

# **Two Thousand Five Hundred Miles**

Alice Sophie Turrell

The original aim for this project was to show positive and negative aspects of popular, glamorized areas along the West Coast. For example showing the typical Hollywood image and then showing what people don't see in the media or what they don't know exists alongside the typical connotations. This aim changed when I experienced and explored the places featured in this book. Yes, sets of images - such as the ones shot in Las Vegas - show this. However, others show opposite ends of the spectrum but not necessarily negatives.

I chose the images in this book not only on the aesthetic appeal, but mainly looking at what they show. In some cases it's obvious without context, some cases it is not. For more information on what the images show in my opinion, turn to the back after seeing the images alone.

The title for this book reflects the road trip when these images were taken. It is the miles driven around three states in a little over two weeks covering all the places shown in this book and more. For me, it was an obvious fit for the title and represents the journey undertaken to discover the following places.

This entire project was shot on a Pentax K1000 with a 50mm F2 lens and colour film.



Disneyland - Anaheim, CA





Hollywood - Los Angeles, CA





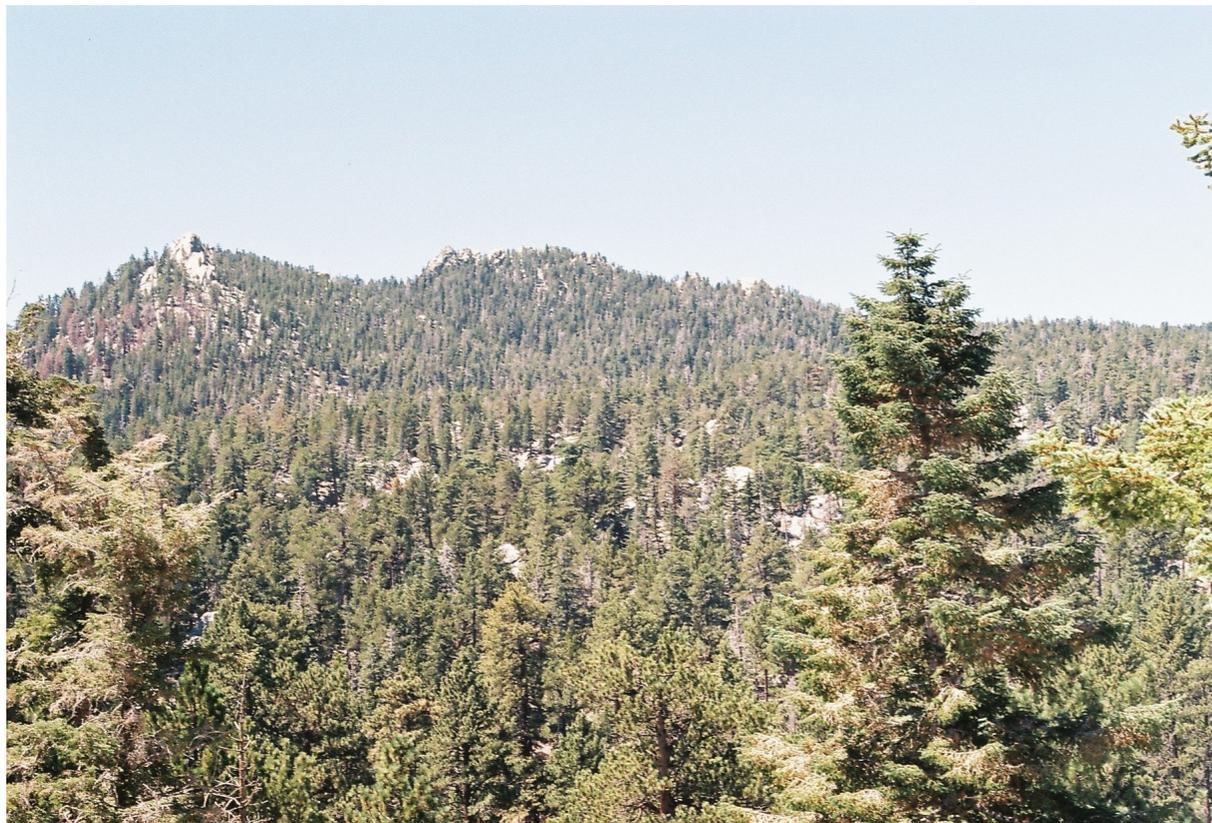
Joshua Tree, CA





Blythe, CA





Mount San Jacinto, CA





Grand Canyon, AZ





Route 66, AZ





Hoover Dam, NV





Las Vegas, NV





Yosemite, CA





Griffith Observatory - Los Angeles, CA





Venice Beach, CA





Sunset Strip - Los Angeles, CA



**Disneyland - Anaheim, CA** I chose to place these two images side by side to show the contrast of Disneyland being the happiest place on Earth and the fact there it also contains dangers according to the state of California.

**Hollywood - Los Angeles, CA** The contrast of the Roosevelt hotel, a beacon of glitz and glamour and the religious protests to me showed just how varied Hollywood is and how there is more going on than simply the fame and fortune side we see in the media.

**Joshua Tree, CA** When going around the desert, I didn't really consider the dangers. The sign shows how serious problems can arise due to the 100 degree heat that is the norm.

**Blythe, CA** We stopped in this small town briefly for breakfast and although it has no major attractions and I did not see much of it, what stood out to me was the simple, old church in the midst of a sea of fast food chains.

**Mount San Jacinto, CA** During our hike we were meant to come across a stream. This is featured in the image on the right, showing the severity of the drought which can be easily forgotten about when seeing the trees looking lush and green.

**Grand Canyon, AZ** I chose to place these images together as I had always imagined there being nothing surrounding the Grand Canyon, except it was surrounded by chain motels and fast food take-outs to make money from the sight and attract tourists.

**Route 66, AZ** The small town making a profit from its fortunate position in contrast to America's vast gun culture is strong, showing two sides of America. These images were taken no more than a few miles apart.

**Hoover Dam, NV** What stuck me here was the safety precautions. There was no barrier or anything stopping people going right to the edge at a relatively low wall. It made me think about the height and danger rather than just marvel at the structure.

**Las Vegas, NV** Although it is hard to see, in the second image there are two people rummaging through the waste bins. This was something I was not expecting to see in such a rich city. The contrast between this scene and typical views of Las Vegas is stark.

**Yosemite, CA** Reknown for its bear population as well as its beauty, these images show both. The image on the right shows a bear trap, which although is merely used to move bears away from the lure of human food is not a nice sight and makes you think more consciously about being in and respecting their home.

**Griffith Observatory - Los Angeles, CA** Although going here to see the sunrise over the hills, which made the landscape even more stunning, I got to see two entirely different sides of Los Angeles. The built up city and the seemingly endless hills, both iconic in their own right but not thought of together.

**Venice Beach, CA** When thinking of Venice Beach, you think of arts, culture and out of the ordinary. Not a canal resembling Venice, Italy. This was tucked back a short walk from the beach itself.

**Sunset Strip - Los Angeles, CA** Although at face value both of these seem similar - both representing alcohol they show social status. On the one hand there is the very exclusive Viper Room bar, and then right next to it, a liquor store.

