



*North State*

# VISITORS GUIDE

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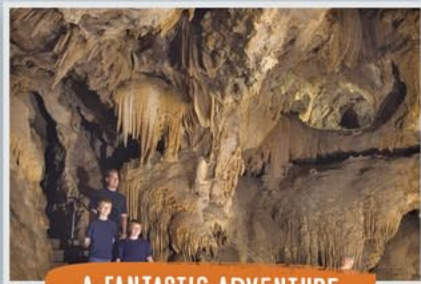
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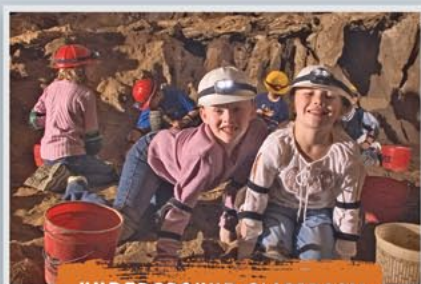
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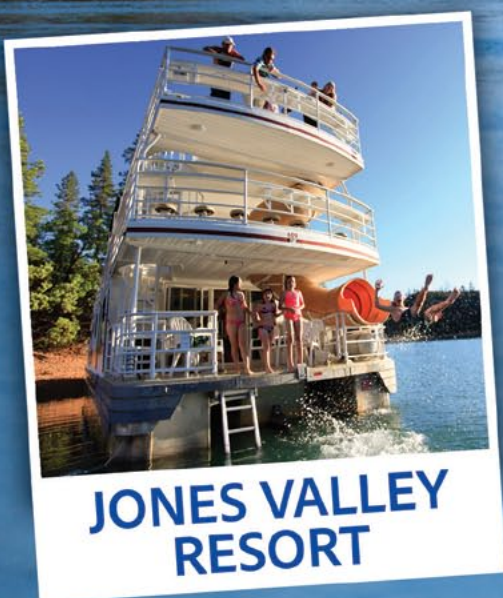
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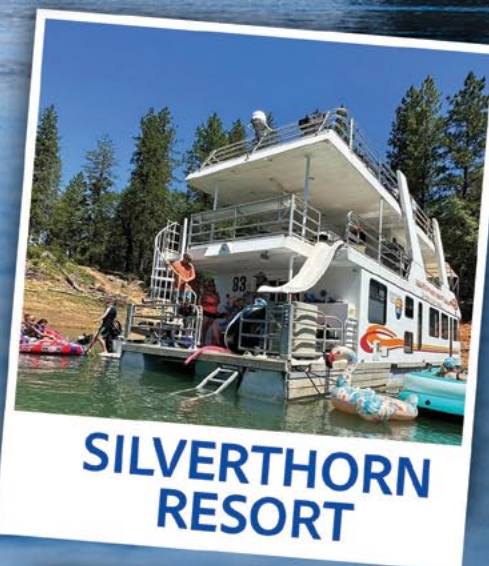
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# Welcome to Shasta Lake and the North State region

The North State Visitors Guide is back again for another year and everyone is excited and can't wait to get outside and enjoy the beautiful area, especially with Shasta Lake filled to the brim for the second year...no, make that the THIRD year in a row to start the spring and summer season.

In addition to updates on most stories, we also have added two pages to last year's first ever section on Museums in the North State, with new information on those in Plumas County and even over on the coast. Thank you to Darlene Brown and Charlotte Bailey of the Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society for their efforts in making this happen.

We also have a new story on the history of gold in the area, including possible lost treasures throughout the north state. In addition, there is information for those who might like to take a shot at gold prospecting. And there's a new story on Lake Shasta Caverns and their new state-of-the-art light and sound system.

And on a side note, just to let our foreign travelers know, we WELCOME ALL OF YOU to our area, whether you're from Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia... even our penguin friends on Heard and McDonald islands! We've got lots of water for you to dip your beaks in! :)

The North State Visitors Guide is available online all year at our website [northstate.news](http://northstate.news) where we have a PDF you can download and save to your favorite electronic device, and where we can also update any information that was in this printed edition...or correct our mistakes. Hey, it happens.

The downloadable PDF also has hyperlinks for both the ads and editorial.

So read on and thanks for visiting. We hope you have a safe time and enjoy your stay in the area. And, as always, we ask that you please try and keep the area as clean as possible. "If you pack it in, please pack it out."

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## northstate.news

COVER PHOTOS: Burney Falls - photo by Ian Peterson, iStock photo; Shasta Dam from the Three Shastas vista point - photo by Bureau of Reclamation; Candace Cannon and her dog Roofus strolling along the banks of Whiskeytown Lake - photo by Ron Harrington.

**NOTE: The following institutions that are advertising in the this North State Visitors Guide are an equal opportunity provider and operate under a Special Use Permit on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest:** Antler's Resort & RV Park, Bridge Bay Resort, Fun Factory Rentals, Holiday Harbor Resort, Jones Valley Resort, Lake Shasta Caverns, Lakeshore Inn Resort, Salt Creek Resort & RV, Shasta Marina at Packers Bay, Silverthorn Marina Resort, Sugarloaf Cottages, Sugarloaf Resort, Tsasdi Resort, Bigfoot Rafting, Trinity River Rafting.

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# Lassen, Burney Falls, Whiskeytown, Castle Crag among region's popular national & state parks

Formal national and state parks are plentiful in the north state, offering visitors up-close and personal brushes with natural splendor of every stripe as well as a healthy dose of local history and culture.

Please note the difference between state parks (McArthur-Burney Falls, Castle Crag, Shasta, Weaverville Joss House, William B. Ide Adobe) and the federal national parks or facilities (Lassen Volcanic National Park, Whiskeytown Recreation Area, Lava Beds National Monument, Shasta Dam, Trinity Alps, USFS). While the state parks are pretty much status quo this year, you should check in advance about those areas overseen by the federal government given the major cuts enacted by the current administration. You should probably check websites, social media, or call ahead before venturing to those locations. However, it also wouldn't be a bad idea to check the state facilities as well. And they're all good to check for special events they may have throughout the year.

Now on to an overview of what's available to see and experience.

**Lassen Volcanic National Park** is one of the best-known attractions in the area and its often described as  
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"Yosemite without the crowds."

The dominant feature of the park is Lassen Peak, the largest plug dome volcano in the world and the southernmost volcano in the Cascade Range. It is home to steaming fumaroles, meadows freckled with wildflowers, clear mountain lakes, and numerous volcanoes.

Starting in May 1914 and lasting until 1917, a series of minor to major eruptions occurred on Lassen. The largest one occurred in 1915, making this the 110th anniversary of that eruption. Jagged peaks tell the story of its eruptive past while hot water continues to shape the land.

Lassen Park offers opportunities to discover the wonder and mysteries of volcanoes and hot water for visitors willing to explore the undiscovered. More than 150 miles of hiking trails provide access to a wide-variety of park features including hydrothermal areas, volcanic peaks, alpine lakes, and mountain meadows.

Water from rain and snow that falls on the highlands of the park feed the hydrothermal system. Once deep underground, the water is heated by a body of hot or molten rock beneath Lassen Peak. Rising hot water boils to form boiling pools and mud pots. Super-heated steam reaches the

surface through fractures in the earth to form fumaroles such as those found at Bumpass Hell and Sulphur Works. These features are related to active volcanism and are indications of the ongoing potential for further eruptions from the Lassen "volcanic center."

The road through the park normally doesn't open until mid-June, and, although it didn't receive as much damage as other areas, some parts of the park were affected by the Dixie Fire in 2021. Information on current conditions is available to the public at Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, Loomis Museum and on the park website [nps.gov/lavo](https://www.nps.gov/lavo).

Not to be outdone in the volcano

department, Siskiyou County is proud to offer up 14,179-foot-tall **Mt. Shasta**, the second highest peak in the Cascade Range (Mount Rainier is 249 feet higher) and the fifth highest mountain in California.

June and July are the most popular months for climbing the mountain. Reaching the peak is a strenuous task and the assistance of a guide is strongly encouraged for novice climbers. You can still get an idea of what it's like on the Horse Camp hike (see the hiking article by John Soares on page 16). Although not formally a park, Mt. Shasta is the centerpiece of the federally designated Mt. Shasta Wilderness Area.



**Mushpot Cave in Lava Beds National Monument.**

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Castle Crag State Park is dominated by the namesake Castle Crag (above left), a dramatic rock formation in the upper Sacramento River canyon located just west of Interstate 5 between Castella and Dunsmuir. Mt. Shasta is in the distance.

To the north and east of Mt. Shasta is **Lava Beds National Monument**, a land of turmoil, both geological and historical. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions on the Medicine Lake shield volcano have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. More than 700 caves, Native American rock art sites, historic battlefields and campsites, and a high desert wilderness experience await.

The land that was later to become

Lava Beds National Monument, as well as the highlands to the south and wetlands to the north, was home to paleolithic peoples for thousands of years. This area is still infused with cultural and spiritual importance for many modern people of Modoc and Klamath descent.

A few miles south of Mt. Shasta, on the northern edge of Shasta County, is **Castle Crag State Park**. It is dominated by the namesake Castle Crag, a dramatic rock formation in the upper Sacramento River canyon located just west of Interstate 5 and south of Dunsmuir.

The park offers swimming and fishing in the Sacramento River, 76 developed campsites, 28 miles of hiking trails, abundant rock-climbing opportunities and access to the Castle Crag Wilderness Area.

The **Shasta State Historic Park**, a mere six miles west of Redding, tells the story of the north state gold rush. The Courthouse Museum is packed with historical exhibits and California artwork, and a row of half-ruined brick buildings reminds visitors that Shasta was the "Queen City" of the north state during the mining heyday.

Mae Helene Bacon Bogg (1863-1963), not only played a primary role in preserving land donated to the state to become Shasta State Historic Park, but she also dedicated time to various arts and history organizations throughout her life.

A rotating collection of her art is presented at the Courthouse Museum.

Come back in time to experience the romance and rigors of 19th century travel on stagecoach, steamship and sailboat. Be inspired by magnificent artwork from the Boggs Collection including artists such as Maynard Dixon, Emanuel Leutze and E.

Charlton Fortune.

Witness firsthand real tools of the trade from the 19th century: compasses, shotguns, sextants, telescopes and more. Create your own transportation-inspired origami or try to assemble Thaddeus Welch's "Salem Mills" in a 60-piece jigsaw puzzle.


Shasta State Historic Park is generally open Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., but check first by calling 530-243-8194. Also check the website or call for admission prices.

Moving a few miles to the west, the **Whiskeytown National Recreation Area** is highlighted by Whiskeytown Lake's beautiful crystal-clear waters, which are surrounded by mountain peaks, including Shasta Baldy at 6,199 feet above sea level. Water-based activities are the primary interest of most Whiskeytown visitors which include boating, kayaking, swimming, canoeing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving, and fishing, as well as just relaxing on the beaches.

However, water-based recreation is only a small part of what the park has to offer. The 39,000 acres surrounding the lake hold four waterfalls, pristine mountain creeks, 70 miles of trails, and opportunities to explore the history of the California Gold Rush.

The devastating Carr fire in 2018 burned large sections of the park, as well as nearby Shasta, and recovery efforts continue to be ongoing. However, three of the four falls in the park are open - Boulder Creek Falls, Whiskeytown Falls and Crystal Creek Falls. Only Brandy Creek Falls remained closed as of May 2025.

For more information, the visitor center is located at the intersection of Kennedy Memorial Drive and Highway 299. The road is named in honor



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PHOTO / Michael Burke

Shasta State Historic Park is located six miles west of Redding before you get to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

of President John F. Kennedy who dedicated Whiskeytown Dam on Sept. 28, 1963.

Visitors to Weaverville, the county seat of Trinity County less than an hour west of Redding, are welcome to explore the **Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park**, which celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April of last year. It offers a fascinating look into the role played by Chinese immigrants in early California history.

Known as the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds, the Joss House is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California. On display in the Taoist temple are art objects, pictures, mining tools and weapons used in the 1854 Tong War.

In May of 2025, the Joss House was open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Like all places, check the website, social media or call ahead to confirm at 530-623-5284

**William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park** stands as a memorial

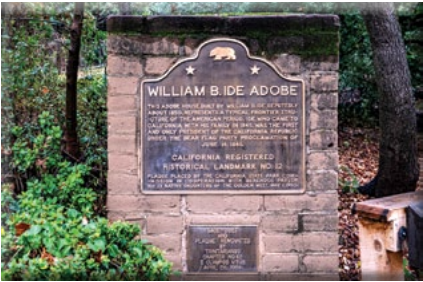


PHOTO / © 2024 California State Parks

**William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park in Red Bluff.**

to one of the leading participants in the Bear Flag Revolt. It is located at 21659 Adobe Road in Red Bluff.

The park, nestled along the banks of the Sacramento River, is a symphony of wildlife sounds and gentle winds rustling through aged oaks where you can enjoy a picnic by the river, saunter through the historic 1852 adobe homestead or attend an exciting living history event.


To the south toward Sacramento is the **Colusa-Sacramento River State**



PHOTO / © 2024 California State Parks


State Parks historical guide Jack Frost inside the Weaverville Joss House. Frost said a lot of people in the north state don't even know it exists. "Then, when they do come visit, they're amazed," he said.




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PHOTO / Martina

Whiskeytown Lake’s beautiful crystal-clear waters attracts a lot of water-based recreation, including boating, kayaking, pad



Boulder Creek Falls is one of three of the four waterfalls in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area to reopen since the 2018 Carr fire.

**Recreation Area**, located in Colusa. Open daily from sunrise to sunset, the area features a boat launch, camping, and a picnic area on the Sacramento River along with excellent fishing and a birding area. For more information, check the state website for this recreation area or call 530-458-4927.

To the east of Redding, no excursion to the area would be complete without a visit to Burney Falls, a 129-foot waterfall on Burney Creek that President Theodore Roosevelt called “the eighth wonder of the world.” The falls are located within the **McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park**, which is the second oldest park in the state system.

The trail to the base of Burney Falls was closed last year for repairs, but it has reopened.

Because of its popularity, the park is subject to closure due to limited parking. Please do not park on Highway 89 or your vehicle may be towed.



NSVG PHOTO / Craig Harrington

Following last year’s \$835,000 upgrade project that closed access to the trails leading to the base of Burney Falls, that trail has now reopened. Above, visitors at the falls on Mother’s Day in May 2025.

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# Trinity Alps features amazing waterfalls, wildflowers and lakes

The Canyon Creek Lakes taken while hiking down from Lost Lake.

PHOTO / Ryan McGaughey

Need to get away from it all, but don't want to trek to the four corners of the Earth? Good thing the Trinity Alps are right in Northern California's backyard.

They cover 821 square miles and feature 550 miles of maintained trails, including a 17-mile stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail, and offer something for just about everyone. Most of the trailheads are accessible from Highway 299, Highway 3 and Forest Highway 93.

And while the Trinity Alps offer a chance to escape, this summer remains a bit of an unknown following a wet winter that piggybacks on another wet winter following the previous winter which saw storm after storm.

In other words, a lot of water.

And that followed the previous year where no fewer than 10 fires burned countless acres in the unspoiled wilderness west of Redding and south of the Oregon border.

"We should see some amazing waterfalls. That's one of the huge selling points in the Trinity Alps," Tim Sims, author of *My Trinities: Playing in Northern California's most spectacular wilderness*, has said in previous wet years. "It should be good hiking and there should be some amazing wildflowers. They have some of

the most diverse wildflowers on the planet."

John Soares, another author who has written extensively about Northern California hiking, including for the North State Visitors Guide (see page 16) said monitoring the trails impacted by the fires a few summers ago through either social media or apps like AllTrails is a good way to stay up-to-date on conditions.

"If someone's done a trail, they're likely to write about it (and their experience)," he said.

Many of the trails off Coffee Creek were impacted by the Monument Fire in 2021, but Amanda Barragar, a former Wilderness Patrol worker with the U.S. Forest Service who is executive director of Ascend Wilderness Experience, cautions that with some trails closed they impact others as the Trinity Alps have seen exponential growth usage over the past several years.

"Some of the hidden gems are not so hidden anymore," she said. "Anyone who hikes in the Trinities knows that."

She said the increased use has led to the requirement of bear canisters in the Canyon Creek area.

"I've seen some trails with upwards of 200 cars parked and I think 'Where are they all going?'" she said, adding if you see a bunch of cars lined up then

think about going to the next trailhead.

She also said that despite the absence of summer fires the past few years, it's still not safe to camp in the heavily burned areas. She noted that about four years after a fire, trees will start falling in that area again.

But Barragar, who was born in Trinity County, loves the area and encourages those wanting to experience what she's known all her life to plan for early summer hiking due to the fire conditions that have, sadly, become commonplace in the modern West, usually in the later parts of summer.

A Trinity Alps Wilderness permit and a California campfire permit are required for camping in the Trinities. Both are free and available through the Forest Service. Call 530-623-2121 for details.

Sims said there are some "big-ticket items" like Canyon Creek and Granite Lakes that are well-known and will attract crowds, but there remain places where you really can go and not see anyone.

"If you go in the middle of the week, you won't see many people," he said.

One thing he added to be cautious of as spring morphs into summer is water crossings as the snow melt can affect those significantly. And he said some places will likely be frozen well

into summer.

"Grizzly Lake should be frozen until well into July, and the same with Caribou (Lake). It's 7,000 feet," he said, adding other lower elevation lakes will thaw sooner.

## Love of the Alps goes back over a hundred years for one family

Jeff Morris, a Weaverville native, cannot remember a time in his life that did not involve the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area.

"Every summer, there was at least one trip into the Trinities, usually for several nights," Morris said in a previous NSVG story on the Alps. "I probably did my first backpacking trip—with a really small pack—when I was 5 years old. The Alps have always been a part of our lives."

The Trinity Alps (named for the granite spires and peaks on the eastern side that reach as high as 9,000 feet) has been officially designated as a 525,627-acre wilderness area for some 40 years, but their presence has been felt for millions of years.

Barragar said the granite in the Trinity Alps is 167 million years old.

"To put this into perspective, dinosaurs were flourishing at this time," she said, adding that this is information found in an old Department of Interior geological survey from 1973.



For an uncountable stretch of time, the Trinities were the summer hunting lands of the Wintu and other American Indian tribes. The discovery of gold in the region in 1852 brought fortune-seekers, prospectors and settlers, who were then followed by loggers.

When President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act of 1964, thus protecting 9.1 million acres of land “where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain,” the stage was set for the protection of the Trinities some 20 years later.

That act of Congress served as a spark for the Morris family and others, Morris said.

“My grandparents, Leonard and Florence Morris, and my dad, Robert Morris, were all very active in helping move the proposals forward,” he said. “It really started in 1964 when the Wilderness Act was passed. They and a number of other community members saw the opportunity presented in the Act, even though the Alps weren’t included.

“My grandmother’s family had been packing mules and running cattle into the Alps since the 1850s. There was well over a hundred years of family history before the Wilderness bill passed.”

#### Noted rock climber’s passion began in the Alps

It took one sixth-grade outing for Weaverville native Jim Reynolds to fall in love with the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area.

“Before I got into rock climbing, the only thing I wanted to do was go backpacking,” Reynolds said in a previous NSVG story from Yosemite National Park, where he lived at the time and was pursuing his rock-climbing passion, a field where he’s excelled and is well known.

Reynolds briefly held the fastest ascent on The Nose on El Capitan in



A young woman and her dog hiking the Canyon Creek Trail in the Trinity Alps.

PHOTO / Jeff Goulden

Yosemite in 2017. Two years later, a 25-year-old Reynolds accomplished a remarkable free solo ascent of Cerro Torre in Patagonia. He didn’t just climb the route without any safety equipment, he also downclimbed it, with the whole ascent and descend taking him over 15 hours to complete.

Reynolds’ first venture into the Trinity Alps was led by Ascend Wilderness Experience, the nonprofit organization that takes youth on five-day backpacking trips into the Alps to develop personal and social development

and an appreciation for the natural environment. But it’s evolved.

“When (Reynolds) was a part of the organization, our flagship programs were primarily youth,” Barragar said. “Now we offer nearly as many adult and family opportunities as well. We also have a teen internship program. We’ve become a leading partner organization to the Forest Service in the Trinity Alps doing about 40 percent of the trail work getting done by volunteer groups in the Alps.”

Reynolds said he went on several more Ascend trips and then

started taking friends and sharing the skills he had acquired.

Reynolds said his appreciation for the Trinity Alps had grown even more once he left the area.

“It has always felt isolated up there compared to Yosemite,” he said. “The John Muir trail is always packed, but there’s a good chance you’ll find solitude up there in the Alps.”

The Alps tend to be “really lush and full of life and less desolate than the high country in the Sierra Nevada,” Reynolds added at the time. “It has this really cool kind of convergence of

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**Waterfall from Mirror Lake**

PHOTO / Amanda Barragar

all these watersheds and the granite up there is beautiful.”

Hikers will find lush meadows, soaring granite spires, glacial cirques dotted with brilliant blue lakes (many stocked with trout), stands of Douglas fir, spruce, ponderosa, cedar and hemlock trees, and hundreds of species of shrubs, plants and flowers.

Lake Eleanor and Shimmy Lake, which are accessed 13.3 miles north of Coffee Creek, are good for families, Barragar said. It’s an easy 7.2-mile round trip day hike or backpack and Lake Eleanor is only 0.3 miles from the trailhead, and those with really young children might appreciate this lake for the ease of being in nature with a toddler.

For families willing to push it a little farther, Shimmy Lake is another 3.3 miles and promises a fair bit of solitude without the requirement of a long hike. Barragar also likes Tangle Blue Lake, an easy 7.6-mile roundtrip day hike or backpack trip.

“This pretty lake has a large meadow on one side and plenty of

exploring options for longer trips,” Barragar said. “The Tangle Blue trail, accessed 13.3 miles north of Coffee Creek, is a great connector to a number of through-hiking options and day hikes.”

Reynolds recommended the popular Canyon Creek Lakes trail for an introduction into the immersive aspect of the Alps. Barragar said the moderately difficult 8-mile hike affords plenty of camping options and multiple waterfalls along the way.

For sheer gnarliness, Reynolds said either Morris or Smith Lake is the target.

“There’s no real trail up there and any way you can go is going to be kind of a heinous adventure,” Reynolds said.

The payoff, though, is an unmatched view and a near-guarantee of solitude.

#### However...

While planning a trip, it’s wise to check with the Forest Service or the Trinity Alps Facebook group to see



**Boulder Lake**

PHOTO / Amanda Barragar

if the trail you’d like to visit has been impacted, Barragar said.

In addition, black bears are prevalent in the Trinities and hikers are encouraged to use bear bags or canisters to minimize bear encounters.

As for Morris, the Trinities continue to take up a big part of his world. He’s still filled with memories of backpacking trips with friends and family, “being able to look back and reflect on spending very quiet evenings around a campfire by alpine lakes as osprey fished—just being in the magnificent theater of nature.”

shop, with various events scheduled throughout the summer.

In Weaverville, that includes a big Fourth of July celebration like many other smaller communities in the north state have, including Burney and Mt. Shasta. The county’s fair is also held in July in Hayfork. In addition, there’s the historic Joss House in Weaverville.

Farther west in Trinity County is the wet and wild fun of river rafting (see story on page 14).

For more information on Weaverville and Trinity County, visit [weavervilleca.org](http://weavervilleca.org) or [visittrinity.com](http://visittrinity.com).

#### Local towns near The Alps

Once out of the Alps, there are the gold rush towns of Weaverville, Lewiston and more to visit and

*By Aaron Williams with additional contributions by Jon Lewis and Ron Harrington.*

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# Take me to the river

By Aaron Williams

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

The tagline in 1986's *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* is a perfect example of why Tony Delke loves rafting down the Trinity River.

"Driving Highway 299 to the coast to get from Redding to Eureka...it's a beautiful drive, but you can't really appreciate it (at 55 mph)," he said. "You don't realize how amazing the area is until you've rafted it."

"When you're rafting there's so much more that you see. Things

slow down and you get a different perspective."

A Redding native who remembers floating the Sacramento River as a kid, Delke said river rafting down the Trinity River is a hidden gem in the north state community.

This year's flows down the Trinity should hit their peak for fun, including family fun, right about the time school lets out for the summer.

The snow-packed Trinity Alps set the stage for the seasonal flows of the Trinity River. And that bountiful winter's snowpack and the set release from Trinity Lake is optimal for a fun and entertaining float down the river,

said Dana Steinhauser of Trinity River Rafting.

"Family fun is right around the corner," she said.

Groups, including company team building, gold prospecting, and schools and churches have already been enjoying the perfect weather on the river this May.

And rafting in the north state has been gaining an even wider audience. Trinity River Rafting, in collaboration with Visit California, hosted film crews from *Facing Waves* with Ken Whiting this spring, and *Overland Chronicles* in 2023.

Dana's husband Dave adds:

"We're going to have exceptional flows again this summer coming out of the third wet winter in a row."

"The water will warm up enough for people to come out and enjoy the day and the sensation of going down Hell Hole," Dana Steinhauser said of the well known spot on the Trinity.

Trinity River Rafting, which lost its building on the north side of Highway 299 in the Monument Fire in 2021, is now operating on the south side of the highway right next to the river. Dana Steinhauser said it's impressive how Mother Nature seems to heal over time.

"We have a quarter-mile view up





NSVG PHOTOS / Ron Harrington

the river and it's spectacular," she said. "The area is so beautiful. It's restoring itself and they did a nice job (with tree removal following the Monument fire). We are continuing to have rich May blooms, and the flora and fauna is coming back and thriving."

They said after early season releases, the water clarity is returning and the rapids are providing more exciting rafting trips.

Most rafting companies offer half- and full-day trips as well as kayak rentals and shuttle service to drop-in points. It's recommended you bring something you're prepared to get wet in, protective footwear, sunscreen, a hat and water. Of course, rafters can bring cell phones in a waterproof case and there are also commercial photographers to snap your photo as you raft down the river.

There are a handful of outfits west of Redding in Trinity County that offer a host of full- or half-day trips with experienced guides who know the river intimately. In the Junction City to Willow Creek area they include Trinity River Rafting and Bigfoot Rafting (which has a stay and raft package with their Steelhead Cottages). Rafting is also available in other areas of the north state, including the Klamath and Upper Sacramento in Siskiyou County.

Guides expertly man the raft, teaching the fine art of paddling, while also educating visitors about the wildlife and ecology of the canyon. If you want to take your own kayak down the river, they and the other businesses also offer shuttle services.

That's what Redding' David Hillebert loves about trips on the Trinity River - the flexibility.

"We're done everything from floating in our IK (inflatable kayaks) to a youth group with 30 kids," said the cardiac surgery physician's assistant. "The guided tours are perfect for beginners. You don't have to be highly skilled."

But he added that there's enough excitement on the river to get your heart racing.

"It's not boring...it's not totally placid," he said.

The consistent flows of the Trinity,

Hillebert said, are part of what makes the trips enjoyable while guides are also a highlight of the trip.

"They're knowledgeable, make sure everything's safe, but also tell jokes and stories to put everyone at ease," he said.

A float down the Trinity always is a delight for the wildlife. River otters, flocks of ducks and Osprey and bald eagles can be seen.

"Beside the adventure in front of you, there's all these other aspects to floating down the river," Dana Steinhauer said. "There's history (the Trinity was a Gold Rush spot) and all the riparian beauty."

"There's so much to learn on a trip, but there's also nothing like the sound of the water flowing."

Delke said he wishes he would've known about rafting on the Trinity years ago.

"It's truly a hidden gem," he said. "We have the luxury in Redding to be able to drive to a lot of places all within a short drive."

And, he said, that's what makes a day trip rafting on the Trinity River great.

"We've gone with five families and six rafts and it was an easy day," he said. "You can leave (Redding) by 8 a.m., get there by 10, have some coffee and you're done by 4 p.m. and you're spent. You get home by 6, have some dinner and then everyone is ready for bed."

So don't forget to slow down and enjoy the river...or else you might miss something.

#### U.S. Rafting Nationals coming to the Trinity River in September 2025

The US Rafting Nationals, a three-day whitewater race event, will be held on the Pigeon Point Run of the Trinity River Sept. 12-14, 2025.

The Redwood Rafter Youth Team is hosting the event in cooperation with local outfitters, local non-profits, and tribes. They aim to create a competitive yet exciting adventure for participants while showcasing the beauty of the Trinity River.

For more information, go online to [usraftassociation.com](http://usraftassociation.com).

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# Take a Hike

## *in the North State*

PHOTO / John Soares

**A favorite with locals, Spring Hill Trail is a family friendly, moderate route that leaves from the north side of the city of Mount Shasta to gain 600 feet of elevation over 1.4 miles on an old dirt road to the top of Spring Hill. Along the route you'll pass under stately sugar pines with their footlong cones, and you'll get full views of looming Mt. Shasta.**

By John Soares

Summer is here and it's the season for getting outdoors and into the beauty of nature.

Although some popular trails have been affected by the devastating fires that have happened the past few years, there are still a prime selection of trails, some easy, some more challenging, that let you explore the wild areas of the north state.

You'll find both lower-elevation and higher-elevation trails below.

The lower elevations trails (near Chico, Red Bluff, and Redding) get

very hot in summer, so do them early to mid-morning or in the evening before sunset, and always bring plenty of water.

The high trails in the mountains can have patches of snow well into July.

Contact the governing agency before you do your hike; you'll get the latest trail conditions, plus info about weather and maps. Most of the trails described here allow dogs and are so noted. Always bring a leash.

This year we've also noted the top five hikes for being the most family friendly for those with young children.

### **SHASTA COUNTY Anderson River Park**

Anderson, a small town just south of Redding, harbors a hidden gem for hikers. An easy mile-long paved loop travels beside the banks of the Sacramento River, and also among broad valley oaks and tall cottonwood trees. Dirt roads and paths branch off the paved loop to let you explore nearby ponds and access secluded spots on the river bank.

From I-5 in Anderson, take exit 668 and get on Balls Ferry Road. Head northeast 0.5 mile and then turn left onto Stingy Lane. After 0.2 mile, turn right onto Rupert Road and continue another 0.7 mile to enter Anderson River Park. Park in the large lot near the Kiddieland playground and the KC Grove Amphitheater.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** Kids love the park playground. There's also plenty of shady picnic sites, and you can fish in a large pond.

More information: City of Anderson Community Services, 530-378-6656. Dogs allowed.

### **Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay, Redding**

First, walk across Redding's famous landmark, the stunning Sundial Bridge, where you can stop in the center and watch the Sacramento

River rushing below. Next, see plants from a variety of Mediterranean climates across the globe in McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Top off the excursion with an easy 1.5-mile walk on the Arboretum Loop Trail.

To find the parking area, take I-5 exit 678 and drive west on Highway 44. Take exit 1, go right, and then right again.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** Walking the bridge and gazing down at the river is always fun. Plus, there's the Turtle Bay Museum, which has exhibits with strong appeal for the younger set.

More information: City of Redding Parks and Recreation, 530-225-4095. Dogs allowed.

### **Dry Fork Trail**

This less-traveled trail runs most of its length along or near the shore of Shasta Lake, beginning on the west side of Shasta Dam and ending 4.7 miles farther at a dirt road on the south end of the Dry Fork arm of the lake. You'll gain full views of Mt. Shasta, plus have numerous opportunities to access the shoreline for a refreshing swim on hot days.

To reach the trailhead, take Exit 685 off I-5 in the city of Shasta Lake just north of Redding and go west on Shasta Dam Boulevard (also known as Hwy 151). Stop at the "Three Shastas" viewpoint on the left at 5.8 miles for



PHOTO / John Soares

**Anderson River Park offers a family friendly hike.**



the view of Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake, and Mt. Shasta, and then arrive at the east side of Shasta Dam at 7.2 miles. Pass through the security checkpoint, cross the dam, and then park in the lot immediately to the right on the far side of the dam at 7.6 miles.

More information: Shasta Lake National Recreation Area, 530-275-1587. Dogs allowed.

### Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail and Shasta Dam

This excursion starts with an up-close exploration of massive Shasta Dam and then wanders gently along the Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail, allowing open vistas of the Sacramento River. From the parking area, walk to the edge of the steep slope to view Shasta Dam's massive face and the water surging out of Shasta Lake far below (and check out the informative displays in the Visitor Center if it's open).

To find the Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail, head to the southeast corner of the parking lot, as far from the Visitor Center as possible, and go 150 feet down Shasta Dam Boulevard. You can walk for several miles on the near-level Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail, which frequently runs along an old ditch that brought water to gold mining operations over a century ago.

To reach the parking area, take Exit 685 off I-5 in the city of Shasta Lake, just north of Redding, and go west on



PHOTO / John Soares

**With its summer wildflower displays, beautiful alpine lakes, and mountain vistas, Deadfall Lakes hike ranks as one of the best in Northern California, and it's popular with both day hikers and backpackers.**

Shasta Dam Boulevard (also known as Highway 151). Stop at the "Three Shastas" viewpoint on the left at 5.8 miles for the view of Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake and Mt. Shasta, and then park in the large lot on the east side of

Shasta Dam at 7.2 miles.

More information: Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office, 530-224-2100. Dogs allowed.

**Burney Falls, McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park**

Although McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park was open last year, the main loop trail around the falls and to the base of the falls was closed for reconstruction. It has now reopened.

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PHOTO / John Soares

## Gain the summit on the challenging 2.5-mile Lassen Peak climb.

Every day of every year, 100 million gallons of cold spring water plunges 129 feet to pound the broad expanse of cobalt blue at the base of Burney Falls. Walk the relatively easy 1.2-mile Falls Loop Trail to observe both the top and bottom of one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the West.

This is a popular trail so you may want to plan your visit for weekdays and early mornings.

To find the beginning of the trail, follow your ears from the parking lot to the falls overlook. To reach the park, get to the intersection of California Highways 299 and 89 east of Burney, go 6.0 miles north on 89, and then turn left and follow the signs for McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park. Park in the main lot beyond the check-in station. Do not park on Highway 89. It is dangerous and your vehicle could be towed.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** It's a moderate descent to the base of Burney Falls, and other trails in the park are flat and easy to walk.

More info: McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, 530-335-2777. No dogs allowed. Park entrance fee.

## Lassen Peak, Lassen Volcanic National Park

At 10,457 feet, Lassen Peak crowns Lassen Volcanic National Park and is by far the most prominent summit in upper Northern California, save Mt. Shasta. Gain the summit on the challenging 2.5-mile climb. It's 2000 feet of elevation gain, but the wide trail ascends at a steady rate. Be in good shape and bring warm clothes, food, and plenty of water.

From the summit you'll win both bragging rights and a top-of-the-world view: nearby is the chaotic lava field created by the 1914-1921 eruptions, and beyond the vista encompasses much of Northern California, including all of Lassen Volcanic National Park, distant Mt. Shasta, the Sacramento Valley, and mountain upon mountain stretching to the far horizons.

The trailhead is on the park highway 12 miles north of the junction of Highways 36 and 89, and 22 miles southeast of the junction of Highways 44 and 89.

More information: Lassen Volcanic National Park, 530-595-4480. No dogs allowed. Park entrance fee.

## SISKIYOU COUNTY

### Spring Hill Trail, Mt. Shasta

A favorite with locals, this moderate route leaves from the north side of town to gain 600 feet of elevation over 1.4 miles on an old dirt road to the top of Spring Hill. Along the route you'll pass under stately sugar pines with their footlong cones, and you'll get full views of looming Mt. Shasta. The summit features a 360-degree vista that includes Black Butte to the north, Mt. Eddy to the west, and Castle Crags to the south.

If coming from the south, take I-5 exit 738, drive east on Lake Street and turn left at the light onto Mount Shasta Boulevard. Go 1.1 miles, turn right onto Ski Village Drive, and then immediately turn left on a small road that quickly leads to the trailhead.

From the north, take exit 740 and then go 0.4 mile to turn left onto Ski Village Drive.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** The old dirt road rises gently, with plenty of room to walk. After the hike, head to nearby Mount Shasta City Park to explore the unofficial headwaters of the Sacramento River and enjoy the playground.

More information: Mount Shasta Trail Association, [mountshastatrailassociation.org](http://mountshastatrailassociation.org). Dogs allowed.

## Lake Siskiyou Trail, Mt. Shasta

This easy hike is best on a warm summer day. Walk the broad path under ponderosa pines and black oaks, pausing to admire views of Mt. Shasta and Mt. Eddy towering above the deep-blue waters of the lake. When the mood strikes, find one of the

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## Family friendly hikes

Among the hikes listed that are the most family friendly for those with young children are Anderson River Park, Sundial Bridge and Turtle Bay, Spring Hill Trail, Burney Falls, Greenhorn Park and Upper Bidwell Park Trails.

many side paths down to the shoreline and take a leisurely swim in the cool waters, which warm up nicely by early July.

The complete trail forms a 7.6-mile loop around the lake, but the south-shore segment is best. From the parking area, walk toward the lake and turn left on either the first or second trail (they join after 0.4 mile). Wander westerly past coves and vistas for 1.5 miles until you reach the edge of Lake Siskiyou Resort.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit 738, go west 0.2 mile and then turn left on South Old Stage Road. Go straight onto W.A. Barr Road at 0.5 mile, cross Box Canyon Dam, and then, 2.8 miles from the freeway, turn into the large parking lot on the right, opposite Castle Lake Road.

More information: Siskiyou County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, 530-842-8220. Dogs allowed.

## Horse Camp on Mt. Shasta

Want to have some idea what it's like to climb Mt. Shasta? Then do the first, easy part of the most popular route to the summit by climbing through a mature red-fir forest for 1.7 miles from Bunny Flat to the Sierra Club Cabin at Horse Camp. At Horse Camp you can drink ice-cold water from a spring, explore the Sierra Club Cabin, and, best of all, gaze up Avalanche Gulch towards the top of Mt. Shasta; you might even see climbers ascending or descending.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 Exit 738 in central Mount Shasta and drive

east on Lake Street, which becomes Everett Memorial Drive as it leaves town. Continue up Everett Memorial Drive to the large parking area at Bunny Flat, a total of 12.1 miles from I-5.

More information: Mount Shasta Ranger Station, 530-926-4511. No dogs allowed.

## Seven Lakes Basin gap, west of Mt. Shasta

Want to walk on the famous Pacific Crest Trail? Then do the moderate 2.4-mile hike along the PCT to the gap above Seven Lakes Basin. As you move along the high-mountain ridge, you'll alternately gaze west at the rocky peaks of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, and east at the broad bulk of snow-capped Mt. Shasta. The hike ends at the gap above Seven Lakes Basin, where you'll see several lakes below, plus Castle Crags to the east and distant Lassen Peak far to the southeast.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit 738 in Mount Shasta. Go west 0.2 mile and then turn left on South Old Stage Road. Go straight onto W.A. Barr Road at 0.5 mile. Pass Lake Siskiyou and curve west as the road becomes Forest Road 26. Continue on this paved road to reach Gumboot Saddle and the Gumboot Trailhead, 18.3 miles from I-5.

More information: Mt. Shasta Ranger Station, 530-926-4511. Dogs allowed.

## Deadfall Lakes and Mt. Eddy via the Pacific Crest Trail, west of Mount Shasta

With its summer wildflower displays, beautiful alpine lakes, and mountain vistas, this hike ranks as one of the best in Northern California, and it's popular with both day hikers and backpackers.

The first 2.7 miles to Middle Deadfall Lake are moderate with only modest elevation gain, but you'll need to be a strong hiker for the steep climb over the last 2.3 miles to the top of Mt. Eddy at 9,025 feet (and 2,250 feet of total elevation gain from the trailhead).

The summit panorama includes Mt. Shasta, the Trinity Divide mountains, and the Trinity Alps. You'll be happy whether you choose the moderate option or the strenuous option.

Note: if you think there are too many cars at the trailhead, cross the road and hike west on the PCT (northbound), the opposite direction of Deadfall Lakes: you'll get both beautiful vistas and solitude.

To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit 751 (Edgewood), get to the west side of the freeway, and turn right. Drive 0.3 mile and then turn left onto Stewart Springs Road. Go 4.0 miles on Stewart Springs Road and then

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climb right up paved Road 17 (Parks Creek Road) for another 9.3 miles to the large trailhead on the left at Parks Creek Saddle.

More information: Mt. Shasta Ranger Station, 530-926-4511. Dogs allowed.

### **Greenhorn Park, Yreka**

This is an excellent option that's just a three-minute drive from I-5. Want quick and easy? Walk the flat and paved path that circles Greenhorn Reservoir, where you'll see plenty of ducks and geese on the water and redwing blackbirds in vegetation near the shore. For longer options, take the trail running upstream along the south side of Greenhorn Creek, and consider the network of trails that snake along the oak- and pine-dotted south slope of the park.

To find the trailhead, take Exit 773 off I-5 in south Yreka. Get to the west side of the freeway and turn right on Main Street. Drive north 0.3 mile and turn left on Ranch Lane. Follow Ranch Lane 0.4 mile west to the large parking lot by a picnic area in Greenhorn Park.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** Located on the west side of Yreka, this park features a flat loop trail around Greenhorn Reservoir, which hosts a variety of beautiful birds year-round. There are also historic exhibits from the California Gold Rush, along with a playground near the restrooms.

More information: City of Yreka Parks and Facilities, 530-841-2386. Dogs allowed.

### **TRINITY COUNTY**

#### **Pacific Crest Trail from Scott Mountain Summit**

This is the easiest way to hike into the northern portion of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The route begins from the west side of Highway 3 at Scott Mountain Summit and travels near the border of Trinity and Siskiyou counties as it climbs southwesterly on the PCT (even though it's the direction headed

north to the Canadian border).

The views steadily improve: you'll see buff and orange mountains to the east, followed by vistas north of the Russian Wilderness and Marble Mountain Wilderness, and eventually Mt Shasta to the east. Cross into the Trinity Alps Wilderness at 3.0 miles and continue along the PCT to a vista point at 4.4 miles that includes a full view west of the high peaks in the granitic center of the Trinity Alps.

To find the trailhead, drive State Highway 3 for 6.9 miles southeast of Callahan or 25.2 miles north of Trinity Center to find the large trailhead signed for "Scott Mountain Summit" (actually a saddle) on the west side of the highway.

More information: Weaverville Ranger Station, 530-623-2121. Dogs allowed.

### **TEHAMA COUNTY**

#### **Iron Canyon and Jed's Overlook**

Explore some of the best of the Sacramento River Bend area on this easy hike through open country. You'll especially enjoy the wide-ranging vistas over much of far Northern California: look for Lassen Peak to the east, Mt. Shasta to the north, the Trinity Alps to the northwest, and the Coast Range to the west, plus nearby volcanic mountains.

Go left at a trail fork 200 yards from the parking area and then walk 1.5 level miles to Jed's Overlook. This site commemorates the American explorer Jediah Smith, who passed through here in 1828.

Take in all the mountain views and also gaze down at the Sacramento River coursing swiftly below. Return the way you came.

The trailhead is on the north side of Highway 36 about 5.2 miles from the junction of Highways 36 and 99 in Red Bluff, west of I-5 Exit 649.

More information: Bureau of Land Management Redding Field Office, 530-224-2100. Dogs allowed.



PHOTO / John Soares

**Explore some of the best of the Sacramento River Bend area on this easy Iron Canyon and Jed's Overlook hike through open country.**



PHOTO / John Soares

**Greenhorn Park in Yreka is a quick and easy walk just three minutes from Interstate 5.**

### **LASSEN COUNTY**

#### **Bizz Johnson Trail**

If you're traveling Highway 36 in Lassen County you'll definitely want to explore the Bizz Johnson National Recreation Trail, which runs nearly flat on the old bed of the historic Fernley and Lassen Railroad.

The 7.7-mile section from Devil's Corral to Susanville is especially scenic. It travels beside the clear waters of the Susan River, which is bordered by willows and cottonwoods. Vegetation is a mix of high-desert juniper and typical forest species like ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. You don't have to walk all the way to Susanville. Just do as much as you like.

Find the Devil's Corral trail-access point on the south side of Highway 36 about 14 miles east of Westwood and 7 miles west of Susanville. If you want to start from the Susanville end of the trail, take Highway 36 to Susanville and head south on Weatherlow Street, which eventually becomes Richmond Road. Follow Richmond Road to the trail-access point at the historic Susanville railroad depot.

More information: Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake Information Office, 530-257-0456. Dogs allowed.

### **BUTTE COUNTY**

#### **Upper Bidwell Park Trails**

Chico is blessed with one of the best and largest local parks in the country: Bidwell Park, which is bisected by Big Chico Creek. Lower Bidwell Park in the main part of town features flat, shaded paths that are great for strolling, but for a real hike, head to Upper Bidwell Park.

Although this is where the Park Fire started last year, there wasn't that much major burning in the park itself and all the trails are still open.

There are many options, but one of the best, especially in the warmer

months, is the Lower Yahi Trail. It runs 4 miles through a mix of foothill and riparian vegetation along Big Chico Creek, with easy access to several swimming holes—Alligator Hole, Bear Hole, Salmon Hole, Brown's Hole—that are especially inviting on hot summer days. There's also an extensive network of other trails that climb along the slopes and ridges of the Big Chico Creek canyon.

To reach the main trailhead for Upper Bidwell Park, take the East Avenue exit off Highway 99 in Chico (Exit 387B), drive east on East Avenue for 2.7 miles, and then, at a traffic circle, continue straight onto Wildwood Avenue for 1.7 miles to the large trailhead parking lot on the left.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY:** Choose flat or more challenging trails while exploring Big Chico Creek and the canyon slopes. Easy access on the edge of Chico.

More information: City of Chico Parks Department, 530-896-7800. Dogs allowed.

### **About John Soares**

John lives just north of Mount Shasta, near the town of Weed, and grew up around Redding. He is the author of *Day Hiking: Mount Shasta,*



*Lassen & Trinity Alps Regions* and *100 Classic Hikes: Northern California*, fourth edition, which covers all the best trails in the north state. He's also the author of *Camp for Free: Dispersed Camping & Boondocking on America's Public Lands*. Get details on all his books and info on trails at [NorthernCaliforniaHikingTrails.com](http://NorthernCaliforniaHikingTrails.com).



# GOLD in them thar Hills!

## The North State is filled with stories of lost gold and gold finds, even up to present day

Prospecting for gold in California has transitioned from a livelihood to a recreational activity during the past 175 years or so.

California's Gold Rush began on Jan. 24, 1848, when James W. Marshall spotted gold flakes in Coloma on the American River. Building a sawmill for owner John Sutter, the two had a failed attempt to keep the discovery secret.

Three years later, the "Gold Rush" moved into northern California's rich prospecting areas, including in the north state in Siskiyou, Shasta and Trinity counties.

"Few people know that the second gold rush in California, was actually in Shasta County," said Cassie Zucco who, along with her husband, Joe, own The Miner's Cache in Redding.

And there still may be a lot out there.

The Saddle Ridge Hoard is the name given to a hoard of 1,427 gold coins unearthed on private property in the northern half of Trinity County, in 2013. According to Wikipedia, the face value of the coins totaled \$27,980, but was assessed to be worth \$10 million. The hoard contained \$27,460 in twenty-dollar coins, \$500 in ten-dollar coins, and \$20 in five-dollar coins, all dating from 1847 to 1894. The collection is the largest known discovery of buried gold coins that has ever been recovered in the United States.

Due to privacy concerns, the exact location of the discovery has not been disclosed, other than to confirm that the land is located in a hillside area less than 200 miles from the site of the Gold Rush of 1849.

Some had speculated the coins were part of a \$30,000 cache stolen from the San Francisco Mint in 1901 (the U.S. Treasury shot that one down), while others suggest the Gold Country find was one of many stashes buried by the Knights of the Golden Circle, a subversive Confederate group.

Discoveries of that nature are not unknown in the north state, according

to the late Shasta County historian Dottie Smith, who shared some of the notable finds with writer Jon Lewis back in 2014 for a North State Visitors Guide story.

\* In 1870, three miners found a gold nugget weighing over 11 pounds on Spring Creek, a short distance below the falls near the Iron Mountain Railway crossing. An even larger chunk of gold was discovered in 1880, a mere 100 feet from the location of the first nugget.

\* In 1878, a 13-ounce crystallized chunk of gold was taken from the Mad Mule Mine (a little north of present-day Whiskeytown Lake) and exhibited at the 1878 Paris Exposition. The colorfully named area also produced a 19½-ounce nugget in 1912 and another nugget honeycombed with gold valued at \$10,000.

\* In the 1890s, Waldo Elmore found a two-pound gold nugget on his claim in the Flat Creek Mining District (near the small town of Copley and now buried under Shasta Lake).

\* A humongous five-pound gold nugget was discovered in Mad Ox Canyon (near the historic mining town of Shasta) and a lump of gold intertwined with quartz, weighing between seven and eight pounds, was found in Whiskey Creek. The dates of these discoveries are unknown.

What's even more fun to consider are the tales of buried and lost treasure that, presumably, is still out there for the finding, Smith said.

Perhaps the most well-known story of hidden treasure involves the infamous Ruggles Brothers, John and Charles, who in May of 1892 robbed the stage to Weaverville, shot the armed escort, Buck Montgomery, and made off with a strongbox filled with \$5,000 in gold and currency.

Fearing that Charles Ruggles had been mortally wounded in the shootout, brother John hid the strongbox to hasten their getaway while the stage proceeded to Old Shasta to get help. The route used is the present-day Middle Creek Road. The Ruggles were subsequently captured and ultimately lynched by vigilantes; the whereabouts

of their loot remains unknown.

Smith had long believed the Ruggles Brothers tale, but she later came across a story written by Edna Eaton, the mother of the late Judge Richard B. Eaton, that shed new light. The story says Edna's father, Sheriff Charles Behrens, maintains the stage had two strongboxes on board.

According to the sheriff's version, Montgomery, upon being ordered to throw out the loot, instead tossed a strongbox full of top hats.

"I'm sure they were mighty unhappy when they found out," Smith said.

Other versions of the story maintain that John Ruggles offered to divulge the location of the loot if his brother's life would be spared. His offer found no takers among the angry crowd.

Cassie and Joe Zucco recently got to help Josh Gates of "Expedition Unknown" and Parker Schnabel of "Gold Rush" film an upcoming episode of "Expedition Unknown" on the Ruggles Brother's robbery.

Smith's other favorite tale of lost treasure involved a caravan of Mormons traveling through Shasta County who were crossing Clear Creek near Horsetown while the creek was running high. A horse stumbled, a wagon got stuck in a rut and a chest containing \$40,000 in gold coins was lost from the tailboard of a wagon. The swift waters made recovery impossible.

The Mormons returned the following spring to retrieve the chest, but all traces of the crossing were gone, covered with sand, rocks and gravel. The coins were never found, although in 1910, William Diestelhorst discovered a \$10 gold piece dated 1841 while dredging on Clear Creek.

"I've heard stories of people who find one or two. That one really intrigues me," Smith said at the time.

The notorious bandit Joaquin Murrieta is believed to have buried \$175,000 in gold coins somewhere between Burney and Hatchet Mountain, not far from present-day Highway 299.

To the north, legend has it that a band of Modoc Indians attacked an Army mule train as it traveled through

what is now Castle Crags State Park en route to pay soldiers stationed farther north. Gold captured in that raid was reportedly hidden in a cave.

Years later, one of the last of the tribe, an old woman named Nancy, would disappear for days and would return bearing \$20 gold pieces. She remained mum and efforts to trail her always proved fruitless. The secret of the Treasures of Castle Crags died with her in 1912.

On the western foot of nearby Mt. Shasta, Rattlesnake Dick and his gang reportedly buried \$106,000 in gold that was amassed in a pair of holdups.

Early-day prospectors were often in the habit of hiding their nuggets and gold dust, Smith said, in part because they were reluctant to leave their claims, they usually didn't have bank accounts and they were fearful of being robbed while on their way to the nearest mining camp.

Given the rough-and-tumble nature of 19<sup>th</sup>-century prospecting, it was not uncommon for miners to meet an untimely demise and leave their hard-earned gold behind, stashed away in tin cans or hidden beneath rocks and boulders.

Gold can be located through more conventional means, but it tends to involve more work than luck. Those willing to try should stick to public lands and check with the appropriate managing agency in advance to avoid violating any laws. **- See page 22**





# Gold panning and metal detecting still popular with many

In almost every creek on the west side of Interstate 5 from Cottonwood Creek to the south all the way up to the border with Oregon, you can find gold, Zucco said.

"Most weekends you can find a prospector or two on Clear Creek, but that's not the only good spot," she said. "Salt Creek, Rock Creek and even Churn Creek in Redding and the city of Shasta Lake, have yielded nice quantities.

"If one has a little energy for a short walk down the trail from Keswick Dam, small pickers and flakes can be had in the bedrock along both sides of the Sacramento River."

The creeks around Tower House in Whiskeytown are also good, she added, but you do have to get their panning and parking permits and it's "hands and pans" only. Check at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center center for those updated regulations before you go out.

Oney Creek in Swasey recreation area is another good local spot, Zucco said.

"One old prospector who comes in to the Miner's Cache gets about a gram of gold each time he goes out," she said. "Cloverdale Park trails are another area to go."

Heading west, the Trinity River, the

Salmon River and the Klamath River have all produced large amounts of gold, Zucco said.

"Anywhere you can get down to the river you can try your luck," she said. "Just watch for claim signs and markers. National Forest and BLM properties are great places to start looking for that shiny stuff."

For a nice day trip, Christian Graham Treadwell, (CGT prospecting), the rock flipping guru from the TV Show "Frozen Gold" takes people out on rafting and gold prospecting trips along the Trinity River. (He can be contacted through Facebook)

"He can help you put a happy smile of gold in your pan or maybe even a pretty nugget," she said.

Zucco said that metal detecting for gold has also become super popular with prospectors in the north state. Gold detectors can range in price from \$800 to over \$9,400. She said several large nuggets have been found in the area ranging from a half-ounce to over three ounces in size.

Live locally and really want to get into gold prospecting?

The local Redding Chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association (GPAA) meets in Anderson on the first Thursday of each month, during which local



**Cassie and Joe Zucco**

prospectors tell their gold tales.

Also, Shasta Miners and Prospectors Association meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Anderson Grange Hall.

"This Association is great for everyone, beginners to advanced, and kiddos too," Zucco said, adding they have nine claims, the closest of which is on Whiskey Creek...yes, the same creek where the 56-ounce nugget was found back in the 1800s.

"They also have a fantastic junior miner program for kids ages 5 to 17," she said noting you should check out their Facebook page.

If you wish to become a member of the Association you can go online

to their website, or come in to the Miner's Cache where they can get you an application and membership information.

Going out for the day, Zucco said for gold panning you will need some basic gold panning equipment, a gold pan, a snuffer bottle (for gettin' that gold out of your pan), a small digging tool, and a vial to store all that gold in. She said they sell that equipment and more at The Miner's Cache, which she said is the only store dedicated to gold prospecting, mining and metal detecting between Oroville and Grants Pass, Oregon.

"And if we don't have what you need, we'll get it," she said, adding that she and her husband can also show you the basics of panning in their panning tub.

Whether you are panning or detecting for gold, Zucco said she cannot stress enough the need to fill in all your dig holes, and to not dig on any trails or roads.

"Please keep it safe for everyone and leave no trace for others to find," she said.

*Article includes story written in 2014 by Jon Lewis interviewing the late Dottie Smith with updated information by Ron Harrington. The story also include contributions from writer Bill Campbell.*







# GO WITH THE FLOW

**Cool waterfalls found throughout the north state**

Above, the granddaddy of them all, Burney.

PHOTOS/ Michael Burke

## If you plan ahead and don't spend too long at any one falls, you can see many in a single LONG day

By Aaron Williams

Anytime of the year - especially during the toasty summer months - is a perfect time to gas up the car and spend a day chasing waterfalls.

And wherever you're at, there's nearly a dozen you can hit that, if planned right, can take less than a day's time to view them all.

For this article, we'll start in Redding and head east on Highway 299 toward Burney. (The map on page 25 in this visitors guide might be of some help).

The first stops of the day are Montgomery Creek and Potem falls, a 45-foot cascade on the Pit River, outside of Montgomery Creek.

To get to **Potem Falls**, turn left off 299 at Fenders Ferry Road and follow the road almost nine miles over Pit River (you'll see the PG&E dam). Cross the bridge and park for the 0.4-mile trail to the falls. There's a marker pointing the way. When you get there, you'll find the falls spilling into a shallow pool perfect for a dip and a picture.

Of course, it's a perfect place to



spend the day, but we've got more waterfalls to see...so let's keep moving.



**Left, Potem Falls that can be seen by land, or if Shasta Lake is full as it was in May of 2025, by boat. Above, Hedge Creek Falls in Dunsmuir is a waterfall you can actually walk under and behind.**

Near Potem Falls is **Montgomery Creek Falls**, less than a quarter-mile off Highway 299 on the road named

for the falls. Prettier to look at than swim in, Montgomery Creek Falls pass through a narrow slot and fall about 15 to 20 feet into a rapidly moving churn of whitewater dotted with rocks downstream.

Getting back on 299 east, continue on and head past Burney to the Highway 89 intersection. Next stop, the **McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park**. Turn north (left) on Highway 89 and the park entrance is five minutes away.

Reportedly called the "Eighth Wonder of the World" by President Teddy Roosevelt, **Burney Falls** is a spectacular spring-fed 128-foot waterfall that truly is eye-popping.

Following last year's \$835,000 upgrade project that closed access to the trails leading to the base of Burney Falls, it has now reopened.

The short pathway to the bottom of the falls previews the beauty of the panoramic spill. The spray delights in lowering the temperature all around as the water flowing over the cliff remains between 42 and 48 degrees year round.





PHOTO / Michael Burke

**McCloud's Middle Falls is the largest and widest of the three falls as it spills 75 feet down its rock face.**



PHOTO / Michael Burke

**Above is the 70-ft. Montgomery Creek Falls.**

Inside the park, visitors can hike down to the falls, follow trails around the stream feeding the cascade, stroll to Lake Britton for a picnic or visit the park store for a souvenir or yummy ice cream cone. Camping is available at the park, so be sure to see where your next overnight adventure might be.

Please note: Burney Falls experiences extremely high visitation beginning in April and continuing through October.

Also, a word of caution – don't think you can park along Highway 89 to get into the park. Your vehicle will be subject to citation and possibly towed. If you arrive to find the entrance closed, you might want to return at a later time - typically after 4 p.m. For this article, if you get a late start in the morning, you might want to consider going in the opposite direction in the loop and head north first before finishing the day at Burney Falls, Montgomery Creek and Potem Falls.

But if you do get in, it's obviously a tough one to leave behind so early. But, hey, we're on a mission, right?

After leaving Burney Falls, head toward McCloud on Highway 89 for the next stop on the waterfall trek - but you may want to check out at a piece of cinematic history on the way – or maybe not. Perhaps you just squint and take a quick look.

Shortly after leaving Burney Falls, take a right after crossing the Lake Britton Bridge at the sign-posted Dusty Creek campground turnoff for a chance to view the **Stand By Me bridge**, the one made famous in the 1986 movie directed by Rob Reiner. Drive about one-quarter mile on a dirt road. To be honest, the trestle, now in disrepair, is not much to see, but it will be visible on your left. If you don't want to get out of your vehicle, you can view it briefly from Highway 89 (as seen in the photo above right).

The bridge is where the four young

boys in the movie have to outrace the train and has become a local hotspot over the past three decades ever since the Intermountain News weekly newspaper (based in Burney) and our associated Visitor Guides, including this one, began running stories and photos taken on the set when it was filmed here in 1985. You can read a four-page story on the filming of "Stand By Me," which also includes information on the store scene that was shot in the area, in our archives at northstate.news.

The bridge is now part of the Great Shasta Rail Trail, a multi-use 80 mile trail between Burney and McCloud of which 40 miles have been completed.

From Burney Falls, it's a pretty 45-minute or so drive to the next stop - **McCloud Falls**, a trio of unique, but equally spectacular waterfalls.

**The three falls - Upper, Middle and Lower** - are easily accessible by car, but to truly appreciate their splendor, a trail connects all three. Starting at Lower Falls, the 0.7-mile walk past Fowlers Campground leads to Middle Falls and then climbs up to Upper Falls.

Lower Falls is a popular swim spot with places to jump into the pool



NSVG PHOTO

**If you don't want to travel down a dirt road and view the Stand By Me trestle (below) that's in disrepair, you can catch a glimpse of it from Highway 89, a few miles from Burney Falls. But you and your passengers will need to squint and look fast (above).**



PHOTO / Columbia Pictures





PHOTO / Stephen Moehle

**Technically off limits due to accessibility issues, Mossbrae Falls in Dunsmuir is one of the most beautiful of the falls in the north state.**

below. But take caution as submerged boulders have shifted in the past few years.

Middle Falls also offers opportunities to dip into the chilly mountain water...or just admire the sublime serenity of the wide spillway. .

The McCloud River cuts a channel in the basalt to form Upper Falls, a 15-foot cascade that spills into another place to cool down during a warm summer day. But don't stay too long as more falls await for the home stretch back to Redding.

Just outside the city of Mount Shasta, **Faery Falls** is one of the more recent hot spots for waterfall seekers. On the road to Castle Lake, Faery Falls can be accessed off Castle Lake Road by turning on Ney Springs Road and parking at a turnout for the nearly 1-mile hike to the falls that are flowing best in early spring.

On to Interstate 5, 10 minutes south of Mount Shasta in Dunsmuir may or may not be the final waterfall,

plus one that's technically off limits, but visually stunning nonetheless.

**Hedge Creek Falls** is off Interstate 5 just north of Dunsmuir and offers an easy trek to the spillway where visitors can actually walk behind the water as it cascades on to the rocks below.

And while the double-falls hike of Hedge Creek and the gorgeous **Mossbrae Falls** is what most folks do, Mossbrae is technically off limits as it's only accessible via the train tracks to the west of the Sacramento River or by taking a trail from Hedge Creek to the river, crossing the Sacramento River and then heading upstream to Mossbrae.

But as you can see from the photo on this page and numerous others you can find on the web, along with various others giving directions to the falls, many people venture there anyway.

Local officials and politicians have been working for years on solving the access issue by meeting with railroad officials on plans to someday create

an access bridge over the Sacramento River. But that still appears to be years off.

**More, more, more...**

While that circuitous route could be a full day's trip, don't think that's all the waterfalls to see in the north state. Quite the opposite, in fact.

And, of course, the itinerary can be modified to include other places and things of interest along the route where it might require you stay the night..

When in Dunsmuir, if you're a baseball fan, check out the town ballfield where **Babe Ruth** once played a barnstorming game in 1924. You can read a story about it in the April 2021 issue of After Five Magazine, available online in the archives at northstate.news.

Ruth purportedly hit a home run over 600 feet during the game. Some unconfirmed reports allege it hit a tree at the Cave Springs Motel, which is still there adjacent to the park. Or, if you don't have time to stop and look, you can view the ballfield from Interstate 5 as you drive by Dunsmuir.

But back to the waterfalls...

**Castle Craggs State Park**, just south of Dunsmuir on your way back to Redding, offers not only two amazing falls in **Burstarse Falls** and **Root Creek Falls**, but some of the most breathtaking hiking in all of Northern California.

Spring and early summer are the best times to see many waterfalls in the north state, but that's especially true of Burstarse Falls. The 6.4-mile roundtrip hike is moderate with nearly 1,000 feet of elevation gain, but the trek is worth it. Burstarse Falls, about 80 feet high, drops straight off the granite face and splits into a magnificent spray as it hits the rocks three-fourths of the way down the falls.

The trail to Root Creek Falls is a spur off the trail to the Castle Dome inside the Castle Craggs State Park. A relatively easy and flat hike, the payoff is spectacular. The falls cascades down several tiers with the Castle Dome framed at the top of the falls.

Back in Redding, you can head west 6 miles or so to **Whiskeytown National Recreation Area** which boasts four waterfalls that would be the envy of any region across the country. However, only three of them were viewable as of May 2025. Following the devastating Carr Fire in 2018, **Boulder Creek Falls, Whiskeytown Falls and Crystal Creek Falls** are open, while Brandy Creek Falls remains closed.

**And still many more...**

There are numerous waterfalls in the **Trinity Alps** as well as in **Lassen Volcanic National Park**, which usually opens to road traffic in June.

In the Trinity Alps there is the remote (14 mile trek) but spectacular **Grizzly Falls**, while the **Canyon Creek Falls**, like McCloud, has an upper, middle and lower falls with the lower the most preeminent of the three.

One of the more popular falls in Lassen Volcanic National Park is **Kings Creek Falls**. Also located in the park is **Mill Creek Falls**.

If you're in the Fort Jones area of Siskiyou County there is **Shackleford Falls**. And if you're in the far northeastern part of the state, there is another **Mill Creek Falls** in the South Warner Wilderness of Modoc County.

There are so many more, including others reachable on Shasta Lake and several that locals like to keep secret. In fact, there's one in Shasta County that's called the "Secret Falls." But the falls mentioned here should keep you busy for a day or two...or three...or ?



PHOTO / Vesna Kriznar

**Kings Creek Falls in Lassen Volcanic National Park.**





PHOTO / Phil Leclerc

# See Shasta Caverns in a whole new light - and sound

By Aaron Williams

Geologically speaking, change at the Shasta Caverns isn't entirely noticeable. After all, it took thousands of years to form the magnificent caves that have drawn visitors from near and far for more than 60 years.

However, big changes have happened for those who venture north of Redding.

Shasta Caverns reopened in the spring after shuttering over the winter months to install a new lighting system that General Manager Matt Doyle said "brought tears to my eyes when I first saw it."

The nearly \$500,000 project was officially unveiled to the public April 5 and with a full lake Doyle expects crowds to flock to the Caverns as well as the Dinner Cruise on Shasta Lake.

"We slammed right into our busy season," he said in early May. "We started getting school groups and when May turns to summer we'll start getting the regular tourist visitors."

"We expect we're going to have a very busy summer."

**"The light and sound show is exceptional and with it being instrumental only helps you use your imagination and make it far more immersive."**

**- Matt Doyle  
Shasta Caverns G.M.**

The first capital improvement project at Lake Shasta Caverns in quite some time started at the beginning of 2025 and took four months to complete 95 percent of the installation. Doyle said heavy winter rains forced delays for one room, which is scheduled for completion in October.

But the work that was finished, he said, is beyond what he imagined.

"The light and sound show is exceptional and with it being instrumental only helps you use your imagination and make it far more immersive," Doyle said. "I was in there every day, but got to see it glow up."

Open since 1964, visitors begin their roughly two-hour tour by being ferried across beautiful Shasta Lake, an all-too-quick 10-minute, but awesome boat ride that gives locals and visitors alike the chance to see the water from a new and unique perspective. A bonus is the chance to catch some of the area's wildlife up-close and personal. Deer, bobcats, bears, osprey and bald eagles all call Shasta Lake home.

"Because we are isolated on the other side of the lake and there's no other road in, we are almost like a nature preserve," Doyle said.

A quick shuttle ride 800 feet up the mountain leads visitors to the entrance of the caverns, "discovered" by an exploring party composed of workers from the Baird Fish Hatchery, now submerged beneath the waters of the lake. The expedition was led by James A. Richardson, and they came across the entrance to the cave in 1874. (The local Wintu population, however, likely knew about them earlier).

As the guide opens the door to

head inside the mountain (think about that for a second), the rush of the earth's natural air conditioning – the caverns are constantly 58 degrees with a high humidity that raises the temperature to about 72 – hits you and then you step into nature's laboratory.

From there, the well-informed tour guide leads you through a series of rooms in the caverns adeptly explaining what you're seeing and answering the age-old question of the difference between a stalactite and stalagmite.

In the movie "Shawshank Redemption," Morgan Freeman's character muses that geology is the study of time and pressure, and the Shasta Caverns are a perfect example of that as the limestone caves are living examples of what happens given time and gravity.

The caverns once sat at the bottom of a Jurassic era ocean and grew out of the crack in the rocks. Dripping water seeps minerals through the rock and sloooowly forms the massive stalactites, stalagmites and stone draperies and



flowstone deposits. Visitors can see formations that look like bacon, an ancient Wintu guide, Santa Claus, a saber-toothed tiger and a T Rex. Did we mention bacon?

Shasta Caverns is more than just a tourist attraction. They have been working with the scientific community for years, helping support climatology studies through Vanderbilt University in Kentucky, and geology studies through Texas State University, said Dave Mundt, Shasta Caverns historian and cave side manager.

And the lighting improvements are not just good for visitor engagement, but better for the sustainability of the caves, the flora as well as a bat population that resides in the dark tombs.

The new system uses less power (the Caverns will eventually look to replace its power source with solar) and allows operators to turn off the lights in each room more quickly, which lessens the growth of lampenflora that needs to be removed periodically for the formations' health.

**Dinner Cruise sets sail**

By the time of publication, the



PHOTO / Lake Shasta Caverns

Shasta Caverns' ever-popular Lake Shasta Dinner Cruises will be setting sail. The two-hour journey is perfect for special occasions, group outings or just because. Reservations are required and a myriad of frequently asked questions can be answered at

[lakeshastasdinnercruises.com](http://lakeshastasdinnercruises.com). "We are getting more private bookings than we've ever had," Doyle said, adding if you want to experience a Dinner Cruise then booking sooner rather than later is a great idea.

**More information**

For the most current information on the Caverns, including hours of operation, admission prices, and an FAQ, visit [lakeshastacaverns.com](http://lakeshastacaverns.com) or call 530-238-2341.

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## Great fishing in the north state includes Shasta Lake and more



By Aaron Williams

For the third straight year, Shasta Lake is full and that means it's a great time to hit the water looking for fish.

"The fishing is phenomenal right now," Andrew Ramos, a veteran employee at Phil's Propellers in Shasta Lake, said in mid-May of this year. "In fact, it's hard to explain but it might be better now than it has been in years."

He said veteran anglers have seen a big boom in king salmon, crappie

and other fish in the lake.

"Species that used to be plentiful in the 80s and 90s are making a resurgence," he said.

Higher sustained lake levels have allowed the fish, no matter the species, to spawn more easily than in drought years.

"More fish equals bigger and better fish, too," he added.

Ramos said the main lake is perfect for crappie or bass fishing, and the Sacramento or McCloud arms are

great places for trout and king salmon, especially Dry Creek.

"Now is a great time to go fishing," Ramos said. "And when the water starts to warm up, the fish will be even more active and bite a variety of lures."

Sticking to covers and extended points are great places to sink a line looking for a bite, he said.

For bass, try Senkos and similar plastic worms, top-water baits like the Zara Spook and tubes like the Gitzit and Strike King. Also spinner baits and whopper ploppers. For the rainbows, it's hard to go wrong with tossing out a nightcrawler or some Powerbait. He said novice fishermen can catch anything with nightcrawlers and minnows.

The cooler surface water should last into late June or later, and during that time trout are busy feeding. But due to the high lake level to start off the tourist season they're already further down than low lake level years, roaming around 40 to 50 feet below the surface. And that's where they're likely to stay. Anglers will most likely need a downrigger to get their lures and blades down that far.

During the dog days of summer, the warmer water slows down the bass bite so the best bet is to fish during the late evening, using jigs, spinnerbaits and top-water baits.

From a boat, you can use super flukes (soft rubber fish-like "twitch" baits), brush hogs (which resemble little aquatic creatures) and senkos (weighted plastic worms).

"You don't have to have a whole lot of experience (to catch fish on the lake)," he said.

One guy who knows a thing or two about catching bass on Shasta Lake is Jeff Michels, a Lakehead resident and one of the top 10 bass fishermen on the West Coast and two-time FLW Angler of the Year.

Michels echoed Ramos in that Shasta Lake is a "phenomenal fishery."

"You can go anywhere and catch fish," he said.

Ramos said the areas around the dam at Fishermen's Point and the Centimudi Boat Ramp are great walk-up places to wet a line. He also said Lakeshore Drive in Lakehead, Salt Creek, Bailey Cove and Packer's Bay offer opportunities without going out on a boat. But for the best opportunities, you'll want to get out in a boat.

Bass are just one of the sportfish species that make Shasta Lake a mecca for anglers. Here's a list of what could end up on the other end of the line: sturgeon, crappie, largemouth bass, small-mouth bass, spotted bass, catfish, king salmon, kokanee (landlocked coho salmon), rainbow trout and German brown trout, to name a few.

### More fishing areas

Michels said Trinity Lake, 45 miles west of Redding, was also one of his favorite places to fish, and added Whiskeytown Lake is a hidden gem.

"You have a cluster of three of the best lakes in California, if not the United States, right in our backyard," he said.

Whiskeytown Lake, west of Redding, is also a good place to find bass, kokanee, salmon and catfish. Trinity Lake has its share of rainbow trout, largemouth bass, salmon and smallmouth bass.

Good fishing doesn't end with the lakes. The lower Sacramento River, as it bends through Redding, has a well-earned reputation as a year-round trout fishery that's very popular with fly fishermen.

Elsewhere in the north state, the Pit and McCloud rivers are popular in eastern Shasta County, along with Hat Creek and the Fall River.

The Trinity River is widely known for its steelhead runs while Trinity and Lewiston lakes provide opportunities for trout and bass.

### Licenses and days to fish free

So you're visiting and want to fish? If you're here July 5 or Aug. 30 (both on a Saturday) you can do it for free on the two Free Fishing Days in 2025.

Otherwise, short term fishing licenses for residents and nonresidents in 2025 are available for \$20.52 for one-day, \$31.58 for two days, and for nonresidents only they can get a 10-day license for \$62.90. Phil's Propellers in Shasta Lake, Lakeshore Villa Grocery in Lakehead and other businesses have licenses for sale.

For more information, visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at: [wild-life.ca.gov/Fishing](http://wild-life.ca.gov/Fishing).

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# Shasta Lake



DRONE PHOTO / Adrian Rogers

## Third year in a row to start the season with a full lake level

By Aaron Williams

The scene is postcard perfect: You've beached your houseboat in a cove on Shasta Lake. The air is warm, but comfortable. Family and friends gather on the shore for dinner as the sunset glows with brilliant reds, oranges and pinks to the west, enjoying the last little bit of daylight. Soon the night will paint the sky black and dot it with a million stars.

Welcome to Shasta Lake – the quintessential summer hangout for visitors and locals alike.

And Hallelujah! After a few years of historic low lake levels, the past two robust winters that peppered the north state with an abundance of rain will pay dividends with what should be another banner year on the lake.

"This is the third year in a row we've had a full lake level," said Matt Doyle, general manager of Lake Shasta Caverns and president of the Shasta Lake Business Owners Association.

In mid-May of this year, lake levels sat 5 feet from the top, which Doyle said is "essentially full." The numbers from the Bureau of Reclamation bear out another stellar summer season on the lake. By June, lake levels will be at 1,054 feet (13-feet down) and 1,011 feet at Labor Day (56-feet down). At the end of the season, the drop is to 978 feet (89-feet down), Doyle said.

"With that kind of start, we're on our way for a fourth straight year of



PHOTO / Michael Burke

having a full lake," he said.

Doyle said his Lake Shasta Dinner Cruises are starting to get booked up and he's felt a bigger buzz than last year from the high-water levels.

"People are hopping on the bandwagon and booking early," he said. "A lot of marinas are booking out."

And that traffic has a positive impact on the businesses in and around the lake as well as those in Redding and surrounding towns.

"It's not just the marinas and attractions, it's the entire area," he

said. "Housboaters are stopping in town to stock up on supplies. It impacts things all over."

He said the boom of the past few years feels like the late 80s and early 90s when robust rainfall made Shasta Lake a premier summer destination.

And three years of above-average rainfall makes for great conditions to rent a houseboat, plan a fishing trip or just get out on the water. With high water levels like that, if the weather remains warm, renting houseboats after Labor Day weekend in September and October may be

the ticket for many people: seasonal rates, less boat traffic and relatively high lake levels.

There are six boat launches on Shasta Lake – Bailey Cove, Centumudi, Jones Valley, Packers Bay, Antlers and Hirz Bay – which are perfect starting points in search of the lake's many submerged creatures, including bass, catfish and even crappie as the employees at Phil's Propellers in Shasta Lake can tell you.

But it's not just the fish who are benefitting from the lake's rise. In early May, the Shasta-Trinity U.S. National Forest said they had spotted 90 bald eagles around the lake (plus 40 on Trinity Lake and 10 on Lewiston) – great numbers for the national bird.

The wildlife is active, although you might not see as much as when the water levels are lower, Doyle said.

"Before, you could see them making their way to and from the water," he said. "Now, they can just dip their head into the water from the tree line."

Wildlife is abundant at Shasta Lake. In addition to the eagles, bears, mountain lions, river otters, osprey and deer can all be found around the lake.

Shasta Lake is serviced by a handful of marinas which rent houseboats and other water-sports toys: Antlers Resort & RV Park, Bridge Bay at Shasta Lake, Holiday Harbor, Jones Valley Resort, Shasta Marina at





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Houseboat rentals are the bread and butter of the marinas, but what if you don't have time for a full week out on the lake?

Ski boats, jet skis, kayak, canoes and SUPs (stand up paddleboards) all are available for day-use rental at most of the marinas on the lake, along with businesses like Fun Factory Powerboat Adventures.

Doyle said that perhaps the only issue with higher lake levels is that parking can sometimes get scarce at the marinas, but that once you're out on the water, "you're going to disappear."

There are four arms of Shasta Lake to explore: the Sacramento Arm, the McCloud Arm, the Sulanharas Creek Arm (formerly the Squaw Creek Arm), and the Pit River Arm. Each flows into the lake created by the building of Shasta Dam in the 1930s and '40s.

The dam is the cornerstone of the Central Valley Project – as well as the largest man-made reservoir in California – which serves to deliver water south to the rich agriculture fields in central and southern California and helps make the state the world's sixth leading economy.

The Sacramento and McCloud rivers flow into the lake from the north while the Pit River and Sulanharas

Creek arms come from the east.

Lakehead, along Interstate 5, sits at the north end of the lake and generally sees the Sacramento flow past during non-drought years like this one. Antlers Marina and Sugarloaf Resort (a moorage and market) are on the Sacramento arm.

Along the McCloud arm are Holiday Harbor and access to Lake Shasta Caverns, a truly magical trip inside the granite mountains across the river. A trip inside the caverns offers visitors a geological time-travel experience of stalactites and stalagmites and it's all available in a whole new light – and sound – following an over \$500,000 upgrade (see story on page 26).

"Each arm offers different amenities, different feels to it," Doyle said.

Early in the season when the lake is at its fullest, there are features that are more easily accessible, such as waterfalls and campgrounds.

From Little Backbone Creek's smooth natural rock waterslide on the west side of the lake to Potem Falls on the far eastern part, all it takes is a little local knowledge and a spirit of adventure to get there.

The waterslide is best visited when the lake levels are high, but use

- Please see Page 34

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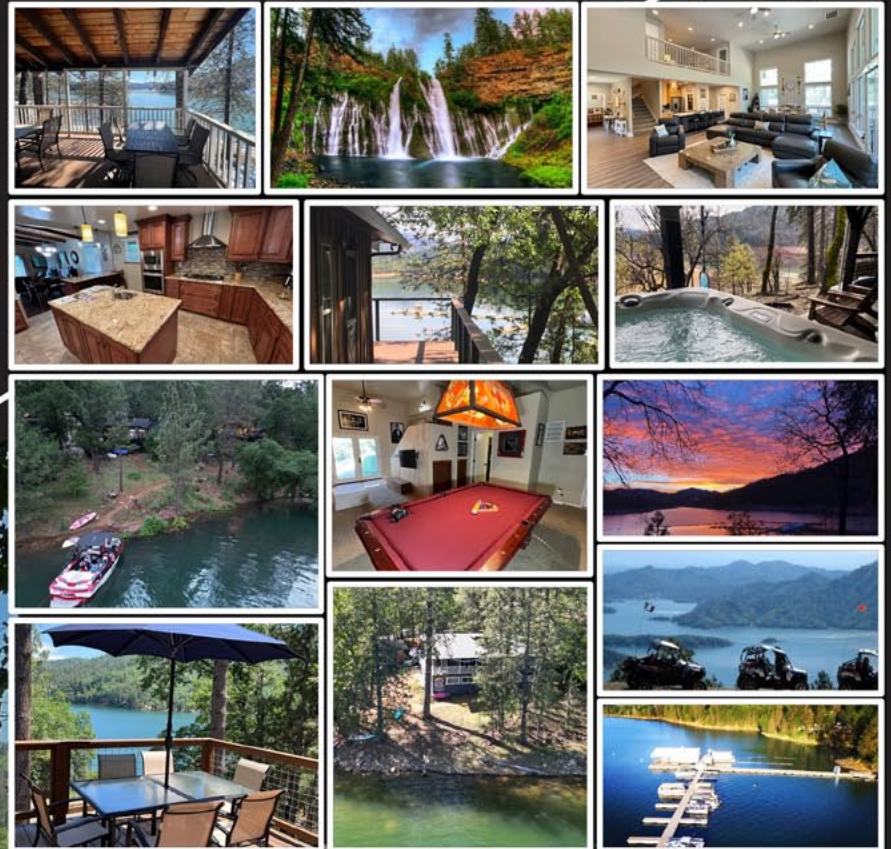


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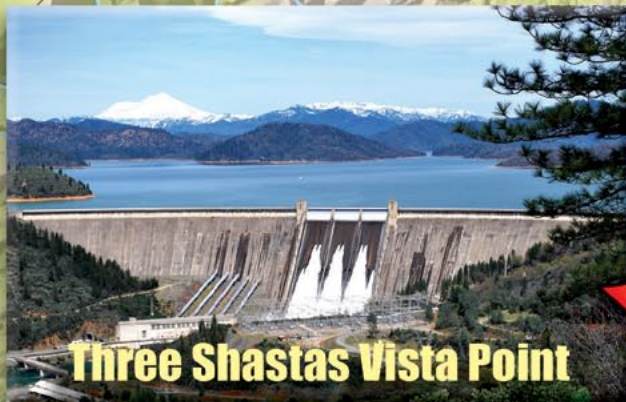
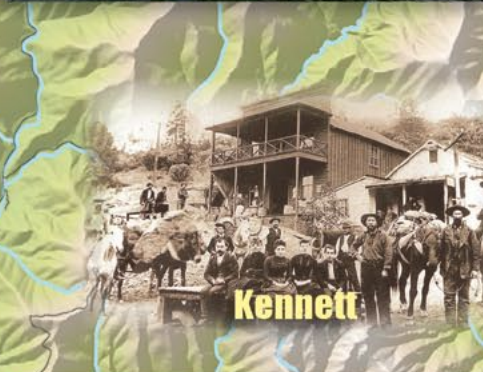
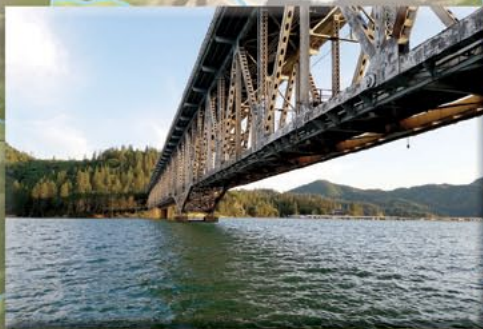
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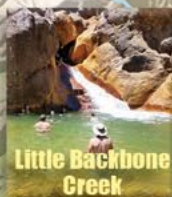


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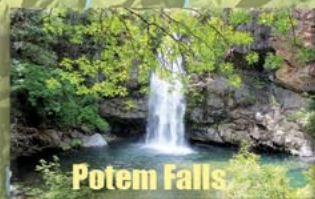
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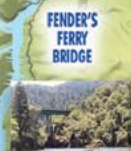




# Shasta Lake



Potem Falls



FENDER'S FERRY BRIDGE



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To Burney





caution as the 20-minute hike is said to be slippery.

Potem Falls, a must-see in the Waterfalls Tour in this Visitors Guide (page 23) is a large waterfall located in the deep recesses of the Pit River arm. Visitors can drive to the falls via Fender's Ferry Road and then hike about a half mile. But on full lake years, boaters can also reach the falls by boat.

Doyle said one of the perks of the lake being full is it makes hikes to places like Potem Falls and the rockslide area easier to access from the lake.

"As a matter of fact, I've never driven (to Potem Falls)," he said. "It's always been by boat."

Bear Creek Falls is a better option for those looking for an easier adventure. It is located in a canyon about a mile south of Potem Falls on the Pit River arm. Though they can't be seen from the lake, when the lake is high it is a short hike of maybe a few hundred yards.

Waters Gulch Falls is probably one of the easier waterfalls to find and easy to get to depending on trail access. It is a series of small cascading falls that feed into a stream that empties on the Sacramento River arm east of Slaughterhouse Island.

A map of the lake where some of



the places are located, such as Potem Falls, Shasta Caverns and Little Backbone Creek, can be viewed on pages 32-33 (the middle section) of this Visitors Guide.

For the latest information, visit the Shasta-Trinity National Forest website at [fs.usda.gov/main/stnf/home](https://fs.usda.gov/main/stnf/home) or call the Shasta Lake Ranger Station at 530-275-1587.

#### **Be safe**

Maybe you figure you're out on the lake and perhaps far from any other boaters in the area so you think you can let loose and do whatever you

want. Think again.

The Shasta County Sheriff's office has a boating safety unit that regularly patrols the lake. There are laws on the lake and, yes, you can get a DUI while operating a boat.

And a new law is in effect. All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, must possess a California Boater Card. The requirement is for motorboats, personal watercraft (jet skis) and other motorized craft.

But guess what? There's an exception.

"Rentals are exempt," a Shasta

County Sheriff's boating safety officer said.

That goes for bona fide rentals of either houseboats or personal watercraft.

Also, children 13 and under must wear life jackets while on board a boat unless they are in the cabin of either a sailboat or houseboat. Additionally, all boats are required to carry an appropriate number and sizes of life jackets.

In the event of an accident on the water, authorities recommend calling 911 if you're in cell range. If you're in a part of the lake that has no reception, a relay system with other boaters - who can then call 911 - would be the best way to contact authorities.

#### **Underwater ghost towns**

Interested in the history of Shasta Lake, which was created as part of the construction of Shasta Dam?

Most tend to think of Shasta Lake as a recreation haven and boaters paradise. But there's a whole lot of history beneath the surface of the 30,000-acre reservoir.

Reaching depths approaching 400 feet are a handful of underwater ghost towns lost to the progress of building Shasta Dam in the 1930s and '40s.

In addition to the communities of Kennett, Copper City, Elmore, Baird,

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PHOTO / Courtesy Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

The legendary Diamond Saloon, said to be one of the fanciest places between Portland and San Francisco, was one of more than 40 saloons

Etter, Pitt and Winthrop, there are sacred Winnemum Wintu Tribe sites all but lost by the flooding of 47 square miles behind the dam.

"I don't think they realize, especially the visitors, that before the dam was built a thriving community lived there," said Darlene Brown of the Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society.

#### Kennett

The largest of the towns that now lies beneath the surface of Shasta Lake (behind Shasta Dam), Kennett was once called home by more than 10,000. The booming mining town – one of the most important given its proximity between Portland, Ore. and San Francisco - boasted nearly 50 saloons, mercantile stores, a hospital, a hotel, schoolhouse and even an opera house.

"Around the turn of the century, this was a big mining area," Brown said. "Now, you have a tourist who might be water skiing on water over an area where there once was a city."

The first mention of Kennett was in 1852 after the discovery of gold on Backbone Creek, later named Kennett in honor of railroad man "Squire" Kennet. The town took on an extra "T" over time, the result of a mapmaking error.

The town boasted two large copper mines that dotted the surrounding foothills. The nearness of the railroad also boosted Kennett's stature, as business travelers, tradesmen, railroad workers and miners inevitably passed through the town just north of what would become Redding.

The Diamond Saloon was said to be the fanciest place between

located in Kennett. All of it is now under the surface of Shasta Lake, not far from Shasta Dam.

Portland and San Francisco, distilling and bottling its own whiskey. The bar was reportedly 150-feet long and scantily clad women catered to thirsty miners.

The end of World War I forced the price of metal to plummet, along with the prosperity of Kennett as the largest mine closed in 1923.

The downturn proved beneficial for the federal government, which had begun to scout sites for a dam.

According to Jane Schuldberg's book Kennett, there is no record of any public hearings to ask Kennett residents their opinion. The diminished population of the town was likely considered too insignificant to matter. Most people sold their land to the government willingly, while some waited until the waters began to rise before abandoning their homes.

Kennett was completely submerged by 1944, one year before the completion of the dam.

#### Copper City

It was first known as the Pittsburgh Mining District, later as Brownsville, even later as Williams, and lastly as Copper City, according to the late Shasta County historian Dottie Smith. Its name was derived from the "Original Williams and Kellinger Gold, Silver and Copper Mining Company."

Copper City, on the Sulanharas Creek Arm (formerly Squaw Creek Arm) of what's now Shasta Lake, followed a boom-and-bust cycle as gold, then copper was discovered in the area in the late 1800s.

The town officially died in the early 1900s when the Bully Hill smelter closed.



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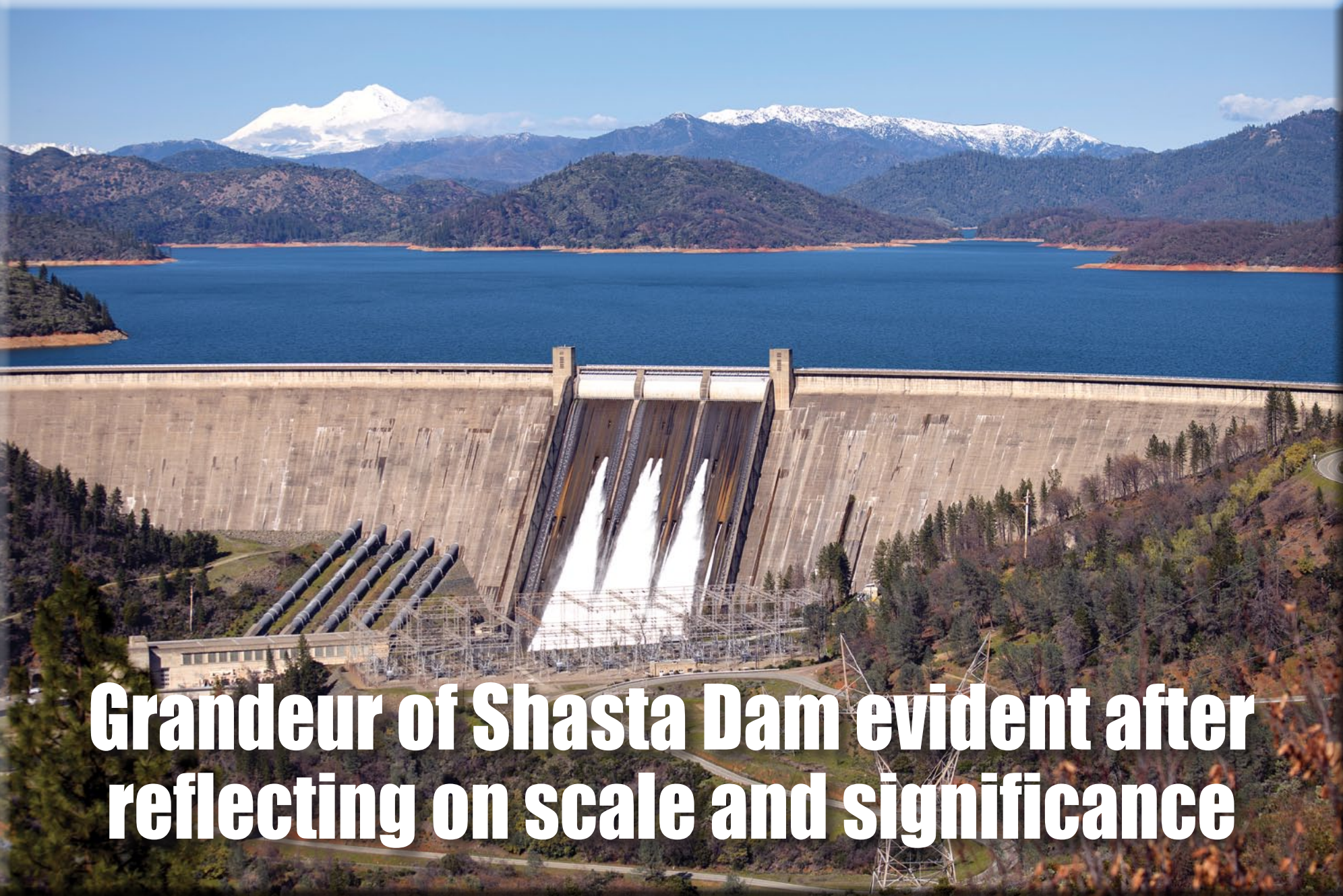
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# Grandeur of Shasta Dam evident after reflecting on scale and significance

PHOTO / Bureau of Reclamation

With questions remaining of how cuts in the federal government will play out, as of May of 2025, the Shasta Dam Visitors Center is expected to be open Friday through Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Wednesday and Thursday. Full tours will be offered at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

The tour schedule may vary, so you are asked to please call ahead at 530-247-8555 (TTY 800-877-8339) or visit [www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-tours.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-tours.html)

The tour will include a walk across the top of the dam, an elevator ride and short walk through the dam to a stunning view of the spillway, and a tour of the Shasta Power Plant. Reclamation guides will share the rich history of Shasta Dam, how it was built, and the important role it plays in the Central Valley Project.

## History and Significance of Shasta Dam

The grandeur of Shasta Dam can

dim just a bit when you live in the north state a long time.

Yeah, it's the crown jewel of the Central Valley Water Project. Sure, it's the second largest concrete dam in the United States. It generates electricity. Got it. What's the lake level again?

But the grandeur returns after a person views it up close and stops for a moment to truly reflect on the significance and scale of Shasta Dam. Along with Hoover Dam, it changed the entire face of the Western United States. California became the breadbasket for the country largely because of the water storage of Shasta Lake.

Located roughly nine miles northwest of Redding, Shasta Dam was constructed in just the right location to take advantage of the confluence of the Sacramento River, McCloud River, Sulanharas Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) and Pit River. Behind the dam, these four tributaries pool to create Shasta

Lake. Its 365 miles of shoreline make the lake a paradise for fishermen and boaters.

But this concrete gravity dam was built for reasons other than helping provide recreational opportunities. Its two main purposes are flood control and water storage. Without the dam the Sacramento River would be prone to flooding during winter; in the summer, communities south of the dam would be prone to drought-like conditions.

The dam was built to even out these conditions and help supply the fertile California Central Valley – where two-thirds of the nation's food is grown – with irrigation. A byproduct of Shasta Dam is 710 megawatts of electricity that its five massive generators can produce.

The dam is an astonishing 883 feet thick at its base and as tall as a 60-story skyscraper. It weighs (get this) 30 billion pounds, or 15 million tons.

Gravel that was used to make

concrete traveled along a 9.6-mile conveyor belt to reach the dam site. The starting point for that conveyor belt is where Turtle Bay Exploration Park in Redding stands today.

One could compare the accomplishment of Shasta Dam to the great Egyptian pyramids, except the pyramids don't provide flood control, supply water for the world's fifth largest economy, create a massive recreational reservoir and generate enough power to light 700,000 dwellings.

The dam is designed to withstand an 8.5 magnitude earthquake, but one gets the feeling it would take a lot more than that to alter the thing.

It's nothing short of astonishing what 4,700 workers accomplished over a seven-year period from 1938 to 1945.

But not everyone who applied got a job back then.

- Please see Page 38





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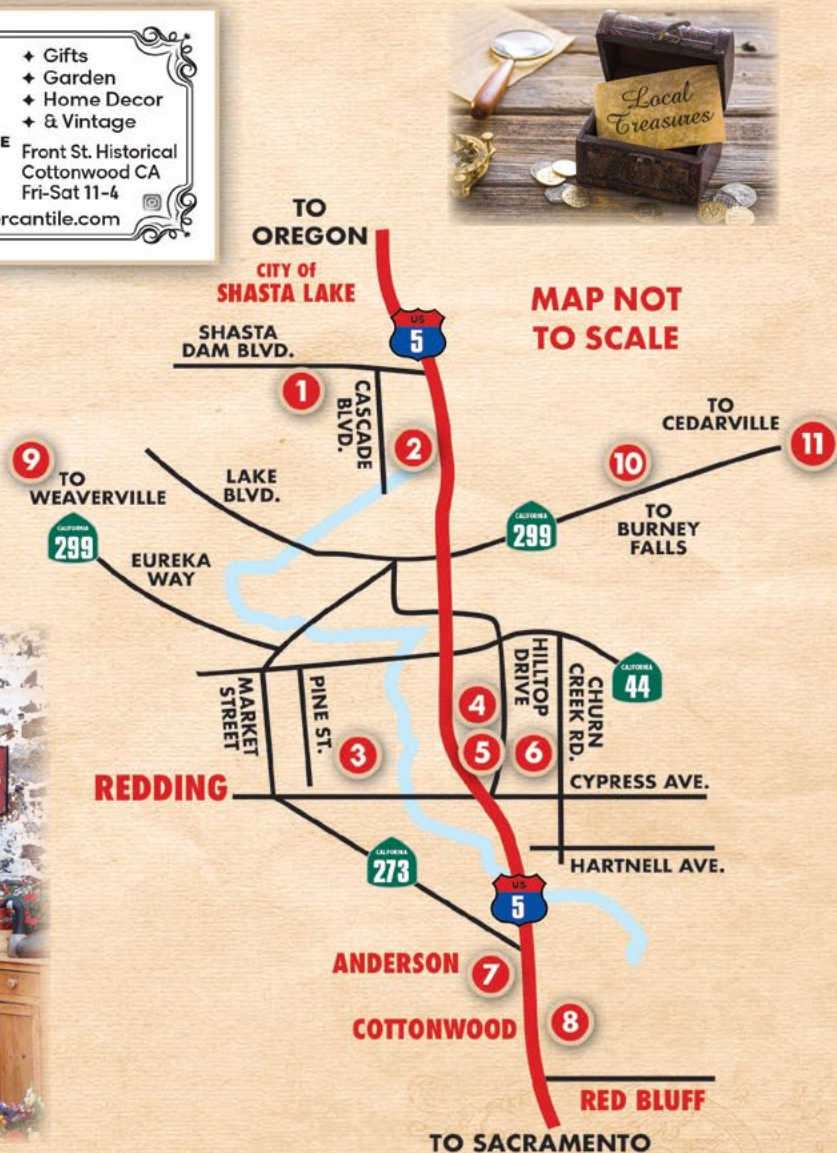
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## Woody was here

"I landed in Redding early one morning on a long freight train full of wore-out people," Woody Guthrie wrote in his autobiography, *Bound For Glory*.



A full chapter in the book - titled "The Telegram that Never Came" - details the traveling troubadour's brief stay in the area in June of 1938.

He was just shy of 26 when he visited Redding and had yet to achieve any level of fame, let alone establish himself as one of the most remembered artists of The Great Depression era.

He came to Redding because it was a "boomtown" of the moment, where thousands of workers came - some with whole families in tow - looking for jobs building what Guthrie called "Kenneth Dam." This was actually Kennett Dam, the original name for what would become known as Shasta Dam.

Guthrie described arriving in Redding on "a blistering hot day" to find the town "a wild ant den" of bustling humanity, where more than 8,000 itinerant workers - largely Dust Bowl refugees - had arrived hoping to fill only 2,500 available jobs. Apparently, Guthrie wasn't one of them. No records have been found to indicate he worked at the dam and he made no mention of it in his writings.

There is, however, a persistent urban legend that Guthrie penned "This Land is Your Land" locally. The song, by official accounts, was actually written in New York in February of 1940, and first recorded in 1944. It's unclear how long he was in the Redding area - he never really says - but it was likely just a matter of days. It is apparent, though, that



PHOTO / Bureau of Reclamation

**Visitors on the Shasta Dam tour will be able to do the hand clap where the echo in the hallway is nearly as loud as the original clap.**

his experiences in Redding and time spent in California served as inspiration for some of the song's verses, both those that extoll the beauty of America and those that are critical of the way poor people were treated.

In fact, the chapter immediately following the Redding chapter begins, "I set my hat on the back of my head and walked out west from Redding through the Redwood forests along the coast ..."

These same Redwoods, and California itself, figure prominently in "This Land."

One other notable thing Guthrie mentioned about Redding was the same thing all summertime visitors can't help but notice. The heat.

"When the night comes down, everything got a little stiller, and you could walk around from one bunch of people to the other and talk about the weather," he wrote. "Although the weather wasn't such an ace-high subject to talk about, because around Redding for nine months hand running the weather don't change (it's hot and dry, hot and dry, and tomorrow it's still going to be hot and dry), you can hear little bunches

of folks getting acquainted with each other, saying, 'Really hot, ain't it.' 'Yeah, dry too.' 'Mighty dry.'"

## 80th Anniversary Celebration scheduled June 20, 2025

An 80th Anniversary event marking the completion of Shasta Dam is scheduled for Friday, June 20, 2025, at the Visitor Center.

The event begins at 10 a.m. with a Shasta Lake business mixer, followed by a program at 11 a.m. to Celebrate 80 Years of Excellence. The event continues at noon with an open house with refreshments, and special dam tours at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. with Reclamation guides.

The event will move to the Boomtown Museum in the city of Shasta Lake, 1525 Median Ave., for an open house from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by a concert in the adjacent Clair Engle Park starting at 6:30 p.m.

## Visitors Center and Information

Tours that take you down inside the dam and the powerplant had been on hold prior to last year, even before Covid 19 became an issue. The elevator that transported visitors to the base had been under

repair for some time and was finally fixed last year.

Inside the Visitor Center you will find photographs and displays that depict the building of the dam, including one on Frank Crowe, a civil engineer, who is credited with building not only Shasta Dam but several others as well, including Hoover Dam. You'll also be offered a chance to watch a 21-minute documentary that is shown on a regular schedule that explains how the dam was built. That video, "Shasta Dam: California's Empire Builder," also can be viewed on YouTube. A full-length DVD version of the video is available for sale at the Visitor Center gift shop.

Call 530-247-8555 or visit [usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-tours.html](http://usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-tours.html) for more information. For additional information about Shasta Dam, you can go online to the Reclamation's Northern California Area Office website at [usbr.gov/mp/ncao](http://usbr.gov/mp/ncao).

## Winnemem Wintu Tribe

The Winnemem Wintu Tribe has been opposed to the building of Shasta Dam since the very beginning when their homes were flooded out along the McCloud River, as were those of the people living in such towns as Kennett, in order to make way for the dam and reservoir.

You can find more information on the Winnemem Wintu Tribe online. They also have a museum located in the city of Shasta Lake at 4755 Shasta Dam Blvd. (Hwy 151). Phone: 530-605-1725 Website: [wintutribe.com](http://wintutribe.com)

*This article included previous NSVG stories by Ken Smith (on Woody Guthrie), Jim Dyar, and Ron Harrington, with additional information provided by Tami Corn and Amy Holland for the Bureau of Reclamation. Photograph of Woody Guthrie by Al Aumuller and is courtesy of the Woody Guthrie Archives.*

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VISITORS GUIDE

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# Cheers

New owners, new menu items, a Sasquatch-like character, and award-winning beers - all this and more at North State breweries

By Aaron Williams

Whether you want to tip a few after work or are looking to take home a four-pack of local brew, the north state is a haven for great beer.

True Northern California has been a stalwart in the production of craft beer for years. From ales and lagers to stouts, IPAs and seasonal brews,

there's certainly something for any suds fan.

And the best part of the brewery sample may be that most of these brew houses offer more than nectar. Many also have downright dynamite food. Bottoms up!

#### Woody's Brewing Company

The news from Woody's is that it

has new ownership after founders Andrew and Scott Wlodarczk sold the popular Redding spot to Bart and Ami Hauptman in the fall of 2024.

The co-founders of Final Draft had gotten out of the business for a few years, but jumped at the chance to take over Woody's.

"I got a call from Scott who has been a friend for years and he asked if we'd be interested in buying it," Bart Hauptman said.

Six months into the transition, he said they are starting to make subtle changes in packaging and consolidating what he viewed as similar types of offerings.

"I had some opinions on what I wanted to do and that started on the beer side," he said. "We're getting the wheels turning, but it takes time."

One of the changes is in the packaging. For example, Oma's Poison, a pilsner, has been rebranded at 837 (the new area code coming to Shasta County and being overlaid on the existing 530 code).

"We've repackaged things so all the other beers will match," he said. "It's taken about four or five months. We are releasing the new products. A lot are the same products, but others are slight variations."

"In beer, it's constantly changing and if you don't stay relevant, you get left behind and I don't want Woody's to get left behind."

The restaurant remains open with its delightful food offerings and 17 beer handles and two ciders that rotate seasonally.

The menu, Hauptman said, also will begin to rotate seasonally and should have an update in June and then most likely quarterly.

[woodysbrewing.com](http://woodysbrewing.com)

#### Fall River Brewing Company

Fall River might be the most well-known of all the Northern California breweries with their ever-popular Hexagenia IPA and Numb Numb Juice.

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and available at their taphouse and tasting room, Fall River co-owner Amanda Hutchings said she and husband John are grateful for the support through the years from a stoutly loyal base.

"For us as producers and distributors, the key is to keep steady," she said. "We've been fortunate enough to grow distribution a little thanks to our wonderful customers."

And why not? With their fun and creative packaging, Fall River's beers not only stand out on the shelves, but on the taste buds.

They released a hard root beer - called Half-cocked hard root beer - in the last six months and have a smattering of seasonals prepared to drop over the summer. These include Horizon Helles, a light beer that's "sweet up front and dry at the end," Hutchings said. Additionally, she was excited about Chill Pils, a West Coast-inspired pilsner that boasts a Sasquatch-like character floating on the river on its can.

"The craft beer business is not business as usual," she said. "We get to have fun and our creative team is amazing."

Fall River's tasting room on Eastside Road has events happening all the time - from trivia nights to line dancing and live music.

The taphouse is located at 1030 E. Cypress Ave., Suite D, Redding, in the Safeway shopping center.

To keep up to date, check Fall River's social media or website, [fallriverbrewing.com](http://fallriverbrewing.com)

#### Dunsmuir Brewery Works

A trip north out of Redding offers plenty of outdoor exploration options. From skiing to golf and hiking to swimming, it's an outdoor playground.

And when you're done adventuring, a trip to Dunsmuir Brewery Works is the perfect way to cap the day.

Owner Aaron Greener has been working on revamping the food menu - he is also a chef in addition to being the brewmaster - and is working to "make the whole place what I want it to be."

They don't distribute, so if you want some of the amazing Trainhopper IPA, the Rusty Spike Imperial Red and Liquid Sunshine Summer Wheat, you

have to go and get it on tap.

But that's just a perfect excuse to try some of the amazing specials Greener has been cooking up, including prawns and grits with smoked cheddar cheese and Creole prawns, as well as Sockeye Salmon for a seafood Louie salad.

And that doesn't include regular menu items like the Buffalo chicken cheesesteak and the Reuben sandwich.

"I'm in the kitchen and finding my love of what I'm doing again," Greener said.

[dunsmuirbreweryworks.com](http://dunsmuirbreweryworks.com)

#### Trinity County Brewing Co.

The Weaverville company keeps getting bigger and better and noticed for its finely crafted beer. The latest happened in April of 2025 at The Brewers Cup of California, presented by The Sacramento Area Brewers Guild in partnership with the brewers guilds of California., where they grabbed a gold for its Belgian Quad and a bronze for its Brown Ale.

"It's always nice for someone to tell you your beer is nice," said Neil Petersen, brewmaster and co-owner of Trinity County Brewing Company with Jacob Corella.

And when they're not grabbing medals, he said they're growing distribution, mainly in Eureka and on the coast, but also in Shasta, Tehama and Siskiyou counties and throughout Trinity County.

However, taking the short trip from Redding or anywhere in the north state to Weaverville is always worth the drive.

Trinity County Brewing Company likes to pop out seasonal brews with the Knuckleheads hazy IPA coming up for its involvement in the Trinity County Animal Auxiliary. They are also releasing a LaGrange lager for the La Grange mountain bike race.

They even have a non-alcoholic hop tea for those who don't imbibe. It's a tea brewed with chamomile and infused with citra hops and sparkling water and chilled.

There's often free live music throughout the summer and 12 beers on tap with Trinity's beers taking center stage along with a few guest beers.

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on Facebook, Instagram and their website, along with a regular ad in the monthly After Five Magazine are the places to see what's happening at Trinity County Brewing Company.  
trinitycountybrewingcompany.com

### Siskiyou Brew Works

Now in his mid-70s, Siskiyou Brew Works owner and brewmaster Pat Brush has finally hung it up and stopped brewing. But he and his wife, Susan, have forged ahead by serving the craft beers from others they favor.

Among the six beers on tap at the big red barn just off Highway 89 and Squaw Creek Road in McCloud (with a beautiful view of Mt. Shasta) are the

PranQster Belgian style golden ale (7.6% APV) from Lost Coast Brewing Co. in Fort Bragg and the "Huck It" Huckleberry Blonde Ale from Big Sky Brewing Co. in Missoula, Montana.

And if you still haven't become accustomed to the taste of craft beers...yes, they have Coors Light available, along with wine and wine coolers.

In addition to the beer offerings, Siskiyou Brew Works serves up pizza, German pretzels made on-site, calzones, and grab and go burritos on Fridays and Saturdays. Various sweets are also available.

See their Facebook page under Siskiyou Brew Works.

# RESTAURANT GUIDE

**Restaurants in Red**

Pages 39-41

**Breweries/Brew Pubs in Blue**

Pages 42-44



#### 1. BASSHOLE BREWS

20725 Lakeshore Drive  
Exit 702 off Interstate 5  
Lakehead 530-962-3050

#### 2. DUNSMUIR BREWERY WORKS

5701 Dunsmuir Ave.  
Dunsmuir 530-235-1900

#### 3. FALL RIVER BREWING CO.

- A) Brewery - 4001 Eastside Road  
Redding 530-945-2337
- B) Taproom - 1030 E. Cypress Ave.  
Redding 530-605-0230

#### 4. THE GARDEN GRILLE & BAR

in the Hilton Garden Inn  
5050 Bechelli Lane, Exit 675  
Redding 530-226-5111

#### 5. GRANZELLA'S

451 6th Street  
Williams  
Restaurant: 530-473-5583  
Deli: 530-473-5496

#### 6. LAKE SHASTA DINNER CRUISES

20359 Shasta Caverns Rd  
Lakhead 530-238-2341

#### 7. MOUNT SHASTA RESORT

1000 Lake Siskiyou Blvd.  
Mt. Shasta 530-926-3030

#### 8. OLD MILL EATERY & SMOKEHOUSE

4132 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake 530-275-0515

#### 9. PIZZA FACTORY

- A) 4432 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake 530-275-4455
- B) 536 N. Market Street  
Redding 530-657-5423

#### 10. SISKIYOU BREW WORKS

110 Squaw Valley Rd  
McCloud 530-925-5894

#### 11. TORTILLA FLATS

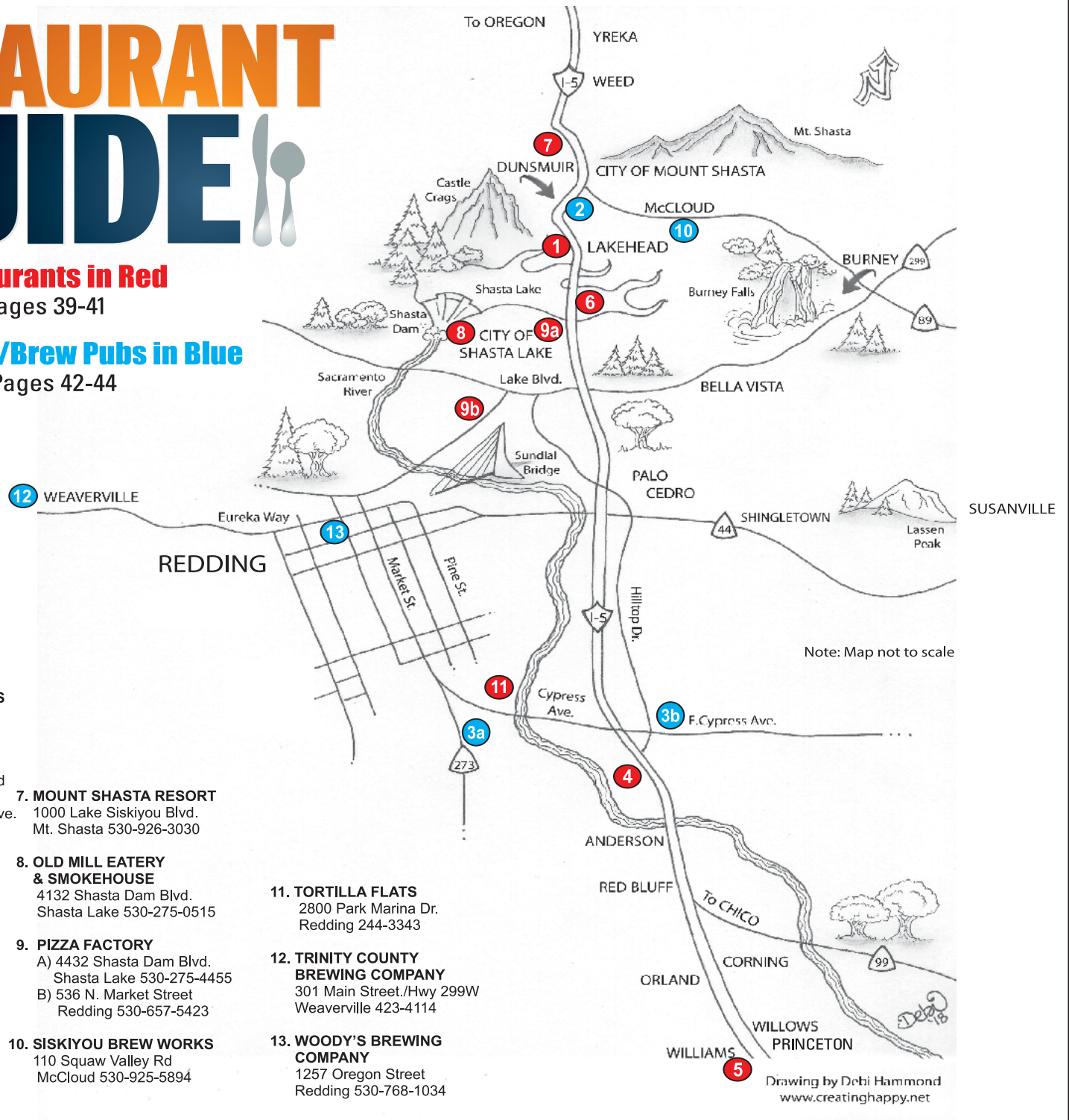
2800 Park Marina Dr.  
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#### 12. TRINITY COUNTY BREWING COMPANY

301 Main Street./Hwy 299W  
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#### 13. WOODY'S BREWING COMPANY

1257 Oregon Street  
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Drawing by Debi Hammond  
www.creatinghappy.net



# Let's Ride

**Bike enthusiasts and casual riders have an almost endless array of great riding opportunities in the north state...with even more planned for the future**



In true Northern California, you can ride through mountains, plains, wildflowers, tunnels and tall trees.

So why take your bike on vacation? Plain and simple, you need to bring your bike to experience all that the north state has to offer. Or, you may be able to borrow some pedals by renting them. Here's the lowdown on some of the biking in the north state by area or county.

## **SHASTA COUNTY Redding**

The Sacramento River Trail is a gem for the greater Redding area.

"The Sacramento River Trail is viewed by the public as an essential part of what makes Redding a real community," [americantrails.org](http://americantrails.org) said. "The trail is a vital infrastructure component that contributes to the multi-modal transportation system, it is a valuable recreation amenity, and it helps establish a sense of place."

That statement has been echoed by locals as well.

"Redding has seen a surge in cycling-related tourism in recent years,

thanks to collaborative efforts among local governments and community partners," said Zach Bonnin, city of Redding transportation planner. "These projects not only enhance recreation but also expand Redding's active transportation network."

One major development is the Diestelhorst to Downtown (D2D) River Trail Extension, which has created a safer and more direct route from the River Trail into the heart of downtown Redding, Bonnin said. A new segment of this trail is slated to open in summer 2025, extending the D2D route along California Street and further integrating downtown with the broader trail system.

The Shasta Bike Depot, located at 1313 California St, which opened in May of 2023, is part of an \$111 million mixed-use housing, commercial space and transportation project under construction along California Street.

It offers a secure bike garage, a bike friendly cafe, a downtown e-bikeshare program, visitor services, guided e-bike tours of the Sacramento River Trail, information exchange,

social hub, youth programs, e-bike charging station and limited repair services.

This non-profit wants to increase cycling, offer more transportation choices and reduce auto emissions. It also will be a unique option to experience the area if you did not bring your bike on vacation.

Another exciting addition, Bonnin said, is the completion of new lit trail connections in north Redding, linking Highway 299 to the Northeast Crossing Trails. This new corridor provides a well-lit, multi-use path connecting emerging residential neighborhoods with retail areas, offering both a practical commuting route and a recreation-friendly experience.

But biking has gone beyond Redding. The Great Central Valley Bicycle Route takes riding to another level. It starts in Shasta Lake and Redding, but the rider travels along a 650-mile southerly route through the great Central Valley that will take them through 13 counties and over 34 diverse cities and towns that eventually leads them to Bakersfield.

"But people don't have to ride the full route," said Anne Thomas, executive director of Shasta Living Streets, which helped create the route. "They can ride from Redding to Chico, or whatever they choose."

To learn more about it online, including the visionary behind the ride, Michael Smiley, see [shastalivingstreets.org](http://shastalivingstreets.org)

The next highly anticipated project is the Redding Bike Park which has been in the works for several years. A pump track has been completed and there are plans for a flow and jump area, a skills trail, event zone, rhythm line, elevated start zone and an expansion area for future development.

## **Let's ride...**

### **Best Mountain Bike Riding**

Nathan Knudsen of the Redding Trail Alliance, gave what he believes are some of the best rides travelers to Redding and the surrounding areas might enjoy for themselves or with families who are into mountain biking.



## Best Trails for Mountain Biking in Redding.

**K'ulu:l** - Construction on the newest trail in Redding and was completed in April 2025. Built with an eye to optimize the fun factor for mountain bikers of all skill levels, this two mile long flowy trail is full of rollers and berms. With young and old alike saying it's now their favorite trail, it's sure to become a must ride for anyone visiting the area. This trail can most easily be accessed by parking at the Oak Knoll parking lot and taking the scenic Mule Ridge trail to the top.

**Enticer** - Our flagship mountain bike trail. This jump trail draws visitors from across the states and beyond. Don't let the black diamond rating scare less experienced mountain bikers because this trail gives you the option to keep your tires on the ground if you don't feel like "sending it."

**Ono** - Our third trail takes a sharp turn on the difficulty scale from our other two must ride trails. Ono is the first trail in our region to receive a "double black diamond" rating. While this trail may not be for everyone, we think that those who have the skills to master it will be glad they gave it a try because the rush they get will be sure to satisfy any adrenaline junky.

## Best Trails for Mountain Biking outside of Redding, but in Shasta County

**Rich Gulch AKA the Chimney** - Located in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, this historic road offers up a perfect amount of flow, before sending riders onto the more technical but equally fun Brandy Creek trail.

**Papoose** - One of the newer trails in Whiskeytown, this hand built five mile long trail has plenty of grade to satisfy anyone looking for a challenge going up, or some extra speed going down.

**Clikapudi** - Shasta County's OG singletrack. This trail takes you along the shore of Shasta Lake before looping back through some beautiful meadows and seasonal streams to create a nine mile loop.

## Best Mountain Bike Trails for Families in Redding

**Hornbeck** - Located on the east side of Keswick Reservoir, this mellow trail offers up a family friendly mountain bike experience with the added bonus of plenty of shade in the summertime.

**Canyon Holler** - Not to be confused with the name of the trail system this trail resides in, Canyon Holler is a half mile long, mountain bike only, downhill that is located in Redding.

**Salt Creek Heights East aka Three Bridges** - Another fun flowy downhill located in the city of Redding. This ribbon of single trail can be accessed from our famous river trail



by riding up the Beauventure Trail to the Salt Creek Heights Neighborhood. An added bonus for families with kids is the amazing playground located at the start of the trail.

## Best Mountain Bike Trails for Families outside of Redding, but in Shasta County

**Oak Bottom** - Starting from the Oak Bottom Campground in Whiskeytown, most of this trail follows an old ditch grade along the shores of Whiskeytown.

**Bailey Cove** - This well shaded trail meanders along Shasta Lake. It creates a mellow three mile loop that is perfect for families looking to ride their mountain bikes together.

**Anderson River Park** - This trail system is a hidden gem for families looking for a fun single track experience. This network of trails takes you through Oak Woodlands and riparian areas along the Sacramento River.

## Elsewhere...

For a paved experience with no cars, check out the Sacramento River Trail starting at Turtle Bay. It is paved all the way to Shasta Dam and has stunning views. For younger kids, please use the south side once you are past Diestelhorst Bridge. It is much flatter and has nice views of Keswick Dam.

The local riding club, The Shasta Wheelmen, has an excellent website with ride maps for those wanting even longer rides.

FIND IT ONLINE  
Local Trail Info: [trailforks.com](http://trailforks.com)  
[shastalivingstreets.org](http://shastalivingstreets.org)  
Trail Design and Build  
[traillabs.com](http://traillabs.com)  
Trail Build and Maintenance  
[reddingtrailalliance.org](http://reddingtrailalliance.org)  
Shasta Wheelmen  
[Shastawheelmen.org](http://Shastawheelmen.org)

## Burney/Fall River Mills

If you want to get away from the road, the Great Shasta Rail Trail

(GSRT) is an ongoing project with 40 of the eventual 80 miles of trail open for riding in eastern Shasta County.

Being built on the former cinder rail bed for the train that connected Burney and McCloud in Siskiyou County, you can ride to the bridge made famous in the movie "Stand By Me." Trails are both paved and gravel and the website is listed below for more detailed information.

Their most recent progress on the trail was in the fall of 2024 with the completion of the Dry Creek Bridge project.

There are many century rides throughout our state, but if you ask locals, they all mention the annual Fall River Century in eastern Shasta County. Overwhelming reasons for its popularity are the aid stations, the food and the scenery.

The story of the early beginnings is posted on their website. They drew about 120 riders their first year in 1995. With those humble beginnings, they have raised over \$150,000 for local charities over the last 25 years.

In order to cool things down, literally, they've moved the race from the summer to the fall, with the 2025 even scheduled for Sept. 27.

For more information, visit their website or call 530-949-2365.

FIND IT ONLINE  
Fall River Century  
FR Century Facebook  
Great Shasta Rail Trail  
[greatshastarailtrail.org](http://greatshastarailtrail.org)  
Burney-Fall River  
Bicycle Association - link down  
[tryfallriverccd.org](http://tryfallriverccd.org)

## SISKIYOU COUNTY - Mt. Shasta

Mt. Shasta is home to several groups dedicated to trail building. There are the Mount Shasta Trail Association (MSTA), the Siskiyou Outdoor Recreation Alliance (SORA), the Siskiyou Mountain Club and the Mt. Shasta Mountain Bike Association (MSMBA).

According to the Mt. Shasta

Mountain Bike Association: "The diverse terrain around Mount Shasta provides many options for any skill level of mountain biker. Whether you are looking for a family friendly ride or a challenging singletrack, our local trails have plenty to offer."

For an easy and flat ride, try the Lake Siskiyou Loop trail that circumnavigates the lake with stunning views and shaded areas perfect for children and kids of all ages.

Christian Birch, owner of a mountain bike tour and shuttle company, Shasta Gravity Adventures, based in Mt. Shasta, describes the exciting opportunities for all levels of riding.

"The Mount Shasta Trail Association and Trail Labs are in the final stages of completing 44 miles of new trails close to town that offer family friendly routes as well as challenging trails that all lead back to town," Birch said. "Families will enjoy the smooth flowy trails with big fun berms and features in a beautiful old growth forest with mountain views and large vistas."

Shastice Park in Mount Shasta also offers a bike park with features for young kids and jump lines for older kids. Visit [trailforks.com](http://trailforks.com) for detailed trail maps of the Gateway Trails.

Birch broke down what he believes are the best trails or roads in Siskiyou County for mountain biking for individuals, road biking and mountain biking for families.

**Three Best Trails for Mountain Biking Siskiyou County:** Bear Springs, Mt. Shasta; Muirs Ascension, Mt. Shasta; and Sisson Callahan Trail, Mt. Shasta.

**Three Best Roads for Road Biking:** Parks Creek Road, Mt. Shasta; East Side Road, Scott Valley; and Shasta Valley Roads.

**Five Best Mountain Bike Trails for Families:** Lake Siskiyou Loop, Mt. Shasta; Lower Muirs Ascension, Mt. Shasta; Bear Springs Trail, Mt. Shasta; Greenhorn Park, Yreka; McCloud River Trail, McCloud.

## Yreka and Etna

The last major stop before you get to Oregon is Yreka, a great place to ride with road, mountain and gravel routes. Greenhorn Park is one of the most beautiful and well used recreation areas in all of Siskiyou County.

## FIND IT ONLINE

Trail maps and other links  
[mountshastatrailassociation.org](http://mountshastatrailassociation.org)  
[siskiyououtdooralliance.org](http://siskiyououtdooralliance.org)  
[cyclesiskiyou.com](http://cyclesiskiyou.com)  
[siskiyoumountainclub.org](http://siskiyoumountainclub.org)  
[shastagravityadventures.com](http://shastagravityadventures.com)  
[trailforks.com](http://trailforks.com)  
[traillabsco.com](http://traillabsco.com)



## TRINITY COUNTY

### Weaverville and more

As you head west out of Redding on Highway 299, you will eventually drive through the historic California Gold Rush town of Weaverville. Although you can find much to do in Weaverville with its many shops and restaurants, there are a number of ways to get out into the hills with trailheads nearby.

"Mountain biking is a great way to immerse yourself in the natural world while taking on challenges to ride faster, pedal steeper climbs, or push your technical abilities," said Alan Seegmiller, avid cyclist and member of the Trinity Trail Alliance (TTA).

The TTA is an educational and charitable non-profit association whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve great trail experiences for mountain bikers and other non-motorized trail users in Trinity County.

When traveling along Highway 299, you can continue your adventure into the history of the California Gold Rush by immersing yourself in the Weaver Basin Trail System.

"The Weaver Basin Trail System is constantly used by families and kids for walking, biking, trail running and equestrian rides," said Don Bradbury of the Trinity Trail Alliance in last year's NSVG bike article. "The Pump Track is a favorite of kids and adults, and includes a Skills Area for those who want to sharpen their abilities for more technical riding."

All of the trails in this now 60-mile network are named after historical figures, mining claims, and water ditches from the Gold Rush.

The many historical water ditch trails provide excellent opportunity for cross-country travel, and Trinity Trail Alliance utilizes many of these routes for the La Grange Classic Mountain Bike Race - the second-oldest mountain bike race in California, which is scheduled this year on June 7. These trails are perfect for family rides and spring wildflower strolls.

With the introduction of Blue Lead, Black Lead, and Sweepstakes Trail, Trinity County now boasts an 11.5 mile mountain bike optimized downhill route, descending 3,093 feet from just below the summit of Weaver Bald directly into the town of Weaverville.

This new multi-trail adventure is designed to be a shuttle route, with riders heading up Weaver Bald Road to the upper trailhead of Sweepstakes, riding down to Seavy Ditch Trail and connecting to Jackass Ridge, Blue Lead, and Black Lead. The latter two are mountain bike optimized, but Black Lead provides a more difficult way down with optional air, steep drops, and fast berms.

You can then head south via Highway 3 to the small town of

Hayfork. Just north of Hayfork is Ewing Reservoir, the town water supply. Spearheaded by The Watershed Research and Training Center, five miles of singletrack have been constructed around the lake. Combined with the graveled access road, there are three potential loops through the system, and all of these trails are highly treasured by the trail community in Hayfork as they provide access for families, bikers, and equestrians alike.

For some solitude and quiet, with endless options for century rides, bust out your gravel grinder and head to the Forest Service roads anywhere in the county. Gravel bikers are discovering the many back-country and USFS roads in the county. One route begins in nearby Lewiston and ends in French Gulch on the other side of Trinity Divide.

The road network is vast and each turn will bring new views, stunning flora, fauna, and geology, and a new appreciation for the landscape that is the Klamath Mountain Bio-Region.

#### FIND IT ONLINE

[trinitytrailalliance.com](http://trinitytrailalliance.com)

## LASSEN COUNTY - Susanville

The Susanville area has undergone dynamic growth in recent years. While road biking is popular in Lassen County, Matt McLain, interagency trail coordinator for Lassen County, said many of the distance cyclists have transitioned to gravel grinding.

"Gravel biking has become a big deal around here," McClain said. "The ease of access to miles of unpaved county and forest service roads adjacent to our city center offer a relatively traffic-free opportunity to explore the county in a more natural setting."

A new event was established last year, Lassen Gravel Adventure Ride, which offers 94- 63- and 40-mile options, he said.

Susanville Area Bicycle Association (SABA) has hosted many events and rides in the Susanville area, often at the Susanville Ranch Park, which has become not only a jewel for local citizens but also a draw to visiting mountain bike enthusiasts.

"I constantly speak to visitors from surrounding communities and long-distance travelers enjoying our local trails," McClain said. "Most riders opt to ride the mountain bike centric inspired 'upper park.'"

"The most popular ride is climbing Heart Attack Hill to Easy Up to Rocky Top then descending the flowy bermed out Best Trail Ever before descending Heart Attack back to their vehicle at Base Camp."

Local residents and riders with more time take advantage of the 29

miles of single track located in the park offering a wide variety of views, challenges and ecotypes.

McClain said in his opinion, the best trails for mountain biking would be Susanville Ranch Park (29 miles), Bald Mountain (16 miles) and the South Side Trail (adjacent to the lower section of the Bizz Johnson Trail 8-miles).

"Bald Mountain, which is a Bureau of Land Management trail system located just east of Janesville, is having some new trails that will hopefully be constructed this fall," he said.

Bald Mountain offers 16 miles on single track trails and is open to non-motorized use.

"The trails there offer exceptional views of the eastern Sierras and overlook Honey Lake," McClain said. "They are also enough in the rain shadow of the Sierras that they offer great conditions in fall and winter, when the trails in town are too wet. Bald Mountain has a lack of shade so summer use is typically encouraged early morning and evening."

Most kid friendly riding, McClain said, would be the lower meadow loop of Susanville Ranch Park or the lower section of the Bizz Johnson Trail. The Lower Bizz offers bridges, scenic views of the Susan River, fishing and numerous swimming holes.

As for road bikers, "they like to ride the loop from Susanville on Richmond Road to A-27 (Johnsonville road)," road he said.

McLain added that his favorite thing about cycling is enjoying the outdoors with friends while getting some exercise and interacting with the local trail community.

"Whether that's getting my adrenaline fill hitting the miles of town-adjacent single track or jumping on the Bizz Johnson Rail Trail to ride up to our favorite swimming spot, our region offers miles of easily accessible trails for all skill levels creating a variety of opportunities to get out and explore the abundant natural and open space of Lassen County," he said.

#### FIND IT ONLINE

Susanville Ranch Park  
[lassenlandandtrailstrust.org/susanville-ranch-park](http://lassenlandandtrailstrust.org/susanville-ranch-park)

Mountain Trails - [blm.gov/visit/bald-mountain-trail-system](http://blm.gov/visit/bald-mountain-trail-system)

Bizz Johnson & Southside Trail  
[blm.gov/visit/bizz-johnson](http://blm.gov/visit/bizz-johnson)

As you can see, there are many opportunities to ride all over the north state. For the best and latest trail information, visit local bike shops in each area.

You are also asked to please ride with respect for the trail and other riders. Pack out your trash and be prepared for a great time.

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## 9-11 Memorial

A piece of the World Trade Center in front of the Shasta Lake Fire Protection District where a remembrance ceremony is held annually on Sept. 11. Located at 4126 Ashby Court, corner of Ashby Road and Shasta Dam Blvd/Hwy 151.





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# Golf enthusiasts can find a number of courses in the north state area

## Above, Mount Shasta Resort

By Aaron Williams

Golf has grown in popularity over the past decade and there are plenty of options in the north state. Within an hour or so drive of Redding, you can play more than a dozen courses that get you outdoors and test your mettle. From interesting nine-hole courses to resort tracks, there's something for everyone.

### Mount Shasta Resort

There might not be a tougher test than this 18-hole gem tucked into the woods in the shadows of Mt. Shasta. Some holes call for putting the driver away and crafting thoughtful shot-making.

Noted hole: The par-4 third is a risk-reward hole that's close enough to reach from the tee, but OB left, a steep hill that can eat your ball right and bunkers short make most opt to play it safe. 1000 Siskiyou Lake Blvd. outside of Mount Shasta; 530-926-3030. mountshastaresort.com

### Fall River Golf & Country Club

This Intermountain-area course is another gem worth the trip from Redding, roughly 80 minutes to the east. You get holes in pine and juniper forests as well as the feel of



being in the high desert. The course was a favorite of Bing Crosby's when Der Bingle held court at the nearby Rising River Ranch. The sometimes-daunting par-3 eighth hole is called Bing's Bluff.

In addition to its link to movie stardom, Fall River also boasts perhaps the longest hole in the north state. The 643-yard par-5 third hole is a monster that winds left and right and requires three great shots to get a chance at a birdie putt. The 558-yard 14th is no slouch either. Just aim at the tractor in the fairway. 42889 Highway 299E; 530-336-5555. fallrivergolf.com

### Trinity Alps Golf Club

A great escape from the valley heat, this delightful 9-hole course in Weaverville is an easy hour or so drive from Redding and offers views of the Trinity Alps. Noted hole: The par-4 third. Not overly long but fraught with peril. 130 Golf Course Drive, Weaverville; 530-623-6209. trinityalpsgolfandrestaurant.com

### Club Tucker

Formerly known as Anderson Tucker Oaks, the new owners have invested in the course and it shows. You can make tee times now for the course on their new website and the

PHOTO / Mount Shasta Resort

pro shop is bright and inviting. 6241 Churn Creek Road; 530-365-3350. clubtucker.com

### Lake Shastina Golf Resort

The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course is one the best-kept secrets in the north state. It features a challenging 18-hole course and a fun nine-hole Scottish links track. 5925 Country Club Drive off Highway 97 outside Weed; 530-938-3205. lakeshastinagolf.com

### McCloud Golf Course

A picturesque nine-hole course in the old mill town to the west of Mount Shasta is a great place to spend an afternoon. Great view of Mt. Shasta. 1001 Squaw Valley Road; 530-964-2535. mccloudgolfclub.com

### Grape Ranch Golf Course

This nine-hole course keeps getting better with its new owners. They offer daily play and fun events for golfers of all abilities. 22499 Golftime Road in Palo Cedro; 530-547-3012. graperanchgolfclub.com

### The Golf Club at Tierra Oaks

The Grape Ranch owners bought this 18-hole championship-caliber golf course. It's one of the





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**Above, Fall River Valley Golf and Country Club**

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**Gold Hills Golf Club**

There might not be a tougher test of golf around. Long and accurate is a good way to go low at Gold Hills, located in north Redding. 1950 Gold Hills Drive, Redding; 530-246-7867. goldhillsgolf.com

**Lake Redding Golf Course**

A 9-hole course in the middle of Redding. Located at 1795 Benton Drive; call 530-243-1930. lakereddinggolfcourse.com

**Allen's Golf Club**

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**Churn Creek Golf Course**

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**Weed Golf Course**

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**CALL (530)336-5550 TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT GETAWAY!**



# North State Museums

Although much of what there is to see and do in the north state encompasses the great outdoors, there are also a number of museums that bring visitors indoors to explore the area's rich history. There's everything from information and exhibits on the Gold Rush, the building of Shasta Dam, Indigenous Americans, the railroad industry, the lumber industry and more. Even Bigfoot!

This year we've extended the list of museums to include Plumas County and those in Eureka and Crescent City for those headed to the coast.

Darlene Brown and Charlotte Bailey of the Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society updated information on many of the museums and added the new ones. We sincerely thank them for all of their hard work. Please note that most of the museums are run by volunteers. They also deserve a big thanks.

## Shasta County

### Anderson Historical Society and Museum

2330 Ferry St., Anderson, CA 96007

A museum preserving the area's local history. Onsite are the one room Columbia Schoolhouse and a "Buggy Barn" with a stagecoach and wagons. Free admission.

Open by appointment only. Call to arrange tours.

Don Bloom 530-945-9800 or John Snider 530-949-7096

Website: andersonhistorical.com \* Email: don.6904@yahoo.com

### Behrens-Eaton House Museum

1520 West St., Redding, CA 96001 \* 530-241-3454

Enter a time machine taking you back to 1895 and experience life in a Victorian home from early Redding. The museum preserves Judge Richard B. Eaton's home with a display of furnishings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Open: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am-4pm, Saturdays 1pm-4pm. Closed holidays. Free admission.

Website: eatonhousemuseum.org \* Email: behrenseaton@gmail.com

### Courthouse Museum and Litsch General Merchandise Museum - Shasta State Historic Park

15312 Highway 299 West, Shasta, CA 96087 \* 530-243-8194 \* parks.ca.gov

Operated by the California State Parks, the Courthouse Museum is filled with exhibits and the history of the town of Shasta and a famous art gallery donated by Helene Bacon Boggs. Litsch Museum has items dating from the gold rush days. Gift shop. Family friendly. Visit website for admission costs and more information. Open Thursday to Sunday, 10am-4pm.



PHOTO / Michael Burke

### Courthouse Museum and Litsch General Merchandise Museum at Shasta State Historic Park.

### Fort Crook Historical Society and Museum

43030 Fort Crook Museum Road,  
Fall River Mills, CA 96028

Local history abounds in the museum, the largest in Northern California, boasting some 13 buildings: jail, schoolhouse and more. Gift shop. Free admission. Open May 1 to Oct. 31 Tuesdays to Sundays, Noon-4pm.

530-336-5110 Website: fortcrook.com \* Email: fchs@fortcrook.com



### Northern California Veterans Museum & Heritage Center

2110 North St., Anderson, CA 96007 \* 530-378-2280

Veterans memorabilia from all branches of the service. Open by appointment only. Call to schedule a tour.

Website: norcalveteransmuseum.org \* Email: rob.ncvm@gmail.com

### Shasta Historical Society and Museum

1449 Market St., Redding, CA 96001 \* 530-243-3720

CURRENTLY CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

Established in 1930. Located in the historic part of downtown Redding.

A museum and research library of over 40,000 photos, 5,000 books and documents, the largest resource north of Sacramento.

Call or email in advance for research requests.

Website: shastahistorical.org \* Email: shs@shastahistorical.org

### Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society and Boomtown Museum

1525 Median St. (Visitors Center), City of Shasta Lake, CA 96019

The museum features 14-foot wall murals and the history of Shasta Damworkers, Boomtowns, cities under Shasta Lake, and more.

Gift Shop. Free admission.

Hours: Wed., Thurs. and Fri. 9am-1pm and first Saturday of each month.

530-275-3995 \* Website: shastalakehistorical.org Email: slhandhs@gmail.com

### Shingletown Historical Society Museum

31187 State Highway 44, Shingletown, CA 96088

Museum contains many items tied to its logging history and Native American roots, particularly those of the Yana people who originally inhabited the region.

Hours: Call 530-474-3291 or Beverly Derr 530-474-5110

### Turtle Bay Museum at Turtle Bay Exploration Park

844 Sundial Bridge Dr., Redding, CA 96001 \* 530-243-8850

A 300-acre park on the Sacramento River. Includes a museum of indoor exhibits on local history and more (paid admission). Adjacent to the Sundial Bridge, a 700-foot long footbridge designed by Santiago Calatrava.

Website: turtlebay.org/museum \* Email: info@turtlebay.org

Summer Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm; weekends 10am-5pm.

Winter Hours: Wed-Fri, 9am-4pm; weekends 10am-4pm

### Wintu Cultural Museum and Resource Center

4755 Shasta Dam Blvd., Shasta Lake, CA 96019 \* 530-605-1726

Volunteer-staffed by the Wintu Tribe of Northern California. Museum of cultural artifacts, both historic and prehistoric, of the Wintu people. Gift shop. Free admission. Open: Wednesday and Friday, 11am- 4pm. Call for tours.

Website: wintutribe.com





# While In The Burney-Fall River Area ...



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burneycoc@gmail.com • www.burneychamber.com

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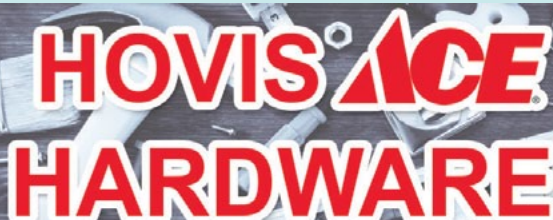
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Boomtown  
Museum

City of  
Shasta Lake

## Trinity County

### Trinity County Historical Society and Jake Jackson Museum

780 Main St. (Hwy 299 west), Weaverville, CA 96093 \* 530-623-5211  
The museum has artifacts, a gift shop, outbuildings of an operating stamp mill, a blacksmith shop, and more. Volunteer staffed. Admission is free. Check the website for events.  
Open April 9 through Labor Day, Wednesday to Saturday, 11am-4pm.  
Website: [trinitymuseum.org](http://trinitymuseum.org) \* Email: [jake@trinitymuseum.org](mailto:jake@trinitymuseum.org)



PHOTO ABOVE / Zack Frank COVER PHOTO / HunterKitty

### Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park

Operated by the California State Parks system, the Weaverville Joss House (above) celebrated its 150th anniversary in April of 2024. View After Five Magazine article in the April issue at [northstate.news](http://northstate.news). Tours of the Chinese Taoist Temple are offered at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 ages 6-17. Open: Thursday to Sunday, 10am-4pm.  
Southwest corner of Hwy 299 west and Oregon St., Weaverville, CA 96093  
530-623-5284 \* Website: [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## Siskiyou County

### Siskiyou County Museum

910 S. Main St., Yreka, CA 96097 \* 530-842-3836  
Volunteer staffed by Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum, it is located on 2.5 acres with outdoor exhibits of machinery, vehicles, and historic and recreated buildings from prehistoric times to pioneers.  
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-3pm. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 children, under 6 free.  
Website: [co.siskiyou.ca.us/museum](http://co.siskiyou.ca.us/museum) \* Email: [FSCMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:FSCMuseum@gmail.com)  
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### Siskiyou Arts Museum

5824 Dunsmuir Ave., Dunsmuir, CA 96025 \* 530-235-4711  
The gallery features world-class art exhibits and a gift shop with art and crafts by local artists. Visit the website for events.  
Open Wednesday-Sunday from noon to 4pm. Every second Saturday of the month, 12pm-7pm, with an art show exhibit featured from 4-7pm.  
Website: [siskiyouartsmuseum.org](http://siskiyouartsmuseum.org)

### Fort Jones Museum

11913 Main St., Fort Jones, CA 96032 \* 530-468-5568  
The 2500 sq. ft. museum features memorabilia on Scott Valley and an outdoor museum display of vintage and antique vehicles. Free admission.  
Open Memorial Day to Labor Day, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm; Saturday 1pm-4pm. Call to verify. Website: [fortjonesmuseum.com](http://fortjonesmuseum.com)

### Weed Historic Lumber Town Museum

303 Gilman Ave., Weed, CA 96094  
530-938-0550  
Artifacts and photographs of the lumber company, the store and the hospital and the folks who founded the town of Weed Free admission.  
Opens May 24, 2025 Wednesday through Monday, 10am-5pm.  
Website: [lumbertownmuseum.org](http://lumbertownmuseum.org)

### McCloud Heritage Museum

320 Main St., McCloud, CA 96057  
530-500-2434  
A museum of memorabilia and photographs depicting the lifestyle of the lumber and railroad companies. Free admission.  
Open every day from 11am-3pm, May 25 through September. Every day from 11am – 3pm. Please call ahead to confirm days open.  
Website: [mccloudmuseum.com](http://mccloudmuseum.com) \*  
Email: [heritagejunctionmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:heritagejunctionmuseum@gmail.com)

### Butte Valley Museum and Historical Society

201 3rd St., Dorris, CA 96023  
530-397-2707  
Hours starting June 2, 2025  
Mondays 10am-3pm  
Facebook: Butte Valley Museum  
Email: [museumBV@gmail.com](mailto:museumBV@gmail.com)



# BOOMTOWN MUSEUM

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- Enjoy our History
- Tell your Story
- Book a Tour



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of the Month from 9am-1pm  
530-275-3995 • [slhandhs@gmail.com](mailto:slhandhs@gmail.com)  
1525 Median St., Shasta Lake  
(in Clair Engle Park)

 [ShastaLakeHistorical.org](http://ShastaLakeHistorical.org)





**Inside Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum.**

### Montague Depot Museum

230 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St., Montague, CA 96064 \* 530-459-3025 or 530-459-5433  
Facebook: Montague Depot Museum  
They hope to be open Memorial Day to Labor Day, Thursday-Saturday, 11am-2pm. Check Facebook for updates.

### Etna Museum

520 Main St., Etna, CA 96027 \* 530-467-3714  
A museum hosted by the Native Daughters of the Golden West, filled with antiques. Located in the first Town Hall built in Etna to resemble Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Free admission.  
Opens May 1-31, Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-2pm. Open June, July and August, Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-3pm.  
Facebook: Etna Museum in Etna \* Email: peggywhipple@gmail.com

### Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum

1 N. Old Stage Road, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067 \* 530-926-5508  
The museum is family friendly and has hands-on displays for kids, plus current exhibits related to Mt. Shasta, including the Lenticular Clouds. Free admission. Open Thursday through Monday, 10am-4pm.  
Website: mtshastamuseum.com

### Karuk Tribe People's Center Museum & Gift Shop

64236 Second Ave., Happy Camp, CA 96039 \* 530-493-1600  
The museum celebrates the Karuk history, language, traditions and living culture with a gift shop, displays, basketweaving classes and more. Free admission. Call the Center for calendar of events.  
Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm.  
Closed 1-1:30pm. Website: karuk.us

## Tehama County

### Kelly-Griggs House Museum

311 Washington St., Red Bluff, CA 96080 \* 530-527-1129  
Featuring a Victorian collection of Pioneer and Native American artifacts. The museum is open for guided tours every first and third Sunday from 1-4pm. Call or email to schedule a tour. The suggested donation is \$5. Walking tour maps are available inside the museum.  
Website: kellygriggsmuseum.com  
Email: kellygriggsmuseum@gmail.com

### Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum

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See our newest exhibits including:  
**Lenticulars: The Spectacular Clouds of Mount Shasta**

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Mt. Shasta • 530-926-5508  
Next to Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery

**mtshastamuseum.com**

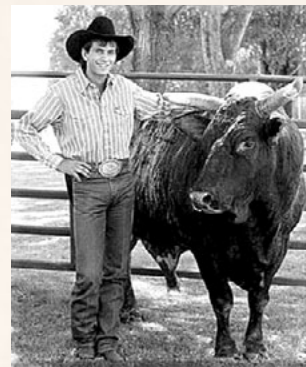
### Gaumer's Mineral and Mining Museum

78 Belle Mill Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080 \* 530-527-6166  
A jewelry shop operated by a family of "rockhounds," Gaumer's has a free museum of exhibits on mining and minerals from around the world.  
Open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.  
Website: gaumers.com \* Email: gaumer5950@sbcglobal.net



### Tehama County Museum

275 C St., Tehama, CA 96090 \* 530-384-2595  
The museum features local artifacts, fossils, period pieces, and more about the history of Tehama County. Call or email for appointments. Admission is free. Hours: Saturdays from 1-4pm mid-February thru mid-November, and by appointment for other days and times. Appointment only from mid-November thru mid-February.  
Website: tehamacountymuseum.com \* Email: tcmuse@tehama.net



### Red Bluff Round-Up Historical Society and Museum

670 Antelope Blvd. Suite 2, Red Bluff, CA 96080  
530-528-1477 (museum)  
The museum is part of the Red Bluff Round-Up building. The Red Bluff Round-Up rodeo is held annually in May. It features cowboy and Red Bluff Rodeo memorabilia and the story of the famous bull, "Red Rock" (left). Visit the website for details. Free admission. Museum hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9am-4pm.  
Website: redbluffroundup.com

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**gaumers.com**  
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PHOTO / Courtesy California State Parks 2025

### William B Ide Adobe State Historic Park in Red Bluff.

#### William B Ide Adobe State Historic Park

21659 Adobe Road, Red Bluff 96080 530-529-8599

The park has a shaded picnic area on the Sacramento River and Visitor Center that highlights the story of William B Ide, an early California pioneer who homesteaded in California in 1846 and became a leader in the California Bear Flag Revolt. Homestead tours show early pioneer living. Gift shop. Parking \$6. Hours 10am-4pm, Friday to Sunday. Park grounds are open daily from sunrise to sunset.

Website: [parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=458](https://parks.ca.gov/?page_id=458) email: [heather.lee@parks.ca.gov](mailto:heather.lee@parks.ca.gov)

#### Corning Museum

1110 Solano St., Corning, CA 96021

The museum features Corning's rich history. Free admission.

The museum is open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for self-guided tours only. For guided tours, contact Gary Strack.

530-824-5550 (Corning Chamber of Commerce) 530-824-5622 (Gary Strack)

Website: [business.corningcachamber.org](https://business.corningcachamber.org)

Email: [corningcachamber@gmail.com](mailto:corningcachamber@gmail.com)

## Modoc County

#### Modoc County Historical Museum

600 South Main St., Alturas, CA 96101 \* 530-233-2944

Facebook: Modoc County Historical Society \* Email: [serverdixie@yahoo.com](mailto:serverdixie@yahoo.com)

Exhibits on prehistoric culture to modern day history of Modoc County.

Natural history includes mammoth bone and taxidermist collection and more. Historic cultural exhibits from Modoc, Pit River and Paiute Tribes and pioneer collection from local people.

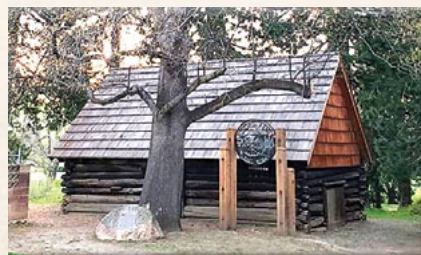
Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm; Sunday noon-4pm Admission is \$2 adults; under 16 are admitted free.

## Lassen County

#### Lassen County Historical Society Museum and Roop's Fort

115 N. Weatherlow St., Susanville, CA 96130 \* 530-257-3292

Volunteer-staffed by Lassen Historical Society. A state-of-the-art research facility houses 160 years of relics related to the history of Honey Lake Valley and Susanville. Adjacent is Roop's Fort (above), built in 1854 as a trading post on the emigrant trail. Free admission.



Open year-round. Summer Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm; Saturdays 11am-3pm.

Winter Hours: Tues, Thurs and Sat 10am-2pm

Website: [susanvillehistory.com](https://susanvillehistory.com) \* Email: [museum@susanvillehistory.com](mailto:museum@susanvillehistory.com)

#### Westwood Museum

311 Ash St., Westwood, CA 96137 \* 530-256-2233

The Museum displays the history of Westwood and the Red River Lumber Company, the largest pine lumber mill in the world from 1913 to 1956. Home to Paul Bunyan and Babe, the Blue Ox. Free admission.

Hours: Opens May 15 through Sept. 30, Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-4pm.

Facebook: Westwood Museum, Inc. \* Email: [westwoodmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodmuseum@gmail.com)

#### Loomis Museum

39477 Lassen National Park

Highway \* 530-595-6140

The museum is home to the Loomis art collection of the eruption of Mt. Lassen in 1915 and the history of the Manzanita Lake Park area. The museum is located inside Lassen National Volcanic Park and operated by the National Park Service. It opens on Memorial Day. Visit the website for the summer schedule of days and times and the cost of entry to the park. [nps.gov/places](https://nps.gov/places)



PHOTO / National Park Service

## Butte County

#### Bidwell Mansion

525 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95926

CLOSED. The mansion in Bidwell Mansion State Park, which was the home of General John Bidwell and Annie Bidwell from late 1868 until 1900, when Gen. Bidwell died, was destroyed in an arson fire on Dec. 11, 2024. The three-story, 26 room Victorian House Museum stood as a memorial to John and Annie Bidwell. John Bidwell was known across the nation as a pioneer, farmer, soldier, statesman, politician and philanthropist. Annie Ellicott Kennedy Bidwell was deeply religious, and was committed to a number of moral and social causes. She was very active in the suffrage and prohibition movements. The Bidwells used the mansion extensively for entertaining friends. Some of the guests that visited were President Rutherford B. Hayes, General William T. Sherman, Susan B. Anthony, Frances Willard, Gov. Stanford, John Muir, and Asa Gray.



Bidwell Mansion in Chico before the fire (above) and after (below).



PHOTO / Cavan Images

#### Chico Air Museum

165 Ryan Ave., Chico, CA 95973 \* 530-345-6438

Visit the website for more information on photographs, upcoming events and fly shows. The museum is filled with aircraft. Family-friendly and free.

Open Thursday-Sunday, 10pm-3pm.

Website: [chicoairmuseum.org](https://chicoairmuseum.org) \* Email: [chicoairmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:chicoairmuseum@gmail.com)

#### Chico History Museum

141 Salem St., Chico, CA 95928 \* 530-891-4336

The museum features local history and artifacts, including Bidwell Park, Mechoopda, the Chinese Temple, and more. Open Thursday-Sunday, 11am-4pm. Visit the website or call for admission, events and hours.

Website: [chicomuseumhistory.org](https://chicomuseumhistory.org)



## Gateway Science Museum

625 Esplanade, Chico, CA 95929 \* 530-898-4121

Rotating exhibits on science and nature is open to the public. Open Thursday-Saturday, 11am-4pm. Check the website for events and admission fees.

Website: [csuchico.edu/gateway](http://csuchico.edu/gateway) \* Email: [gateway@csuchico.edu](mailto:gateway@csuchico.edu)

## Plumas County

### Collins Pine Museum

500 Main St., Chester, CA 96020

Museum building is shaped like the original sawmill which operated from 1943-2001. The museum features information about lumbering, forestry, sustainability, exhibit panels and a main theater. Outdoor exhibits may be seen year round - 15 pieces of equipment from the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Open mid-May through mid-October Wed. through Sat, 9am-5pm.

Website: [collinsco.com/collins-pine-museum](http://collinsco.com/collins-pine-museum) \* Terry Collins 530-258-4441

### Indian Valley Museum

Corner of Main Street & Cemetery Road, Taylorsville, CA 95983

The museum includes five large rooms that house Native American and other local exhibits, rocks, minerals and mineral cravings. It houses many artifacts representing the 1860s through the 1940s. There are large collections of historic clothing, kitchen tools and appliances, a collection of Maidu Indian baskets, arrowheads and other artifacts.

Hours: Saturday and Sunday, 1pm-4pm, Memorial Day through the last weekend of October.

Check Facebook page under Indian Valley Museum \* 530-284-1046

### Plumas County Museum

500 Jackson St., Quincy, CA 95971

The "living museum" includes a collection of baskets woven by the area's original Mountain Maidu Indians, railroads of Plumas County, gold mining on the Feather River, and timber. Also included are the Chinese influence, historical ski racing known as "long boarding," medical exhibits and children's toys. Website: [plumasmuseum.org](http://plumasmuseum.org)

Hours: Tues. through Sat., 10am-4pm. Call for Sunday hours: 530-283-6320

## Glenn and Colusa Counties

### Willows Museum

336 W Walnut St, Willows, CA 95988 \* 530-934-5644

Items from Willows and Glenn County's history. Open Thur. & Sat., 1-4pm.

Facebook: The Museum of Willows

### Sacramento Valley Museum

1491 E St., Williams, CA 95987 \* 530-473-2978

Featuring mid-19th to mid-20th century artifacts, textiles and documents. The building served as the high school for the city of Williams from 1911 to 1956. Open mid-March through October, Thurs, Fri and Sat 10am-4pm.

Website: [sacvalleymuseum.org](http://sacvalleymuseum.org) \* Email: [sacramentovalleymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:sacramentovalleymuseum@gmail.com)

*Heading to the coast...*

## Humboldt County

### Willow Creek-China Flat Museum and Big Foot Collection

38949 Highway 299 west, Willow Creek, CA 95573 530-629-2653

Museum has extensive collection of logging, mining, and forging artifacts of the Willow Creek area and the sought after Big Foot casts and photos.

Open May 4 through September, Tuesday through Sunday, 10am-4pm. Open in October, Friday through Sunday, Noon-4pm.

Website: [bigfootmuseum.com](http://bigfootmuseum.com)

Email: [thebigfootmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:thebigfootmuseum@gmail.com)



PHOTO / Wirestock Creators

### Battery Point Lighthouse in Crescent City.

### Redwood Discovery Museum

612 G Street, Eureka, CA 95501 \* 707-443-9694

Interactive kid-friendly museum offering science, cultural and technological exhibits. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm; Sat, 10am-4pm; Sun, noon-4pm

Website: [discovery-museum.org](http://discovery-museum.org)

### Clarke Historical Museum

240 E Street, Eureka, CA 95501 \* 707-443-1947

The Clarke Museum contains a premier collection of California North Coast regional and cultural history. Hours: Wed-Sun, 11am-4pm.

Admission: \$10; Groups of five: \$30 Website: [clarkemuseum.org](http://clarkemuseum.org)

### Fort Humboldt Museum

3431 Fort Ave., Eureka, CA 95503 \* 707-445-6547 \* Website: [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

Located at Fort Humboldt State Historic Park in Eureka, the park's displays provide insights into the former U.S. Army fort that was operational from 1853 to 1870. Hours: Monday through Sunday, 8am-5pm

### Ferndale Museum

515 Shaw Ave., Ferndale, CA 95536 \* 707-786-4466

Houses and exhibit, artifacts, documents and papers from settlement during the California Gold Rush to the present, including an active Basch-Ornori seismograph. Hours: Wed-Sat, 11am-4pm Website: [ferndalemuseum.com](http://ferndalemuseum.com)

### Fortuna Depot Museum

3 Park Street, Fortuna, CA 95540 \* 707-725-7645

Located in Rohner Park near the center of town. The museum is housed in Fortuna's historic train station built around 1889. Summer: June to August, Mon-Sun, noon-4:30pm. Winter: Sept. through May, Thurs-Sun, noon-4:30pm

## Del Norte County

### Battery Point Lighthouse

235 Lighthouse Way, Crescent City, CA 95531 \* 707-464-3089

An active lighthouse that serves as a private aid to navigation. Its oil lamps were first lit on Dec. 10, 1856. Lighthouse keepers still reside there. Open to the public for tours. There is furniture and artifacts left behind since the 1850s. Tours include a climb into the light tower. Lighthouse is only available at low tide. Hours: 10am-4pm, tide permitting. Website: [delnorthehistory.org/battery-point-lighthouse](http://delnorthehistory.org/battery-point-lighthouse)

### Del Norte County Historical Society

577 H Street, Crescent City, CA 95531 \* 707-464-3922

Museum houses two stories of displays, artifacts and exhibits. Rooms full of Native American artifacts, musical instruments, old radio phonographic and photographic equipment, needlework, early logging and mining tools.

Hours: Mid-May through Sept., Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm; Oct. through mid-May, Mon & Sat 10am-4pm. Website: [delnorthehistory.org/battery-point-lighthouse](http://delnorthehistory.org/battery-point-lighthouse)



# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND SOUTHERN OREGON MAP

Interstate 5 (north and south) from Sacramento through Redding and Shasta Lake to Yreka and the Oregon border.

Hwy 299 (east and west) from Eureka to Weaverville through Redding to Burney Falls and on to Alturas.

Hwy 89 (north to south) Mount Shasta to Burney Falls and on to Lassen Volcanic National Park and Susanville.

Hwy 44 (east and west) Redding through Shingletown to Lassen Volcanic National Park and on to Susanville.







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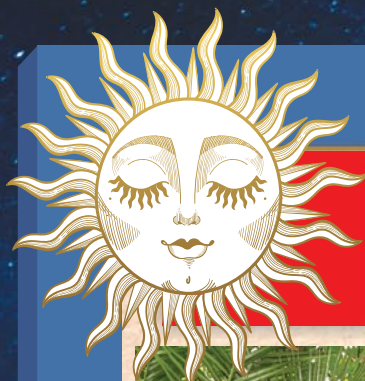
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- Brass Earrings
- Head Band
- Mesh Scarf



## SMOCKED DRESS

- JADE BRACELET
- HEMP PURSE
- HERMATITE NECKLACE



## FANTASY FIGURINES



## METAPHYSICAL & SPECIMENS



## TURQUOISE JEWELRY



## STONE & CRYSTAL BEADS



Seed Beads  
6/0 to 15/0

## BUTTERFLY JEWELRY

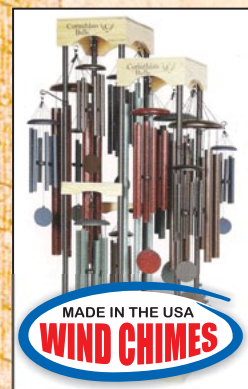


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