

PARK VISITOR WELCOME KIT

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Where will the hundreds of California State Parks take you today?



Inside:
California Escapes[®],
California State Parks
Map, Scenic Drives,
Valuable Offers & More!

Also! Free Photo Album from Shutterfly,
Canon Photo Contest & Tips,
and \$25 Off Your Next Travelocity Trip

Discover the many states of California.™



Your California State Parks
Rangers & Staff

A Note From
Your California State Parks Staff

Welcome to your California State Parks!

We are proud to present the 2007 Park Visitor Welcome Kit, which now includes California Escapes[®]. This valuable resource offers you essential information about the California State Parks, including:

- * A California State Parks map
- * Park listings detailing activities and services offered by parks
- * Suggested activities in and around the parks such as great trails, beaches, lakes, historic landmarks, museums, OHV locations, and more
- * Scenic California Drives — explore California's unique nature, culture, heritage, and outdoor recreation, as well as added value packages
- * Important contacts, regulations, and park pass information
- * Valuable offers to save you money, thanks to our generous sponsors

We hope you will use these helpful tools to guide you today and on future park visits. Enjoy!

Your Parks Staff

PS: If you enjoy California's unmatched natural and cultural heritage, participating in world-class recreational opportunities, and are hungry for a challenging and rewarding career, we invite you to find out more on the web at www.parks.ca.gov/jobs or by calling (866) Parks-Jobs.

The Park Visitor Welcome Kit was created at no cost to California State Parks or taxpayers.

Funding is generously provided by its sponsors.



We're proud to introduce 20 Percent For Parks. Through this program, 20 percent of the Welcome Kit's net sponsor proceeds are shared with California State Parks to help preserve park lands and programs for future generations.

To learn more, visit www.20ForParks.com

We are committed to preserving parks and the environment.

This Park Visitor Welcome Kit was printed on 100% recycled paper. Every piece can also be reused, passed along to a friend, or recycled.



THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

California escapes[™]

Discover the many states of California[™]

Northern California Edition

From the Redwoods to Monterey
— get ready to surf, camp,
hike, and much more in your
California State Parks



Where will the hundreds of California State Parks take you today?[™]

YOUR PARK ACTIVITIES



WHAT'S NEW

WHAT'S NEW IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS?

Will Rogers State Historic Park: The home that belonged to movie legend Will Rogers is newly renovated and has reopened to the public after a three-year closure. The house shows how Will Rogers and his family lived at the height of his fame in the 1920s and '30s. Equestrian fans will enjoy the Will Rogers Polo Club, which plays every weekend from April to October.

California State Parks e-Store sells annual passes, quality publications, apparel, accessories and more to the public. These items will inspire and educate you on the best of California's outdoor recreation and the magnificent natural and cultural resources

within our state parks. All proceeds from the sale of merchandise directly support California State Parks. Find a memento of your park experience at www.store.parks.ca.gov or call toll-free (866) 417-2757.

WIFI: STAY CONNECTED

Being out-of-doors is a great way to escape, but sometimes staying connected to family, friends or even work is essential. Visitors with wireless Internet (wi-fi) enabled laptops or PDAs can now get online in selected state parks. You can find a complete listing at www.parks.ca.gov/wifi.

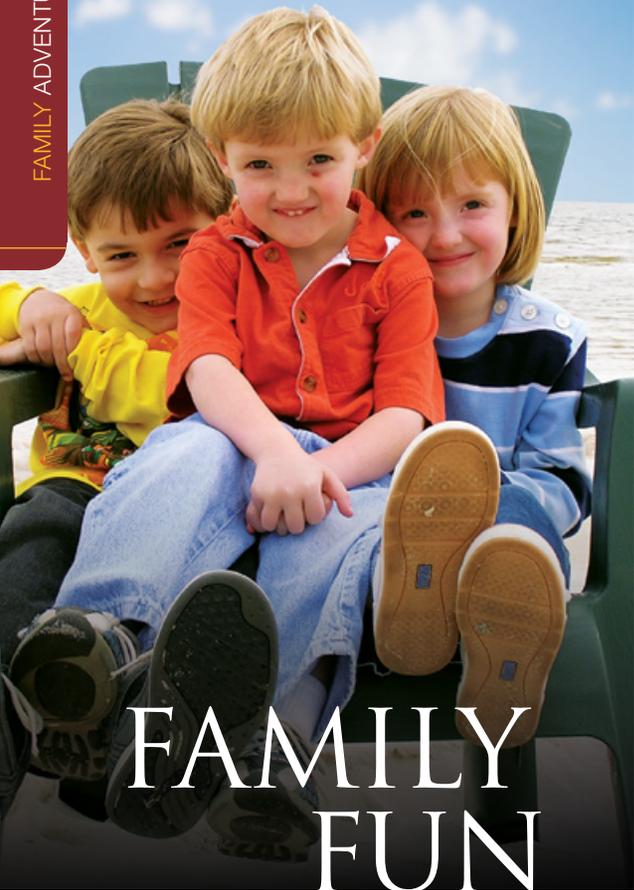


Canon

Photography in the Parks Photo Contest June 1 – Sept 29, 2007

Canon encourages you to submit your best park photo to the "Canon Photography in the Parks Photo Contest". Enter for a chance to win incredible Canon gear, and a trip to a favorite participating national or state park, and a chance to have your photo in a Canon advertisement!

For further contest information and details, visit the Canon Digital Learning Center at www.usa.canon.com/dlc and to get great photography tips from top industry professionals.



FAMILY FUN

FAMILY ADVENTURE

The best adventure is one that entertains and educates. California's state parks are an outdoor adventure for everyone. Use the following ideas next time you plan your family adventure at a California state park:

- Take the family to the most popular railroad museum in North America (**California State Railroad Museum**) or the best preserved Western ghost town (**Bodie State Historic Park**, California's official State Gold Rush Ghost Town).
- Visit **Humboldt Redwoods State Park**. This park includes 17,000 acres of old-growth redwoods and

the majestic Avenue of the Giants among its 53,000 acres.

- Take a ferry to **Angel Island State Park** in San Francisco Bay! Bike tours and sea kayak rentals are available at this bayside park.
- Don't forget the **Junior Ranger Program**, where kids learn how issues in parks relate to larger global concerns. The **Junior Life-guard Program** teaches visitors ages 8 to 15 about water safety and physical conditioning.
- Our **Litter-Getter Program** rewards children with a prize for every bag of litter they collect.

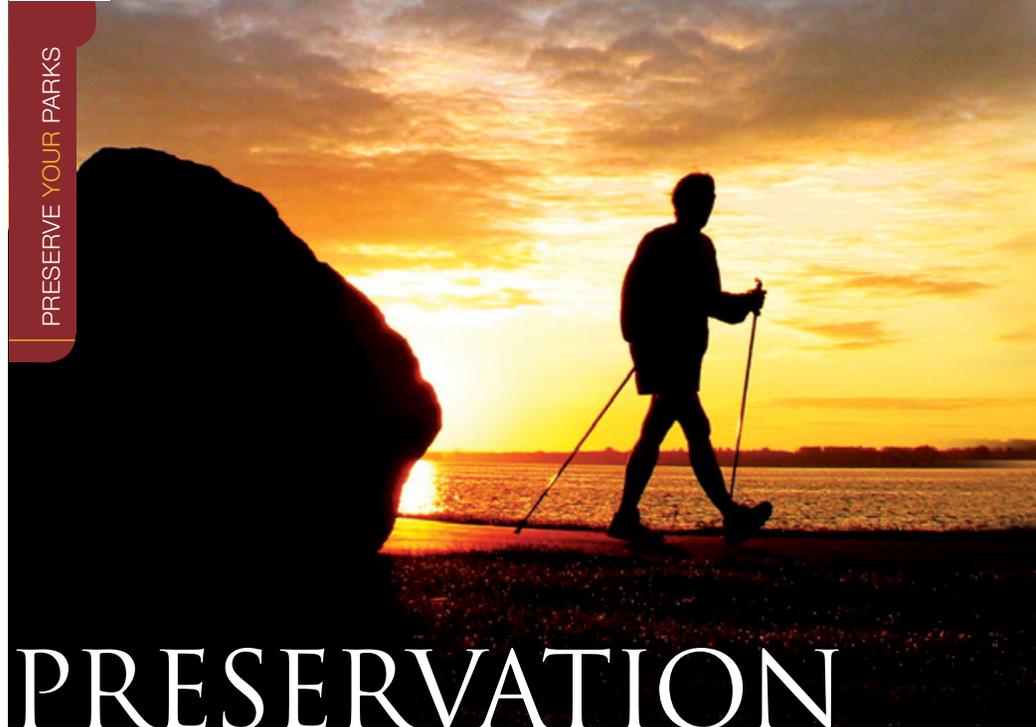
FUN FOR ALL

1 BEACHES California State Parks' beaches are legendary and offer chances to walk, sunbathe, surf, and swim!

2 CAMPING Most campsites for individuals, families, or groups can be reserved up to seven months in advance at www.parks.ca.gov or via ReserveAmerica at **1-800-444-PARK (7275)**.

3 SNO-PARKS California State Parks operates 21 SNO-Park sites that provide snow-cleared parking lots and access to snow play areas, cross-country ski and snowmobile trails. Please call **(916) 324-4442** or visit www.ohv.parks.ca.gov/snoparks.

4 HIKING With more than 3000 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails, California's parks offer four seasons of outdoor adventure and natural beauty.



PRESERVATION

STATE PARK PRESERVATION

Preserving public lands for future generations is an inherent part of the mission of California State Parks. When enjoying trails by foot, horse, or motorized vehicle, it is necessary that we take the time to learn how our actions impact the environment around us. By recreating responsibly, we can help protect everyone's right to enjoy California's beautiful parks for years to come.

PRESERVATION TIPS

- Put litter in its place.
- Stay on designated trails (no shortcuts).
- Avoid disturbing tide pool creatures.
- Do not feed the animals.
- Do not dispose of wastewater in lakes and streams.
- Do not disturb historic and archaeological artifacts.

SUCCESS STORIES

Thanks to the preservation efforts by agencies like California State Parks, endangered species like the peregrine falcon and the California gray whale have come back from the brink of extinction. Management of wildlife and habitats has kept species such as the California bighorn sheep, found at **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®**, and the tule elk (for which **Tule Elk State Reserve** is named) from disappearing.

KEEPING YOUR CALIFORNIA GOLDEN



The California State Parks Foundation is the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating

for California's magnificent state parks. To become a member, call **(800) 963-7275** or visit: www.calparks.org.

3 Northern California

PARKS	FACILITIES										ACTIVITIES																
	Visitor center	Picnic areas	Food/dining nearby	Museum	Lodging nearby	Campsites	Boating nearby	Boating access	RV access	Trailer sanitation station	WiFi Access	Bike trails	Educational exhibits & programs	Canoing/kayaking	Camping	Family & childrens programs	Guided tours	Fishing	Hiking	Historic sites	Nature viewing	Horse trails	Rafting	Surfing	Swimming	Windsurfing	
Kruse Rhododendron SR																											
La Purisima Mission SHP																											
Lake Oroville SRA																											
Lake Valley SRA																											
Leland Stanford Mansion SHP																											
Little River SB																											
MacKerricher SP																											
Mailliard Redwoods SR																											
Malakoff Diggins SHP																											
Manchester SP																											
Marconi Conference Center SHP																											
Marina SB																											
Marshall Gold Discovery SHP																											
McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial SP																											
McConnell SRA																											
Mendocino Headlands SP																											
Mendocino Woodlands SP																											
Millerton Lake SRA																											
Mono Lake Tufa SR																											
Montara SB																											
Monterey SB																											
Monterey SHP																											
Montgomery Woods SR																											
Moss Landing SB																											
Mount Diablo SP																											
Mount Tamalpais SP																											
Natural Bridges SB																											
Navarro River Redwoods SP																											
New Brighton SB																											
Old Sacramento SHP																											
Olympic SHP																											
Pacheco SP																											
Patrick's Point SP																											
Pelican SB																											
Pescadero SB																											
Petaluma Adobe SHP																											
Pfeiffer Big Sur SP																											
Pigeon Point Light Station SHP																											
Plumas-Eureka SP																											
Point Lobos SR																											
Point Montara Light Station																											
Point Sur SHP																											
Pomponio SB																											
Portola Redwoods SP																											
Prairie City SVRA																											
Prairie Creek Redwoods SP																											
Railtown 1897 SHP																											
Richardson Grove SP																											
Robert Louis Stevenson SP																											
Russian Gulch SP																											
Salinas River SB																											
Salt Point SP																											

4 Northern California

PARKS	FACILITIES										ACTIVITIES																
	Visitor center	Picnic areas	Food/dining nearby	Museum	Lodging nearby	Campsites	Boating nearby	Boating access	RV access	Trailer sanitation station	WiFi Access	Bike trails	Educational exhibits & programs	Canoing/kayaking	Camping	Family & childrens programs	Guided tours	Fishing	Hiking	Historic sites	Nature viewing	Horse trails	Rafting	Surfing	Swimming	Windsurfing	
Samuel P. Taylor SP																											
San Gregorio SB																											
San Juan Bautista SHP																											
San Luis Reservoir SRA																											
Santa Cruz Mission SHP																											
Schooner Gulch SB																											
Seacliff SB																											
Shasta SHP																											
Sinkyone Wilderness SP																											
Smithe Redwoods SR																											
Sonoma Coast SB																											
Sonoma SHP																											
South Yuba River SP																											
Standish-Hickey SRA																											
Sugarloaf Ridge SP																											
Sugar Pine Point SP																											
Sunset SB																											
Sutter's Fort SHP																											
Tahoe SRA																											
Tolowa Dunes SP																											
Tomales Bay SP																											
Trinidad SB																											
Turlock Lake SRA																											
Twin Lakes SB																											
Van Damme SP																											
Washoe Meadows SP																											
Wassama Round House SHP																											
Weaverville Joss House SHP																											
Westport-Union Landing SB																											
Wilder Ranch SP																											
William B. Ide Adobe SHP																											
Woodland Opera House SHP																											
Woodson Bridge SRA																											
Zmudowski SB																											

For detailed current information about parks, including reservations, fees and accessibility, visit the website www.parks.ca.gov. For general park information, call (800) 777-0369; campsites reservations (800) 444-7275; OHV operations (916) 324-4442. Other parks in this region may be owned by California State Parks but operated by local authorities.
SP = State Park **SHP** = State Historic Park; **SR** = State Reserve; **SRA** = State Recreation Area; **SB** = State Beach; **SVRA** = State Vehicular Recreation Area.

ACCESSIBILITY: EVERY VISITOR IS A V.I.P.

California State Parks is proceeding with our vision of universal access to benefit all visitors. Find the parks accessible features at <http://access.parks.ca.gov> or phone the Department's Accessibility Section at **(916) 445-8949**. A large format of this publication has been made available online for visitors with low vision. Visit www.parks.ca.gov and click on the "California Escapes® PDF" link.

Scenic California

DRIVES

7 SCENIC DRIVES EXPLORING NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S
CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
BROUGHT TO YOU BY CALIFORNIA TOURISM

Central Valley Tour

The Central Valley is a feast for the stomach and the senses: Some of the most fertile farmland in the world is here, as well as historical sites.

THE FACTS

Start Location	Yuba City
Distance	400 Miles
Suggested Duration	5-6 Days

Begin in **Yuba City**, a small city about 45 miles north of Sacramento. Yuba City lies just south-east of the Sutter Buttes, often called "the smallest mountain range in the world." Plums are a leading crop in this region, so it's not surprising that Sunsweet prunes are headquartered here.

From Yuba City, head south to the town of **Davis**, accessed via I-80 west of Sacramento. This progressive college town is known for its environmental activism, outdoor festivals, bike paths, and red, British-style double-decker buses. Don't miss stopping into the dozen or so art galleries here, including the nonprofit, mixed-media Pence Gallery (www.pencegallery.org). If you happen to go on a Saturday (or Wednesday evenings from March-October), visit the Farmers Market downtown, where you can sample local fare and listen to music, and even ride a bicycle-powered carousel! (www.davisfarmersmarket.org).

Continue west along I-80 to **Fairfield**. If you have kids, don't miss the Jelly Belly factory tour. Learn why it takes a week to make a single tasty jellybean! (www.jellybelly.com). From Fairfield, head south and east via Hwy 12 for a stop in **Lodi** to taste award-winning wines at one of their 65 wineries. Proceed I-5 to **Stockton**. Visit this city's new waterfront, or stroll down the Miracle Mile, a pedestrian-friendly shopping district where you can also dine on a variety of delights, from ice cream to sushi (www.stocktonmiraclemile.com).

Next, hop on historic Hwy 99 south and make your way



to **Modesto**, a town that is bordered by three rivers (the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin). Be sure to stop by both the McHenry Mansion and Museum, which tell the story of the town's early history, including gold mining artifacts, a recreated blacksmith shop and general store (www.mchenrymuseum.org).

Further south on Hwy 99 is **Merced**, a fresh food paradise. Nearby, you can tour Hilmar Cheese Factory and sample some of the finest aged cheddars on fresh-baked crackers (www.hilmarcheese.com). On Thursday evenings (spring through fall), Merced closes part of Main Street for its Farmers Market Festival. Produce shares the bill with entertainment, food, and crafts. Locals recommend the self-guided tour of Victorian homes (info: 209-384-2791).

Continue south on Hwy 99 to **Fresno**. Fresno's Chaffee Zoological Gardens is a great stop for families, as it offers hands-on educational experiences (don't miss touching and feeding the stingrays! www.chaffeezoo.org).

Hop back on Hwy 99 and continue south to the small town of **Earlimart**. Seven miles west of Earlimart on County Road J22, you'll find **Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park**. Allensworth is the only California town to be founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The small farming community was founded in 1908 by Colonel Allen Allensworth and a group to improve the economic and social status of African Americans (info: 661-849-3433).

Finally, don't miss **Tule Elk State Reserve**, just outside of **Bakersfield**, west of Hwy 99 and I-5. The Tule elk are an endangered herd, but have successfully been protected here. Take a guided nature walk and don't forget your camera! (info: 661-764-6881). Just be sure not to approach the elk or other wildlife.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Hungry? In Modesto, head over to St. Stan's Micro-Brewery Restaurant on L Street, offering fancy pub grub and a diverse beer menu that's one of the best in the region (559-524-2337).

Hats, Bags, & Eats Fresno: Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, Kearney Mansion Museum, Victoria Rose Cottage Restaurant, & Fashion Fair. For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:
The California Welcome Center Merced,
710 West 16th St., Ste A, (209) 384-2791



A Taste of The Bay Area & Napa

This tour combines Bay Area adventures with wine-country relaxation for a vacation you'll never forget!

THE FACTS

Start Location
Santa Cruz

Distance
200 Miles

Suggested Duration
3-6 Days

Tucked along the hills and beaches of The Bay Area is a world full of culture, history, and outdoor adventure. Start-ing south, take a stroll along the **Santa Cruz** boardwalk (bring a sweater!). Thrill seekers shouldn't miss a ride on the Giant Dipper, a 1920s wooden roller coaster located there. If

your stomach's not turning afterward, walk just a few blocks to downtown where outdoor bistros lure you in with delicious smells. Finally, don't miss watching the surfers at Cowells Beach (or learn to surf yourself!).

One of the most scenic highways in the country, Hwy 1 will take you north to spectacular **Half Moon Bay**, a marine sanctuary, pristine coastline, and home to a huge menu of activities (go whale-watching and sportfishing year-round out of Pillar Point, or learn to make your own cheese at Harley Farms: 650-879-0480).

From Half Moon Bay, follow Hwy 1 north to US-101 and San Francisco. Just across the Golden Gate Bridge (US-101), discover **Marin County** (www.visitmarin.org): Lace up your walking shoes or rent a bike in San Francisco (www.blazing saddles.com) to explore the many trails (the sport of mountain biking started here!). Or stop by **Sausalito**, a coastal Miwok Indian settlement and fishing town that's evolved to become a charming seaside hamlet full of waterfront restaurants and art galleries. City dwellers often bike across the bridge and take the Alexander Avenue exit down to Sausalito for the afternoon.

Across Richardson Bay, make your next stop in **Tiburon** (via Tiburon Blvd off US-101), and catch the 10-minute ferry ride to **Angel Island State Park**, in the middle of San Francisco Bay (Angel Island is also accessible by ferry from San Francisco's Ferry Building and via the Oakland/Alameda Ferry. Several companies provide ferry service. More info: <http://transit.511.org>). Pack a picnic and comfortable clothes. Trails along the perimeter and to the top of Mt. Livermore let you soak in the views of the San Francisco skyline, Marin Headlands, and



Golden Gate Bridge

Mt. Tamalpais. Bike rentals are available seasonally on the island (\$35/day; www.angelisland.com).

For the rest of your journey north to **Napa Valley**, you'll want to hire a limo (several options are available at www.californiawinetours.com) or designate a driver. Continue on 101 north and pick up Hwy 37 east which leads to Hwy 29 north to the heart of Napa. This area is peppered with wineries: Mondavi (an old favorite), Kapcsándy Family Winery (a promising newcomer), and Barnett Vineyards (a local favorite), are just a few of the best. For one-stop shopping, visit the Vintner's Collective tasting room on Main St. in downtown Napa. And for special gatherings, exhibitions, performances, and more, check out COPIA: The American Center For Wine, Food, and the Arts (www.copia.org). Hungry? Pop in to Oakville Grocery (www.oakvillegrocery.com) for melt-in-your-mouth sandwiches, fine cheeses, salads, and more. Afterward, work off the calories by visiting **Bothe-Napa Valley State Park**, where you can swim, stroll, or just gaze up at the impossibly tall redwoods. Finally, cap off your trip in **Calistoga**, a Mecca for spa goers. Calistoga's thermal hot springs provided healing to Native Americans long before the first spa was ever built.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Kids: Take your parents to the Exploratorium in the city and learn about weather, space, earthquakes, sports, and more (www.exploratorium.edu). **Adults:** Hop the ferry to Tiburon and unwind at Sam's Anchor Café (www.samscafe.com), home of some of the most refreshing adult beverages you'll ever taste. Sam's Pink Lemonade is a local favorite.

Hats, Bags, & Eats Wine Country/ San Francisco Bay Packages: Napa Copia, Bay Area City Pass Attraction package, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:

The California Welcome Center San Francisco, PIER 39, Building "P", Suite 214-B, (415) 981-1280

Central Coast Tour

Breathtaking beaches and vibrant beach towns are the highlights of this coastal tour. Give yourself enough time to soak it all in!

THE FACTS

Start Location
Oxnard

Distance
300 Miles

Suggested Duration
2-4 Days

Just 60 miles northwest of LA, off Hwy 1, **Oxnard** welcomes you to the Central Coast. Dubbed the strawberry and lima bean capital of California, this seaside city celebrates its agricultural roots with a bi-weekly Farmers Market along the harbor. Tour historic farmhouses in Heritage Square before taking in whale exhibitions and nautical wonders at the **Maritime Museum** (info: 805-984-6260). From the harbor, pick up supplies to fill your picnic basket at Latitude 34 Deli and catch a boat to one of the five mountainous islands that make up **Channel Islands National Park**, where you can spend days fishing, hiking, snorkeling, and camping (info: 805-658-5730).

Next, go north via Hwy 1 to **Ventura**, a beach town known for its good fortune, a vibrant arts community, and an eclectic mix of architecture. Stroll along picturesque waterfront streets in the downtown district and harbor village while exploring the city's many galleries, studios, murals, art installations and theaters. Plan ahead if you'd like your visit to coincide with one of the city's music or art events, such as the summer concert series "Music Under the Stars" (info: 805-658-4726) or the tri-annual Artwalk (info: 805-658-4760). If you have the desire to stretch your legs, then rent a bike (info: 805-340-BIKE) and get moving on the **Ventura River Trail**. Reward yourself then with sunset views and dinner at **Ventura Pier**, one of the state's longest piers.

Heading north along Hwy 101, the celebrity havens of **Carpinteria**, **Summerland** and **Montecito** are delightful side excursions with posh eateries, local wineries, high-end boutiques and antique shops. The Santa Ynez Mountains come into view as the highway winds along the coastline and delivers you to the stunning, yacht-dotted harbor of **Santa Barbara**, where a mingling of cuisine, wine and culture have earned the city fame as the American Riviera.

Continue on Hwy 101 to **San Luis Obispo**, a university city nestled in the foothills of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range. From Mission Plaza, start a walking tour of the city's 18th century Spanish architecture.

From San Luis Obispo, follow Hwy 1 for one of the most scenic drives in the state — pristine rocky coastlines and classic panoramic views await. Look out for sunbathing elephant seals, sea lions and sea otters during winter months. Just north in **San Simeon** is **Hearst Castle**®, a California State Park and Historical Monument since 1958. The regal 90,000-square-foot, 165-room estate towers above the Pacific from its rocky perch on "The Enchanted Hill." Guided tours are offered all year-round (reservations are strongly recommended!) This is an absolute must-see. (info and tour reservations: 800-444-4445 or www.hearstcastle.com).

Farther north on Hwy 1, you'll find the treasure of California's central coast, **Big Sur**. Here, along this rugged section of coastline, redwood-covered mountains rise from the sea to form dramatic cliffs, secluded beaches and beautiful vistas. Relax and explore this majestic valley from one of the region's many lodges or campsites before moving north on Hwy 1 to **Monterey**, where a sensory experience awaits you. Smell the fresh catches at Fisherman's Wharf, taste the fresh produce on a local farm tour, or see haunted visions on the ghost trolley tour. Be sure to stop at Cannery Row, the historic waterfront district immortalized in John Steinbeck's novel of the same name. Dress in layers, as the local weather can be unpredictable.

From Monterey, pick up Hwy 68 to **San Juan Bautista**, a charming town in the heart of the San Juan Valley with a feisty spirit for its Old West heritage. Visit the **Old Mission San Juan Bautista**, an active Catholic parish founded in 1797 and once home for the Breen family, the survivors of the Donner Party tragedy.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

For a unique dining experience, why not try progressive dining in Oxnard? Relax and enjoy views of the Channel Islands as a water taxi ferries you between harbor restaurants for each course. Appetizers at the Lobster Trap, the main course at the Whale's Tail and maybe dessert at Port Royal (info: www.progressivedining.com).

Hats, Bags, & Eats Central Coast Packages: Prime Outlets, Carmel Walks, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:

The California Welcome Center Pismo Beach 333 Five Cities Drive, (805) 773-7924

North Coast Redwoods, Beaches, and More

This tour offers glimpses of majestic redwoods, plus a look at California's longest stretch of pristine undeveloped coastline, known as the Lost Coast.

THE FACTS

Start Location

Sonoma

Distance

350 Miles

Suggested Duration

4-6 Days

Just 30 short miles north of San Francisco via US-101 is **Sonoma County**, a venerable Garden of Eden for food and wine lovers. Aside from the 200+ wineries nearby, dozens of local farms and orchards let you taste their fare the moment it's plucked from the land. Visit an apple

orchard, ostrich farm, olive vineyard, or taste a farm-fresh pie at one of the many farm markets (more info: www.farmtrails.org). A retreat for writers and artists nationwide, Sonoma offers galleries, live theatrical performances, and a vibrant music scene (check out the free book readings at Copperfield's Books in **Sebastopol**; www.copperfieldsbooks.com).

Continue along US-101 north past **Santa Rosa** and pick up Hwy 128, a scenic "undiscovered" winery route that leads west to Hwy 1 and the town of Mendocino. After stopping in for a tasting at any of the 9 wineries en route, you will enter an 11-mile-long redwood tunnel to the sea. Stay a day or two wining & dining in **Mendocino** and explore the many state parks nearby (**Mendocino Headlands State Park** offers amazing views of the Pacific). Looking for lodging? Check into Stanford Inn by the Sea (www.catchacanoe.com), an environmentally conscious lodge overlooking the coastline (no Victorian kitsch here!). Instead, they offer canoe, kayak, and bike rentals for use, as well as wood-burning stoves and organic meals to warm you once you return from your adventure.

Hop back on Hwy 1 to US-101 north to **Humboldt County**. Turn west at **Garberville** toward the coast and **Shelter Cove**. This little fishing community is perched above the Lost Coast of California, the longest stretch of coastline without a major road or highway cutting through it. The result is a taste of the rugged wilderness that once characterized California's entire North Coast (Duck into the Chart Room for fresh seafood: www.chartroom.cc).

North of Garberville is **Phillipsville**, where you can access the vast **Humboldt Redwoods State Park**. More

than 17,000 acres of this park are virgin old-growth coast redwoods. Family campsites, primitive camps, trail camps, and horse camps are all available for overnight stays among the ancient, 300-foot-tall trees (info: 707-946-2409).

From Phillipsville, it's only another 60 or so miles north on US-101 to **Eureka**, California's largest coastal town north of San Francisco. While Sonoma caters to wine lovers, this area of Humboldt County features nationally acclaimed beers. Stop by Lost Coast Brewery (www.lostcoast.com) and sample the award-winning Downtown Brown or their famous lemon peppered parmesan cheese fries. Just north of Eureka is **Arcata**, a progressive college town on the north side of Humboldt Bay. The local baseball team, the Humboldt Crabs, is the most popular semi-pro team in the country, selling out crowds all summer long.

Cap off your journey in **Del Norte County** and **Klamath**, north of **Redwood National & State Parks** on US-101. Klamath is home to the famous Golden Bears statues that stand guard over the Klamath River Bridge, as well as some of the best river fishing in the state. Ride the Skytrail gondola at Trees of Mystery park for up-close views of a redwood forest. Kids love to dine at Forest Café, where the décor makes you feel like you're beneath the Klamath River (www.treesofmystery.net).

Formerly a secret getaway of Hollywood stars of the 1930s and 40s, Klamath has grown to include more than 1200 RV and camping sites for outdoor-loving visitors.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

In Santa Rosa, don't miss a trip to the Charles Schultz Museum and Research Center (www.schultzmuseum.org). Peanuts fans young and old will appreciate this tribute to Schultz's work. This summer, the museum is exhibiting more than 60 original strips of Snoopy "at his coolest." Visitors can also draw, write, and learn about cartooning.

Hats, Bags, & Eats North Coast Package: Mendocino Botanical Gardens, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information: California Welcome Center Santa Rosa, 9 Fourth Street, (800) 404-7673

California Welcome Center Arcata, 1635 Heindon Road, (707) 822-3619

Shasta Cascade Tour

The Shasta Cascade region is one of California's less-visited beauties. All the more reason to go there now while the weather is warm and the crowds are manageable!

THE FACTS

Start Location

Redding

Distance

450 Miles

Suggested Duration

6-8 Days

Located along I-5 about two hours south of the state border, **Redding** is a town that blends the histories of Native Americans, pioneers, miners, and survivors of the Great Depression. Yet when you travel along Market Street downtown, you're more likely to notice the outdoory vibes and tasty eateries.

No trip to Redding is complete without walking across the magnificent 217-foot Sundial Bridge, one of Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava's masterpieces. Just west of I-5, don't miss hiking or jogging the **Sacramento River Trail**, an 8-foot-wide rail-trail that is as educational as it is scenic (bring your camera!). Signposts along the way tell the story of Redding's early history.

From Redding, make the excursion west on Hwy 299 to **Weaverville**, home to **Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park**. This one-of-a-kind temple is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California. An exhibit includes art, pictures, mining tools, and weapons used in the 1854 Tong War (info: 530-623-5284). On your way back to Redding, visit **Shasta State Historic Park**, a preserved ghost town of half-ruined buildings from the old "Queen City" mining days (info: 530-243-8194).

North of Redding along I-5 is **Mount Shasta**, the community that rests in the shadow of the dramatic 14,162-foot peak. To view the mountain up close, drive along the Everett Memorial Hwy to 7,800 ft. (www.mtshastachamber.com) or to the Mt. Shasta Ski Park along Hwy 89. Or hop aboard the Shasta Sunset Dinner Train (www.shastasunset.com) and follow the historic McCloud Railway route skirting the mountain while you dine on a gourmet four-course meal.

Continue southeast on Hwy 89 and head west on 299 to the town of **Burney**. Sandwiched between two national forests, this town is a popular pit stop for waterfall seekers, hikers, and fly fishermen. Don't miss a stop at **McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park**, home to 129-foot Burney Falls (info: 530-335-2777). Bring a jacket; the area around the falls can be chilly.



Mount Shasta

Hop back on Hwy 89 and follow it south through Lassen Volcanic National Park, arriving at **Lake Almanor** and the town of **Chester** (this route is considered part of the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway-All American Road). It's impossible to miss the views of Lassen Peak, the southernmost volcano in the Cascade Range. Locals recommend staying at the cabins at Lake Almanor Ponderosa Cabins (www.lakealmanorcabins.com). Rustic on the outside, the cabins are fully furnished and quite luxurious inside. Golf lovers will appreciate the 10 courses nearby, while hikers and boaters will find plenty to do in and around the lake.

From Almanor, continue on 89 south and turn west on Hwy 70 to **Lake Oroville**. This man-made lake was created by the tallest earthen dam in the country (770 feet above water level). Near Lake Oroville Visitor Center, don't miss climbing up the 47-foot tower, where high-powered telescopes provide views extending all the way to the Sierra (info: 530-538-2219). Rent a houseboat at Bidwell Canyon Marina (www.gobidwell.com). And for a juicy prime rib and other fare, head to The Depot in Oroville, located in a converted train depot (www.oroville-city.com/depot).

As you make your way back up to Redding via Hwy 99 and I-5, make a quick stop in Chico, a college town that's home to **Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park**, a 1800s, three-story Victorian masterpiece, (info: 530-895-6144) and the Chico University Arboretum—both educational must-sees.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

When locals crave a juicy burger, they make a beeline to Bartels Giant Burger on Bechelli Lane in Redding. Wash it down with an extra-thick milkshake! (530) 223-1300

Hats, Bags, & Eats Shasta Cascade Package: Shasta Dinner Train, Pacific Sun Gourmet, Shasta Caverns, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information: The California Welcome Center Anderson, 1699 Highway 273 at the Shasta Outlets, (530) 365-1180

Columbia State
Historic Park



Gold Country Tour

This excursion is ideal for vacationers with a long weekend to explore. You'll see the best of Gold Country's mines, historic towns, and museums.

THE FACTS

Start Location
Grass Valley

Distance
175 Miles

Suggested Duration
2-3 Days

Begin this tour in **Grass Valley**, northeast of Sacramento on scenic Hwy 49. Tucked in the Sierra Foothills, this Gold Rush town is known for its art and theater culture. Stop by the Center for the Arts' Main Gallery on Main Street, where local and national artists exhibit on a rotating basis and you can watch music,

dance, and theatrical performances (www.thecenterforthearts.org). For a snack afterward, head over to the Foot-hill Mercantile on Mill Street, a 1800s-era general store that sells rich fudge, buttery popcorn, and other treats.

Next, drive south on Hwy 49 to **Auburn**, one of California's earliest mining towns. Much of downtown looks similar to the Gold Rush days. Take some time walking around, visiting the Placer County Courthouse, the old Grammar School (now City Hall business offices), clock tower, and more. Outdoors lovers won't want to miss the **Auburn State Recreation Area**, where you can whitewater raft on the American River (info: 530-885-4527).

Just south of Auburn, in 1848, James W. Marshall discovered gold in the South Fork of the American River. **Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park** preserves this site (info: 530-622-3470). Kids love panning for gold here on the banks of the river!

Before continuing south, make an excursion west to **Sacramento**, the largest city in Gold Country and the state capitol. Don't miss **Old Sacramento Historic Area** ("Old Sac" to the locals), a 28-acre site along the Sacramento River that includes 100+ buildings, which have been restored to their 1850s facades. Take a weekend steam train excursion, a 40-minute ride that runs along the river (www.oldsacramento.com).

Further south on Hwy 49 is **Jackson**, where you can visit actual gold mines, including the Kennedy Gold Mine, which produced more than \$30 million worth of the precious metal before closing in 1942 (www.kennedygoldmine.com).

Continue on Hwy 49 to **Angels Camp, Sonora**, and **Jamestown** in heart of Gold Country. Walking around these towns is like journeying back in time. Angels Camp is famous for being the setting of Mark Twain's short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." The literary heartbeat still beats strong here. Near Angels Camp, don't miss Moaning Cavern, east of town on Hwy 4. The vertical chamber of this limestone cave is so tall it could house the Statue of Liberty inside! An hour-long walking tour lets you see it up close. (If you're more adventurous, you can also rappel down the cave). Not far from here, **Columbia State Historic Park** is three miles north of Sonora, off Hwy 49. This park allows visitors to travel back in time to the 1850s Gold Rush with historical reenactments (info: 209-588-9128).

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Just outside of Jackson in Sutter Creek, stop for a bite at Susan's Place Wine Bar & Eatery. Here you can taste several local wines side-by-side and enjoy a diverse cheese menu, plus salads, and sandwiches. (209) 267-0945; www.susansplace.com

Hats, Bags, & Eats Gold Country Package: Mariposa Museum, State Railroad Museum, Wineries, Western Railroad Museum, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:
The California Welcome Center Auburn,
13411 Lincoln Way, (530) 887-2111

High Sierra Tour

An outdoor paradise, the High Sierra is not to be missed. The writings of John Muir and Mark Twain and the photography of Ansel Adams spring to life here! Give yourself time to truly enjoy this escape.

THE FACTS

Start Location
Tahoe City

Distance
525 Miles

Suggested Duration
7-10 Days

Start your journey in **Tahoe City** on the western shore of the crystal blue mountain-rimmed lake. Across from the Tahoe City Community Center on the west end of town, access the Tahoe Rim Trail, a one-of-a-kind multi-use path that encircles the lake. Often challenging, the trail's payoff is panoramic vistas of Truckee River Canyon and Lake Tahoe (www.tahoerimtrail.org). Stock up on energy bars and gear at Alpenglowsports on North Lake Boulevard (www.alpenglowsports.com). The Chamber office and year-round Visitor Information Center (530-581-6900, www.GoTahoeNorth.com) is located at 380 North Lake Boulevard, in the historic Tahoe City Community Center (next to the Fire Station) in downtown Tahoe City.

Mark Twain called **Lake Tahoe** "the fairest picture the whole earth affords." One of the best ways to experience this alpine beauty is by taking a sailing cruise. In **South Lake Tahoe** (Hwy 89 south from Tahoe City), Woodwind Cruises offers a unique wine-tasting cruise, complete with appetizer pairings (www.sailwoodwind.com). For a bird's eye view of the lake, head up to Heavenly Ski Resort and ride the gondola (look behind you as you ascend!).

After all that activity, you deserve to relax. Make your way south via US-50/Hwy 89 to **Markleeville**. Four miles west of town at the end of Hot Springs Road, you'll find **Grover Hot Springs State Park** (info: 530-694-2248). Take your bathing suit! Afterward, head back into town and dine at Wolf Creek Restaurant. The staff is very friendly and tacos are a local favorite! (www.wolfcreek-restaurant.com).

Next, make an excursion west via Hwy 89 and Hwy 4 to **Arnold**, home of **Calaveras Big Trees State Park**. This giant sequoia grove includes the "Discovery Tree," the first Sierra redwood noted by Augustus T. Dowd in 1852 (info: 209-795-2334).

From Arnold, head south to **Mariposa**, located along Hwy 49. A classic Western town, Mariposa is known for its rich

history. Around town, visit the Old Stone Jail (c. 1858), the County Courthouse (California's oldest seat of justice), and St. Joseph's Catholic Church (c. 1861). About 40 miles northeast of Mariposa via Hwy 140 (open year-round) is **Yosemite National Park**. Don't miss the bustling Yosemite Village, with its surrounding dramatic rock cliffs and domes. Stop by the Ansel Adams Gallery in the Village Mall for an up-close look at the brilliant photographer's work (209-372-4413). Or, take the full-day Yosemite Grand Tour to sample some of the natural wonders of the park, including Mariposa Grove, Valley Floor, and Glacier Point (www.yosemitepark.com).

Retrace your steps back east and north toward Tahoe and pick up US-395. Head south and make a stop at **Mammoth Lakes**. In winter this is a prime skiing and snowboarding destination, but in summer it transforms to a Mecca for hiking (don't miss the Lakes Basin and Devils Postpile!) mountain biking, fishing, and pure mountain relaxation. At Mammoth Mountain, hop aboard the Panorama Gondola, whisking you up to 11,053 feet for a 360-degree view of the Eastern Sierra. Or check out the Bike Park, with 90 miles of dirt trails for every ability (rentals available at the resort; www.mammothmountain.com). Afterward, go shopping or grab a bite in the Village.

Finally, continue south on US-395 through **Bishop** to the small town of **Lone Pine**, the gateway to Mt. Whitney (14,494 ft.), the tallest peak in the Lower 48. Hiking the sky-scraping peak is not for the faint of heart, but if you do, fuel up with a hearty breakfast at Mt. Whitney Restaurant on Main Street (760-876-5751). The walls of the restaurant are lined with photos of celebrities who dined here.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

A true hidden gem, Taqueria Las Palmas in Bishop serves up some of the best authentic Mexican in the region. Sample their homemade tamales and mouthwatering burritos (136 E Line St.; 760-873-4337). Afterward, stop by the neighboring Mountain Light photo gallery (www.mountainlight.com).

Hats, Bags, & Eats High Sierra Packages: Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad, Mammoth Ski Museum, and more! For discounted packages and more info, visit www.visitcalifornia.com/deals.

Travel Information:
The California Welcome Center Merced,
710 West 16th St., Ste A, (209) 384-2791; also stop by the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center on Hwy 203.



California State Parks Pass & Fee Info

A full list of California State Parks camping and day use fees can be found online at www.parks.ca.gov.

Day Use: Many parks charge a daily parking fee.

Camping: Reservation information is available at www.parks.ca.gov or (800) 444-PARK (7275).

Historic Sites and Museums: Tour and entry fees vary from park to park.

SNO-Parks: Daily fees apply; seasonal passes available. Contact (916) 324-4442 or www.ohv.parks.ca.gov.

Boating: Launch and overnight mooring fees vary from park to park.

Annual Passes: The Annual Day Use Parking Pass (\$125) provides access to most state-operated parks that charge parking fees. The Golden Poppy Annual Day Use Parking Pass (\$90) provides access to many state-operated parks and all reservoirs.

An annual boat use pass (\$75) may be purchased for each vessel.

Please call (866) 41-PARKS (866-417-2757) or purchase at www.store.parks.ca.gov. Passes can also be purchased at most State Park District and Sector offices, and at many park offices. For a list of District offices, visit www.parks.ca.gov

Discount Passes: For eligibility requirements, applications, terms and fees, call (800) 777-0369, ext.3 or visit www.parks.ca.gov; select (Reservations and Fees.)

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www.parkvisitor.com

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While online, you can also share your travel stories, outdoor tips, recipes, and more. And, read what other visitors have to say about their favorite state parks!

No purchase is necessary. Just go online and provide your feedback today!

Canon

Off Road Adventure!

For more than 35 years, California State Parks has managed off-highway recreation in California through its Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division. Activities include: the operation of dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), snowmobiles, SUVs, and dune buggies. A State Vehicular Recreational Areas (SVRA) pass is available (\$50). **For more info, visit www.ohv.parks.ca.gov or (916) 324-4442.**

Northern California State Parks Contacts

A complete list of state park descriptions and contact numbers can be found at www.parks.ca.gov

Admiral William Standley SRA (707) 247-3318
 Ahjumawi Lava Springs SP (530) 335-2777
 Anderson Marsh SHP (707) 994-0688
 Andrew Molera SP (530) 685-1915
 Angel Island SP (415) 435-1915
 Annadel SP (707) 938-1519
 Año Nuevo SP & SR (650) 879-2025
 Armstrong Redwoods SR (707) 865-2381
 Astorian SB & Conf. Gnd. (831) 646-6440
 Auburn SRA (530) 885-4527
 Austin Creek SRA (707) 865-2391
 Azalea SR (707) 677-3132
 Bale Grist Mill SHP (707) 942-4575
 Bean Hollow SB (650) 726-8819
 Benbow Lake SRA (707) 247-3318
 Benicia Capitol SHP (707) 745-3385
 Benicia SRA (707) 648-1911
 Bethany Reservoir SRA (209) 599-3810
 Bidwell Mansion SHP (530) 895-6144
 Bidwell-Sacramento River SP (530) 342-5185
 Big Basin Redwoods SP (831) 338-8860
 Bodie SHP (760) 847-6445
 Bothe-Napa Valley SP (707) 942-4575
 Brannan Island SRA (916) 777-6671
 Burton Creek SP (530) 525-3345
 Butano SP (650) 879-2040
 Calaveras Big Trees SP (209) 795-2334
 California State Capitol Museum (916) 324-0333
 California State Indian Museum SHP (916) 324-0371
 California State Mining & Mineral Museum (209) 742-7625
 California State Railroad Museum (916) 445-6645 or (916) 323-9280
 Candlestick Point SRA (415) 671-0145
 Carmel River SB (831) 624-4909
 Carnegie SVRA (925) 447-4027
 Caspar Headlands SB & SR (707) 937-5804
 Castle Crags SP (530) 235-2684
 Castle Rock SP (408) 867-2952
 Caswell Memorial SP (209) 599-3810
 China Camp SP (415) 456-0766
 Clay Pit SVRA (530) 538-2200
 Clear Lake SP (707) 279-2267
 Columbia SHP (209) 589-9128
 Colusa-Sacramento River SRA (530) 342-5185
 D.L. Bliss SP (530) 525-8530
 Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP (707) 464-6101 ext. 5120
 Delta Meadows (916) 777-7701
 Donner Memorial SP (530) 562-7892
 Emerald Bay SP (530) 541-3030
 Empire Mine SHP (530) 273-8522
 Folsom Lake SRA (916) 988-0205
 Folsom Powerhouse SHP (916) 988-0205
 The Forest of Nisene Marks SP (531) 763-7052 or (531) 763-7053
 Fort Humboldt SHP (707) 445-6567
 Fort Ross SHP (707) 847-3286
 Franks Tract SRA (916) 777-6677
 Fremont Peak SP (831) 623-4255
 Garapata SP (831) 624-4829
 George J. Hatfield SRA (209) 632-1852
 Governor's Mansion SHP (916) 323-3047
 Gray Whale Cove SB (530) 726-8819
 Great Valley Grasslands SP (209) 826-1197
 Greenwood SB (707) 937-5804
 Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP (707) 777-3683
 Grover Hot Springs SP (530) 694-2248
 Hall Moon Bay SB (650) 726-8819
 Harry A. Merlo SRA (707) 677-3132
 Hendy Woods SP (707) 937-5804
 Henry Covell Redwoods SP (831) 335-4598
 Henry W. Coe SP (408) 779-2728
 Hollister Hills SVRA (831) 637-3874
 Humboldt Lagoons SP (707) 877-3132
 Humboldt Redwoods SP (707) 946-2409
 Indian Grinding Rock SHP (209) 296-7488
 Jack London SHP (707) 938-5216
 Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP (707) 464-6101 ext. 5112
 Jug Handle SR (707) 937-5804
 Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP (831) 667-2315
 Kings Beach SRA (530) 546-4212
 Kruse Rhododendron SR (707) 865-2391
 La Purisima Mission SHP (831) 753-3713
 Lake Oroville SRA (530) 538-2219
 Lake Valley SRA (530) 577-4802
 Leland Stanford Mansion SHP (916) 324-0575
 Little River SB (707) 677-3132
 MacKerricher SP (707) 937-5804
 Mailliard Redwoods SR (707) 937-5804
 Malakoff Diggins SHP (530) 265-2740
 Manchester SP (707) 937-5804
 Marconi Conference Center SHP (415) 663-9020
 Marina SB (831) 384-7695
 Marshall Gold Discovery SHP (530) 622-3470
 McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial SP (530) 335-2777
 McConnell SHP (209) 394-7755
 Mendocino Headlands SP (707) 937-5804
 Mendocino Woodlands SP (707) 937-5755
 Millerton Lake SRA (559) 822-2332
 Mono Lake Tufa SR (760) 647-6331
 Montara SB (650) 726-8819
 Monterey SB (831) 649-7118
 Monterey SHP (831) 649-7118
 Montgomery Woods SR (707) 937-5804
 Moss Landing SB (831) 649-7118
 Mount Diablo SP (925) 937-2525
 Mount Tamalpais SP (415) 388-2070
 Natural Bridges SB (831) 423-4609
 Navarro River Redwoods SP (707) 937-5804
 New Brighton SP (831) 464-6330
 Old Sacramento SHP (916) 445-6645
 Olompali SHP (415) 892-3383
 Pacheco SP (209) 826-6283
 Patrick's Point SP (707) 677-3570
 Petrican SB (707) 464-6101 ext. 5151
 Pescadero SB (650) 726-8819
 Petaluma Adobe SHP (707) 762-4871
 Pfeiffer Big Sur SP (831) 667-2315
 Pigeon Point Light Station SHP (650) 879-2120
 Plumas-Eureka SP (530) 838-2390
 Point Lobos SR (831) 624-4909
 Point Montara Light Station (650) 728-7177
 Point Sur SHP (831) 625-4419
 Pompano SB (650) 726-8819
 Portola Redwoods SP (650) 948-9098
 Prairie City SVRA (916) 985-7378
 Prairie Creek Redwoods SP (707) 464-6101 ext. 5301
 D.L. Bliss SP (530) 525-8530
 Railroad SHP (209) 994-3953
 Richardson Grove SP (707) 247-3318
 Robert Louis Stevenson SP (707) 942-4575
 Russian Gulch SP (707) 937-5804
 Salinas River SB (831) 649-7118
 Salt Point SP (707) 847-3221
 Samuel P. Taylor SP (415) 488-9897
 San Gregorio SB (650) 726-8819
 San Juan Bautista SHP (831) 623-4881
 San Luis Reservoir SRA (209) 826-1197
 Santa Cruz Mission SHP (831) 425-5849
 Schooner Gulch SB (707) 937-5804
 Seacliff SB (831) 685-6500
 Shasta SHP (530) 243-8194
 Sinkyone Wilderness SP (707) 996-7111
 Siskiyou Redwoods SR (707) 925-6482
 Sonoma Coast SB (707) 875-3483
 Sonoma SHP (707) 938-9560
 South Yuba River SP (530) 432-2546
 Standish-Hickey SRA (209) 925-6482
 Sugarloaf Ridge SP (707) 833-5712
 Sugar Pine Point SP (530) 525-7982
 Sunset SB (831) 763-7062
 Sutter's Fort SHP (916) 445-4422
 Taloke SRA (530) 543-3074
 Tolowa Dunes SP (415) 464-6101 ext. 5151
 Tomales Bay SP (415) 669-1140
 Trinidad SB (707) 677-3132
 Turlock Lake SRA (209) 874-2056
 Twin Lakes SB (831) 427-4868
 Van Damme SP (707) 937-5804
 Washoe Meadows SP (530) 525-3345
 Wassama Round House SHP (209) 742-7625
 Weaverille Joss House SHP (530) 623-5284
 Westport Union Landing SB (707) 937-5804
 Wilder Ranch SP (831) 425-0505
 William B. Ide Adobe SHP (530) 529-8599
 Woodland Opera House SHP (530) 666-9617
 Woodson Bridge SRA (530) 839-2112
 Zmudowski SB (831) 649-7118

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