for hill walking! You should also spend good time at Loch Lomond in Scotland, the largest lake in Great Britain according to surface area and which is home to unique boating venues and watersports. For all the water lovers, this self drive route will offer you tranquillity all the way!

