




Road trip to the real California



The glamor of the Golden Gate Bridge (left), and a gritty intersection in Venice Beach (right): both are part of the real California



Jeder glaubt, Kalifornien zu kennen, denn Hollywood hat schon sehr viel davon abgelichtet. Allerdings ist auch die weniger bekannte Landschaft hier Oscarverdächtig. **JAN STUERMANN** hat zwischen Los Angeles und San Francisco noch viel Spannendes für Sie gefunden.   

Just say “California.” The very name sounds like a promise. To the 300,000 people who arrived here during the Gold Rush (1848–55), it sounded even better — like a guarantee. The era produced many millionaires and the state motto, “Eureka!,” which means “I’ve found it!” The expression, famously said by Archimedes, an ancient Greek inventor, was adapted to mean one very specific thing: finding gold out West.

In time, the motto came to mean more than that, namely California itself. With its warm climate and 1,350 kilometers of coast, it is home to 37 million people, making it the most populous state in the nation. Though only a state, its economy is among the world’s ten largest.

Listen to the news, however, and you’ll hear that the Golden State has lost some of its shine. Budget troubles and high unemployment mean that “California dreamin’” isn’t what it used to be.

Hard times have changed the state. Has its magic really disappeared, though? I decided to get on the road and find out. Somewhere along the Pacific, where nature meets culture, I hoped I would find the California people seek when following their dreams.

adapt [ə'dæpt]	sich in der Bedeutung wandeln
seek [si:k]	streben nach, suchen
the very [ðə'veri]	allein schon der

Appearance is important: showing off a muscled body at Muscle Beach



Alle Fotos: Jan Stuermann