



SUTTER'S FORT STATE HISTORIC PARK

Map and Guide

WELCOME! Sutter's Fort State Historic Park sits in Midtown Sacramento, in an area that has been the homeland of the Nisenan and Miwok people since time immemorial. From 1839 to 1849, Sutter's Fort was the economic center of the first permanent European colonial settlement in California's Central Valley. Its founder was a Swiss immigrant John Sutter, who named his vast Mexican land grant "New Helvetia" (New Switzerland). Many different Native People helped build the fort, and their exploited labor made the fort's many industries possible. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California, in January 1848, started the Gold Rush that ultimately undermined Sutter's businesses at the fort and led to an even greater exploitation of Native People across California.



**Sutter's Fort
State Historic Park**
2701 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95816



**Park and
Museum Store Hours:**
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas, New Year's Day)



Admission per person:
Adults (18+ years) - \$5
Youth (6-17 years) - \$3
Children (under 6 years) - Free
Only street parking available.



**California State Parks
Passes Accepted:**
Fourth Grade, Historian,
Distinguished Veteran



916-445-4422
711, TTY Relay Service
parks.ca.gov/SuttersFort



California State Parks supports equal access. For accommodation requests, including alternative formats, please contact **916-445-4422**. For information about accessible features at this park, visit parks.ca.gov/AccessibleFeatures.

FACTS ABOUT THE FORT

- Born in 1803, Swiss immigrant John Sutter became a Mexican citizen to obtain an almost 50,000-acre land grant named New Helvetia.
- Sutter's Fort was an agricultural and manufacturing center. Generally, no more than a few people lived inside the fort walls.
- Sutter was in command of his fort from 1840 to 1849, except for a brief period during the Mexican-American War in 1846.
- Sutter's Fort was the end point of the California Overland Trail. Many groups traveled here, including the Donner Party.
- While Sutter often sought European immigrants with trade skills to work at the fort, at least 80% of the workforce were Native People from local villages.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Tours—General admission tours are self-guided. State Parks staff and volunteers are available to answer questions. Occasional history talks and guided tours are offered when staff is available.

Pets—Dogs are allowed only in the park surrounding Sutter's Fort. Only service animals are allowed inside fort gates and in exhibit areas.

Respect—All natural and cultural features are protected by law.

Facility Rentals—For more info, email Francesca.Martella@parks.ca.gov.

Photography—Photography is allowed for personal use. Tripods and standing flash are not permitted. Commercial photography requires a permit. Visit film.ca.gov for information.

THINGS TO DO

If you have an hour, visit the State Indian Museum State Historic Park on the same park grounds. The museum depicts three major themes of California Indian life: Nature, Spirit and Family. Native Peoples lived prosperously for thousands of years in what is now California. All of the exhibits and photographs on display in the museum are presented with respect for those who went before us on this land and continue to live in California communities today.

If you have half a day, explore the California State Capitol Museum (1 mile west) and also visit the historic Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park (1.5 miles west). Each offers 45-minute guided tours.

If you have a full day, visit Old Sacramento State Historic Park (2 miles west) and see the California State Railroad Museum, which interprets the role of the “iron horse” in connecting California to the rest of the nation. This is part of a larger historic district that offers many things to see and do.

 **If you are looking for an accessible activity,** the fort’s even ground surfaces and unisex restroom are generally accessible. Historic doorways and the upper level may limit access. Park staff are available to answer visitor questions.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PORTS—PORTS: Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students® Programs are free, interactive virtual field trips throughout California state parks. Classes (grades 3 to 5) may sign up for the On-Demand Program, “Sutter’s Fort Through Time.” For more information, visit ports.parks.ca.gov.

Student Tour Program—This is a one-hour staff-guided tour for school groups, grades 3 to 6. The fee is \$5 per participant and covers both program participation and site admission. Group size is limited to a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 35 persons per tour. For more information, email Jared.Jones@parks.ca.gov.

Immersive Programming—Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park offers two immersive educational programs: the Environmental Studies Program and the Environmental Living Program. For more information, please email Jared.Jones@parks.ca.gov.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are vital in creating an educational experience that allows all visitors to develop a personal connection with California’s history. For more information, please email Bernadette.Soliz@parks.ca.gov.



Reexamining Our Past Initiative

California State Parks is working on a plan to fundamentally change how history is interpreted at Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park to be more inclusive, complex and accurate.

