



www.worldlesstraveled.com



Elisa Taylor
worldlesstraveled.com



The Travel Tip

Many harvest festivals offer mazes or acres of pumpkin patches to explore. Make sure you wear tennis shoes or outdoor shoes that you don't mind getting dusty or muddy. Also, make sure you bring bottled water. While it's starting to cool down, October still has Indian Summer in California, and you and your children will get thirsty. You don't want to be way out in a pumpkin patch without water or a means to get water.

Harvest Time

Welcome to the official fall edition of Passages. Fall is a great time of year to plan some amazing getaways and escapes. The weather is usually tepid and mild in most parts of the country. You can plan some great weekend retreats to enjoy good family fun. Many different communities plan different kinds of harvest festivals. So, this issue we have researched some of the best areas to visit to enjoy their fall events and activities to keep you and your family occupied.

Sincerely,

Elisa Taylor
etaylor@worldlesstraveled.com
www.worldlesstraveled.com

Harvest Festivals and Getaways

Cambria Scarecrow and Harvest Festival

Oct. 7-10

12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, [click here](#)



Cambria, California is one of the great little seaside towns right on the ocean and about two miles from the Hearst Castle. You can drive down the heart of California and get on Highway 101 and then cut over to Cambria just after San Luis. Be prepared, it's a long drive but worth it. Cambria is surrounded by Eucalyptus forest with little hotels and inns that sit on the cliffs and bed and breakfasts located on the main strip. Many different ocean-view franchise hotels are situated at the edge of the town and overlook the sea.

The festival, held by the Cambria Historical Society, offers music, food, games and crafts for the kids. You can pick out a pumpkin and make sure you make time to

walk the length of the town to see all of the various scarecrows created just for the festival. You can also shop and enjoy lunch or dinner at any of the small cafés and restaurants.

Do leave time in your schedule to drive about a mile and a half up the road north to the Hearst Castle. It's always enjoyable to take one of their night tours. You do want to come to the castle up from Cambria. If you take Highway 1 from Big Sur, it's very curvy - those prone to carsickness will undoubtedly become ill. The trip in from the south is much easier on the equilibrium and much faster to drive since you're not maneuvering twists and turns for miles.

Auburn Community Festival

Oct. 15

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, [click here](#)

Don't want to drive hours south to enjoy some harvest-time fun if you live in the greater Sacramento area? Then check out the big pumpkin weigh off taking place during the Auburn Community Fair. If the pictures on the website indicate anything, you are promised to see some gigantic pumpkins.



The daylong fair is loaded with open vendor booths selling various harvest goodies, arts and crafts, games and fun activities for children. It's another great event to put the smaller children in the backpack and stroll away the afternoon. Do everything from face painting to pumpkin carving. Plan to make an afternoon of it if you live close enough.

The Noe Valley Harvest Festival

October 15

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, [click here](#)



This harvest fair is actually located near San Francisco located between Sanchez and Church Street. You can make the fair a part of your plans to visit the city and enjoy the activities with your children. The fair offers traditional family activities including a pumpkin patch, hayrides, arts and crafts, and more.

You can spend the afternoon with the kids at the fair and split your time doing other San Francisco activities. A fun trip involves taking Amtrak from the Central Valley all the way to Oakland, getting off at Jack London Square, and then taking a Ferry across the bay. You can hail a cab out to the festival, enjoy some family fun with your kids, and then take a cab down to some favorite attractions

like Pier 39, Alcatraz or Ghiradelli Square. Plan to take the full weekend, though, because the train ride is longer than a car ride, and you will want enough time to do everything, rest and return.