

# MR & MRS ROMANCE

## Plan your USA road trip - 10 tips for driving in California

### 1. Pedestrians are always right!

- Watch out for pedestrians - can cross anywhere (even when they shouldn't cross).
- Pedestrians often cross at stop signs.

### 2. Street parking #1 – wheel positions

- Parking up hill – turn wheels right, away from curb with wheel touching.
- Parking down hill – turn wheels left, towards the curb with wheel touching.
- Park on the right side of the road (unless on a one-way street).
- Park within 18 inches of the curb.

### 3. Street parking #2 – look at the colours of the curbs

- White: loading or unloading passengers.
- Yellow: loading or unloading passenger or deliveries.
- Red: no stopping, standing or parking. Ever.
- Blue: disabled permit holders only.
- Never park next to a fire hydrant!

### 4. Stop signs – the California Roll

- 'California Roll' - most drivers just slow down until almost stopped, then carry on.
- Not legal, but common.
- Watch out for All Stop signs.

### 5. Don't drive too slowly

- Go the speed limit (at the very least) or woe betide you.

### 6. Turn right on a red light

- Turn right at a red light with care.
- Watch out for occasional 'No turn on red' signs.

### 7. Beware the flashers

- Drivers flashing their lights means they're not letting you in if you're changing lanes.

### 8. Most cars don't have yellow rear indicators – they're red the same as the brake lights.

### 9. Turn left lane

- Turn left from middle lane.
- Only stay in left turn lane for 200ft max.

### 10. Freeway carpool lane

- Far left lane with diamond shape painted on the road is carpool lane.
- Vehicles with 2 or more people in it can use this lane.
- Carpool lane sometimes called the 'HOV lane' – High Occupancy Vehicle.

### Bonus tip: Getting gas – pay before you pump.

- Pre-pay for your petrol – or swipe your card at the pump – to get the bowser to work.
- Enter 00000 or 99999 as the zip code, or 0 + your Australian postcode.
- Sign for nominal amount (say \$50) at kiosk, pump petrol then credit card charge is adjusted.
- If you want a receipt, go back to kiosk to sign for the actual amount pumped.