California State Parks

Historic Sites

Visitor Information Guide

California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. To receive this publication in an alternate format contact the California State Parks Concessions & Reservations Division at (916) 653-7733.

For Information Call:
(800) 777-0369
(916) 653-6995,
Outside the U.S.
(888) 877-5738, TTY
(888) 877-5379,
Without TTY

www.parks.ca.gov

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Our Mission
The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

HISTORIC STATE PARK SITES

STATE CAPITOL MUSEUM
10th and L Street
Guided tours provide an understanding of California’s complex and dynamic legislature. In addition, the guides interpret the Capitol’s history, architecture and symbols. Historic offices offer a glimpse into the Capitol’s past and museum rooms convey a perspective on current issues. Maximum 35 people. Wheelchair accessible. Listening devices upon request. (1 hr - Guided Tour)

LELAND STANFORD MANSION
4th – 12th grades only.
Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, a National Historic Landmark, was the 19th century home of Leland and Jane Stanford. Today the Mansion welcomes leaders from around the world as the State’s official reception center and public museum. Allow 30 minutes for this guided tour. There are adult and youth fees; children five and under are free. For more information, call (916) 324-6088 or (916) 324-0575 and press 03.

THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM FOR HIST., WOMEN & THE ARTS
The California Museum offers fun and educational programs and tours. Students have the opportunity to learn about California and the nation through the gallery-based programs. Developed by an experienced educator with specific reference to California’s curriculum standards, the Museum offers a range of resources for discovery and learning to classroom teachers. These resources are provided in a ready format that encourages and supports the efforts of teachers in addressing the natural and cultural diversity of California, the growth of the world-class economy, and the workings of our democracy. The Museum features exhibits on pioneering families, California Mission art, and the Remarkable Women Series with Latinas: the Spirit of California. For more information on our current exhibits, check our website at www.calamuseum.org.

CALIFORNIA STATE INDIAN MUSEUM
26th & K Street
The museum displays a comprehensive collection of artifacts relating to California Indian culture. Wheelchair accessible. Groups without reservations are admitted on a space available basis. Carrying capacity enforced. (30 min - Self-guided Tour)

SUTTER’S FORT SHP
27th & L Street
This is the oldest restored fort in the West. Construction on the adobe fort began in 1840 by Captain Johann Augustus Sutter. Groups without reservations are admitted on a space available basis. For information regarding this site, please call (916) 445-4422. Wheelchair accessible, except for 2nd floor of Central Building. (1 hr - Sound-Assisted, Self-guided Tour)

GOVERNOR’S MANSION SHP
16th & H Street
Elegant Victorian mansion built in 1877. Former home to California’s governors from John Pardee through Ronald Reagan. No strollers allowed. Due to limited holding capacity, large drop-in groups not advised. Wheelchair lift available. For information regarding this site, call (916) 323-3047. (40 min - Guided Tour)

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY SHP
Highway 49 in Coloma
This is the site of the discovery at Sutter’s Mill that triggered the California Gold Rush. Groups with a valid reservation must check in at the park entrance within an hour before or after their scheduled arrival time. For Bekear’s gold panning programs call (530) 295-1850, Coloma Theater melodrama call (530) 626-5282. Other park programs call (530) 622-3470. Buses must park in the North Beach parking lot. Groups without reservations are admitted only on a space available basis. (Reservations at the park are for self-guided visits - allow 2 to 4 hrs)

SACRAMENTO, CA
SONOMA SHP
Founded in 1823, Mission San Francisco de Sonoma was the last San Franciscan mission established in Alta California. Today, part of the original priest’s quarters and a chapel dating from 1841-42 are left to mark the mission’s site. Secularized in 1834, the mission served as the parish church of Sonoma until 1881. For information regarding this site, call (707) 938-9560. (45 min - Guided Tour)

GENERAL VALLEJO'S HOME
Site of General Vallejo’s second home in Sonoma. Built in 1847 and known as Lachyma Montis, an American-style Victorian home. Visitor center and museum are housed in the Swiss chalet, a Tudor-style structure that once served as a storage house and granary. For information regarding this site, call (707) 938-9559. (45 min - Guided Tour)

SONOMA BARRACKS
Mexican garrison and scene of the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. Self-guided tour of the soldiers living quarters and museum of California history. Self-playing video of the history of Sonoma State Historic Park. Bookstore on site. For specific information regarding this site, call (707) 938-9560. (45 min - Self-guided Tour)

PETALUMA ADOBE SHP
Once part of General Mariano Vallejo’s vast agricultural empire, this restored adobe displays examples of early California rancho furnishings and equipment. Made from adobe brick and redwood, its design is typical of Hispanic architecture. For information regarding this site, call (707) 762-4871. (45 min - Guided Tour)

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA SHP
San Juan Bautista State Historic Park, in the city of San Juan Bautista, is part of a nationally recognized Historic District and fronts the old Historic Plaza and Mission San Juan Bautista, which has operated as a working church since its founding. The surrounding architecture represents both Spanish and Mexican style adobe structures from the first half of the 1800s, as well as American-period styled buildings from the second half of the same century. There are four main buildings within San Juan Bautista SHP: The Plaza Hotel, the Castro-Brenn Adobe, the Plaza Hall/Zanetta House, and the Plaza Stables, which can be visited while in the park. San Juan Bautista is a very popular destination for 4th grade school classes studying California History. Many educators bring students to visit the neighboring mission but come to the park for quality interpretive programs led by park staff. For specific information, please visit www.parks.ca.gov. For Mission reservations and questions, please call (831) 623-4528.

The following programs are available at San Juan Bautista SHP with reservations:

- **MISSION GAME**
  - This program focuses on the Mission period of time. A class broken down into small groups of about five students each will “design” a mission using clues and information given by the interpreter. This is a hands-on activity, which encourages critical thinking while learning about the background behind the creation of the Mission system in California. This program is wheelchair accessible. A per class charge is payable upon arrival at San Juan Bautista. Check in at front desk of the Plaza Hotel. (1 hr - Program)

- **INTERPRETIVE HANDCAR PROGRAM**
  - This hands-on program gives students the opportunity to experience the trials, tribulations, and hardships associated with the heavy labor performed by maintenance workers. It is designed to provide school children with a safe experience in the operation of the most basic of railroad equipment.

- **RACETOWN OVER TIME**
  - A park interpreter will, in an historic setting, take a class through the different time periods and cultures, in California, relevant to 4th grade curriculum. Selected students may get to put their faces into pictures with cutouts and “become” characters in history. This program helps students integrate their classroom learning with what they experience when they visit the park. The eras from the Native American period up to the Gold Rush/Statehood time, circa 1850 are covered. This program is wheelchair accessible. A per class charge is payable upon arrival at San Juan Bautista. Check in at front desk of the Plaza Hotel. (1 hr - Program)

- **TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD: FROM HORSES TO HORSEPOWER!**
  - This 30-minute hands-on interactive program, which traces the development of the Transcontinental Railroad. It begins with Theodore Judah’s dream of a railway that connected the nation from coast to coast; its construction, completion and its consequences, as it impacted not only California, but the whole country.

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