



# **North State** **VISITORS GUIDE**

**SHASTA LAKE • MT. SHASTA • BURNEY FALLS • TRINITY ALPS • LASSEN PEAK • AND MORE**



This year, this  
Visitors Guide  
is for you, too,  
North State  
residents...  
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"Staycation"

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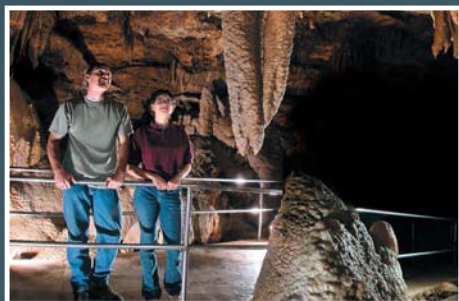
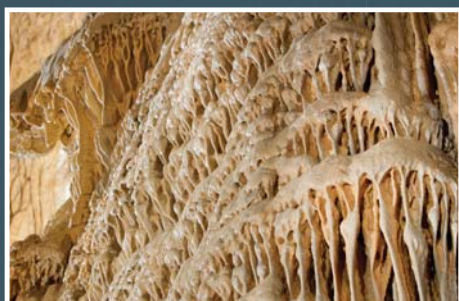
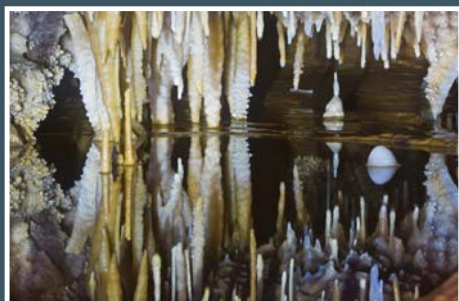
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# Welcome

## to Shasta Lake and the North State region

As the old saying goes...Better late than never.

The annual North State Visitors Guide usually prints and begins distributing all over the north state and southern Oregon right around Memorial Day weekend. This year, however, that all changed in March with the COVID-19 pandemic. As late as early May, we were unsure if we were even going to print this year. But through the support of the advertisers you see in this annual tourist guide, many of whom chose to advertise when their own businesses were hurt by the shutdown, we were able to print and distribute this guide in late June for the visitors expected to make their way here sometime this summer. New this year, we've also decided to include the "locals."

To be honest, most years we really don't want north state residents to pick up this publication unless they're sending it to friends or relatives who are planning on visiting the area. But this year, given the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to distribute to more areas frequented by local residents and encourage them to consider a "staycation" this year, not only for the obvious reason of trying to minimize their chances of becoming ill, but also to help local businesses bounce back from the financial hit many of them felt when they were forced to close their doors for an extended period of time.

So included in the 2020-21 publication is a story by writer Jon Lewis that suggests maybe north state residents might want to consider a staycation if they've never done so before. He interviews several people to get their thoughts and what they've been doing in the way of being tourists in their own back yard, so to speak.

We also have a new hiking story by author John Soares on some of the best hikes to do during a pandemic.

The one thing that you'll see repeated in the stories and the ads is that with so much uncertainty, the best advice we can give you is to check websites or call in advance to find out the latest and most up-to-date information, including hours of operation, for the business or attractions you want to see.

So be safe, be kind and have fun. We can do this! :)

This Visitors Guide is produced by the Shasta Lake Bulletin, P.O. Box 8025, 4138 Ashby Court, Shasta Lake CA 96019. Telephone 530.275.1716. Fax 530.645.1776, email SLB@shasta.com. General Manager and Editor - Ron Harrington.

**A PDF file of the 2020-2021 North State Visitors Guide is available all year long at:**

**northstate.news**

COVER PHOTOS: Burney Falls - photo by Michael Burke; Nathalie Guasis overlooking Shasta Lake in the Lakehead area - photo by Valentin Alba; Candace Cannon golfing - photo by Ron Harrington; Wakesurfer - photo by Maksym Fesenko; Bicyclist - photo by Maxpro.

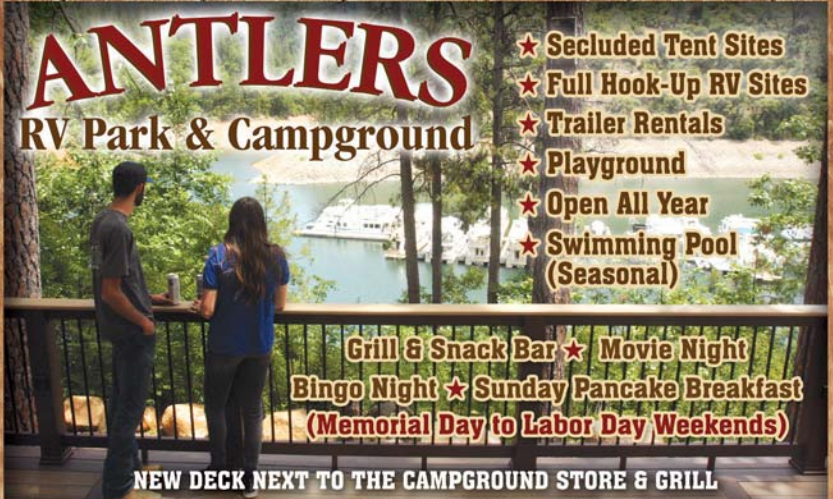
### Contents

Page 6....State and National Parks in the Region  
 Page 8....Top Hikes to Take During the Pandemic by John Soares  
 Page 11...Staycations for North State Residents  
 Page 12...Take Me to the River - River Rafting  
 Page 14...Filmmaking in the North State  
 Page 18...Shasta Dam  
 Page 19...Lake Shasta Caverns  
 Page 20...Experiencing and Exploring Shasta Lake  
 Page 23...Underwater Ghost Towns  
 Page 24...Shasta Lake Map  
 Page 26...Biking in the North State  
 Page 29...Trinity Alps  
 Page 31...Restaurant Guide  
 Page 36...Golfing in the North State  
 Page 38...North State Regional Attractions  
 Page 40...Go With the Flow - Waterfalls in the North State  
 Page 42...Fishing in the North State  
 Page 43...More Outdoor Activities  
 Page 44...Northern California and Southern Oregon Map





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



Fishing at Manzanita Lake in the shadow of Lassen Peak and, inset, the volcanic eruption on Oct. 6, 1915.

PHOTO / National Park Service - flickr

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.

Here's 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 "Yosemite without the crowds."

It is home to steaming fumaroles, meadows freckled with wildflowers, clear mountain lakes, and numerous volcanoes. Jagged peaks tell the story of its eruptive past while hot water continues to shape the land.

Lassen Volcanic offers opportunities to discover the wonder and mysteries of volcanoes and hot water for visitors willing to explore the undiscovered.

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."

Lassen Volcanic National Park celebrated its centennial in 2014 and 2015 marked the 100th anniversary of Lassen Peak's largest eruption.

#### COVID-19

The National Park Service (NPS) has been working service-wide with federal, state and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.

On June 19, Lassen Volcanic National Park increased access with the opening of the park visitor centers. The Loomis Museum and Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center were scheduled to be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. You are asked to be prepared for modifications related to COVID-19 response including changes to exhibit access and auditorium closure.

You can view current trail conditions at [go.nps.gov/lavo/hike](https://go.nps.gov/lavo/hike).

Lassen Volcanic National Park also offers virtual content for people who are not traveling at this time. Visit [go.nps.gov/lavo/virtual](https://go.nps.gov/lavo/virtual) to view webcams, 360-degree photos, videos and more.

Details and updates on park operations will continue to be posted on their website at [nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/conditions.htm](https://nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/conditions.htm) and social media channels. Updates about NPS operations will be posted on [www.nps.gov/coronavirus](https://www.nps.gov/coronavirus).

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 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. Although not formally a park, Mt. Shasta is the centerpiece of the federally designated Mt. Shasta Wilderness Area.

To the north and east of Mt. Shasta is **Lava Beds National Monument**, a land of turmoil, both geological and

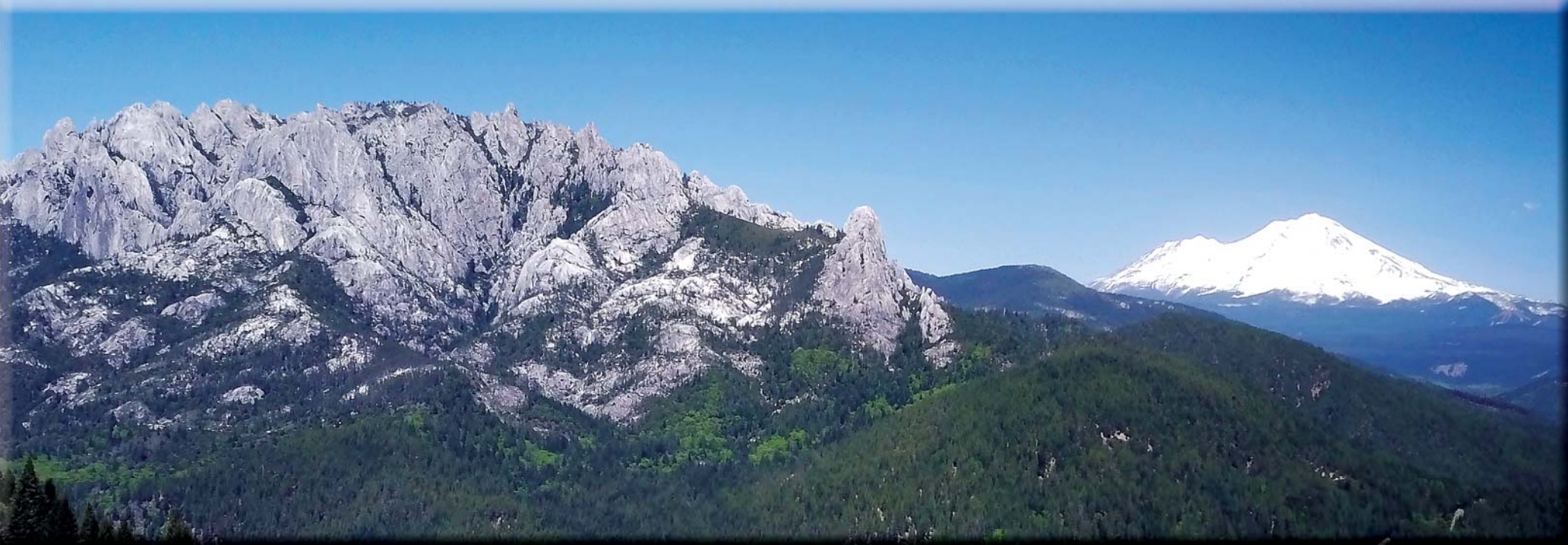
historical. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions on the Medicine Lake shield volcano have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features.

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.



The Joss House in Weaverville, known as the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds, is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California.



DRONE PHOTO / Adrian Rogers

**Castle Crags State Park** is dominated by the namesake **Castle Crags** (above left), a dramatic rock formation in the upper

**Sacramento River** canyon located just west of **Interstate 5** between **Castella** and **Dunsmuir**.

A few miles south of Mt. Shasta, on the northern edge of Shasta County, is **Castle Crags State Park**. It is dominated by the namesake **Castle Crags**, a dramatic rock formation in the upper **Sacramento River** canyon located just west of **Interstate 5** between **Castella** and **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 Crags Wilderness Area**. In response to the **COVID-19** pandemic, vehicle access to **Castle Crags** was prohibited as of mid-June. For current information on closures, visit [www.parks.ca.gov/?page-id=454](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page-id=454)

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.

Like all attractions, check ahead to find out the latest information on access to the area due to **COVID-19**. For **Shasta State Historic Park**, visit [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=456](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=456)

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. 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**.

Water-based activities are the primary interest of most **Whiskeytown** visitors which include boating, kayaking, swimming, canoeing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving, and fishing.

In response to the **COVID-19** pandemic, some features at **Whiskeytown** are temporarily closed or have limited access. Visitors should also remember that 2018's devastating **Carr Fire** burned large sections of the park, as well as nearby **Shasta**, and recovery efforts are ongoing. For the most current listing of campground, beach and trail closures, visit [www.nps.gov/whis](http://www.nps.gov/whis)

Visitors to **Weaverville**, the county seat of **Trinity County** west of **Redding**, are welcome to explore the **Weaverville Joss House State**



PHOTO / Michael Burke

**The Courthouse Museum** is located in the **Shasta State Historic Park**.

**Historic Park**. 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**.

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," and is the main photo at the top on this year's **North State Visitors Guide**.

The falls are located within the **McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park**, which is the second oldest park in the state system.

In response to the **COVID-19** pandemic, **Burney Falls** was limited to day use only in mid-June. For current conditions, visit [www.parks.ca.gov/?pageid=455](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?pageid=455)

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# Take a Hike in the North State

The complete Lake Siskiyou Trail trail forms a 7.6-mile loop around the lake.

PHOTO / John Soares

## Prime selection of trails that generally allow for safer physical distancing

By John Soares

After being cooped up inside for much of spring, we're all itching to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Here is a prime selection of north state trails, some easy, some more challenging, that let you explore the wilder areas; these trails generally have enough room to allow adequate physical distancing (see Safer Hiking During the Pandemic).

You'll find both lower-elevation and higher-elevation trails below. The lower elevation trails (near Redding and the city of Mount Shasta) get very hot in summer, so do them early to mid-morning or in the evening before sunset. 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.

**Dogs:** Many of the trails described here allow dogs and are so noted. Always bring a leash.

### Anderson River Park

Anderson, a small city 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.

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.

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

### Spring Hill Trail, Mount 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, Mount 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 Mt. 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.

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

### Lake Siskiyou Trail, Mount 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 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



PHOTO / John Soares

**An easy mile-long paved loop travels beside the banks of the Sacramento River at Anderson River Park.**

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.

#### Seven Lakes Basin gap, west of Mount 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.



PHOTO / John Soares

**Walking the gap above Seven Lakes Basin means you can say you hiked part of the famous Pacific Crest Trail.**

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

#### Deadfall Lakes and Mount 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 Mount Eddy, at 9025 feet (and 2250 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.

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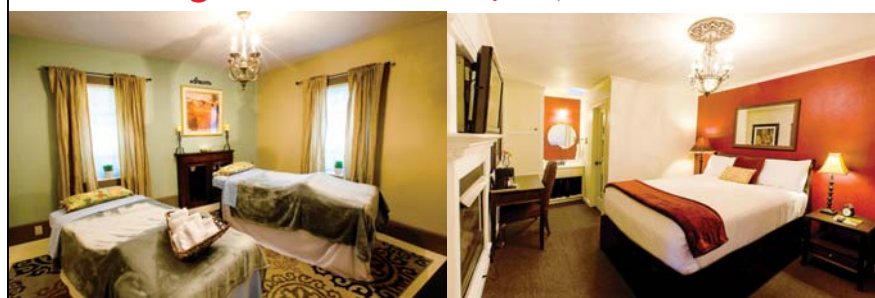
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To find the trailhead, take I-5 exit 751 (Edgewood), get to the west side of the freeway, and turn right. Drive .3 mile and then turn left onto Stewart Springs Road. Go 4.0 miles on Stewart Springs Road and then climb right up paved Road 17 (Parks Creek Road) for another 9.3 miles to the large trailhead on the left at Parks Creek Saddle.

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

### 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.



PHOTO / John Soares

**After visiting the Sundial Bridge, you can do an easy 1.5-mile walk on the Arboretum Loop Trail.**



PHOTO / John Soares

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

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

### Mill Creek Falls

#### Lassen Volcanic National Park

Love waterfalls? Then you'll love Mill Creek Falls, where two streams meet at the top and then plunge 80 feet down a multihued cliff to crash on the rocks below. The best part? Most park visitors choose more popular paths, leaving this one for the knowing few.

The trail begins near the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and Southwest Campground and undulates gently for 1.6 miles through forest and past clearings strewn with wildflowers before arriving at the waterfall (See photo in the waterfalls story pages 40-41).

Find the trailhead near the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center beside the park highway, 6 miles north of the junction of CA Highways 36 and 89, and 28 miles southeast of the junction of CA Highways 44 and 89.

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

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

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 and at times people pass within three feet of each other, so during this pandemic you should strongly consider wearing a mask and also 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 CA 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.

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

### About John Soares

John is the author of *Day Hiking: Mount Shasta, Lassen & Trinity Alps Regions* and *100 Classic Hikes: Northern California*, fourth edition, which cover all the best trails in the North State. Get details of his books plus info about his favorite trails at <https://NorthernCaliforniaHikingTrails.com>.



## Safer hiking during the pandemic

First and foremost, follow current consensus guidelines from experts. The key objective: minimize your potential exposure to the coronavirus, which means minimizing the number of times you encounter hikers and also taking proper precautions when you do encounter hikers.

### When to Hike

Hike midweek whenever possible, and also during less popular hours, like early to mid-morning, and early evening.

### Where to Hike

Choose trails that are less popular and that also allow for the minimum physical distance of six feet from other hikers. All of the hikes described here usually have enough room on or beside the trail to allow the minimum distance.

### When You Meet Other Hikers

Take the initiative to move off the trail. If you must rely on the other hikers to create at least six feet of distance, be willing to politely ask them to do so.

### Should You Wear a Mask?

Follow current recommendations. One compromise solution: put your mask on whenever you pass other hikers.



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Hey Locals...COVID got you thinking maybe you should stick closer to home this year?

## THE NORTH STATE IS BRIMMING WITH OPTIONS

# STAYCATIONS

By Jon Lewis

There's a treasure chest packed with recreational opportunities and, for the most part, it has been buried right in our own back yard.

But with the unwelcome addition of COVID-19 and its impact on summer travel plans, a lot of people—tourists and locals alike—are discovering that there's no shortage of fun things to do that are only one to two hours away. Or even closer in some cases.

It's the season of the staycation.

Angela Cordell had big plans for a summertime visit to Cabo San Lucas but the coronavirus canceled that trip. Instead, Cordell and her partner took advantage of a houseboat promotion at Bridge Bay and switched from the Gulf of Mexico to the cool green waters of Shasta Lake.

"It was just the first time that we had rented one ourselves and the price was unbeatable," she said. "We had a fabulous time. It was my first time houseboating in the rain and even that was enjoyable."

The couple added some land-based options to their staycation by purchasing a trailer.

"It's also fun to explore places close by," Cordell said. "I think sometimes we take for granted how many cool and relaxing places there are in such close proximity. We are planning on taking the trailer to McCloud, Lake Almanor and to the new RV park at Childs Meadow."

Deborah Uhl and her son get their recreation fix on kayaks, usually chasing trout on PG&E reservoirs. She said a "glamping" trip to the Mary Smith campground near Lewiston is also on the calendar.

Clinton Kane, a retired Whiskeytown park ranger, said his former worksite offers plenty of recreation options just a few minutes west of Redding. For easy outings, he suggested taking the family on some of Whiskeytown's easier trails, or even find some friendly paths in the Lassen Volcanic National Park,



PHOTO / Michael Burke

**Maybe this is the year you finally decide to book that houseboat trip on Shasta Lake.**

the north state's other National Park Service treasure.

"Maybe drive and stay in a motel or resort around Cedarville or Fall River Mills," Kane said. "Walk a trail and then drive the backroads home. Or check out places like Battle Creek Wildlife Area near the Coleman hatchery and the trails south on Gover Road."

### Take a hike

"Hiking to me is my battery charger," said Sue Maxey, KIXE-TV's chief engineer. "I hike all over and there are so many places nearby. The physical part makes me feel like I conquered it. I am strong. It strengthens me in many ways. Knowing I accomplished the hike makes me realize I can do more. It pushes me to do more."

The biggest reward, she said, is the beauty. An avid photographer, she enjoys sharing the sights with others but realizes it's not a true substitute for the real thing. "The pictures are beautiful but they can never capture the true beauty of being there. It's surreal."

Some of Maxey's recent hikes include the 11.7-mile Chamise Peak Trail near Shasta Lake, the 10-mile Cabin Creek Trail (formerly Squaw



PHOTO / Michael Burke

**Michael Burke suggests a tour of the north state's waterfalls including some of the lesser known ones like the 70-ft. Montgomery Creek Falls.**

Valley Creek) near McCloud (keep an eye out for poison oak, she

warned) and the 5.7-mile Mount Harkness Trail near Chester that features a tour of a working fire lookout.

### Waterfalls

Michael Burke, executive director of Pathways to Hope for Children, suggested a tour of the north state's abundant waterfalls as a refreshing staycation option. Load the kids up and head east on Highway 299, stopping to take in the 70-foot-high Montgomery Creek Falls; continue north on Highway 89 to admire the spectacular Burney Falls; and then press on toward McCloud for a look at the Upper, Middle and Lower falls on the McCloud River.

A return trip on Interstate 5 adds Dunsuir's Hedge Creek Falls to the itinerary. "It's a fun little day trip," Burke said.

Maxey said she's fond of Mill Creek Falls within Lassen Volcanic National Park and the nine-mile loop that offers a stunning view of the 640-foot Feather Falls near Lake Almanor.

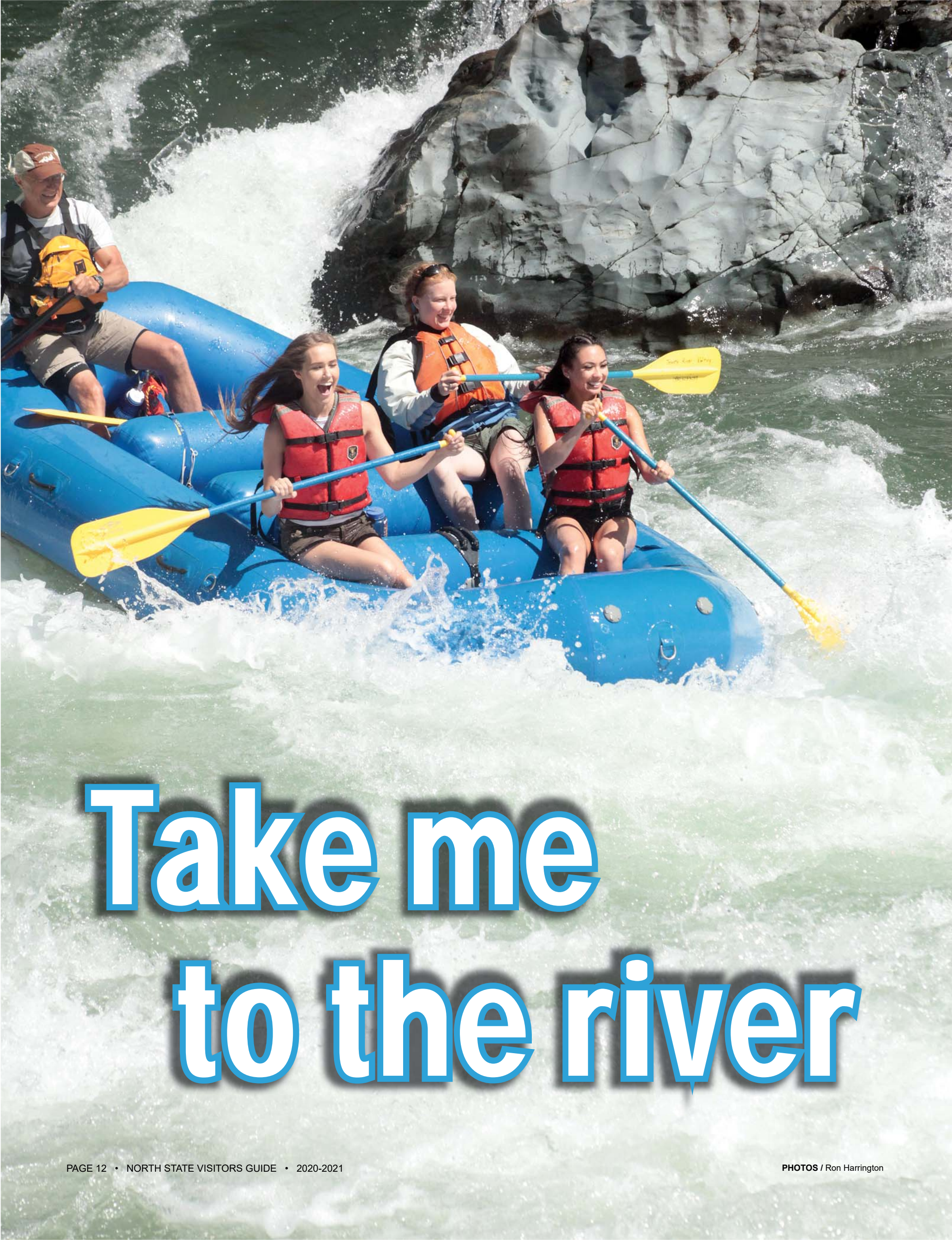
### Get creative

Burke suggested families start a rainy day "idea jar" that members can fill with ideas for fund projects, outings and activities. Make an agreement ahead of time to take on whatever idea is pulled from the jar and go have some fun.

Some potential ideas: Go on a family photo tour and at day's end, load everybody's images into the computer and enjoy a slide show; have a family art project where everybody gets an easel and supplies and see what develops; or write a short play with roles for the whole family and then stage it.

A float trip on the lower Sacramento or Trinity River is always a fun family activity, Burke added.

You can find additional information on all of these activities, including hiking, waterfalls and more in this year's North State Visitors Guide.



# Take me to the river



# River rafting can be a perfect family outing

By Aaron Williams

Rafting has always been some good ol' fashioned family fun.

This year, rafting on the Trinity River can be the perfect family outing that's socially distant as the north state emerges from COVID-19 shelter-in-place restrictions.

A Los Angeles Times article in May said rafting could be the safest way to a family vacation this summer.

"Being on the water is perfect for being in your social bubble," said Dana Steinhauser of Trinity River Rafting.

The stay-at-home orders have meant a slow start to the rafting season on the Trinity – things typically get moving around Memorial Day – but like time, Mother Nature marches on and the flows down the river are perfect for a day adventure.

"We're going to have a bump where we get more water," Steinhauser said in mid-June, "but we'll be running into September and October."

It's a critically dry year, which, she said, allows the water to warm up a bit and make for perfect floating conditions.

"Our shortest trip is about 3.5 hours and it's perfect for rafting and then jumping in on a hot day," she said. "Everyone loves to splash around when the temperatures rise."

And that includes humans and animals alike.

Steinhauser said romps of otters have been seen floating near some popular swimming spots, while flocks of baby ducks – sometimes up to 24 strong – have been sighted following their mothers. Osprey and bald eagles can be spotted with a

keen eye as they patrol the skies. And the banks are teeming with wildflowers and other beautiful plant life.

"Beside the adventure in front of you, there's all these other aspects to floating down the river," Steinhauser 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."

She said much of the traffic construction on Highway 299 has been finished, meaning shuttle trips have become more efficient again.

And speaking of shuttles, as of June, masks are reserved for the shuttle ride, but once out on the water, there's social distance enough to enjoy the wonders of nature.

"Our boats are designed for six people, 14 feet, and our guide sits in the back," she said, adding that most this year have booked family trips. "We're working up to smaller groups of, say, a family and a family friend. And when things loosen up, we'll extend the social bubble."

But for now, she said, it's perfect out on the water.

Some other rafting companies in the area are also moving ahead with trips this summer. Up-river on the Trinity, Old Bridge Rafting offers a milder float out of Lewiston that's perfect for families with small children. They also offer guided and self-guided fishing trips as well as kayak and raft rentals.

In Redding, North Country Raft Rentals offers rentals on the Sacramento River from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends.

Call or check the websites and social media of the various rafting businesses for the latest information.

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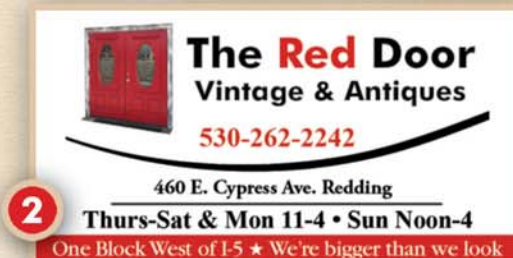
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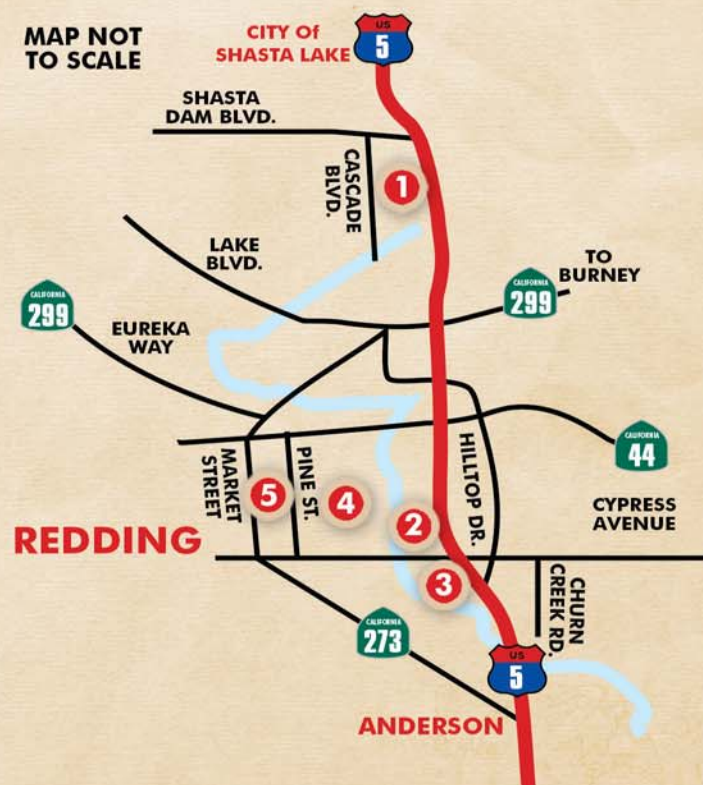
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## Filmmaking in the area includes 'Stand By Me'

There's a rich and colorful history of filmmaking in the north state, dating back at least to 1937 when swashbuckling film star Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland took over Chico's Bidwell Park to film sections of "The Adventures of Robin Hood."



The film industry continues to enjoy working in far Northern California. Here are some other notable productions from the region:

The dramatic train trestle scene in the 1986 movie **"Stand By Me"** was filmed on the Lake Britton Bridge in eastern Shasta County. Adapted from a Stephen King novel and directed by Rob Reiner, the film starred Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix, Kiefer Sutherland, Jerry O'Connell and Corey Feldman.

A section of the same McCloud Railway line was featured in the 1993 **music video for Aerosmith's "Livin' on the Edge."** In the scene, guitarist Joe Perry plays a solo in front of an oncoming train.

Burney Falls, which adjoins Lake Britton, was featured in the 1988 film **"Willow"** and Hat Creek, also in eastern Shasta County, was the setting for the opening scene of 1982's **"Firefox."** Clint Eastwood, who owns the Rising River Ranch in Cassel, starred in and directed "Firefox."

Much of the World War II film, **"Hell is for Heroes,"** was filmed in the Cottonwood area. The 1962 release starred Steve McQueen, Bobby Darin and Fess Parker.

**"The Treasure of Lost Canyon,"** a 1952 Hollywood production starring William Powell and Julia Davis, was filmed at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial Park.

**"Gold is Where You Find It,"** a 1938 romantic drama starring Claude Rains and Olivia de Havilland, was filmed in Weaverville. The screenplay focuses on a rivalry between miners and farmers some 30 years after the California Gold Rush.

Burney Falls was also featured in the 1958 film **"Tarzan's Fight for Life."** It was the second Tarzan film released in color. In it, Gordon Scott became the 11th actor to portray Tarzan. The falls also makes a brief appearance in the 1957 film "The Parson and the Outlaw."

Portions of the 1998 comedy **"Almost Heroes"** was filmed in the Cottonwood area. Directed by Christopher Guest, the film starred Chris Farley and Matthew Perry. It was Farley's last major leading film role, due to his death in 1997.

Some interior scenes of the 1934 film **"The Thin Man"** were filmed inside Chico's Bidwell Mansion.

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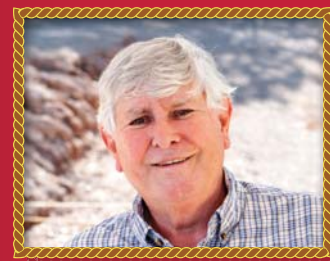
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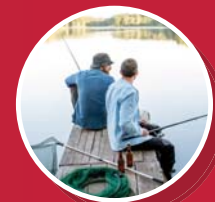
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1525 Median Ave., Shasta Lake, (Clair Engle Park), one block from Hwy 151/Shasta Dam Blvd. shastalakehistorical.org 530.275.3995  
Admission \$3. No charge for children 12 & under.  
Year Round: Mon, Tues, Wed & Second Sat of the month, 9am-1pm.

## Wintu Cultural Resource Center & Museum

Wintu Tribe of Northern California Museum and gift shop provide hand-crafted work done by Native people.  
4755 Shasta Dam Blvd., Shasta Lake. wintutribes.org 530.605.1726  
Museum Hours: Open Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat 11am-4pm

## 9-11 Memorial

A piece of the World Trade Center that has been placed in front of the Shasta Lake Fire Protection District where a remembrance ceremony is held every year on Sept. 11.  
4126 Ashby Court, corner of Ashby Road & Shasta Dam Blvd/Hwy 151 in front of the Shasta Lake Fire Protection District

Please note: Facilities may be temporarily closed due to COVID-19. Call or visit their websites for the latest information.



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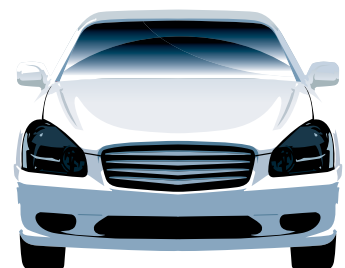
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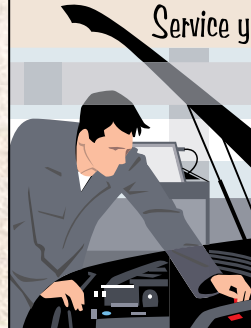
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# Shasta Dam: Second largest concrete dam in the U.S.

## Shasta Dam – An Engineering Marvel

During the Great Depression, 4,700 workers migrated to tiny northern California cities like Summit City, Project City, Toyon, Buckeye and Central Valley looking for work. The work these hardy men found was constructing Shasta Dam, the second largest concrete dam in the United States. Built between 1938 and 1945, Shasta Dam is truly an engineering marvel made up of 16,900 50-foot-square concrete blocks.

This concrete gravity dam has two main purposes: 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.

Located about 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, Squaw Creek and Pit River. Behind the dam, these



PHOTO / Sheri Harral - Bureau of Reclamation

**On your way to Shasta Dam, you can pull off on Highway 151 (Shasta Dam Boulevard) and take a photo of the “Three Shastas”: Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake and Mt. Shasta.**

four tributaries pool to create Shasta Lake. Its 365 miles of shoreline make Shasta Lake a fisherman's and boater's paradise.

### Things to Do

Due to COVID-19 and other issues, availability is subject to change without notice, so you should check the dam website or call (530) 247-8555 for the latest information on guided tours.

Even if those tours aren't occurring when you're in the area, you can always enjoy a self-guided tour on top of the dam. Stop by the Visitor

Center to get a copy of the Walking Tour booklet and set your own pace as you stroll across the dam, visiting six different waypoints.

During your stroll you might see a bald eagle fighting with an osprey over a fish, or perhaps the four-story Gantry crane will be in operation near the Temperature Control Device. On clear days you can view majestic Mt. Shasta, and almost every day there is some type of watercraft floating on the lake.

Inside the Visitor Center you will find photographs and displays that depict the building of the dam, plus

a 21-minute movie is shown on a regular schedule that thoroughly explains how the dam was built.

The Reclamation Guides that staff the Visitor Center are always available to answer questions you may have about Shasta Dam, Shasta Lake, or the surrounding area. If you're looking for souvenirs to commemorate your visit to the dam, take a walk through the gift shop.

For visitors who wish to spend more time in nature, the Upper Sacramento Ditch Trail starts at the southeastern edge of the dam's parking lot. Hikers, off-road bicyclists, and horsemen often spend their day exploring the trail, which goes as far as the Sundial Bridge. The paved Sacramento Rail Trail – a hiking and bicycling trail – starts on the western side of Shasta Dam and continues as far south as the Diestelhorst Bridge. Bicyclists who start out in Redding often make Shasta Dam the half-way rest stop of their ride.

### Information

The Visitor Center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day (excluding winter holidays). For more information about tours, visit [usbr.gov/mp/ncad/dam-tours.html](http://usbr.gov/mp/ncad/dam-tours.html) or call (530) 247-8555.

*Information provided by Amy Holland for Shasta Dam.*



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# Shasta Caverns offers a glimpse into another world and another time

By Aaron Williams

As the state began to emerge from the months-long coronavirus shelter-in-place orders, Shasta Lake Caverns re-opened early in June to what General Manager Matt Doyle said was a strong turnout.

"It was really strong," he said of the opening. "We had a good, showing and no problem with social distancing."

Doyle said some modifications have been made for tours to the cool – both temperature-wise and natural-wonder wise - attraction on Shasta Lake.

The caverns still offer a traditional guided tour, but have added a self-paced option. Doyle said the boats that ferry visitors across the lake and buses that shuttle visitors up to the entrance are running every 30 minutes.

"But once there, we're offering people a chance to go in and see the caverns at their own pace," he said. "It's not a self-guided tour, there are tour guides stationed at various places throughout. But it allows people to take their time, relax and be in their own group."

Doyle said the Shasta Dinner Cruise, however, is not operational (as of late-June) under the current stage of re-opening in Shasta County.

The caverns popular evening attraction takes people out on the lake for dinner on their specially-designed boat.

"We're shut down due to social distancing," Doyle said in June. "A restaurant can move tables out and

rearrange, but we're on a boat and that's just not economically feasible."

But who knows, that could change. As it is with most businesses in the country during this pandemic, it's best to check their website or social media for the latest information. The caverns dinner cruise website is [lakeshastadinnercruises.com](http://lakeshastadinnercruises.com).

He added, however, that the response to having Lake Shasta Caverns re-open has been exceptional.

"We're seeing a lot of traffic (initially) from out of state," he said. "A lot of people are ready to get back out in nature."

And nature – as well as geology – is what the caverns are all about.

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 cracks in the rocks. Dripping water seeps minerals through the rock and sloooooowly 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 also mention bacon?

A quick shuttle ride 800 feet up the mountain leads visitors to the entrance of the caverns, "discovered" by fish hatchery employee James A. Richardson in 1878 – though the local

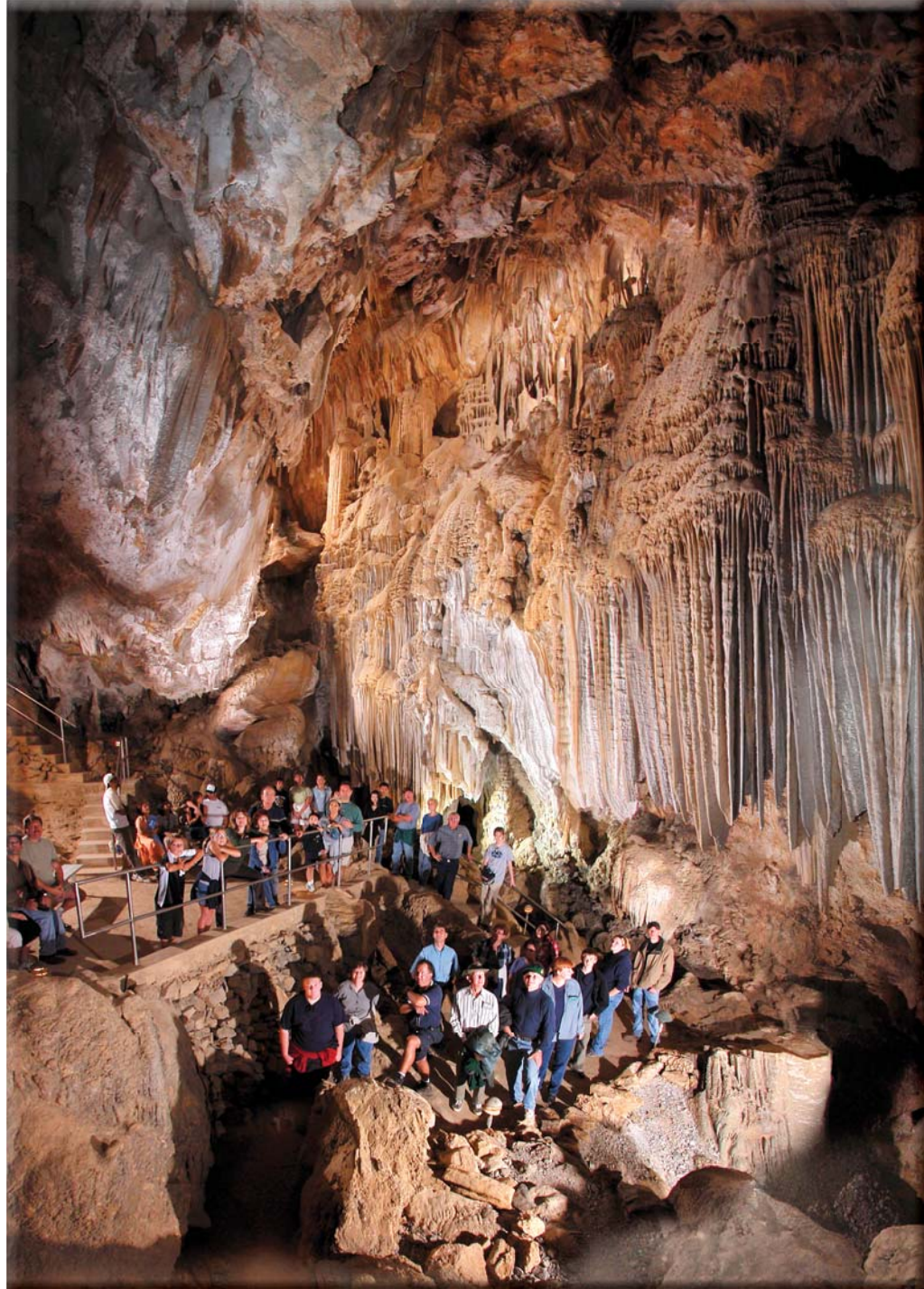


PHOTO / Courtesy Lake Shasta Caverns

## The Cathedral Room at Lake Shasta Caverns.

Wintu population 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.

### More information

For the most current information on the caverns, including hours of operation and admission, visit [www.lakeshastacaverns.com](http://www.lakeshastacaverns.com) or call 1-800-795-2283.

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# Experiencing and exploring Shasta Lake

PHOTO / Michael Burke

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 with the slow easing of COVID-19 restrictions, perhaps it's just time for a north state staycation.

After all, there might not be a better year to remain close to home and explore – or re-explore – all those places that tourists seek from far and wide.

With more than 365 miles of shoreline spread across 30,000 acres, Shasta Lake offers it all. From houseboating adventures to waterskiing, wakeboarding and wakesurfing, to fishing, the lake

is a giant playground for water enthusiasts. But don't forget about all the surrounding land, which bring its own special treasures as well.

The lake is serviced by a handful of marinas which rent houseboats and other water-sports "toys" in addition to offering other amenities. 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 all are available for day-use rental at most of the

seven marinas on Shasta Lake, along with businesses like the Fun Factory on the lake and Sports LTD and Boardmart in Redding.

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.

There are four arms of Shasta Lake to explore: the Sacramento Arm, the McCloud Arm, the Squaw



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PHOTO / Julie O'Loughlin

**Potem Falls is a large waterfall located in the deep recesses of the Pit River arm. Boaters up for an adventure can boat there and undertake a mildly challenging hike when the lake level is high.**

Creek Arm, and the Pit River Arm. Each flows into the lake created by the building of Shasta Dam in the 1940s.

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 Squaw Creek arms comes from the east.

Lakehead, along Interstate 5, sits at the north end of the lake and sees the Sacramento flow past. Antlers and Sugarloaf marinas sit on the Sacramento arm.

Along the McCloud arm are Holiday Harbor Marina and access to Lake Shasta Caverns, a truly magical trip inside the granite mountains across the river which re-opened to tours in mid-June. A trip inside the caverns offers visitors a geological time-travel experience of stalactites and stalagmites.

And while the action centers around the water, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of jumping off spots to explore in and around the lake.

From Little Backbone Creek's smooth rock waterslide on the west side of the lake to Potem Falls, 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 caution as the 20-minute hike is said to be slippery.

Potem Falls – one of the must-see destinations on our waterfall page – is accessible via car on Highway 299 or by boat off the Pit River arm. It's just a short hike from the shore up the Pit arm.

A map of the lake with some of these things and others to see around the lake can be viewed on pages 24-25 of this Visitors Guide.

For those not spending time on a houseboat, but looking to stay on the lake, you can take advantage of four no-fee, boat-in campgrounds (they offer vault toilets). Campers are encouraged to bring potable water and must pack out garbage – the principle of leaving an area better than you found it is always a good rule of thumb.

With limitations consisting of no camping at bald eagle nest sites, or within 200 yards of a developed facility, there are more than 300 miles of shoreline available for dispersed camping.

On the Sacramento arm, the Gooseneck Cove Campground is located on the west side of the lake south of Sugarloaf Resort. The Greens Creek Campground is located at Greens Creek trailhead near the limestone formations on the east side of the McCloud arm north of Lake Shasta Caverns.

Ski Island, located east of Silverthorn, has 23 campsites and is in a central location on the lake. Located far down the Pit River arm, the Arbuckle Campground will be a little more secluded. Campers should see less traffic at this campground as the Pit River arm narrows and waterskiing is prohibited past Browns Canyon.

If you desire a hike to get the blood pumping, there are numerous trails ringing the lake. The more popular include the Klikapudi Trail, the three-mile Bailey Cover Trail, the boat-accessible Green Creeks Trail and the 1.6-mile Hirz Bay Trail.

Klikapudi offers both hiking and mountain biking opportunities and extends to the waterline when the lake is full. It's a six-mile loop trail, so be sure to bring plenty of water.

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While out on the lake or the trails, visitors are almost certain to see the abundance of wildlife that are native to the area.

Bears, mountain lions, river otters, eagles, osprey and deer meander about, often coming to the water from time to time.

Visitors are reminded to keep food – and even trash – stashed safely away, as it can no doubt attract wildlife, including bears.

With a large population of bald eagles on Shasta Lake, there's a good chance of seeing them in their natural habitat. It's always a thrill to see the national bird fishing on the lake for its supper.

ages 16-35 are required to have a California Boater's Education Card in their possession while operating a recreational vessel. Also, kids 12-15 are not allowed to operate a vessel powered by a 15-horsepower motor or greater.

Additionally, there should be one readily accessible personal floatation device (PFD) on board for each person. All children under 13 must wear their PFD when the boat is not anchored, moored or beached.

When skiing, boating safety requires a flag be displayed when a skier is down.

Other safety tips include:

- Be aware of debris in the water as the lake recedes throughout the summer.

- Beware of carbon monoxide around vessels. Shut off engines while stopped or swimming.

- Abide by all speed limit buoys.

- Know your limits while swimming (a PFD is recommended) and remember the lake temperature is chilly.

### Be safe out there

With so much open water and so many boaters coming to the lake to escape the heat, boating safety should always be a priority.

The Shasta County Sheriff's Office reminds boat operators that BUI penalties are similar to those imposed for driving under the influence. Boat operators between

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PHOTO / Michael Burke

# A lot of history lies beneath the surface of Shasta Lake



PHOTOS / Courtesy Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

Above, the Golinsky family and others in Kennett. Below, the Diamond Saloon.

By Aaron Williams

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.

Swamped below the surface, in depths approaching 400 feet, are a handful of 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, Etter, Pitt and Winthrop are sacred Winnemum-Wintu sites all but lost by the flooding of 47 square miles behind the dam.

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

Also lost to history, but sometimes forgotten in the shadow of its bigger lake sister is the town of Whiskeytown, which is sunk under the lake that bears its name.

## 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 where there once was a city."

Questions asked range from "How deep is it to Kennett?" (400 feet at least) to "Can you see some of the old towns when the water's low?" (yes, relics do pop up from time to time).

Prior to being settled, the area that would make up Kennett was home to nine tribes of Wintu Indians — living in 250 villages. Westward expansion killed nearly 75 percent of the population as the

first settlers entered the area in the early 1800s.

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 Portland and San Francisco, distilling and bottling its own whiskey. The bar was said to be 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.

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

First known as the Pittsburgh Mining District, later as Brownsville, even later as Williams, and lastly as Copper City, according to 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 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.

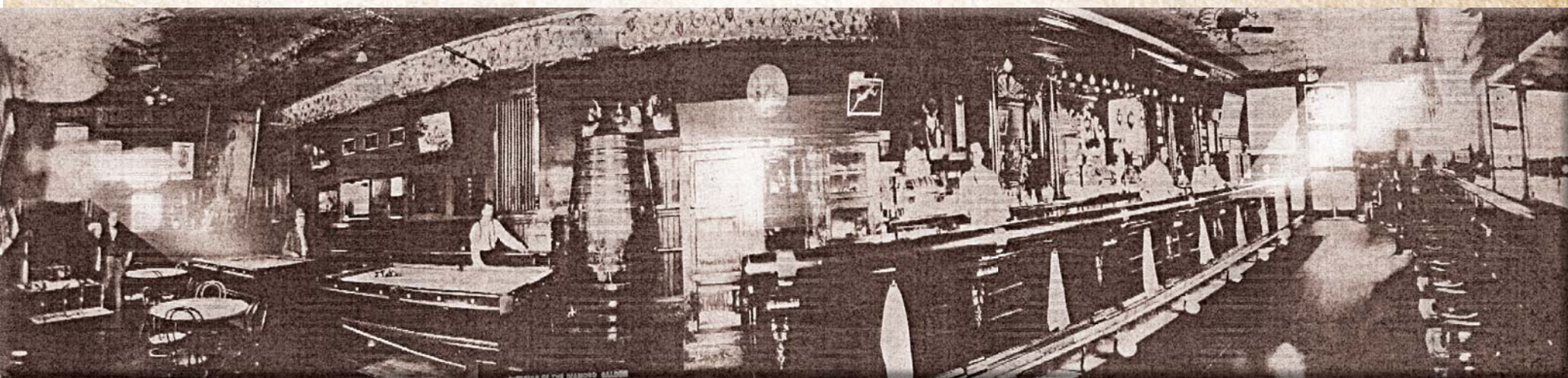
## Whiskeytown

The town shares the name with the lake and was submerged in 1960 and sits just off the Highway 299 bridge.

The town, lore says, got its name after a mule dropped a barrel of whiskey to miners in the Gold Rush era camps. The liquor spilled into the creek now known as Whiskey Creek and the name stuck for the town as well.

Remains of the old town — a defunct hotel, a couple of other crumbling brick buildings — sunk when the Whiskeytown Dam was constructed.

Divers have found remnants of the town about 90 feet below the surface.

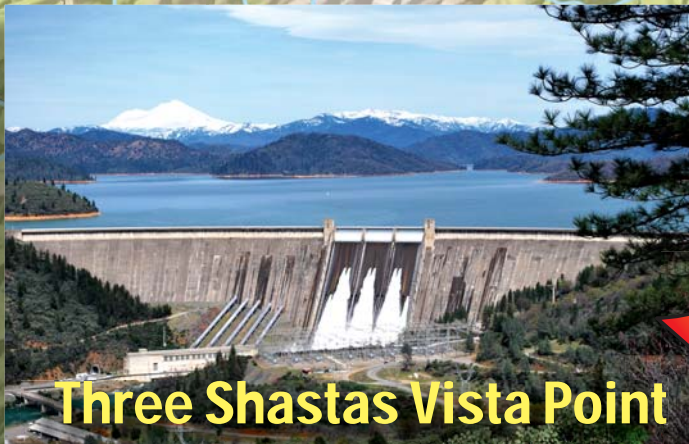
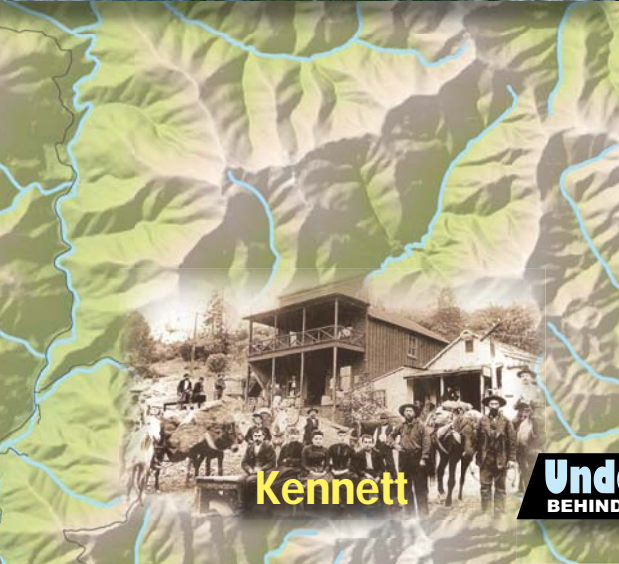




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PHOTO / Michael Burke

# Bike enthusiasts and casual riders have an almost endless array of great riding opportunities in the area

By Sandy Rich

Welcome to Northern California. With mountains, plains, roads and trails, there is something for everyone, especially if you brought your bike.

Here are some of the places, by area, that you can go to expand your love of the two-wheeled way of life.

## **SHASTA COUNTY** **The Hub of** **Northern California**

### **Redding**

Redding has seen an influx of tourism dollars directly related to mountain biking in recent years, mostly due to a number of governmental agencies and private entities working together.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), The McConnell Foundation, Trail Labs Co. and The Redding Trail Alliance (RTA) have all been major forces in helping to put Redding on the mountain biking map.

Nathan Knudsen, executive director of the RTA, explains that their main goal is fun.

"While RTA believes in the importance of the connectivity of trails and how they are an outlet for very diverse user groups, our primary goal is how much fun individuals of all skill levels have while experiencing the trail on their mountain bikes," he said.

You can ride their latest efforts at the BLM property just west of Redding

called Swasey Recreation Area. Find *Owen's Run* (named after a very sweet yellow lab) to arrive at the top of the jump line *Enticer*.

If big jumps aren't what you are looking for, you can take the Wintu Trail to get back to the parking area. Take a picture of the trail guide at the trail head if you didn't pick up a map.

The local Redding Composite Mountain Biking team recently hosted a statewide meet at Swasey for the NorCal and SoCal high school cycling leagues. Hundreds of riders and their support crew (aka mom or dad) traveled here for the competition from all over California and they loved the varied terrain.

Most of Swasey is just right for beginner to intermediate riders. Gradual up hills and fun, flowy descents make this a great place to ride. The intermediate and expert trails are steep up and steep down. Prepare for a great time. If you have younger kids, go to Caldwell Junior Bike Park for junior-sized thrills.

For a paved experience, go to the Sacramento River Trail and into the Turtle Bay area. It is paved and all bridges have been rebuilt since the devastating Carr fire of 2018. For younger kids, please use the south side once past Diestelhorst Bridge. It is much flatter and has nice views of Keswick Dam as you approach.

The River Trail is also great for more experienced road cyclists who come from far and wide to train here

due to our generally mild winter season.

For avid riders that live in snow country, renting a house or hotel room for a week is a wonderful reprieve from the icy roads back home. An excellent resource for routes and elevations are in the free publication *Caltrans District 2 Cycling Guide*. Maps of local paved and dirt trails are available at local bike shops.

Find it Online  
Local Trail Network Trailforks.com  
Trail Design and Build traillabs.co  
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Reddingtrailalliance.org

### **Burney/Fall River Mills** **In Eastern Shasta County**

There are many century rides throughout our state, but if you ask Redding locals, most mention the annual Fall River Century. Overwhelming reasons are the aid stations and the food. The FOOD! Plus, the scenery is spectacular.

Bill "Biker Bill" Campbell is the president of the Burney-Fall River Bicycle Association, which hosts the Fall River Century.

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. Being built on the former cinder rail bed for the train that connected Burney and McCloud in Siskiyou County, you can ride to the famous "Stand By Me" bridge where

that memorable scene was shot.

If you have kids with you, Biker Bill says going on the "GSRT section from Highway 89 to Burney is likely easier for young children since cinders are smoother."

Specific mountain route maps are on [www.cycleburneyfallriver.com](http://www.cycleburneyfallriver.com). He also recommends that you "download maps onto electronic devices because cell service is not universal in this rural, remote region."

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Fall River Chamber of Commerce  
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## **SISKIYOU COUNTY** **In the Shadow of** **the Mountain**

### **Mount Shasta**

Mount Shasta is home to several organizations that have your recreation in mind. There are the Mount Shasta Trail Association (MSTA), the Siskiyou Outdoor Alliance, the Siskiyou Mountain Club and the Mt. Shasta Mountain Bike Association (MSMBA). The most recent big trail building push has been work on the 2013 Conceptual Trails Plan to build 100 miles of new trail over the next 10 years.

For an easy and flat ride, try the Lake Siskiyou Loop trail that circumnavigates the lake with stunning

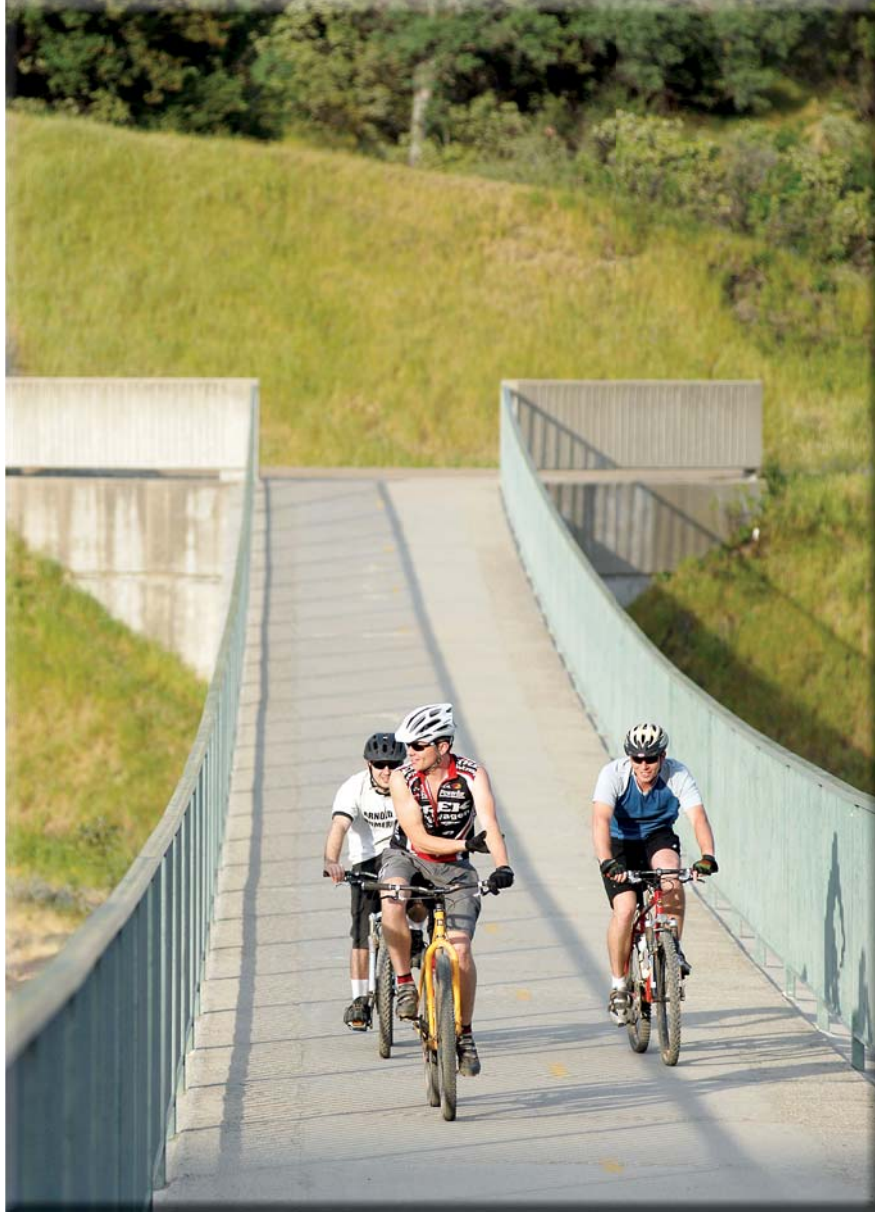


PHOTO / Michael Burke

**Redding's Sacramento River National Recreation Trail is part of Redding's growing trail system. Meandering over 9 miles along the banks of the Sacramento River, the wide, paved surface is popular for walking, jogging, roller blading and bicycle riding. Access is available from Hilltop Drive, Caldwell Park, and the Sundial Bridge.**

views and shaded areas perfect for children and kids of all ages.

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."

MSMBA, in partnership with the USFS and Bike Shasta, recently announced that work has begun on the expansion of the Gateway Trail network. In a press release dated April 10, 2020, they stated "this project, located on national forest system lands administered by the Shasta McCloud Management Unit, will add 46.5 miles of multi-use non-motorized trails to the existing Gateway trails. On-the-ground trail construction, under direction from the Forest Service, is being coordinated by the MSTA and Trail Labs, CO., a small business owned by internationally-known trail designer Andrew Pelkofer."

"The Gateway Phase 2 trail system will be an outstanding and much needed addition to the trail recreation landscape of Northern California," Pelkofer said. "Like so many national forests of our region, the Shasta-Trinity has very few, if any, miles of trail designed and built

with an emphasis on mountain bike recreation.

"Although the Gateway Phase 2 project is designed as multi-user, it will offer several mountain bike optimized trails, and dedicated opportunities for shuttling. These design elements, along with a well-planned overall trail system, will substantially increase the diversity of trail experiences one can enjoy, while maintaining trail sustainability and ensuring safe and fun recreation experiences for all users.

"I can't emphasize enough how much work went into planning this project, and the strong efforts by the Mount Shasta Trail Association, Bike Shasta and the U.S. Forest Service to get it shovel ready."

#### Yreka

The last major stop before you get to Oregon is Yreka, a great place to ride with road, mountain and gravel routes, for the gravel grinders (a gravel grinder uses a special bike with a combination of a road bike - for speed - and some of the comforts of a mountain bike like suspension. You ride on varied surfaces of asphalt, gravel, dirt trails and back roads and have much less interaction with traffic)

According to Cycle Siskiyou, an organization working to increase

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PHOTO / Michael Burke



PHOTO / Panoptic Chopsticks

**Above, Denali Patterson flying over a gap on Enticer in the Swasey Recreation Area.**

cycling tourism: "Siskiyou County is the best destination in California with over 10,000 miles of dirt roads, (and) Greenhorn Park is one of the most beautiful and well used recreation areas in all of Siskiyou County. The newly signed trails offer hours of great mountain bike riding."

Trail maps and other links:  
[mountshastatrailassociation.org](http://mountshastatrailassociation.org)  
[siskiyououtdooralliance.org](http://siskiyououtdooralliance.org)  
[cyclesiskiyou.com](http://cyclesiskiyou.com)  
[siskiyoumountainclub.org/signatureroutes](http://siskiyoumountainclub.org/signatureroutes)  
[www.mtsmba.org](http://www.mtsmba.org)

### TRINITY COUNTY In the Heart of the Alps

#### Weaverville

As you drive west on Highway 299 out of Redding, less than an hour away you will come to the historic California Gold Rush town of Weaverville. Although there are many ways to get out into the wilderness in Trinity County, "mountain biking lets you take time to discover the natural world around you, or you can challenge yourself to do more, ride faster, climb steeper, get more technical" says Noreen Bradbury, avid cyclist and secretary to 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, and to create a trail friendly community through awareness, safety advocacy and promotion of trail use for fun, fitness and transportation. They host the LaGrange Classic, a mountain bike race held every June.

The area is used by all levels of riders.

"We are in the process of expanding our trail system to encompass a more diverse topography, including the ever-popular Lakeshore Trail along Trinity Lake," Bradbury said. "Many of our backcountry roads are used by road bikers."



Bradbury said "Highway 3 is a favorite from the south end of Trinity County to the north end at Scott's Mountain. The Weaver Basin Trail System is constantly used by families and kids. The Trinity Trail Alliance is in Phase II of construction of the Trinity Bike Park in Weaverville at Lowden Park. The Pump Track is a favorite of kids and adults. And this spring will see the addition of the Skills Track for those who want to sharpen their abilities for more technical mountain biking."

So why take your bike on vacation? Because "riding with your buddies, your family or with new friends is just fun," says Bradbury.

[trinitytrailalliance.com/trails.html](http://trinitytrailalliance.com/trails.html)  
[visittrinity.com](http://visittrinity.com)  
[www.tcrd.net/wbts/maps/WBTS\\_System\\_Trails\\_2015\\_24x36.pdf](http://www.tcrd.net/wbts/maps/WBTS_System_Trails_2015_24x36.pdf)

### TEHAMA Gateway to Lassen

#### Red Bluff

Situated between Lassen National Park and the Sacramento River, Red Bluff riders have been making great strides to put their name on the cycling map. The link below on MapMyRide shows that you can ride in almost every direction, with many routes on nearly deserted roads.

Jesse Morris (self-proclaimed husband, father, minister, road/gravel riding nut) has organized an event to raise money for charity. If you want really remote riding, check out his event - the Wild West Gravel Grinder ride/race.

Scheduled each May, you can choose from the following categories by distance: Extra Grit - 124 miles, True Grit - 97 miles, Chisholm Trail - 61 miles, Buckaroo - 35 miles. Top riders earn a belt buckle with the race logo that includes crossed pistols and a bike chain. There is a Handlebar Moustache Contest and lots of wildlife and wildflowers.

[mapmyride.com/us/red-bluff-ca/wildwestgravelgrinder.weebly.com/](http://mapmyride.com/us/red-bluff-ca/wildwestgravelgrinder.weebly.com/)

### LASSEN COUNTY Riding High at the Ranch

#### Susanville

The Susanville area has undergone a dynamic growth in recent years. While road biking is popular in Lassen County, Matt McLain, Inter-agency Trail Coordinator for Lassen County, said many of the distance cyclists have transitioned to Gravel Grinding.

"The ease of access to miles of unpaved county and Forest Service roads adjacent to our city center offers

a relatively traffic free opportunity to explore the county in a more natural setting," he said.

The most well-known event is Riding High At The Ranch, hosted by Susanville Area Bicycle Association (SABA), which takes place in May. It is staged at the Susanville Ranch Park, which McLain said 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."

McLain also said 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 adrenalin 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."

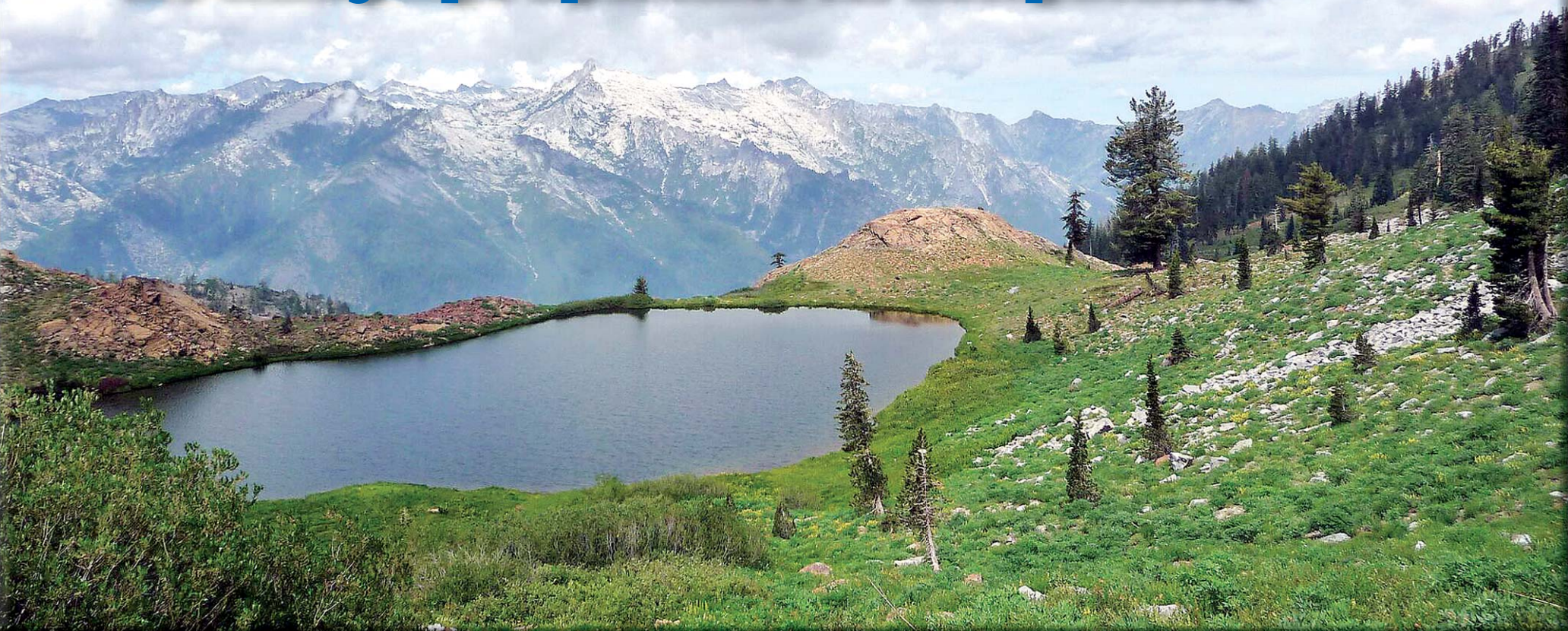
Find it Online  
 Susanville Ranch Park  
[issusanvillerranchpark.com](http://issusanvillerranchpark.com)

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

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

Lassen County Visitors Guidebook  
[lassennews.com/lassen-county-visitors-guide/](http://lassennews.com/lassen-county-visitors-guide/)

# Granite spires and emerald lakes make the Trinity Alps a paradise for backpackers



Mountain Lake in the Trinity Alps.

PHOTO / Mike McFadin

By Aaron Williams

There might not be a better place to socially distance yourself than the Trinity Alps – with over 800 square miles of people-free nature and beauty.

Need to get away from it all, but don't want to trek to the four corners of the Earth? The Trinity County backcountry is calling.

The Trinity Alps cover 821 square miles or 525,000 acres and feature 550 miles of maintained trails, including a 17-mile stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail, and offer something for everyone.

Most of the trailheads are accessible from Highway 299, Highway 3 and Forest Highway 93.

"The access is incredible, but it's definitely wild out there," said Wendy Ewing, a Washington state native who now calls Northern California home and runs Wild Beginnings Adventure Co.

From Caribou Basin to the Granite Lake Loop to Canyon Creeks, Ewing said the Trinity Alps are the epitome of a great hiking and camping trip.

And Trinity County has begun opening back up amid the state's phased re-opening. A list of business sectors that begun opening in early June include campgrounds, RV parks and outdoor recreation, hotel, bars and restaurants, among others.

As with most of the places that have reopened, visitors and locals alike are reminded to keep a socially distant buffer of six feet, wear a face covering when out among people and wash hands frequently.

But when you get out in the vast Trinity County spaces, the social distance kind of takes care of itself.

The trek to Caribou Basin can be daunting – roughly 19 miles roundtrip – with the trailhead at the Big Flat Campground off Coffee Creek Road north of Trinity Center. After a 17-mile drive to the trailhead, Caribou Basin offers the quintessential Trinity Alps experience with stops at Little Caribou Lake and an opportunity to hit Caribou Peak.

Two trails – the old and new – lead hikers in and out on the difficult-rated route with the new trail a little more reasonable in terms of grade.

The vistas offered along the way make the hike worthwhile as sweeping views of the Trinity Alps and other destinations in the mountains can be seen from places like Sawtooth Ridge.

The Granite Lake Loop, a 14-mile heavily trafficked trail near Trinity Center, also is a great hike.

The route, which has nearly 4,000 feet of elevation gain is rated difficult and open to both dogs and horses.

Amanda Barragar, a former Wilderness Patrol worker with the U.S. Forest Service who now co-directs Ascend Wilderness Experience, said Boulder Lakes is particularly well-suited for young hikers.

The trail is accessed from the Coffee Creek area off of Highway 3.

"This is a fantastic day hike, with plenty of room to picnic and swim," she said. "As an overnighter, it's a good option for parents introducing the idea of backpacking to their young children. The hike takes approximately

an hour to Big Boulder Lake—just long enough to feel immersed into the wilderness and reach a classic high alpine lake setting, but soon enough to 'quit while you're ahead' before any meltdowns from the kiddos."

Janette Storer, an avid backpacker and traveler, said the portion of the Pacific Crest Trail that slices through the Trinity Alps is one of the prettiest.

"The diversity of the trails and lakes along the PCT make it just about perfect," she said, adding she makes it into the Trinities about three to four times over the summer. "The Trinity Alps are as pretty as Yosemite and probably better because there aren't all those people."

Lake Eleanor and Shimmy Lake, which are accessed 13.3 miles north of Coffee Creek, are also good for families.

Lake Eleanor is three-tenths of a mile from the trailhead and an easy 7.2-mile round trip. Shimmy Lake is another 3.3 miles and promises a fair bit of solitude without the requirement of a long hike.

Ewing said finding a good guide book is essential as a resource for back-country hiking and camping.

And, she adds, take your time to explore, enjoy and even revel in the sore muscles from a good hike.

"For me, the solitude is worth it," Ewing said. "I've never been one to shy from a suffer-fest. After all, the soreness is worth the solitude and grandeur."

Trail permits and backcountry information can be obtained at the Weaverville Ranger Station, 360 Main St., Weaverville, (530-623-2121), open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

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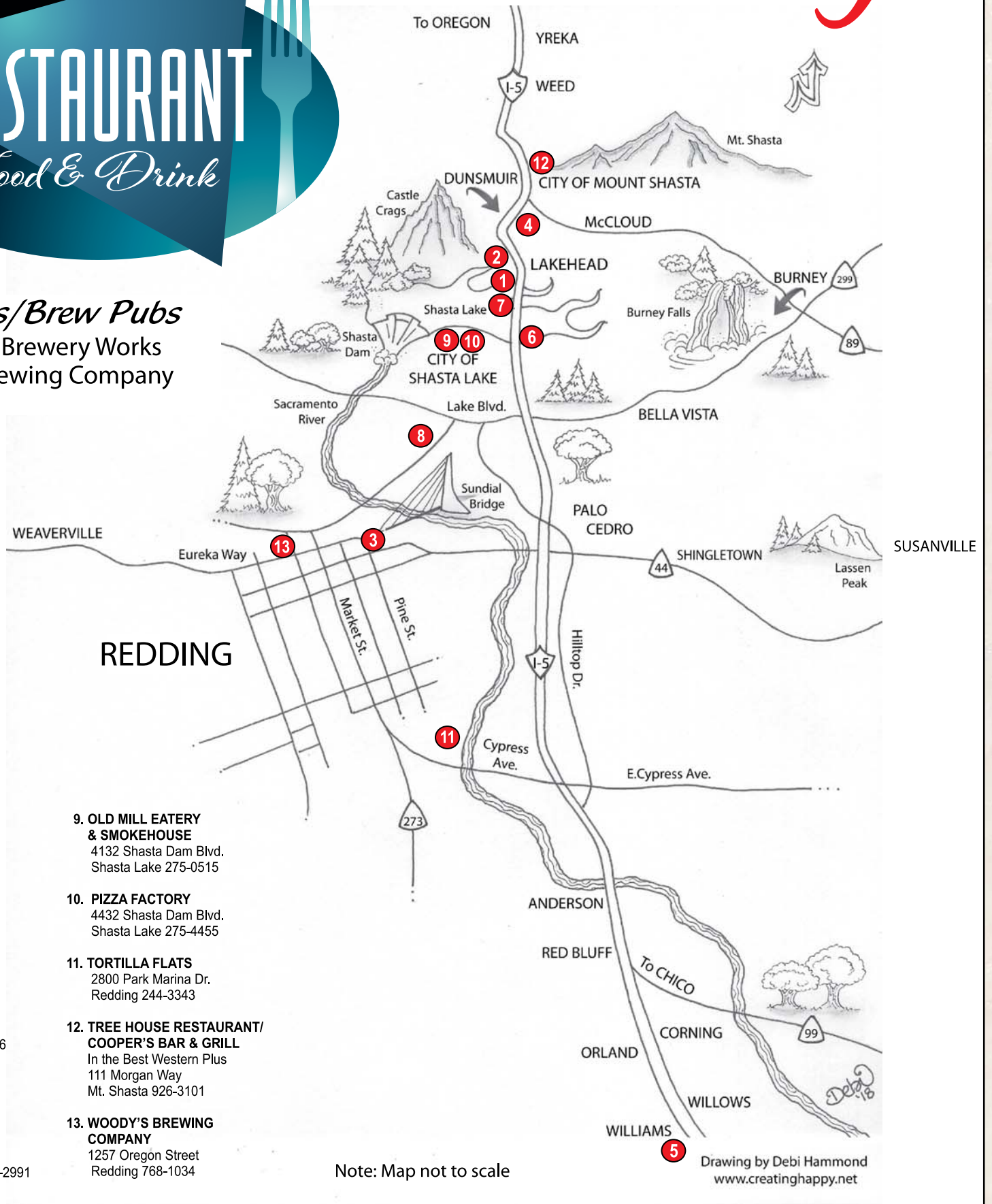


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# Looking for some links action? The north state has you covered

By Jon Lewis

Golf is a great way to take in the outdoors and provides a nice option after the hiking, biking, climbing, paddling and fishing are done. Fortunately, there are more than a dozen courses within about an hour's drive of the Shasta Lake and Redding area.

Options ranging from a quick jaunt around a 9-hole executive layout to an exhilarating tour through lush pines and emerald fairways with majestic snow-capped Mt. Shasta looming as a constant backdrop. Here's a quick scouting report on what's available generally from north to south:

## Weed Golf Course

This 9-hole track at 22730 Old Edgewood Road offers magnificent views, plenty of challenges and slick greens. Noted hole: The par-3 fourth. Hike up some stairs to one of three elevated tee boxes and catch your breath, but don't dwell on what's in front of you. The green is only about 150 yards away, but there's a nice pond to collect short shots, a greedy creek to collect long fades and a gnarly hill that will snag draws. Adding to the fun is a devilishly small, slick and mounded green. 938-9971. [www.weedgolfcourse.com](http://www.weedgolfcourse.com)

## Lake Shastina Golf Resort

This Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed beauty features 27 holes of the most spectacular golf in the north state. An 18-hole course is challenging, but fair and forgiving. And a 9-hole Scottish links course is a fun way to deviate from the norm. Noted hole: The par-5 ninth. Play it safe and try and hit it long and right, or up the risk-reward ante a bit and flirt with the large pond on the left. The cautious golfer is advised to position the ball for an approach over the pond; the gambler will be tempted to get home in two. Located at 5925 Country Club Drive off Highway 97 outside Weed; 938-3205. [www.lakeshastinagolf.com](http://www.lakeshastinagolf.com)

## Mount Shasta Resort

Snuggled up against Mt. Shasta, this 18-hole course requires accuracy, a thoughtful approach and shot-making skills. A truer test of golf is hard to find in the north state. Noted hole: The par-5 fourth. It's a journey through a lush forest of firs and pines, but you need to be careful the whole way, avoiding a dropoff on the right and an extra-thick stand of trees on the left. It's well worth the adventure, though. 1000 Siskiyou Lake Blvd. outside of Mount Shasta; 926-3030. [www.mountshastaresort.com](http://www.mountshastaresort.com)

## McCloud Golf Course

A fun and challenging 9-hole course in the old mill town to the west

of Mount Shasta is a hidden gem. At 96 years old, this historic track shares plenty of Mt. Shasta views. Noted hole: The par-4 second. Channel your inner lumberjack on this one. Your tee shot needs to avoid the forest on the right and carry about 180 yards, hopefully landing in front of or beyond a giant fir tree that blocks some approaches to a green angling off to the right about 150 yards away. 1001 Squaw Valley Road; 964-2535. [www.mccloudgolfclub.com](http://www.mccloudgolfclub.com)

## Fall River Golf and Country Club

Frequently cited as a favorite track in the north state, this Intermountain-area beauty rolls through pine and juniper forests and past abundant lakes. Noted hole: The par-5 third, a double dogleg beast that can play 660 yards from the back tees. 42889 Highway 299E; 336-5555. [www.fallrivergolf.com](http://www.fallrivergolf.com)

## Grape Ranch Golf Course:

Formerly known as Palo Cedro Golf Course, this 9-holer features plenty of water in its 3,057-yard layout. Noted hole: The par-5 fifth. Pull it too hard to the left and you're on Highway 44; hit an approach too far right and you're wet. The sloped green is tricky too. 22499 Golftime Road in Palo Cedro; 547-3012. [www.graperanchgolfclub.com](http://www.graperanchgolfclub.com)

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### The Golf Club at Tierra Oaks

This 18-hole championship-caliber golf course accepts public play. It emphasizes accuracy off the tee and nerves of steel. Noted hole: The par-5 second. Start with an intimidating tee shot and prepare for more frights, including crossing a creek and navigating a wickedly undulating green. 19700 La Crescenta Drive; 275-0795. [www.tierraoaksgolfclub.com](http://www.tierraoaksgolfclub.com)

### Gold Hills Golf Club

A true shot-makers dream, Gold Hills winds tightly through the neighborhood, making accuracy paramount. Golfers will use every club in the bag on this 18-hole course. Noted hole: The par-4 fourth. Fairly long and uphill all the way. Oaks and stately homes give pause and approach shots to a usually hidden green add to the fun. 1950 Gold Hills Drive; 246-7867. [www.goldhillsgolf.com](http://www.goldhillsgolf.com)

### Lake Redding Golf Course

A 9-hole course in the middle of Redding perfect for the beginning or the advanced player looking to get in a quick round. Noted hole: The par-3 fourth requires a tee shot over a pond with the majestic railroad trestle looming just to the left. 1795 Benton Drive; call 243-1930. [www.lakereddinggolfcourse.com](http://www.lakereddinggolfcourse.com)

### Allen's Golf Club

A family-friendly, tree-filled 9-hole course nestled into river bottom land in south Redding. It features a nice mix of easy par-3 holes and a couple of attention-grabbing par-4s. The 110-yard finishing hole offers a fun challenge as golfers aim for an elevated green guarded by an imposing oak. 2780 Sacramento Drive; 241-5055. [Allensgolfcourse.com](http://Allensgolfcourse.com)

### Churn Creek Golf Course

Another fun 9-holer that takes you through the Churn Creek Bottom area. Noted hole: The 445-yard par-4 ninth. Adding insult to injury, the green is tucked behind a pond. 7335 Churn Creek Road; 222-6353.

### Anderson Tucker Oaks

A forgiving and fun 9-hole course that's long enough to be challenging. Noted hole: The par-4 third. Long and well-guarded by the namesake oaks. 6241 Churn Creek Road; call 365-3350.

### Trinity Alps Golf Club

A great escape from the valley heat, this delightful 9-hole course is an easy 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 in Weaverville; 623-6209. [www.trinityalpsgolfclub.com](http://www.trinityalpsgolfclub.com)

### Wilcox Oaks Golf Club

A private course near Red Bluff that offers up manicured greens and plenty of challenges. Noted hole: The par-4 10th. Not the longest by any stretch but it requires a lay-up tee shot followed by an abrupt 90-degree turn to the left and an approach to an elevated green. 20995 Wilcox Golf Road in Red Bluff; 527-6680. [www.wilcoxoaksgolfclub.com](http://www.wilcoxoaksgolfclub.com)

### The Links at Rolling Hills

An 18-hole John Daly signature course formerly known as Sevillano Links. A true links course in every sense of the term located next to the Rolling Hills Casino. Noted hole: The par-5 15th. Offers a classic risk-reward scenario. Carry your tee shot over a lake on the left and you've got a chance at the green in two; opt for the safer route to the right and your approach has to negotiate some menacing greenside bunkers. 2657 Everett Freeman Way in Corning; 528-4600. [rollinghillscasino.com](http://rollinghillscasino.com)

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# North state regional attractions abound

There is so much to do and see in the north state—and particularly in the outdoors with lakes, rivers, mountains and forests all clamoring for attention—that it's a pretty tall order just coming up with a list.

Here are some of the regional attractions, grouped by county, that are worth a look when you've got some time to spend. Some you can find in more detail elsewhere in this publication.

**Shasta County**  
The **Sundial Bridge** in Redding is definitely on the must-see list as evident by the hundreds of visitors daily who check out the brilliant white engineering marvel that spans the Sacramento River, connecting Turtle Bay Exploration Park with the 200-acre arboretum and the Sacramento River Trail system.

Designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the 700-foot-long bridge is highlighted by its 217-foot mast that acts as a giant sundial. It opened in 2004.

**Turtle Bay Exploration Park** is a museum complex that interprets the relationship between humans and nature. It includes a 20-acre botanical garden, a natural history and science museum, a freshwater aquarium, a pair of art galleries and a forest camp.



BULLETIN PHOTO / Katie Harrington

Designed by architect Santiago Calatrava, the Sundial Bridge in Redding opened in 2004.



The Cascade Theatre in downtown Redding.

The **Cascade Theatre** in downtown Redding is an art deco movie palace that opened in 1935. It underwent a massive \$5 million restoration and reopened in 2004. The 999-seat theater has become a popular venue for concerts, plays and community events.

**French Gulch** is another fun spot to get an idea what gold mining was like back in the day. Founded by French miners in 1849, French Gulch at one point featured four saloons, two hotels, a post office, two stores and an assayer's office. Today, the French Gulch Hotel bed-and-breakfast and the E Franck & Company bar are great touchstones

to the town's colorful past.

**Subway Cave**, located 15 miles north of Lassen Park, offers another glimpse into the volcanic world. It's a self-guided tour of a lava tube that's about a third of a mile in length. Hard hats are not required, but sturdy shoes and a flashlight are. A coat may come in handy since the cave stays at a cool 46 degrees year-round.

**Trinity County**  
The **J.J. "Jake" Jackson Memorial Museum** in downtown Weaverville is packed with lessons on gold mining through the years. The museum grounds also include

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PHOTO / Michael Burke

### Abbey of New Clairvaux in Vina.

a history park where visitors can checkout a ditchtender's cabin, blacksmith, tinshop and stamp mill.

#### Siskiyou County

Although it pales in comparison to neighboring Mt. Shasta, **Black Butte** is still an impressive member of the volcano club. Rising up just east of Interstate 5, the collection of lava domes reaches an elevation of 6,325 feet. A 2.5-mile trail leads to the summit and rewards hikers with spectacular views of Mt. Shasta, Mt. Eddy and the Klamath Range.

The city of **Dunsmuir** is worth some investigation. The little alpine village is steeped in railroad lore and filled with interesting shops, fun restaurants and a botanical garden in the city park.

The **Living Memorial Sculpture Garden**, located on Highway 97, 13 miles north of Weed, is a moving, heartfelt array of striking metal sculptures that honor those who fought in Vietnam, Korea and World War II. It is a place of peace, reflection, reverence and remembrance.

#### Tehama County

A visit to Red Bluff, the Tehama County seat, will let travelers enjoy

a quintessential downtown. Browse the shops along Main Street and then go relax at the Cone & Kimball Plaza and admire the **75-foot-tall clock tower**.

While downtown, check out the historic **State Theatre**, which has been restored to its cinematic glory. Visit **Gaumer's Mineral and Mining Museum**, on Belle Mill Road, for a display of beautiful gems and rare mineral specimens.

The tiny community of Vina is home to the **Abbey of New Clairvaux**, a Trappist monastery and vineyard that is worth a visit.

The Tehama County city of Corning is known as the **Olive Capital of the World** and several farms offer tastings, gifts and occasional harvest celebrations.

#### Lassen County

The **Ash Creek Wildlife Area**, located in the heart of Big Valley, is one of the most remote, least improved and most pristine of all California Department of Fish and Wildlife's wildlife areas. The 14,754-acre preserve and freshwater wetlands is home to pronghorn antelope, sandhill cranes, bald eagles and more.



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# GO WITH THE FLOW

**Cool waterfalls found  
throughout the north state**

**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

By Aaron Williams

Being cooped up during the extended COVID-19 stay-at-home period has definitely made most appreciate those get-outside adventures.

And whether you're a north state visitor or local, getting out in nature feels pretty good.

But what to do on a socially distant outing? One word – waterfalls.

Normally a highlight of the north state's beauty, the bounty of cascades in the Redding area and within a few hours drive can't be understated.

From the crown jewel of Burney Falls to the magnificent trio of the McCloud Falls to the splendor of Mossbrae Falls and the many delights inside Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and Lassen Volcanic National Park, there are enough falls to spend a day traveling to various sites. Or you can take your time and check them off one by one.

Laurie Baker, CEO of the Redding Visitors Bureau, said the Waterfall Loop is a perfect activity for both residents and visitors.

"We locals have the privilege of living in an area that visitors only get to experience when on a trip away from home," Baker said. "One of many unique features that makes our area inviting is that we have nearly 50 waterfall hikes within a 90-minute drive of downtown Redding. I would venture to say that is a year's worth of outings.

"We are lucky to have enough to explore that we don't need to travel away to satisfy the urge to experience something new. We should take full advantage of what is in our own backyard."

The big news on the waterfall front surrounds **Mossbrae Falls** in Dunsmuir and its accessibility issues.

Getting to the sublime falls has been a largely ignored taboo – the only true way to access them is walking on the Union Pacific train tracks.

The land where the falls emanate is private property and the owners have steadfastly denied an access trail.

Well, according to media reports, late last year Siskiyou County Sheriff Jon Lopey sent a letter urging the railroad to find a solution to the issue in the name of safety. The city of Dunsmuir and the Mount Shasta Trail Association have reportedly met with Union Pacific about accessibility to the falls with one plan calling for a trail leading from **Hedge Creek Falls** to the Sacramento River, a bridge over the river and then an easement trail below the tracks to Mossbrae Falls.

"The good news is that after many years of working with UP, it's fair to say we're in negotiations (on an access plan)," said John Harch, president of the trail association.

While plenty of work and possible legal hurdles remain, he said the possibility of a two-fall tour from Hedge Creek across a bridge spanning the



PHOTO / Michael Burke

**Whiskeytown Falls is one of two out of four waterfalls in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area that are currently open to the public.**

Sacramento River leading to a trail to Mossbrae can be envisioned.

"It's clear that people will still be going to Mossbrae Falls and we need to create a route that's safe," he said.

## **Burney Falls**

Located at the McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, Burney Falls is a 129-foot spring-fed cascade and king of Northern California waterfalls (and the main photo on this year's North State Visitors Guide). So impressive are Burney Falls that

President Teddy Roosevelt once called it the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

The state park offers camping, hiking and boating on nearby Lake Britton, but visitors flock year-round to the location of Highway 89 just to see the impressive spring-fed falls.

In summer, the falls offer a chance to escape the valley heat and bask in the cooling mist from the many streams tumbling over the cliff. The warmer months are also a good time to dip a toe – or more depending on

how brave you are – in the pool below the falls.

“There’s no bad time to see the falls,” said Marlon Sloan, a park interpretive specialist.

Cooler months are ideal for not only visiting the falls, but hiking around the park’s many trails. One of the most breathtaking views is from the bridge across the stream just above the falls. In the winter, the mist and spray turn the area into a frozen wonderland that most certainly would make Elsa jealous.

#### McCloud Falls

Three separate, distinct and equally impressive cascades, all offer something different for all visitors.

Upper Falls spills out of a rock canyon and looks powerful despite its 25-foot high fall. Middle Falls is the largest and widest of the three falls. It spills about 75 feet down its rock face. You can watch the falls from a viewing area or hike down to the pool that collects the falls. The water is icy, even in the summer, but hearty souls will swim in the collection pool.

Lower Falls, near the Fowlers Campground, is not just the final of the three falls. It’s a go-to spot in the summer. Lower Falls is only 20 to 25 feet tall, but years of erosion have created a deep pool that attracts thrill-seekers to want to jump into. A rock path allows for an easy climb back up to jump again. If you do want to take the plunge, water shoes are advisable. Social media reports of underwater rock shifts advise those wishing to jump to do so with caution.

#### Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

While much of the expanse west of Redding continues its rebirth following the 2018 Carr fire, the waterfalls in the park have also begun to open.

However, visitors should pay special attention to messages on the park’s website as much of the burn scar area above the falls is susceptible to flash flood and can be closed intermittently for safety.

Two of the park’s four waterfalls are open for hikers and adventurers – **Crystal Creek and Whiskeytown falls**. The two cascades can be accessed from Crystal Creek Road.

“Both are beautiful spots and are getting a fair amount of traffic,” said park Superintendent Josh Hoines. “The other two are just going to take some additional time, and things like COVID don’t help.”

He said **Brandy Creek and Boulder Creek falls remain closed to visitors**, adding that much of the area didn’t burn in the Carr fire, but bridges and handrails leading to both falls were washed out last year with heavy rain activity.

“We’re hoping to get them open in a year if everything goes perfectly,” he said.

Nonetheless, the two open falls inside the park are close enough to town for a day trip and challenging enough to get the blood flowing as shelter-in-place conditions expire.

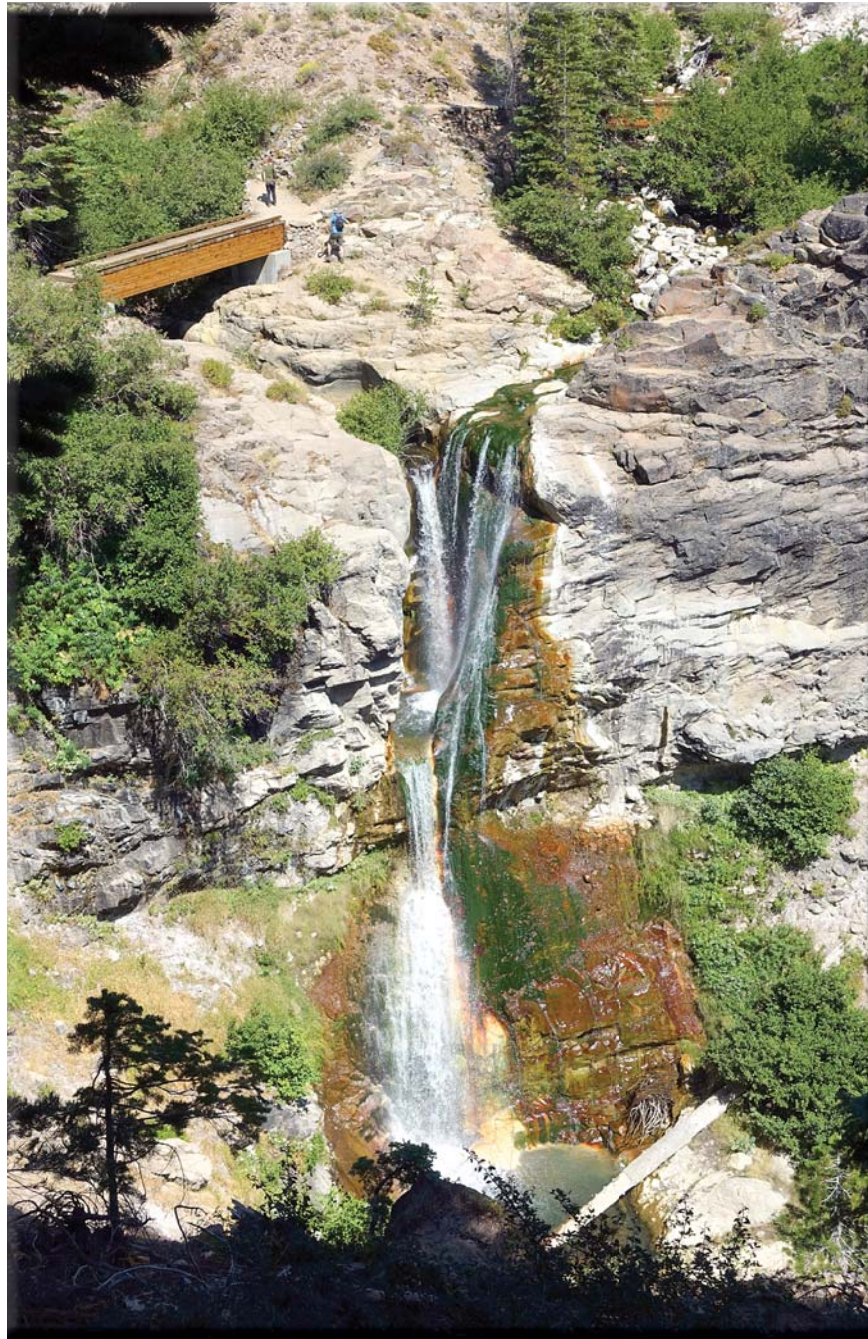


PHOTO / John Soares

**Mill Creek Falls in Lassen Volcanic National Park spills 75 to 80 feet and is the tallest falls in the park.**

As with other areas of the park, Hoines reminds visitors to check the website for current conditions and restrictions.

#### Lassen Volcanic National Park

Access to the park’s many splendid waterfalls typically comes in June or July as crews clear snow from the mountain road slicing through the park. However, the COVID pandemic halted work on that removal and slowed the opening of the park to visitors.

While some access to the park has been granted, other areas, as of mid-June, remain off limits.

However, when thru traffic happens in the park, there are several waterfall visiting opportunities that guests should take advantage of.

The first is **Kings Creek Falls**. One of the more popular in the park, Kings Creek Falls is a 2.4-mile moderate roundtrip hike that leads to a roaring cascade tumbling down a fern-filled canyon. The trailhead is on the road to the summit, and reports in mid-June said that was still snow covered. However, years when the

snowpack is generous lead to Kings Creek Falls at its rip-roaring best.

The other of the park’s must-see cascades is **Mill Creek Falls**, near the east entrance of the park and close to Bumpass Hell, the boiling mud pits which, as of mid-June, were closed. Mill Creek spills 75 feet (the tallest falls in the park) and is a 3.8-mile out-and-back trip rated as moderate. The trailhead is near the park’s entrance and the trail features meadows teeming with wildflowers, several small stream crossings and tons of amazing views.

#### Castle Crags State Park

Vehicle traffic inside the park near Castella was closed in mid-June, but the hiking through the park is accessible as the Pacific Crest Trail slices through the amazing granite spires.

Two falls of note at Castle Crags are **Burstarse and Root Creek falls**.

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



PHOTO / Katarina Kono

**Hatchet Falls, whose real name is the Lions Slide Falls, main draw is the swimming hole and fallen tree.**

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 Crags 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.

#### ...And More

Among the most popular waterfalls in the region – especially with the younger crowd – are **Hatchet Falls** and **Potem Falls**. Each falls offers a luxurious swimming hole along with the opportunity to a bit of falls-diving if you’re hearty enough.

Potem Falls is a 70-foot spill into a 100-foot wide pool that’s perfect for cooling off during the sweltering summer months. Off Fenders Ferry Road, between the towns of Round Mountain and Montgomery Creek, Potem is a short hike from the unmarked trailhead nearly nine miles off Highway 299. (See a photo of the falls in the story on Shasta Lake, which begins on page 20).

Hatchet Falls, whose real name is the **Lions Slide Falls**, is a smaller waterfall, but the draw is definitely the swimming hole and fallen tree that serves as ladder and jump-off point into the chilly pool the falls creates. A short trek off Big Bend Road off Highway 299 from an unmarked trailhead leads you to the stunning views of the falls and the cobble-dammed pool.

Finally, a relatively “new” spot has emerged outside of Mount Shasta in **Faery Falls**. The 1.5 mile hike features a mild 200 foot elevation gain and can be accessed along WA Barr Road and the road to Castle Lake. Once at Faery Falls, you’ll wonder why you hadn’t been there prior. A 50-foot cascade spills into a canyon that frames its beauty in a picture-perfect backdrop.



## Fishing: Socially distant and fun with plenty of angling options

By Jon Lewis

Interested in a popular north state pastime with a built-in social distancing bonus? No problem. Just take a line, a pole and a fishing hole and add an angler.

Even when fishing with a friend, there's enough room in the boat to follow safety protocols, and if you're on the shore, it's easy enough to spread out a bit.

The important thing is you're outdoors and reveling in the fisherman's paradise known as the north state—where anglers are rarely more than an hour's drive away from a chance for spotted bass, rainbow trout, catfish, salmon, steelhead, kokanee, crappie, shad, striped bass and even sturgeon.

**Shasta Lake** is the big draw, and here are a few tips:

Fishing on the lake is at its best during late spring and into the start of summer. Both trout and bass



**Young lady shows off her catch while fishing the lower Sacramento River.**

are near the water's surface by the middle of May, and for bass, anglers usually do well with Senkos and similar plastic worms, top-water baits like the Zara Spook and tubes

like the Gitzit and Strike King.

The cooler surface water should last into late June, and during that time trout are busy feeding near the surface. For the rainbows, it's hard to go wrong with tossing out a nightcrawler or some Powerbait.

During the dog days of summer, the warm water slows down the bass bite so anglers are advised to fish during the late evening, using jigs, spinnerbaits and top-water baits. Trout tend to go deep during the summer months and anglers will most likely need a downrigger to get their lures and blades down 40 feet or more.

For anglers on the shore, it's hard to go wrong with live bait like minnows, crawdads and nightcrawlers. And don't get too fancy with the rig; maybe add a split-shot and let the bait swim around or drift with the current.

From a boat, try working around the points and next to submerged

trees and other structure, using super flukes (soft rubber fish-like "twitch" baits), brush hogs (which resemble little aquatic creatures) and Senkos (weighted plastic worms).

The lower **Sacramento River** is a treat as well, especially for fly fishers. Nymphing with caddis pupas, rubberlegs, egg patterns and micro mayflies are pretty traditional fish-getters.

Keep in mind the upper stretch of the river, from Keswick Dam to the Highway 44 bridge in Redding, is closed through July 31. The four-month closure is intended to protect spawning winter-run salmon.

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 plenty of opportunities for trout and bass.

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# More things to do around the north state in the *GREAT OUTDOORS*

With its abundant natural resources, the north state is known far and wide as a great place to go fishing, camping and hiking.

It's got a few other activities up its sleeve, though, and here's a list:

## Rock Climbing

Castle Crags, the dramatic rock formation visible from Interstate 5 between Castella and Dunsmuir, is a favorite destination for rock climbing enthusiasts.

"There's just so much out there and it's accessible by everyone," said Farren Forcella, an avid climber.

Lover's Leap, a formation near Etna in Scott Valley, is another hot spot. At Lassen Volcanic National Park, the cliffs below Eagle Peak draw a lot of attention.

More info: "Mt. Shasta Area Rock Climbing – A Climber's Guide to Siskiyou County" by Grover Shipman [orshastaguides.com/rock-climbing/](http://orshastaguides.com/rock-climbing/)



PHOTO / Buddy Fairbanks

**The fourth hole at Enterprise Park disc golf course.**

## Disc Golf

There are a variety of courses open in the north state and even a pro shop, Redding Disc Golf (2610 Bechelli Lane, Suite B), to outfit players of all abilities.

Popular courses include one at Enterprise Community Park, 4000 Victor Ave. in Redding, and another in Shasta Lake at 2600 Virginia Ave. Other courses can be found in Anderson River Park, Lee Fong Park in Weaverville, Miner's Point in Junction City, Red Bluff (Dog Island), Shastice Park (Mount Shasta) and College of the Siskiyous in Weed.

More info: [www.reddingdiscgolf.com](http://www.reddingdiscgolf.com) and [www.dgcoursereview.com](http://www.dgcoursereview.com)



## BMX Bike Racing

Don't let the bike's diminutive size



PHOTO / Wendy Ewing

**Farren Forcella, an avid north state climber, shown here climbing at Castle Crags, the dramatic rock formation visible from Interstate 5 between Castella and Dunsmuir.**

fool you: BMX (bicycle motocross) is big deal in the north state.

In the city of Shasta Lake, races are held on a regular basis at the Nor Cal Boomtown BMX track in Margaret Polf Park on Shasta Dam Boulevard at Sacramento Street.

Races also are held at the Red Rock BMX track at 650 Antelope Blvd. in Red Bluff. Mike Puckett is the track operator and can be reached at (530) 526-3836.

More info: [www.usabmx.com/tracks/0987](http://www.usabmx.com/tracks/0987)



PHOTO / Michael Burke

## Off-Road Motoring

The Chappie-Shasta OHV Area offers more than 250 miles of roads that are open to motorcyclists, all-terrain vehicle drivers and quad runners. Visitors to the rolling, brushy hills near Shasta Lake will find off-highway vehicle riding challenges for all abilities.

Named after former Cong. Eugene Chappie, the OHV Area is open year-round. It is located on the west side of Shasta Dam. A campground is available.

More info: [reddingdirtriders.com](http://reddingdirtriders.com)

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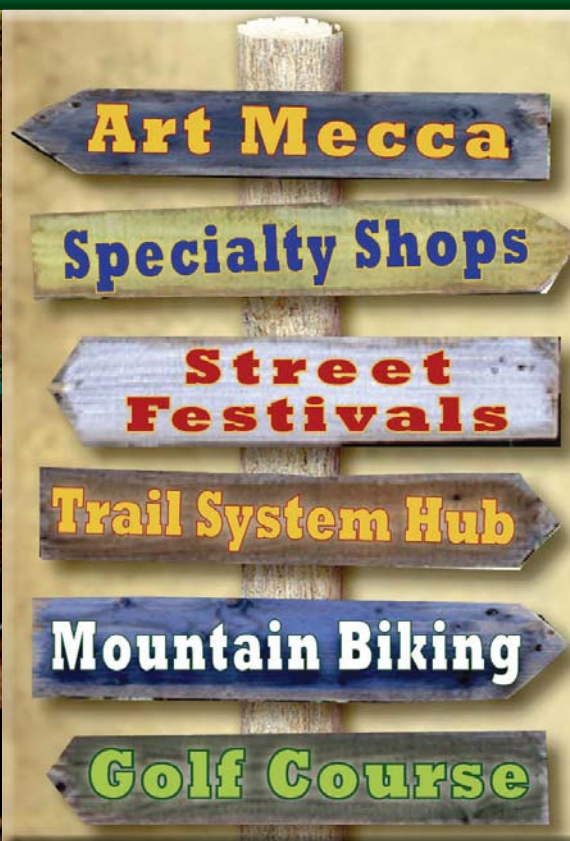
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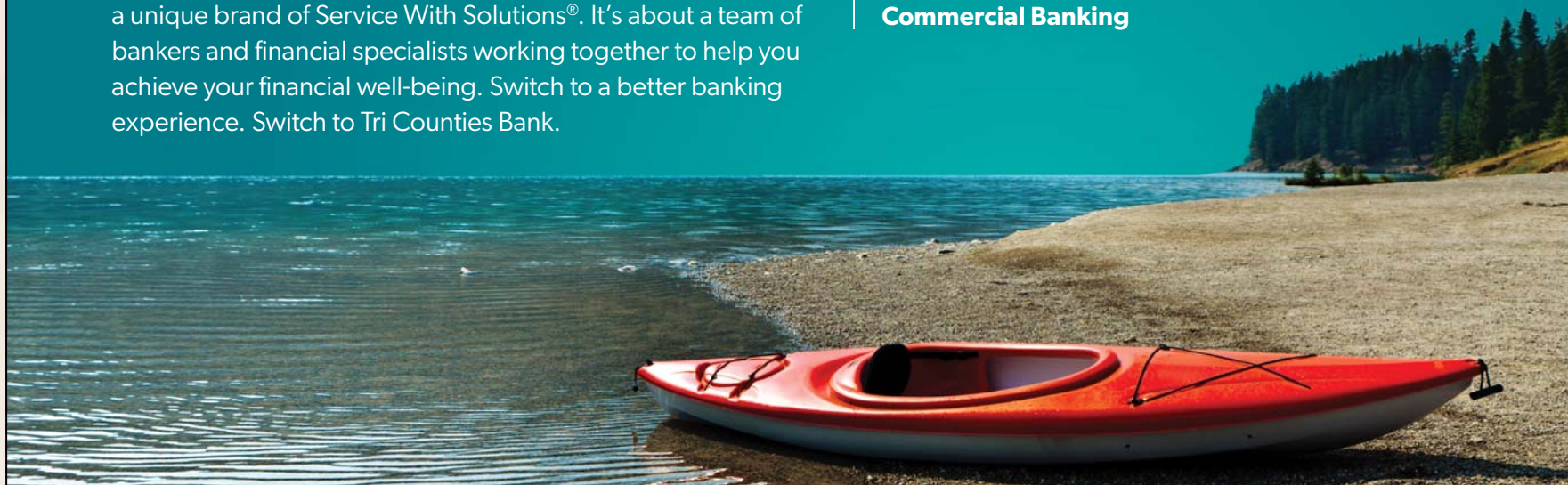


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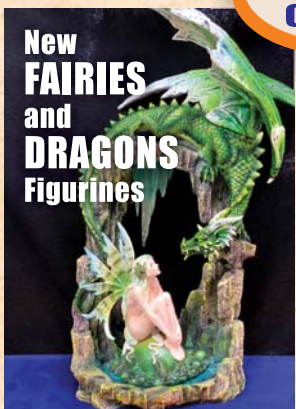
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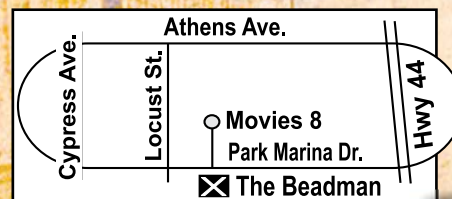
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