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# California

2024  
OFFICIAL  
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**58**

Reasons Why  
California Is  
the Ultimate  
Playground



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# THERE'S LOTS TO LOVE IN SAN JOSE

Look beyond the sheen of Silicon Valley to discover a cultural city full of heart.

Splashes of color adorn the walls of downtown San Jose, where larger-than-life murals are just one way to learn about the vibrant communities that shape this historic city. While San Jose may be known as a modern hub of innovation, its cultural heritage is just as meaningful.

From the tantalizing flavors found in Japantown to the lively spots of Little Italy, every neighborhood has a tale to tell. Inspirational stories of Mexican culture are told through the voices of artists and chefs who bring their creative flair to the city. From inside the charming Pastelaria Adegas Portuguese bakery — where the display case is filled with handmade “pastel del nata” (custard tart in Portuguese) — you might never know that its sister restaurant down the road, Petiscos by Adegas, has the first Michelin-starred chef in San Jose.

VISIT  
**SAN JOSE**  
CALIFORNIA

**DID YOU KNOW?** San Jose is one of the most diverse culinary cities in the country. Savor global cuisine including Vietnamese, North and South Indian, Middle Eastern, Mexican, and more.



You're always welcome to explore this exciting city that boasts 300 days of sunshine a year. Start with a stroll through San Pedro Square Market and grab a morning beverage at Voyager Craft Coffee. Head to the SoFA District to pop into an array of art galleries and live music venues that fill this trendy neighborhood. From designer shopping on Santana Row to sipping estate-grown, award-winning wine in the privately owned Alamitos Vineyards, your days of discovery are absolutely endless.

How will you find your way in San Jose? Pick your path — whether it's art, cuisine, shopping or the outdoors — and see where your sense of curiosity can take you.



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY FOUR SEASONS NAPA VALLEY; COURTESY KIDSPACE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM; STEPH HELGUERA/COURTESY RORY'S PLACE; COURTESY SIERRA MOUNTAIN CENTER



Golden Gate Bridge



World Dog Surfing Championships



Zoey Deschanel



# Welcome to the Ultimate Playground!

**I**t's hard to imagine somebody who characterizes California's playful, creative, good-natured spirit better than our cover star, Zoey Deschanel. The actor, musician, and mother of two balances her serious side—she's striving to make healthy food more accessible—with a lighthearted love for the Golden State.

You might find her visiting Pasadena's botanic gardens or Disneyland with her kids, or she might be road-tripping to Ojai, Santa Barbara, or the northern redwoods—the same places she loved as a child growing up in Los Angeles.

As she recalls, "I remember looking out the window of the car, and the sun coming in, and having this special feeling that is very much associated with the beauty that is California."

Deschanel's childlike wonder has been a defining characteristic throughout her career, and it's also an organizing principle in these pages. Californians are uniquely committed to having a good time, and we've

captured that devotion in our spotlight feature, "58 Reasons Why California Is the Ultimate Playground" (page 32). At our beaches, dogs compete in surfing contests.

On our mountains, skiers cruise the slopes wearing tank tops in July. In San Diego, cosplay devotees spend months perfecting their Comic-Con getups. Even our museums ratchet up the fun: Did you know you can record your very own Oscar acceptance speech at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles?

This sense of play permeates the state's 12 distinct travel regions and accommodates every type of traveler. On page 162, master sommelier Evan Goldstein guides you to his favorite San Francisco meals—from burgers at SOMA's Marlowe to Turkish fare and dim sum in the Richmond district. On

page 166, you'll find a perfect three-day itinerary for exploring Napa Valley. You'll also discover off-the-radar wine regions in Lake County and Santa Clarita, a speakeasy in

Mendocino's redwoods that you can only reach by train, Eureka's fabulously pink Victorian hotel, a towering cinder cone in Lassen Volcanic National Park, and much more.

Think of this magazine as an invitation to California's Ultimate Playground. Whatever style of play speaks to you, you'll find it here.



CAROLINE BETETA  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, VISIT CALIFORNIA

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: CAN BALOGU/GETTY IMAGES; JOSH EDELSON/GETTY IMAGES; ERIK CARTER/AUGUST; VISIT CALIFORNIA



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Head over to our YouTube channel to see everything California has to offer. Discover how California truly is the ultimate playground by exploring the endless ways you can enjoy the Golden State.

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# EXPLORE OUR 12 TOURISM REGIONS

## **i** CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTERS<sup>SM</sup>

Stop by our state Welcome Centers to pick up free guides, talk to local travel experts, and get tips on dining and lodging. Please contact the center directly or go to [visitcwc.com](http://visitcwc.com) to confirm the center is open. Welcome Centers are listed here, north to south in each region.

### **■ SHASTA CASCADE**

ANDERSON • 1699 Highway 273; 530/365-1180

### **■ NORTH COAST**

UKIAH • 200 South School St.; 707/391-0474

### **■ GOLD COUNTRY**

AUBURN • 1103 High St., Suite 150; 530/887-2111  
EL DORADO HILLS • 2085 Vine St., Suite 105; 916/358-3700

### **■ SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

SANTA ROSA • 9 Fourth St.; 800/404-7673  
SAN FRANCISCO • PIER 39, #B16, 2nd Level; 415/377-2707

### **■ HIGH SIERRA**

MAMMOTH LAKES • 2510 Main St.; 760/924-5500  
or 1-888/466-2666

### **■ CENTRAL VALLEY**

FAIRFIELD • Jelly Belly Candy Company, 1 Jelly Belly Lane; 877/793-7386  
MODESTO • 1008 12th St.; 209/526-5588

### **■ CENTRAL COAST**

GILROY • 8155-6 Arroyo Circle, Building A; 408/842-6436  
SALINAS • I-A Station Place; 831/757-8687  
PISMO BEACH • Pismo Beach Premium Outlets, 333 5 Cities Dr.; 805/668-7354

### **■ LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

LOS ANGELES • 100 Citadel Dr., Suite 480; 323/888-1724  
TORRANCE • Del Amo Fashion Center, 3525 W. Carson St.; 424/392-7495

### **■ DESERTS**

RIDGECREST • 880 N. China Lake Blvd.; 760/375-8202  
BARSTOW • 2796 Tanger Way, Suite 100; 760/253-4782  
CABAZON • Cabazon Outlets, 48750 Seminole Dr., #100; 951/922-3000  
YUCCA VALLEY • 56711 Twentynine Palms Highway; 760/365-5464

### **■ ORANGE COUNTY**

SAN CLEMENTE • 101 W. Avenida Vista Hermosa, Suite 190; 949/535-2323

### **■ INLAND EMPIRE**

ONTARIO • Ontario Mills Mall, One Mills Circle, Suite 1054; 909/980-2019

### **■ SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

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While you're in California, look for the "traveling bear" sign to find our statewide centers.





# On Trend: California Aperitifs

SHARING A DRINK BEFORE DINNER IS A EUROPEAN TRADITION, BUT NEW-WAVE PRODUCERS ARE PUTTING A GOLDEN STATE SPIN ON CENTURIES-OLD RECIPES

**W**hen you sit down to have an aperitif, you're participating in history. "It's a way to hit 'pause' before the evening meal," says Georgeanne Brennan, cookbook author and co-owner of L'Apéro les Trois aperitifs, based in Winters. "Think of it as a transition, a moment in time that separates the workday from the pleasures of the table."

While the fizzy orange Aperol Spritz is Instagram's favorite aperitif, it's just one splash in a sea of pre-dinner spirits.

California producers make aperitifs in a range of flavors and colors: Ventura Spirits crafts Amaro Angeleno bitter liqueur with Valencia orange peels, then mixes it with soda water and grapefruit to produce its Angeleno Spritz, packaged in colorful cans. Napa-based Mommempop makes aperitifs dominated by California citrus—Meyer lemons, blood oranges, and ruby grapefruits. Sonoma's Jardesca infuses aperitifs with botanicals like pink peppercorn, ginger,

cardamom, and bay leaf. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Veso blends organic fruit and whole spices with California white wines, and Ortolan Rosolio distills 30 varieties of heirloom roses to create a fragrant, amber-colored aperitif.

L'Apéro les Trois crafts its products with California fruits and nuts—black mission figs, Blenheim apricots, green walnuts, Meyer lemons, and homestead quince. The orchard-fresh ingredients are grown within five miles of the Winters tasting room, then infused into fortified wines from neighboring Berryessa Gap Vineyards.

"We're making the old styles of aperitifs, but with our fruits," Brennan says.

The fusion of old and new results in an aperitif that's colorful, refreshing to drink, and has a moderately low alcohol content of 15 to 16 percent, equivalent to a Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

In the L'Apéro les Trois tasting room, patrons linger over aperitif flights and appetizers while a piano pipes out dinner jazz.

"People come in here and say it's like being in France," Brennan says. "Having an aperitif lends itself to sharing time with family and friends. It speaks to our appetite for slowing down."



Ortolan Rosolio





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# Next-Level Glamping

MOVE OVER, TENTS. GLAMPING IS BETTER THAN EVER. DITCH THE CAMPING GEAR FOR A SLIM OVERNIGHT BAG, THEN SLEEP SOMEWHERE SPECIAL.



## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

### Mendocino Grove

#### MENDOCINO

Sleep under the stars—not on the ground—in an upscale canvas cabin in a prime location near the coast. Visit local beaches, take a yoga class, join a guided hike, or relax in the sauna. Ocean-view premium cabins are worth the upgrade.

### Huttopia Wine Country

#### CLEAR LAKE

Tip the luxury camping scale at this oak-studded resort in Lake County's wine country. Top-quality tent cabins are decked out with private baths, kitchenettes, and electricity. An onsite "Airstream bistro" serves meals and snacks.

### The Highlands

#### GUERNEVILLE

Choose your opulence level—canvas tent cabin or king spa cabin with soaking tub and gas fireplace? Hike through the redwoods or paddle the Russian River, then dine at Crista Luedtke's boon eat + drink or Brot—both are an easy walk from camp.

### Tenaya at Yosemite Explorer Cabins

#### FISH CAMP

Why rough it when you can bunk in a two-bedroom cabin with a wet bar and walk-in shower? Tour Yosemite's giant sequoias and tumbling waterfalls, then sign up for guided bike rides, nighttime walks, and archery lessons.





# Enjoy the best of Monterey on Cannery Row

Natural wonders abound in Monterey, and there simply is no better place to experience it all than with a stay on Cannery Row. Known for its picturesque charm and colorful history, guests to this fabled street can enjoy a unique combination of luxurious waterfront hotels, enticing restaurants and captivating boutiques. Come, slow down and enjoy the best of Monterey on Cannery Row.



[CANNERYROW.COM](http://CANNERYROW.COM)







Post Ranch Inn

## CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

### The Camp at Carmel Valley

CARMEL VALLEY

Think of this hilltop ranch as an all-ages summer camp. You'll stay in a cozy cabin, make new friends in the dining hall, and roast s'mores at night. Days fly by with swimming, tennis, and lawn games.

### Post Ranch Inn

BIG SUR

For ultra-posh glamping, you can't beat these triangular-shaped treehouses perched on stilts among the redwoods. Tear yourself away from the forest views to walk the resort's trails and soak in oceanfront hot tubs.

### Geneseo Inn

PASO ROBLES

Sleep in style in Cass Winery's shipping-container suites with floor-to-ceiling windows and private decks. Sip Syrah, take a cooking class, ride horses, or soak up vineyard views. Breakfast arrives at your door each morning.

### El Capitan Canyon

GOLETA

On the Santa Barbara Coast, choose from cabins or yurts with dome skylights. Hiking, yoga, and concerts are just a handful of the onsite activity options.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### Caravan Outpost

OJAI

Glamp it up in an Airstream caravan tucked among palms and tropical foliage. Loaner bikes, chaise lounges, and an outdoor firepit add to the Tommy Bahama vibes. Scout Ojai's art galleries, eateries, and outdoor bookstore, or hike trails in Los Padres National Forest.

### Huttopia Paradise Springs

VALYERMO

An artesian spring fills the sparkling swimming pool at this high-desert enclave. Spacious tent cabins are dolled up with king beds, down comforters, private baths, and solar power. Hungry? Order French crêpes at the onsite bistro.

### AutoCamp Joshua Tree

JOSHUA TREE

At this desert oasis, Airstream trailers with spa-like bathrooms and outdoor showers surround a mid-century modern clubhouse, open-air bar, and plunge pool. Explore Joshua Tree, then heat up a chef-prepared meal on your campfire.

### Getaway Big Bear

RUNNING SPRINGS

These "tiny cabins" feel just like home with bathrooms, kitchens, and huge windows overlooking pine-clad hills. Chill out by your firepit or day-trip to Big Bear Lake.



Getaway Big Bear

FROM TOP: KODIAK GREENWOOD/COURTESY POST RANCH INN; COURTESY GETAWAY BIG BEAR





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# 8 New Trails to Explore

SET OFF ON THESE FRESHLY BUILT TRAILS—FROM THE NORTHERN REDWOOD FORESTS TO THE SOUTHERN COAST



	Location	Distance	The Latest	Insider Tip
<b>GAM SAAN TRAIL</b>	Lotus	2.5 miles, moderate	This path connects Henningsen Lotus Park with Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, skirting through woodlands above the South Fork American River.	Fortune-seeking Chinese miners called the California gold fields “Gam Saan” or “Gold Mountain.”
<b>UPPER CITY VIEW TRAIL</b>	Low Gap Regional Park, Ukiah	1.1 miles, moderate	Hikers can trek up City View Trail to reach the new Upper City View Trail. Follow the twisty path through leafy woodland to gain a high overlook of the Ukiah Valley.	Wildflowers put on a show in April and May; look for showy irises and secretive checker lilies.
<b>SARATOGA TO THE SKYLINE TRAIL</b>	Quarry Park, Santa Clara County	9.6 miles, hard	This trail connects the South Bay to the Santa Cruz Mountains via a dog-friendly path. The path crosses five bridges in five miles to Sanborn Skyline County Park.	Leave a shuttle car parked at Skyline Blvd. so you can trek the full 9.6 miles one way.
<b>SAN VICENTE REDWOODS LOOP</b>	Scotts Valley	4.4-mile loop, moderate	The first phase of a 38-mile trail system opened in December 2022. The loop travels through a forest bursting with new life after a 2020 wildfire.	You can register for a free trail pass at <a href="http://landtrustsantacruz.org">landtrustsantacruz.org</a> before visiting.
<b>XAA-YUU-CHIT TES-DVM</b>	Hiouchi, Del Norte County	1 mile, easy	Built in 2022, a woody path traces through redwood groves and meadows to connect Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park with Hiouchi.	State park campers can walk or bike this path to breakfast or lunch at Hiouchi Café.
<b>GRASSHOPPER LOOP</b>	La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, San Francisco	1.3-mile loop, easy	Tranquility reigns on this pathway carving through pasturelands and forests. The loop passes grazing cows then enters groves of Douglas firs and redwoods.	Look for western leatherwood, an unusual shrub that flowers only in winter.
<b>HARMON CANYON PRESERVE</b>	Ventura	3.8-mile loop, moderate	In Ventura’s first large-scale nature preserve, trek up Harmon Canyon Trail, then return on Farr Family Trail for views of the Santa Clara River Valley and coast.	Spot rusting tools and machinery from this land’s past life as a lima bean farm and cattle ranch.
<b>SADDLEBACK WILDERNESS</b>	Irvine Ranch Open Space, Orange	2.5-mile loop, easy	This former motocross park was reborn as a restored wilderness area where you can trek through chaparral-clad hills to a 360-degree vista of the coast.	Keep your binoculars ready to spot the endangered California gnatcatcher.





## GENERAL INFORMATION

### OVERVIEW

**visitcalifornia.com** The official California visitor's website explores the state's 12 tourism regions, with tips on what to do and where to stay, videos featuring some of the state's most interesting experiences, and details about must-see attractions and destinations.

### California Welcome Centers<sup>SM</sup>

Look for the "traveling bear" road signs to find the California Welcome Centers. Load up on information, brochures, and maps that can guide you to your ultimate California vacation. See page 7 for a map of all the locations.

**California Now blog** To find the most up-to-date California news—including the latest on events, festivals, attractions, and more—go to [visitcalifornia.com/now](https://www.visitcalifornia.com/now)

**California State Parks** Experience the beauty of nature, sleep under the stars, see seal pups, enjoy a picnic, or learn something new. [parks.ca.gov](https://parks.ca.gov)

### #RespectCalifornia

Visit California encourages all travelers to explore the state in a thoughtful manner, respecting our communities, our environment, and our businesses. For more information about enjoying California's outdoor spaces, check out the #RespectCalifornia Travel hub: [VisitCalifornia.com/respect](https://www.visitcalifornia.com/respect)

### WHERE TO STAY

**California Association of Boutique & Breakfast Inns (CABBI)** Experience a room with a different view at a certified bed-and-breakfast or boutique inn. 800/373-9251; [cabbi.com](https://www.cabbi.com)

**Camp-California.com** To obtain a copy of CalARVC's "Camp-California! The Camper's Guide to California," or to search online for RV parks/campgrounds by amenities, facilities, or location, visit [camp-california.com](https://www.camp-california.com)

### California Hotel & Lodging Association

**(CHLA)** The voice of the California lodging industry, CHLA protects and promotes the interests of the lodging industry and the value of California travel and tourism. 800/678-2462; [calodging.com](https://www.calodging.com)

### California Lodging Industry Association

**(CLIA)** California's premier lodging industry association, CLIA serves lodging owners and their management teams. 1017 L St. #527, Sacramento, CA 95814. 916/925-2915; [info@clia.org](mailto:info@clia.org); [clia.org](https://www.clia.org)



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## SAN DIEGO COUNTY (801)

See ads, pgs. 64-71

- 1 Bahia Resort Hotel
- 2 Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa
- 3 San Diego Tourism Authority
- 4 San Diego Zoo/San Diego Zoo Safari Park
- 5 The Lodge at Torrey Pines
- 6 Visit Carlsbad
- 7 Visit Oceanside

## DESERTS (802)

See ads, pgs. 72-79

- 8 Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
- 9 The Oasis at Death Valley

## INLAND EMPIRE (803)

See ads, pgs. 80-87

- 10 GOCAL (Greater Ontario, California)
- 11 Visit Big Bear

## ORANGE COUNTY (804)

See ads, pgs. 88-97

- 12 Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach
- 13 OC Fair & Event Center
- 14 South Coast Plaza
- 15 The Waterfront Beach Resort, a Hilton Hotel
- 16 Visit Buena Park
- 17 Visit Dana Point
- 18 Visit Huntington Beach
- 19 Visit Laguna Beach

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY (805)

See ads, pgs. 98-109

- 20 Discover Claremont
- 21 Santa Monica Travel & Tourism
- 22 SoFi Stadium Tours
- 23 Visit Pasadena
- 24 Visit Santa Clarita
- 25 Visit West Hollywood
- 26 Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood

## CENTRAL COAST (806)

See ads, pgs. 110-121

- 27 Cannery Row
- 28 City of Solvang
- 29 Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park
- 30 Pismo Beach
- 31 Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay
- 32 San Luis Obispo
- 33 Santa Maria Valley
- 34 See Monterey
- 35 Spirit of San Juan Bautista, CA
- 36 Tickle Pink Inn
- 37 Ventura Harbor Village
- 38 Visit Camarillo
- 39 Visit Lompoc
- 40 Visit Oxnard
- 41 Visit Santa Barbara
- 42 Visit the Santa Ynez Valley
- 43 Visit Ventura

## CENTRAL VALLEY (807)

See ads, pgs. 122-131

- 44 Choice Hotels
- 45 Sequoia Tourism Council
- 46 Visit Bakersfield
- 47 Visit Fresno County
- 48 Visit Lodi
- 49 Visit Modesto
- 50 Visit Stockton
- 51 Visit Visalia
- 52 Visit Yolo
- 53 Wild Water Adventure Park

## HIGH SIERRA (808)

See ads, pgs. 132-145

- 54 Adventure Mountain Lake Tahoe
- 55 Aramark Yosemite
- 56 Bass Lake Chamber of Commerce
- 57 Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau
- 58 Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino
- 59 Clearly Tahoe Bikes
- 60 Clearly Tahoe Kayaks

- 61 Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort
- 62 Don Pedro Recreation Agency
- 63 Evergreen Lodge at Yosemite
- 64 Fresno Yosemite International Airport
- 65 Lake Tahoe Adventures
- 66 Lake Tahoe Balloons
- 67 Majestic Mountain Loop
- 68 Mammoth Lakes Tourism
- 69 Margaritaville Resort Lake Tahoe
- 70 Mono County Tourism
- 71 North Lake Tahoe
- 72 OARS California Rafting
- 73 Rush Creek Lodge & Spa at Yosemite
- 74 Sierra County Chamber of Commerce
- 75 Tahoe Chamber of Commerce
- 76 Tahoe Helicopters
- 77 Tahoe Lakeshore Lodge & Spa
- 78 Tenaya at Yosemite
- 79 The Loft Theatre
- 80 The Redwoods In Yosemite
- 81 Visit Lake Tahoe
- 82 Visit Tuolumne County
- 83 Visit Yosemite | Madera County
- 84 Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
- 85 Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad
- 86 Yosemite National Park
- 87 Yosemite's Scenic Wonders
- 88 Zephyr Cove Resort, Marina & RV Campground

## GOLD COUNTRY (809)

See ads, pgs. 146-157

- 89 Calaveras Visitors Bureau
- 90 Collins Lake Recreation Area
- 91 Hotel Lumberjack and Sonora Inn
- 92 River Fox Train
- 93 Sutter Creek Visitor Center
- 94 Visit Amador
- 95 Visit El Dorado
- 96 Visit Folsom



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1. Circle your choices on the tear-out card.
2. Write in your name and address.
3. Tear out the postage-paid card and mail.

Information for this card will not be provided after December 31, 2024.

## BY PHONE

1. Circle the items you are interested in receiving and have the numbers ready for the operator.
2. To order, call 844/222-3221 (toll-free for U.S. and Canada)

- 97 Visit Gold Country
- 98 Visit Placer
- 99 Visit Rancho Cordova
- 100 Visit Sacramento
- 101 Visit Sonora
- 102 Visit Tuolumne County
- 103 Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau

### SAN FRANCISCO (810)

See ads, pgs. 158-171

- 104 Charles M. Schulz Museum
- 105 Dr. Wilkinson's Backyard Resort & Mineral Springs
- 106 Exploratorium
- 107 Ghirardelli
- 108 Jelly Belly
- 109 Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 110 Marin French Cheese Co.
- 111 PIER 39
- 112 Pleasant Hill
- 113 San Francisco North/Petaluma KOA Camping & RV Resort
- 114 Skunk Train
- 115 Sonoma County Tourism
- 116 The San Francisco Peninsula

- 117 Visit Berkeley
- 118 Visit Calistoga
- 119 Visit Concord
- 120 Visit Fairfield
- 121 Visit Petaluma
- 122 Visit San Jose
- 123 Visit Tri-Valley
- 124 Visit Walnut Creek

### NORTH COAST (811)

See ads, pgs. 172-179

- 125 Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens
- 126 Skunk Train
- 127 Trees of Mystery
- 128 Visit Mendocino County
- 129 Visit Ukiah

### SHASTA CASCADE (812)

See ads, pgs. 180-189

- 130 Almendra Winery, Distillery & Restaurant
- 131 California Welcome Center - Anderson
- 132 Choose Redding Lodging
- 133 Explore Butte County

- 134 Feather River Tourism Association
- 135 Lake Shasta Caverns National Natural Landmark
- 136 McCloud River Mercantile Co. Store & Hotel
- 137 Shasta Marina at Packers Bay
- 138 St. Bernard Lodge
- 139 Timber House Brewery-Distillery-Lodge and Restaurant
- 140 Trinity County COC
- 141 Turtle Bay Exploration Park
- 142 Win-River Resort & Casino

California State Capitol







Honig Winery

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Learn more about how animals aid in sustainable viticulture on a tractor tram ride through Benziger Family Winery Sonoma Mountain Estate vineyards, where cattle provide organic manure.

Ponte Winery, the first vineyard in the Temecula Valley to achieve a Certified California Sustainable Winegrower designation, loads passengers into an electric cart for a ranch tour and tasting. Amid rows of vines, your guide pours wine straight from a tank or cask.

## TAKE A HIKE

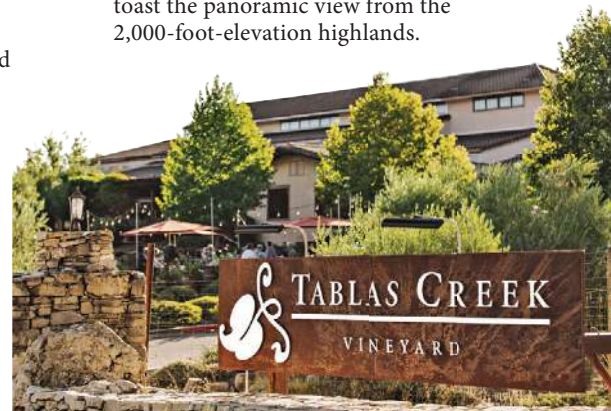
In Paso Robles, Tablas Creek Vineyard offers a daily guided trek through the grapevines. As you walk, you'll see a herd of sheep and alpacas tilling and fertilizing the soil. For more grape-to-glass walking tours, visit Vino Noceto Winery in Plymouth (Amador County), Bokisch Vineyards in Lodi, or Medlock Ames in Healdsburg.

## TASTE OUTSIDE THE BOX

If you've ever dreamed of being a winemaker, here's your chance: At Raymond Vineyards, a certified organic and biodynamic winery in Napa Valley, you can create, bottle, and cork your own red blend.

For an elevated tasting experience, book a four-course food and wine pairing at LEED-certified Silver Oak in Sonoma County.

Find another unique way to sip at Yorkville's Seawolf Winery. Tour the 165-acre organic vineyard, taste Zinfandel and Pinot Noir, and toast the panoramic view from the 2,000-foot-elevation highlands.



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# Plan-Ahead Travel Guide

SOME OF THE COOLEST EXPERIENCES IN THE GOLDEN STATE REQUIRE ADVANCE PLANNING—HERE'S OUR GUIDE TO HELP YOU SCORE THAT TICKET

## Why Go

## When to Book

## Insider Tip

### ALCATRAZ NIGHT TOURS

When darkness falls, the ghosts of Alcatraz begin to stir at this island prison

Winter, for the best shot; tickets can sell out two to three months in advance

Try booking a behind-the-scenes tour that allows you to stay after hours

### HALF DOME HIKE

Dramatic views of Yosemite make this challenging trek worth the effort

Apply during the preseason lottery in March for your best chance to hike the icon

Daily lotteries offer a second chance during hiking season, but success rates are low

### PEBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS

The famous cliffside greens and fairways bring players right up to the ocean's edge

You get 24 hours to reserve; stay at a Pebble Beach resort to expand that to 18 months

Request a tee time when booking a room to make sure your date is available

### JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE!

Watching celeb interviews and improv segments is even better in person

Request a ticket for free from 1iota weeks in advance; no seat guaranteed

Line up at least 45 minutes before show time (or earlier, for better seats)

### BLUE BAYOU AT DISNEYLAND

This bucket-list restaurant sits inside the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction

Once you have park tickets, reserve at 6 a.m. 60 days before the day of your visit

Try your luck day-of at 11 a.m. opening, during an off-peak mealtime, or during a parade

### CRYSTAL COVE COTTAGES

Who wouldn't want to sleep in a historic bungalow on a Newport Beach blufftop?

Start searching for availability six months in advance

Get a Reserve California profile and start refreshing daily at 8 a.m.

### SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON

The massive fan convention is the ultimate pop-culture experience

Get a member ID before the two registration dates in October and November

Virtual waiting room opens one hour before sale; ability to purchase is randomized

### COACHELLA

California's famed desert music festival draws epic headliners year after year

Advance presale happens in June to attend in April the following year

Since the lineup is the same, skip the waitlist and target weekend two



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## FIRST PERSON

# 6 Fabulous Film Locations in California

VETERAN LOCATION SCOUT LORI BALTON HAS WORKED WITH SOME OF THE TOP DIRECTORS ON THE PLANET AND KNOWS THE GOLDEN STATE INSIDE AND OUT

**B**alton, who lives in Venice, California, will scour the globe to find the ideal filming location. This year, she'll travel to Scotland, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the Baltic states, and Namibia, but the perfect spot is often much closer to home. "What's unique about this state is its diversity," she says. "If you take a short trip in any direction, you'll see a whole different environment. It's interesting how often I go someplace across the globe and think, 'This place feels like that place in California.'"

Balton's career requires an encyclopedic knowledge of geographical locations plus strong story visualization skills. "Much of this work entails being able to interpret the script," she says. "In a feature film, the camera moves and the actors move through the location. I have to think about how the location is supposed to work for the movie, and how the characters are supposed to move through the frame."

Subtlety matters too. "The location should be seamless, almost unnoticeable. You don't want the location to jump out and jolt the viewer out of the movie-watching trance they're immersed in."

Balton has worked with a who's who of A-list

directors—Rob Reiner, Ava DuVernay, Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, and more—but she's quick to give credit to the unsung California locals who help her do her job.

"FLICS [Film Liaisons in California Statewide] is the statewide association, and they've been helping filmmakers for decades," she says. "They might be people who work for the local chamber of commerce or tourism authority, people who really know their towns. I tell them what I'm looking for, and they make suggestions in their area. If we decide to film in their region, they act as liaisons with the community."

Balton has received five California on Location Awards (COLAs) for her work in films including *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* and *The Majestic*. In 2013, she became the first location professional to be invited to join the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

Here are a few of her favorite film locations in the Golden State:





### 1 A WRINKLE IN TIME (2018)

**LOCATION: HUMBOLDT COUNTY REDWOODS**

"We had so much fun up there, just walking among those giant trees. Thinking about how big and old those redwoods are makes you feel small and insignificant. It was a wonderful experience—'forest bathing' before I knew the term. I also scouted on the Lost Coast at the Candelabra Redwoods near Usal Beach Campground. The shapes of those trees are amazing—they really look like candelabras. It was too difficult and expensive to bring an entire film crew, but any hiker could go see them."

### 2 WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES (2017)

**LOCATION: DEATH VALLEY**

"With all my years of living in and scouting California, I had never made it to Death Valley. It's a desolate, weird, beautiful place. When I was scouting, I noticed something on the ground. Taking a closer look, I realized someone had cracked an egg, which had fried. The next day I drove out to see the sunrise at Zabriskie Point, and at 5 a.m. there was already a crowd. Everybody was lined up to watch the sunrise. It was like church—such a beautiful, communal moment."

### 3 SEABISCUIT (2003)

**LOCATIONS: SANTA ANITA RACETRACK, HEMET STOCK FARM, SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

"It's my favorite movie for a variety of reasons. First, it's a great movie. I just saw it recently and it really holds up. Secondly, my daughter was on spring break during

the week I had to drive around California to scout fairgrounds. She was in fourth grade and learning about California in social studies, and she had been riding horses since she was five. We had a great adventure together. It was the perfect blend of family time and working on a great movie, which doesn't happen often."

### 4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (2005)

**LOCATION: RUSSIAN RIVER, MENDOCINO COUNTY**

"I was scouting for a lyrical scene in which the characters are rinsing out ribbons of colorful silk fabric in the river. I was gliding along in a kayak at dawn with the film commissioner and a couple kayak guides. The sun was just starting to come up, and a mist was hovering over the water. There was this amazing stillness that was magical."



### 5 THE SALTON SEA (2002)

**LOCATION: BOMBAY BEACH, SALTON SEA**

"It was one of the first movies D.J. Caruso directed, and I was scouting sketchy houses and abandoned trailers. At that time Bombay Beach still had remains sinking into the salt—an old bus, abandoned buildings. In the last 20 years, a lot of new life has been breathed into that area, but I liked it the way it was back then. I like faded elegance and

things that have a layered patina—decrepit and aged, with a story to tell."

### 6 THE MAJESTIC (2001)

**LOCATION: FERNDALE**

"I scouted all over Northern California, and we ended up filming in Ferndale. We ended up building the movie theater that is shown in the film, but I found the right street that had the right look, the right kind of architecture. The street had an empty lot where we could build the movie theater façade."



Seabiscuit





## FIRST PERSON

# Deep Thoughts at Séc-he

TRAVEL WRITER KATRINA HUNT ARRIVED AT THE AGUA CALIENTE SPA HOPING FOR A REJUVENATING MUD WRAP; SHE LEFT WITH A NEW CULTURAL APPRECIATION

Originally I went to Greater Palm Springs to enjoy one of the specialties of the desert: chilling out in one of its world-class spas. But I found more than that at the Spa at Séc-he, opened in 2023 by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The downtown Palm Springs spa is located above the tribal lands' true "agua caliente"—magnesium-rich hot springs that shoot up from 8,000 feet below the earth's surface.

I arrived with a basic day-spa agenda: to "take the waters" in one of the 22 private tubs, do a mud wrap, and then relax a little afterward at the pool. I was grateful, however, that I had blocked out the whole afternoon. This is a day spa where you can truly spend an entire day, and then some.

In the Cahuilla language, "séc-he" (pronounced seck-hee) means "sound of boiling water," but happily the water ranges from 95 to 105 degrees. I soaked for 15 minutes in the hot tub-style bubbles and then hopped up on a bed for a 60-minute Blue Sage Botanical Mud Wrap utilizing local ingredients. I marinated under a heated dome placed over the table, rinsed off the mud, then got

a lotion-rich massage. I felt as smooth and cool as a piece of desert turquoise.

After the treatment, I was like Alice in spa wonderland, opening doors around the 73,000-square-foot property to discover more ways to bliss out. I breathed in the therapeutic mist of halotherapy salt caves. I played Goldilocks in anti-gravity chairs, which mimic the "grounding" one gets while walking barefoot on the beach. I relaxed, meditated, and (perhaps) dozed a little.

As I explored the spa, though, I soaked up more than just little cups of cucumber water. I admired the Cahuilla artistry—from the statue of a native woman to the basket patterns on glass walls—and lingered over photos of tribal bathhouses on this very spot from the 19th century, learning that nothing is more sacred to the Cahuilla people than these healing waters.

Embracing that connection was grounding in a whole other way. I headed back to my hotel with a new appreciation for the local culture—one that runs thousands of years into the past, bubbling thousands of feet deep under the California desert.



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Cotogna

## FIRST PERSON

# My 5 Favorite Bites in California

CHRIS BLEIDORN, THE SAN FRANCISCO-BASED CHEF OF BIRDSONG AND BIRDBOX, SHARES HIS MUST-TRY DISHES

Picking my five favorite bites in California—and limiting myself to only five!—is no easy task. The incredible produce available to us in the Golden State is unparalleled, and the talented, thoughtful chefs in our kitchens know exactly what to do with this bounty. I may have bent the rules a bit, but if you try these dishes I'm confident you'll agree that they are truly special.



## 1 KOSHIHIKARI RICE, ADDISON

In San Diego, this dish is delicately seasoned with sesame and topped with Regiis Ova reserve caviar and a sabayon smoked with applewood. It's spectacular, and an example of a dish finely tuned over many years. We had the opportunity to collaborate with Addison's Chef William Bradley, and I can attest to the care he and his team take, not only in showcasing the ingredients they work with, but also in delivering elegant yet lighthearted service. This is one of the best restaurants in California.

## 2 BIRRIA TACO, TUETANO TAQUERIA

Another dish I look forward to in San Diego is Chef Priscilla Curiel's birria taco. The description alone should tell you why it's so special: The bone marrow adds a deep, roasted flavor along with a healthy dose of richness, really highlighting everything that makes for a fantastic birria taco.

## 3 LOBSTER ROLL, NEW ENGLAND LOBSTER CO.

I've been ordering this lobster roll in Burlingame for many years, but I recently went again with my daughter, and it was

every bit as good as I remembered. The lobsters are always harvested live from the tank, and the bread is soft yet sturdy enough to hold the filling. I've spent 20 years in California, but I grew up in New England, so there's a nostalgic element for me.

## 4 PALMIER ICE CREAM, MONSIEUR BENJAMIN

This ice cream in Hayes Valley is a sleeper amid all the hits on their menu. Pieces of the crunchy, buttery French pastry are folded into a rich ice cream and finished with Calvados caramel. It's a dessert that checks many boxes—texture, balanced sweetness, layers of flavor.

## 5 THREE SAN FRANCISCO CLASSICS

Even though my assignment was to list five bites, I'm selecting a flight of bites—these are my “must-eats.” Start with the kouign-amann at b. Patisserie for breakfast, then head to Zuni Cafe for a lunch of roast chicken with bread salad, and finish the day with whatever seasonal pasta is on the menu at Cotogna. These classics are consistently executed flawlessly, proving that the best dishes are those where the chef allows the ingredients to shine.



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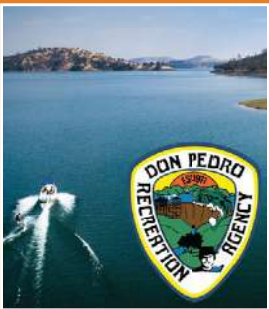


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[DONPEDROLAKE.COM](http://DONPEDROLAKE.COM)



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# Sunshine Girl

OPTIMISTIC, PLAYFUL, COMMITTED TO CAUSES—ACTOR/MUSICIAN ZOOEY DESCHANEL IS A CALIFORNIAN THROUGH AND THROUGH

**Zoey Deschanel** is exactly who you think she is. The actor and singer is sunny and funny. She speaks in a sing-song cadence. And her laugh—it’s a good laugh. It’s deep and hearty and occasionally reaches an octave higher than her speaking voice. (Fans love her laugh: “Zoey Deschanel Laughing” has 458 million views on TikTok.) As her giggles subside, she settles into a chair in her Southern California home.

This is where Deschanel is today, and by all appearances it’s a world filled with people and things she’s grateful for. She’s newly engaged to one-half of the *Property Brothers*, hers being the Jonathan Scott half. She has also just finished redecorating, following a major overhaul on the 1938 Los Angeles home she shares with her fiancé. Deschanel and Scott met in 2019 while taping an episode of James Corden’s *Carpool Karaoke*. (Jonathan’s brother Drew and Zoey’s sister Emily were also on the episode.) The couple got engaged in Scotland in August 2023, and Deschanel’s two children, Elsie and Charlie—from her earlier marriage to film producer Jacob Pechenik—were on hand for the proposal.

Chances are, Deschanel would be happy even without all this good news. She has always cultivated an outlook that starts with looking up, toward the sky, like her dad does.

“California has such beautiful sunrises and sunsets,” she says, acknowledging this is not a unique thought. But she has a family spin: “My dad takes a picture of the sunrise almost every morning. He takes Polaroids and keeps them in a book. They’re all dated and everything.”

Every day as she drives around Los Angeles, she’s reminded of her sun-warmed youth. “Growing up, we would always take the California Incline to Pacific Coast Highway on the way home from school, and I remember there would always be a beautiful sunset.”

Named after one of the characters in J.D. Salinger’s 1961 book *Franny and Zooey*, Deschanel was born into the entertainment business: Dad is a cinematographer, and Mom is an actor. Her sister Emily is also an actor, best known for the TV series *Bones*. For more Hollywood associations, look no further than her high school classmates Jake Gyllenhaal and Kate Hudson.

After briefly studying at Northwestern University, Deschanel dropped out to come home to Los Angeles and join the family business. “I just knew what I wanted to do,” she says. “I don’t know why. I was like, I have to. I don’t think I could picture doing anything else.”

She pauses to actually consider it. “I think there are other professions I could have done that I would enjoy, but they’re all artistic.”

Back in L.A., she picked up small roles in films like *Almost Famous* and *The Good Girl*. But it was her role







in *Elf* starring Will Ferrell that showed the world her dual talents. Or just “talent,” as she doesn’t differentiate between the two.

“I think I’m both actor and musician,” she says. “I consider them both to be my professions.”

And she does them well. Since 2006, she’s performed in the band She & Him, and it’s fair to say the music is California inspired. “Very much so, yes,”

she says. “Growing up, I remember listening to oldies radio. A lot of the bands who would play on the radio were from California, like the Beach Boys, the Byrds, Linda Ronstadt. Then there was Joni Mitchell and other bands with these Los Angeles and Laurel Canyon vibes, beach vibes. I remember looking out the window of the car, and the sun coming in, and having this very special feeling that is very much associated with the beauty that is California. I remember

looking at those sunsets with Dad, and just fitting in, in California.”

#### ZOOEY THE ACTOR

In 2006, Deschanel played Sarah Jessica Parker’s sidekick in the romantic comedy *Failure to Launch*. The next year she played in *The Go-Getter*, and that’s where she met bandmate M. Ward, the other half of She & Him. But it was 2009’s *(500) Days of Summer*, and the critical praise she earned for her performance opposite Joseph Gordon-Levitt, that set her up for what would be a breakthrough role: playing loveable,

perpetually optimistic Jessica Day in the TV series *New Girl*. The show aired from 2011 to 2018 on Fox and is now one of most popular series on Netflix.

Deschanel says her notoriously positive-meets-dorky outlook—made famous by her *New Girl* character Jess—is rooted in being a Californian.

Which is to say, the Golden State has baked its identity into her.

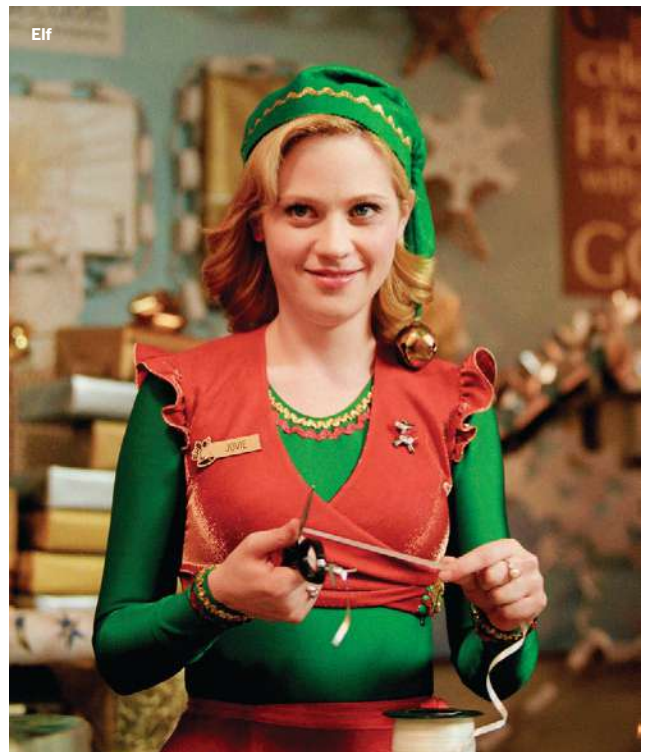
“I love being a Californian and what it means,” she says, praising the state’s celebration of creativity, its inclusiveness, and even its geography. “I love the fact that California is this very long state, and you can take these wonderful road trips up the coast or go inland. There are so many different kinds of natural landscapes you can visit. I enjoy having a lot of scope for the imagination.”

As she talks about *New Girl*, there’s a glimpse of her serious side: “I think part of the reason why so many people can see themselves in Jess is because she’s very earnest and guileless and wants to do a good job. These are qualities that are underappreciated because they’re not cool, you know?”

Deschanel is thrilled with the second round of love for *New Girl*, which has attracted a completely new legion of fans. “The show is a celebration of her and those qualities. I think we need to celebrate people who are optimistic and positive. I like being inclusive. I like trying our best to be kind. I admire Jess for her kindness and joy and eagerness. All of these things that we try to teach our kids—those things are really important to me.”



SEE PAGE 192  
FOR **Zooey's**  
ANSWERS  
TO THE  
CALIFORNIA  
QUESTIONNAIRE



FROM LEFT: FOX IMAGE COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; AJ PICS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES



## ZOOEY THE ENTREPRENEUR

Soon after becoming a parent, Deschanel started thinking hard about the availability of healthy food. “I really hate the idea that food can be elite,” she says. “I don’t like exclusivity. I think it’s ridiculous. Why should healthy food be some exclusive thing that only people who make a certain amount of money can get, or it’s only for people who drive far out of their way and have endless time on their hands? That irritated me.”

So she got to work. Deschanel cofounded Lettuce Grow in 2017, a company that sells home hydroponic systems that can grow more than 200 varieties of veggie, herb, and fruit seedlings. They’re perfect for the ambitious urban or suburban farmer.

Her good-food advocacy didn’t stop there. In 2021, Deschanel became cofounder and chief creative officer at Merryfield. The company manages a consumer app that rewards people for purchasing food and home products from health-focused brands. Shoppers take photos of their receipts, and the app tracks their purchases much like a frequent-flyer program and offers rewards for choosing high quality, better-for-you products.

“The idea behind Merryfield made so much sense to me,” Deschanel says. “I’d been thinking for a while about ways to incentivize people to really think about their choices and the impact of those choices. Making more informed, positive decisions for myself and my family makes me feel good, and I know a lot of people out there feel the same way I do.”



“I think we need to celebrate people who are optimistic and positive. I like being inclusive.”

– ZOOEY DESCHANEL

On the topic of food accessibility, she does not hold back. “The experience of having the resources to be able to afford all this amazing produce, and also being able to go to farmers’ markets—it’s something that shouldn’t be a luxury, you know? It really should be something everybody gets to experience and everybody has access to. That was very much the inspiration behind both of those ventures.”

## ZOOEY AT HOME

Nearly every weekend, Deschanel and her fiancé entertain at home. Their house is colorful, unique, and joyful. It’s *them*.

“We worked on the house very well together,” she says. “He has amazing taste. But he wasn’t like, ‘Oh, it’s my way or the highway,’ while we were redoing it. He’s a professional, and he’s done hundreds of homes. But he’s also very collaborative.”

Deschanel says they each picked up where the other left off. “He favors function—he wants everything to function well, flow well. He can look at a floor plan and know exactly how it’s going to work practically, which is such an incredible skill. I like choosing decor—fabrics, rugs, wallpapers, tiles, paint colors, all that stuff. That was my area.”

What they created was a home where everyone in their lives is welcome. “We’re very social. We love having people over,” she says. “We love to have a party, sometimes casual, sometimes more formal.”

Often they invite just their friends, and other times it’s their friends plus their friends’ kids. “Because, you know, then all the kids are happy.”

The last sunset she saw was last night, she says, from her Los Angeles backyard. How does she describe it? “I felt like I was home,” she says. And she’s not leaving.



# 58 Reasons *why* California *is the* Ultimate Playground

CULTIVATING A SENSE OF PLAY IS SERIOUS BUSINESS IN THE GOLDEN STATE. HERE'S AN OPINIONATED GUIDE TO HELP YOU FIND ALL THE FUN YOU CAN HANDLE.





July 4 Skiing, Mammoth Mountain



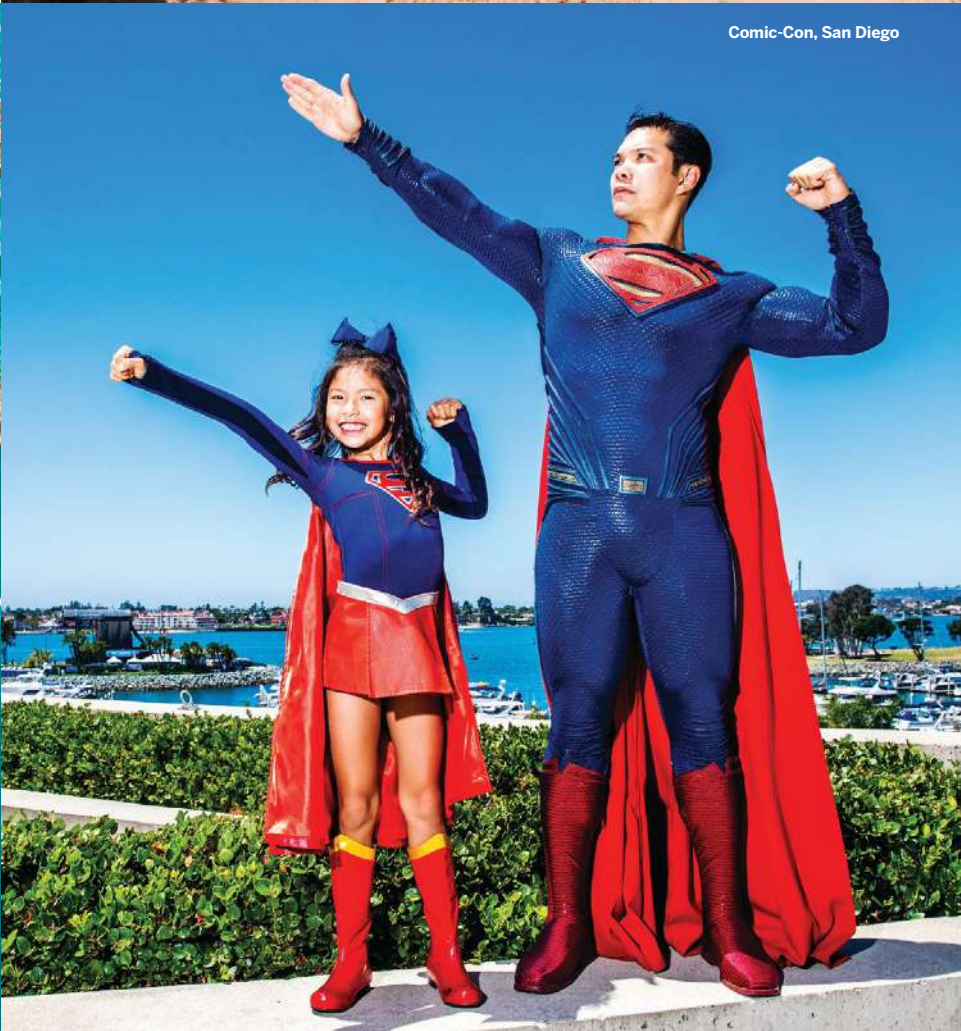
Moke & Wine Tour, Temecula Valley



Rooftop Pools, Statewide



Comic-Con, San Diego







SCAN THIS SMART CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S ULTIMATE PLAYGROUND



## 1 IRON GIANTS DWELL IN OUR DESERTS

Imagine the scene: It's twilight. You're on a stargazing adventure in Borrego Springs, scouting the best spot to spread out your blanket and marvel at the Milky Way. You step around a cactus, look up, and suddenly find yourself staring down a 350-foot-long serpent who does not look particularly happy to see you. While you may be tempted to drop your telescope and sprint in the opposite direction, this *Game of Thrones*-like behemoth is not going to make a snack out of you—it's just one of 130 metal sculptures scattered across the desert floor, courtesy of artist Ricardo Breceda. Middle-of-nowhere sculptures dropped deep in the desert are definitely a Golden State trademark. We're just having a little fun with you.

## 2

### PEOPLE WHO CAN LIVE ANYWHERE CHOOSE TO LIVE HERE

#### Anthony Anderson, actor

"Growing up here, it's always been the beaches in California for me. My beaches growing up were Hermosa and Manhattan Beach. I remember getting on the bus, skipping school with a bunch of kids, and riding out to the beach."



#### Natalie Morales, TV host

"Californians are as laid-back as people believe and are truly all about living outdoors. That was No. 1 for me when making the move—knowing my kids can be outside year-round."



#### Alex Honnold, rock climber

"The smell of the dry pine forest around Tahoe and the High Sierra—that feels like home to me. There are so many climbing opportunities with big mountains, and the rock is so good."







### 3 THERE'S ALWAYS MONEY IN THE BANANA STAND

Never-nudes, Motherboys, and all fans of *Arrested Development* should head straight to Orange County for a truly Bluth-y experience. Rival outlets on Balboa Island in Newport Beach—Dad's Donut & Bakery Shop and Sugar 'n Spice—claim to be the home of the “original” frozen banana showcased on the TV show. This real-life banana stand feud was featured in season three of the cult favorite when Gob decides to open his Banana Shack right across from the Bluth Banana Stand on Balboa Island. Is one real-world confection better than the other? Maebly.

### 4 Go to the Movies with Quentin Tarantino

OK, there's no guarantee that the director of *Pulp Fiction*, *Reservoir Dogs*, and *Kill Bill* will sit next to you and offer to share his popcorn, but Tarantino is the owner and head programmer of the New Beverly Cinema in Los Angeles. “I want the New Beverly to be a bastion for 35mm films,” the celebrated cinephile says. “I want it to stand for something. When you see a film on the New Beverly calendar, you don't have to ask whether it's going to be shown in DCP or in 35mm. You know it's playing in 35 because it's the New Beverly.”

### 5 Gravity Is Optional

You'll feel like you dropped into an episode of *The X-Files* at The Mystery Spot in Santa Cruz. Discovered in 1939, this “gravitational anomaly” comprises an area 150 feet in diameter where certain laws of physics are called into question. A variety of theories have been bandied about to explain this old-school (and extremely popular) attraction, including a buried spaceship, a hole in the ozone layer, and something called “radiesthesia.” Will you want to believe, like Mulder? Or will you get all Scully and try to debunk the experience? The truth is in here.

### 6 Cosplay Is Our Culture

Every July, 150,000-plus nerds converge on San Diego to attend pop culture panels, pose for photos with celebs, attend sneak previews of upcoming films and TV shows, and haggle over that near-mint copy of *Fantastic Four #48*. A shockingly high percentage of these Comic-Con attendees arrive decked out as superheroes, science fiction characters, and fantasy favorites. Barbie and Indiana Jones were among the most popular cosplay characters in 2023, but let's give props to TikTok fave Andrea Seale, who delivered a dead-on impersonation of Deirdre Beaubien—Jamie Lee Curtis' character from *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

### 7 Our Biggest Volcano Is a Spiritual Vortex

The otherworldly beauty of 14,179-foot Mt. Shasta has inspired countless trips to Northern California and a fair share of legends too. Our favorite centers on the Lemurians, a tribe of advanced beings from a long-lost sunken continent who carved tunnels beneath the dormant volcano and occasionally appear on the slopes dressed in white robes. Andrew Oser, who leads spiritual tours of the mountain, was noncommittal about the Lemurians but did offer this: “My favorite way to describe Mt. Shasta is that it's a 14,000-foot mirror that reflects back the deepest truth in your heart.”

### 8 We Think Our Burgers Belong in a Museum

The cheeseburger was invented in Pasadena in 1924 and arguably perfected two dozen years later when In-N-Out opened its first drive-thru in Baldwin Park, attracting legions of fans. Today you can visit a replica of the original In-N-Out—the photogenic mini-museum is just down the road from the original location and double-doubles as a souvenir stand.



#### Dwyane Wade, NBA legend

“I have fallen in love with taking long drives throughout the state, especially exploring central and southern California. My friends and I will pack up our clubs to golf at Pebble Beach or pile in the car to taste wine in Paso Robles.”



#### Francis Ford Coppola, filmmaker

“I love the drive from the Napa Valley wine country to the Sonoma wine country through the Alexander Valley. This is probably the most beautiful 45-minute trip existing anywhere.”



#### Bonnie Wright, actor and author

“I love the subtle nuances of our seasons. When you really stop and pay attention, nature is changing and organizing throughout the year, bringing us welcomed transitions.”



#### Stephanie Izard, chef

“My favorite drive yet was up to Santa Barbara. We stayed at a gorgeous hotel on the beach, hung out by the pool, and walked around the most picturesque little town I've ever seen. We felt like we were on a movie set the entire time.”



PREVIOUS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PETER MORNING/MMSA; ALICIA QUINTANA/P PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY; MOKE & WINE; ROGER KISBY/REDUX; JESSICA SAMPLE, THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: KEN HOWARD/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; ©20TH CENTURY FOX/EVERETT COLLECTION; COURTESY, IN-N-OUT BURGER; NBC/GETTY IMAGES; AXELLE BAUER/GRIFFIN/GETTY IMAGES; ANGELA WEISS/AF/GETTY IMAGES; TODD WILLIAMSON/E! ENTERTAINMENT/NBC/GETTY IMAGES; JIM SPELLMAN/GETTY IMAGES; CBS/GETTY IMAGES; COREY NICKOLSON/GETTY IMAGES



## 9 Our Pools Are Elevated

A rooftop pool is the hippest place to take a dip. Swim with a city-skyline view or dance the night away at pool parties as DJs spin thumping beats. The Andaz in San Diego, Kimpton Sawyer in Sacramento, The Freehand Los Angeles, Thompson Hollywood, The Shay in Culver City, and The Rowan Palm Springs are just a small sampling of California hotels where you can make a five-story splash.

## 10 Chalupas in Paradise

We dare you to find a more alluring fast-food restaurant than the Taco Bell at 5200 Coast Highway in Pacifica. This prime real estate—right on Pacifica State Beach in San Mateo County—boasts a setting you might expect with a Michelin-starred meal, not a \$1 Cravings Menu. The ocean views are to die for, there's a parking lot for surfboards, and since this is a Taco Bell Cantina, you can also pair your Cheesy Gordita Crunch with a cocktail. The oceanfront eatery is so popular, it has hosted bachelor and bachelorette parties and even wedding receptions.

## 12 Disc Golf + Craft Beer = Best Day Ever

Boonville's Anderson Valley Brewing Company is the first—and perhaps only—brewery on the planet to offer an 18-hole disc-golf course onsite. Perfect your Tomahawk Shot or Jump Putt on this 26-acre facility while sipping some Boont Amber Ale or maybe a Briney Melon Gose.

## 13 Go Moke, Get Stoked

Touring the Golden State by moke, an all-electric, low-speed vehicle, is officially a thing. These adorably cute, street-legal rides have already made a big splash in Newport Beach, where you can channel your inner Barbie by renting a pink jeeplet and hitting the boutiques. (Your call on whether Ken and Allan get to come along for the ride.) You can also pair mokes with Merlot and Malbec on Temecula's Moke & Wine Tours. Half-day and full-day experiences come equipped with Moke Jockeys (aka designated drivers) who will drive you to Temecula Valley's top wineries.

## 14 Mark Twain Respects Our Frog Game

Offbeat fun is nothing new to the Golden State. During the Gold Rush, entertainment-starved miners were known to throw back a few drinks and bet on anything they could think of—a phenomenon captured in Mark Twain's 1865 short story, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." The tale became a worldwide hit, putting both Twain and tiny Angels Camp on the map. Today, you can relive all sorts of old-timey fun at the Calaveras County Fair and Jumping Frog Jubilee, held during the third week of May. The rest of the year, walk Main Street's sidewalk Hop of Fame, where winning frogs and their wranglers have been immortalized in brass since 1928.



## 15 Our Faults Are Famous

Shake things up the next time you're in Greater Palm Springs with Red Jeep Tours' three-hour journey through the San Andreas Fault, the source of much geologic moving-and-shaking. Naturalist guides will lead you through narrow slot canyons and into a leafy native palm oasis.

## 16 You Can Earn an A+ in Mushroom School

Want to turn food acquisition into an adventure? Forage SF offers classes on foraging mushrooms, wild plants, and seaweed. The Bay Area company will teach you how to spot edible fungi like morels and porcinis on guided walks in Santa Cruz, Marin County, the Sonoma Coast, and the Sierra foothills. You can also learn how to forage for seaweed in Half Moon Bay or seek out wild edible plants in Oakland.

## 17 Our Wine Flights Really Fly

At Ancient Peaks Winery in Santa Margarita, soar above the vineyards on six separate ziplines spanning 7,500 feet and toast your bravery with a glass of Pinot Noir. Board a helicopter in Monterey or Watsonville for the flight to Eden Rift Vineyards, then sip and swirl from the seat of a Polaris ATV. At Calistoga's Sterling Vineyards, hop on the newly reopened aerial gondola and glide 300 feet uphill to the Greek-inspired winery. Taste Cabernet while savoring 360-degree views of Napa Valley.

## 18 We Play With Our Food

Californians take food seriously—until we don't. Sometimes it's just another reason to party: See the world's largest vat of guacamole at Carpinteria's California Avocado Festival, marvel at a 40-foot-long tamale at Indio's Tamale Festival, or swoon over garlic ice cream at Stockton's California Garlic Festival.

## 11 LIFE IMITATES ART—LITERALLY

When Leonardo da Vinci started working on *The Last Supper*, he probably didn't envision a collection of Orange County dentists, plumbers, and accountants reenacting his 15th-century masterpiece on an outdoor stage in Laguna Beach. But that's exactly the sort of thing you'll see at the coastal town's annual Pageant of the Masters. Volunteer actors recreate classical and contemporary works of art by dressing in costumes and posing against meticulously painted sets. It's an annual tradition that we freakin' love.



FROM LEFT: RON AZEVEDO/COURTESY PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS; GLOBALP/GETTY IMAGES; AMANDA FRIEDMAN





# 19 BROOKE WILLIAMSON WILL FEED YOU ALL DAY LONG

Why settle for one culinary concept when you can fit four under the same roof? That's the thinking behind *Top Chef* champion Brooke Williamson's Playa Provisions, a beachside eatery in Playa del Rey that will tempt your tastebuds for hours on end. Start things off with a trout dip bagel sandwich or lobster roll at King Beach Café. For a mid-afternoon treat, head to Small Batch for a scoop of breakfast-cereal-inspired ice cream. Dinner is at Docksider, but reserve in advance because the word is out on the fried crab claw pop and swordfish à la plancha. To cap things off, amble over to Grain Whiskey Bar and ask the bartender to dream up a bespoke cocktail that will put an exclamation point on your day.



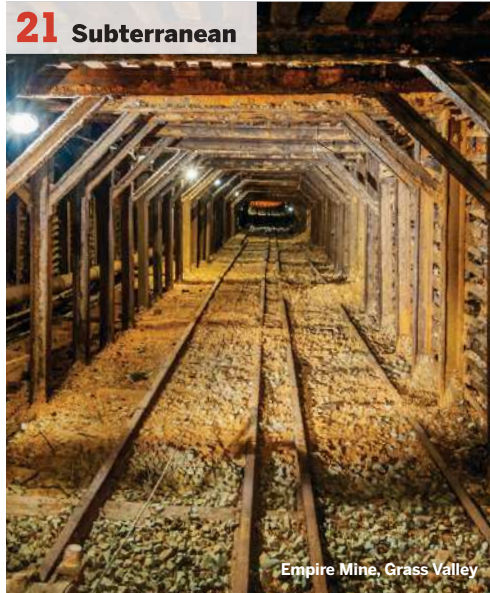
# Our Museums Are...

**20** Illuminating



Museum of Neon Art, Glendale

**21** Subterranean



Empire Mine, Grass Valley

**22** Hare-Brained



Bunny Museum, Altadena

**23** Hands-On



MOXI, Santa Barbara

**24** Locomotive



Laws Railroad Museum, Bishop

**25** Nautical



Maritime Museum of San Diego

**26** Prehistoric



La Brea Tar Pits, Los Angeles

**27** Playful



Exploratorium, San Francisco

**28** Innovative



The Tech Interactive, San Jose



# 29

## SANDBOARDING IS A THING

You've heard of surfboarding. Just replace barrel waves with rippling mountains of sand, and you're sandboarding. Climb up Death Valley National Park's Mesquite Flat or Saline Valley dunes, wax up your board, and slip-and-slide downhill. Can't get enough? Surf more dunes in Mojave National Preserve.

## 30 Every Family Member Can Be a Rock Climber

Even grandma, as long as she's spry and up for the challenge. It's all made possible by the mountaineering magic of Via Ferratas. These protected climbing courses—you climb under your own power while safely hooked into steel cables and anchors—allow novices to experience the exhilaration of rock climbing in a very safe setting. Iron rungs and footholds aid your ascent, and an experienced guide accompanies you every step of the way. Anyone who meets the height and weight requirements can inch their way up 800-foot-high Tram Face at Palisades Tahoe, and Mammoth Mountain offers six different routes—three easy, two moderate, one difficult—for ages 12 and up.

## 31 Our Craft Beer Is More Fun Than Your Craft Beer

Never mind that California spearheaded the craft beer movement (which it did). And forget that the Golden State boasts more craft breweries than any other state (which it does). We'd rather point out that our beer leads the pack with its fun-loving spirit. San Diego's Belching Beaver Brewery, for instance, doesn't just have a great name, it also boasts the genre-busting Peanut Butter Milk Stout, an easy-drinking crowd-pleaser that has won more than a half-dozen awards. We're also keen on 21st Amendment's Hell or High Watermelon; The Lost Abbey's Duck Duck Goose; Bagby Beer's Gotta Pay the Pils; Stone Brewing's Arrogant Bastard Ale; and Fall River Brewing's Numb Numb Juice Hazy IPA.



## 32 Our Ghosts and Ghouls Will Entertain You

The Hotel del Coronado has a seriously spooky side: In 1892, 24-year-old Kate Morgan checked into this luxurious waterfront resort and then ended her life on the hotel's staircase. Since then, many guests have experienced strange breezes, flickering lights, and phantom footsteps believed to be evidence of the young woman's afterlife unrest.

The equally spooky Queen Mary is one of the "Top 10 Most Haunted Places in America," according to *Time* magazine. The after-hours Ship Walk Paranormal Tour is a perfect way to get your shiver on.

San Jose's Winchester Mystery House made the same prestigious list. Sara Winchester's macabre mansion features stairs that lead nowhere and doors that open to brick walls—presumably to disorient the departed.

San Francisco's Alcatraz Night Tour is another spine-chilling option, and not necessarily for the faint of heart. Paranormal expert Richard Senate once volunteered to be locked in a punishment cell in Alcatraz, an experience he calls "the most terrifying 15 minutes I ever spent."

## 33 We Have 3,600 Pickleball Courts... and Counting

Montecito resident Ellen DeGeneres is obsessed with the sport. Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James is also hooked—and has even invested in a professional pickleball league. Orange County native Will Ferrell is an avid "dinker," as are Billie Eilish, Leonardo DiCaprio, and the Kardashians.

You'll find pickleball courts pretty much everywhere, including many hotels and resorts. In San Diego County, Rancho Valencia Resort

& Spa has four dedicated courts and free access for guests; Omni La Costa offers a weekly Pickleball 101 class; and the Fairmont Grand Del Mar offers weekend clinics. But we like West Hollywood's take best: The Kimpton La Peer Hotel has a rooftop pickleball setup that transforms into a "Disco Court" on weekends. You can practice your flapjacks and falafels while listening to a live DJ and sipping cocktails.

## 34 We Invented Tiki Bars

World War I veteran Donn Beach fell in love with Polynesian culture and wanted to bring his passion for rum-fueled drinks to the states. He opened Don's Beachcomber (later renamed Don the Beachcomber) in Hollywood in 1933, sparking a trend that continues to this day. Tiki-Ti in Hollywood was founded in 1961 by a Don the Beachcomber bartender and serves 94 tropical cocktails. Bakersfield's Tiki-Ko is a classic of the genre, serving up concoctions like the Lady Monsoon and Tequila Guavolution. False Idol is a San Diego speakeasy that's hidden behind a stainless steel door inside Little Italy's Craft & Commerce. For the ultimate in mai tai mayhem, head to the Tonga Room & Hurricane Bar inside San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel. At this 1945 watering hole, the Island Groove Band plays from a thatched-roof barge on an aquamarine pool, and surprise thunder-and-lightning storms steal the show.

## 35 NOBODY CRUISES BETTER

Driving isn't always about getting from point A to point B. At Monterey Touring Vehicles, you can rent a 1954 Chevy Bel Air Convertible, a 1981 DeLorean, or dozens of other vintage rides. Recommended route: Start on 17-Mile

Drive and then head down Highway 1, cruising along two of the state's most scenic thoroughfares.





### 36 Hang With Mickey Mouse on His Home Turf

Head to Mickey's Toontown at Disneyland Park to get better acquainted with the smiling mouse and his pals. Start by taking a spin on Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway, the first Disneyland Resort ride devoted to Walt Disney's original star. Let the kids burn some energy on the boat-shaped play structure in Donald's Duck Pond and the green spaces of CenTOONial Park. Then zip off to climb the dreaming tree or visit the candy factory in Goofy's How-To Play Yard. Lots of parent-friendly benches and a mellow, play-at-your-own-pace atmosphere combine to create an important element of any great theme park day: a little time to exhale.

### 37 Absolutely Everybody Can Take Part in the Fun

No matter the abilities or special needs of anyone in your crew, the Golden State's top attractions excel at accessibility. Sesame Place San Diego and The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert, for instance, are both Certified Autism Centers where staffers are trained to support autistic guests. The parks offer amenities such as quiet rooms and sensory guides to help lower any stress and maximize fun. Other California theme parks, zoos, and aquariums—from SeaWorld San Diego to the Monterey Bay Aquarium to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo—offer skip-the-line ride passes, listening-assistance devices, noise-cancelling headphones, and dietary guides. Stop in at Guest Services to find out what's available.

### 38 Ride 20 Roller Coasters in One Afternoon

Santa Clarita's Six Flags Magic Mountain boasts 20 thrilling coasters, the most of any park on the planet. Love speed? Start at Superman: Escape from Krypton, the park's fastest ride, which zips around at up to 100 mph. Then head over to X2 for a spin on well-contained chaos: The ride features head-first drops and cars that rotate 360 degrees while moving at 76 mph. Test your nerve on Wonder Woman Flight of Courage, the world's longest and tallest single-rail coaster, or feel the g-force on Goliath, a "hypercoaster" that offers a 255-foot drop at 85 mph.

### 39 We Have Pirate Pride

The pirate ship Time Bandit sails Big Bear Lake's alpine waters, bringing a bounty of yo-ho-ho to those who remember the 1981 film (and their grandkids). Join the crew for 90 minutes of corny jokes and kid-friendly fun. Or head to Monterey's Cannery Row to experience Treasure Hunt: The Ride, an immersive adventure based on the legend of Monterey pirate Hippolyte Bouchard.



Six Flags Magic Mountain







## 40 Join an Arctic Rescue Mission

Grab the handlebars of your snowmobile-shaped roller coaster car on the Arctic Rescue ride at SeaWorld San Diego. A series of sudden, high-speed launches give you the feeling of zooming over rugged tundra at speeds as fast as 40 mph. When the thrills come to an end, get an up-close look at the *Wild Arctic* exhibit and learn about the park's real-life Rescue Squad, which has saved more than 40,000 animals. A short walk from the ride is the Rescue Jr. area, where kids can check out real Rescue Squad vehicles and climb around on ocean-themed play structures.

## 41 You Can Snooze With the Elephants

Don't just spend the day at a zoo, museum, or theme park. Spend the night, too, enjoying the scenery or wildlife like a true insider. At San Diego Zoo Safari Park, the overnight Roar & Snore Safaris include after-dark tours, breakfast, and glamping-style tents with sleeping pads, cots, or actual beds. Safari West in Sonoma County offers treehouse-style accommodations, while zoos such as the Sacramento Zoo, Fresno Chaffee Zoo, Oakland Zoo, and Santa Barbara Zoo host their own sleepover experiences. Bring your own camping gear, and they'll supply the s'mores fixings, camp activities, and breakfast.

Some museums do overnights, too, including the Fleet Science Center in San Diego, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, and the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. You can also pack your sleeping bag and tent for special-event nights at Gilroy Gardens theme park or the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. Kids will love staying up past bedtime to ride the rides after everyone else has gone home.

## 42 We'll Let You Step Right Into a Video Game

As soon as you walk through the rainbow-colored "warp pipe" into SUPER NINTENDO WORLD, you know you've entered a new theme-park dimension at Universal Studios Hollywood. Red-and-white mushrooms and piranhas dot this video-game kingdom. The castles of Princess Peach and Bowser, backed by Mount Beanpole, frame the sky.

Start racking up points in a real-life version of the classic games. Push buttons to "throw" shells on the indoor ride Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge, then make the most of the interactive stations—smacking giant alarm clocks, punching POW buttons, and using your own shadow to jump at fireballs.

Competitive types can track their scores by purchasing a Power-Up Band; the rest of us can just celebrate afterward with a Luigi Burger at Toadstool Café.

Universal Studios Hollywood





# We Travel *in Style*



**43** Foilboards, Carlsbad



**44** Snowmobiles, Hope Valley



**45** Lowriders, San Diego



**46** Hot-Air Balloons, Napa



**47** Swan Boats, L.A.'s Echo Park



**48** Cable Cars, San Francisco



## 49 The Danish Capital of America Is Here

In 1911, a group of Danish Americans purchased 9,000 acres in the Santa Ynez Valley, an area that turned out to be prime wine country. The founders brought Danish cuisine and architecture with them, and now millions of visitors flock to Solvang to see its windmills, thatched roofs, and rooftop storks—and snack on aebleskivers between Pinot Noir tastings.

## 50 Full-Throttle Fun Abounds

Ditch the furiousness and just go fast at one of the closed-track driving facilities in the Golden State. The BMW Performance Driving School south of Palm Springs will put you behind the wheel of an ultra-speedy M Series BMW, and you can let loose and see what it can do. Skip Barber Racing School operates out of Sonoma Raceway, offering a wide variety of racing and driving experiences on a 12-turn track. And at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca near Salinas, you can watch top IndyCar pros rule the asphalt.

## 51 Sand Castles Are Serious Business

In Carmel, autumn's biggest event is the annual Great Sandcastle Contest sponsored by the Monterey Bay chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Sand-construction teams build shapely mermaids, fanciful sea creatures, and tower-topped castles one bucket at a time. The judges happily accept non-monetary bribes, and the best architecture wins the coveted Golden Shovel Award. At day's end, the surging tide returns all contest entries to the sea.

## 52 You Can Thank The Academy

With a trip to The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, you can let the magic of special effects transport you to Hollywood's night of nights. The Oscars Experience lets you hold a coveted eight-and-a-half-pound statuette and deliver an acceptance speech in front of a virtual audience of industry bigwigs. (Video evidence of your achievement is emailed afterward.) You might be tempted to prattle on about all of the little people who helped you on your journey, but don't blab too much—the music will swell and you will get played off the stage.

## 53 Our Whales Are Show-Offs

Gray whales, humpbacks, and even massive blue whales are common sightings year-round along California's coast. On a half-day whale-watching cruise out of Newport Beach, Dana Point, or Monterey, you'll see the massive cetaceans perform tail flukes, spy-hops, or even full leaps out of the water (breaches). Whether it's your first whale sighting or your 100th, the thrill never wears off.

## 54 We Host the World's Wackiest Race

What began as a two-block jaunt down Main Street in Ferndale in 1969 has since morphed into a 40-mile odyssey across Humboldt County. Arcata's annual Kinetic Grand Championship simultaneously begs for and defies description. Entrants must build their own kinetic sculptures, defined as "all-terrain, human-powered art vehicles, engineered to race over road, water, mud, and sand." Design flourishes like animated faces and fire cannons are practically mandatory, and costumes are strongly encouraged. A winner is crowned every year, but that seems beside the point.

## 55 Dogs and Santa Surf, and So Can You

People go a bit crazy for surfing here, and so do their dogs. Faith, a goggles-clad American pit bull terrier, took home the top prize in the large dog division at last year's World Dog Surfing Championships in Pacifica. It's an August tradition that needs to be on every canine lover's to-do list. Later in the year, Kris Kringle hits the waves at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. The resort hosts an annual Surfing Santa & Stand-Up Paddleboard Contest that benefits Surfers Healing, a surf camp for children with autism.

You, too, can rule the waves. Surf classes are offered up and down the coast, including

Santa Barbara Surf School, Surf Diva in La Jolla, Banzai Surf in Huntington Beach, Adventure Out in Santa Cruz, and Tommy Tsunami Surf School in Half Moon Bay.

## 56 This Is Where Comedy Legends Get Their Start

For more than 45 years, the Groundlings Theatre & School has been a Los Angeles improv institution and the training ground for many big names in comedy, including Will Ferrell, Phil Hartman, Lisa Kudrow, Jon Lovitz, Melissa McCarthy, Laraine Newman, Paul Reubens, Maya Rudolph, and Kristen Wiig. The 30-member company still entertains audiences nightly, and although Ferrell and others have moved on, you can still see Stephanie Courtney, better known as "Flo" from Progressive Insurance ads, and Patty Guggenheim, who yucked it up as Madisynn on the Disney+ series *She-Hulk*.

## 57 Ski or Ride on July 4

There's no need to travel to the southern hemisphere for off-season skiing. On Independence Day at Mammoth Mountain, skiers and snowboarders shred the slopes wearing shorts and tank tops instead of parkas and ski pants. Mammoth's high altitude, deep snowpack, and north-facing trails produce one of the West's longest ski seasons, typically lasting from November through July.

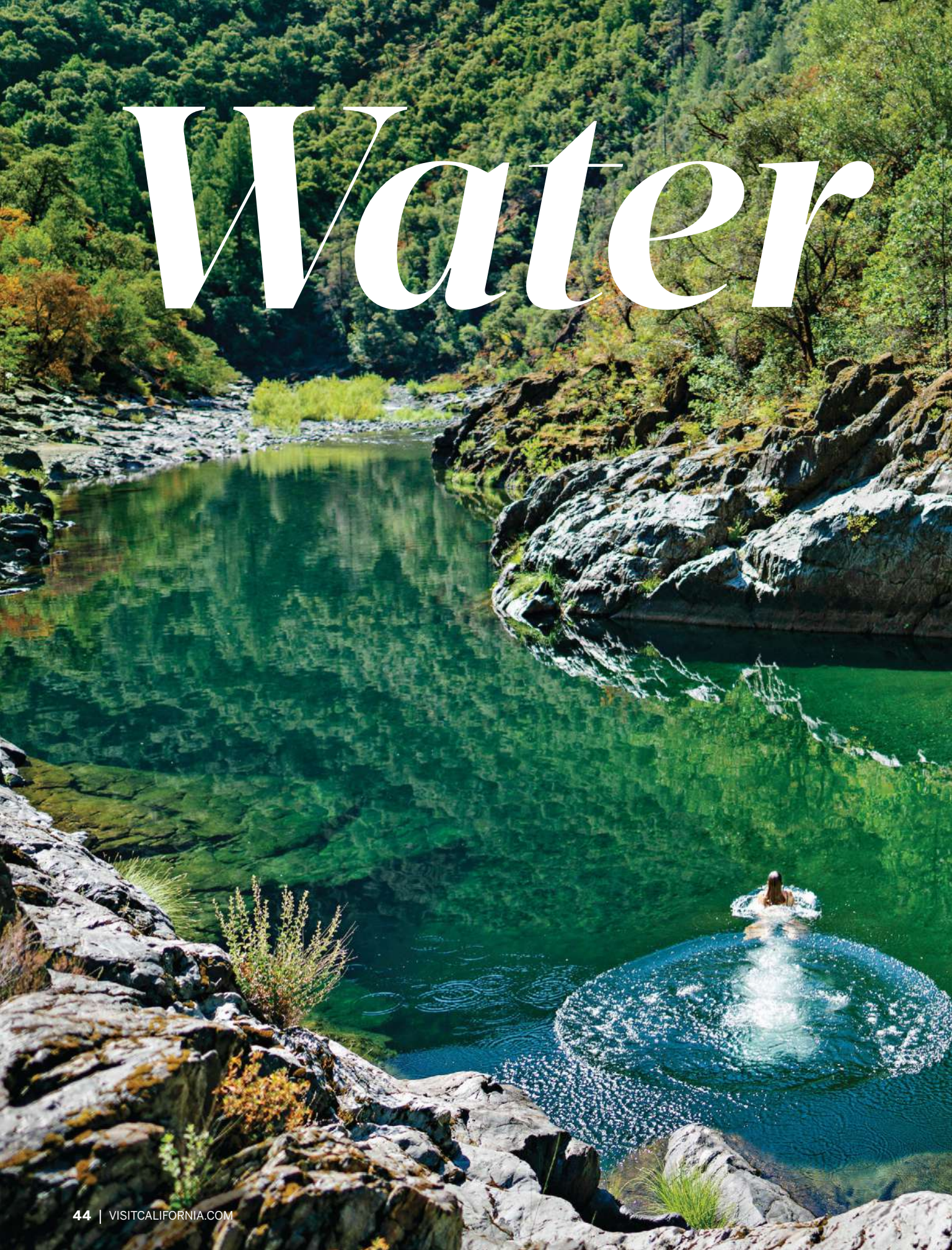
## 58 SUPERBLOOMS ARE THE BEST BLOOMS

The Golden State's spring flower show is always beautiful, but the term "superbloom" refers to a high-octane version of the annual display. What makes the magic happen? Superblooms occur when rain falls in frequent intervals between October and February—especially when that rain follows a long period of drought. This leads to widespread germination of wildflower seeds that may have lain dormant for years. Your best bet for witnessing something spectacular? Watch the weather, keep a bag packed, and embrace the spontaneity.





# *Water*





# World

Two swimming enthusiasts embarked on a six-month **ROAD TRIP** to find the best swimming holes in California. They discovered pristine **RIVERS**, glistening **WATERFALLS**, secluded **LAKES**, and a renewed love for the **GOLDEN STATE**.

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY DILLON SEITCHIK-REARDON



# W

hen the world changed in 2020, we suddenly found ourselves unable to leave Australia. As an American, the pandemic led to years without seeing family. During this time, my partner (co-author Caroline Clements) and I had a baby. We had a lot to share with our loved ones back in the U.S.

As the restrictions began to loosen, we started to do what we've always done together: plan an adventure. We decided to write our next book about California. Just the idea filled us with hope. In a short period of time, travel had become so fraught with danger and fear that we wanted to reclaim it—the joy of it—for ourselves.

We bought an old 24-foot motor home sight unseen on Craigslist and moved in for six months with our two-year-old son Leo, wondering what the hell we'd gotten ourselves into.

Water, the most precious and endangered resource on the planet, was our focus. And it became the key to our understanding of California. Where water goes, after all, life follows.

We treat swimming as an access point to exploring the many wild and diverse identities of the state. The variety of environments in California continues to amaze us. Each one of the landscapes is an icon in its own right—the dusty chaparral and endless sun-drenched beaches; towering canyons and emerald pools; volcanic peaks and glacial lakes. The many long, slow river miles that wind through oak forests and vineyards.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this trip would not just be a snapshot from this period of our lives, but also the culmination of decades of informal research. When I was 18, I moved from New Mexico into a 12-by-10-foot tent

cabin in Yosemite Valley. My roommate slept two feet away from me and snored so loud that I would often jolt awake in the night thinking there was a rockslide. It was the best summer of my life.

Like so many people before and after me, the Sierra forever altered my trajectory. I returned year after year. I met brilliant, hilarious, optimistic people living nomadic lifestyles. These men and women had proudly pulled out of a traditional career path to live in the wilderness—to climb, to hike, to swim, and to surf. They followed the seasons across California and around the world. It rewired my young brain. I didn't know you were allowed to live that way.

It set me off on a path of exploration that led to Australia, where Caroline and I met. We found a connection in our love of travel and were soon planning trips. Surf trips. Road trips. Backpacking trips. We began writing books. We've been lucky to have spent much of our time together exploring new places and writing travel guides. Yet California is the place that always draws us back.

What is it about this state that changes generation after generation of visitors? What is so special about California? In many ways, that is the question we set out to answer in our book. There is something so profoundly addictive and awe-inspiring about the California wilderness that it changes your life. It demands that you savor every moment.

At first, we couldn't resist the pull of the Sierra. I dragged Caroline (and Leo) up mountains and into freezing lakes (mostly just Caroline)—often joined by our family and friends. We soaked in hot springs and slept under the stars. Our exploration expanded in concentric circles. Driving up and down the coast, camping among peaceful redwoods, sipping beers on lazy river floats. Gradually, it shifted from *my* place to *our* place.

To say California is diverse is like calling Miles Davis a trumpet player. Factually correct, but woefully inadequate. Each region has a distinctive character that makes it feel like a new country. Northern California is a vast and wild part of the state that includes some of the most varied wilderness areas in America, spanning sleepy redwoods to

volcanic mountain ranges. The Sierra, a masterpiece of gravity, water, and stone. The Bay Area, a dense cultural and culinary epicenter. Gold Country, an interwoven series of pristine rivers and charming former boomtowns. Central California, the perfect cross-section encompassing the dramatic Big Sur coastline, but also giant sequoia groves and crystalline rivers. Finally, Southern California, the golden child and home to possibly the most photographed, filmed, and crooned about places in the world. Yet it still finds ways to surprise you.

## TOP SWIMMING BEACHES

California has some of the most diverse landscapes, and hence some of the most diverse swims. The best beaches range from sunny coves to bays with sandstone bluffs, to inland river beaches with impossibly clear water. Some are sandy, some are rocky, and all are truly world-class.

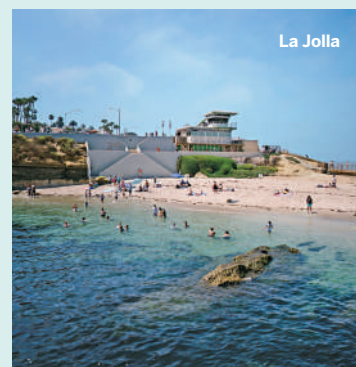
**Treasure Island Beach, Laguna Beach**  
Stunning sandy coves set among an extravagant cliff-top garden paradise

**Lovers Point, Pacific Grove**  
A pocket-sized cove beach with a hot concrete sun deck for bathing

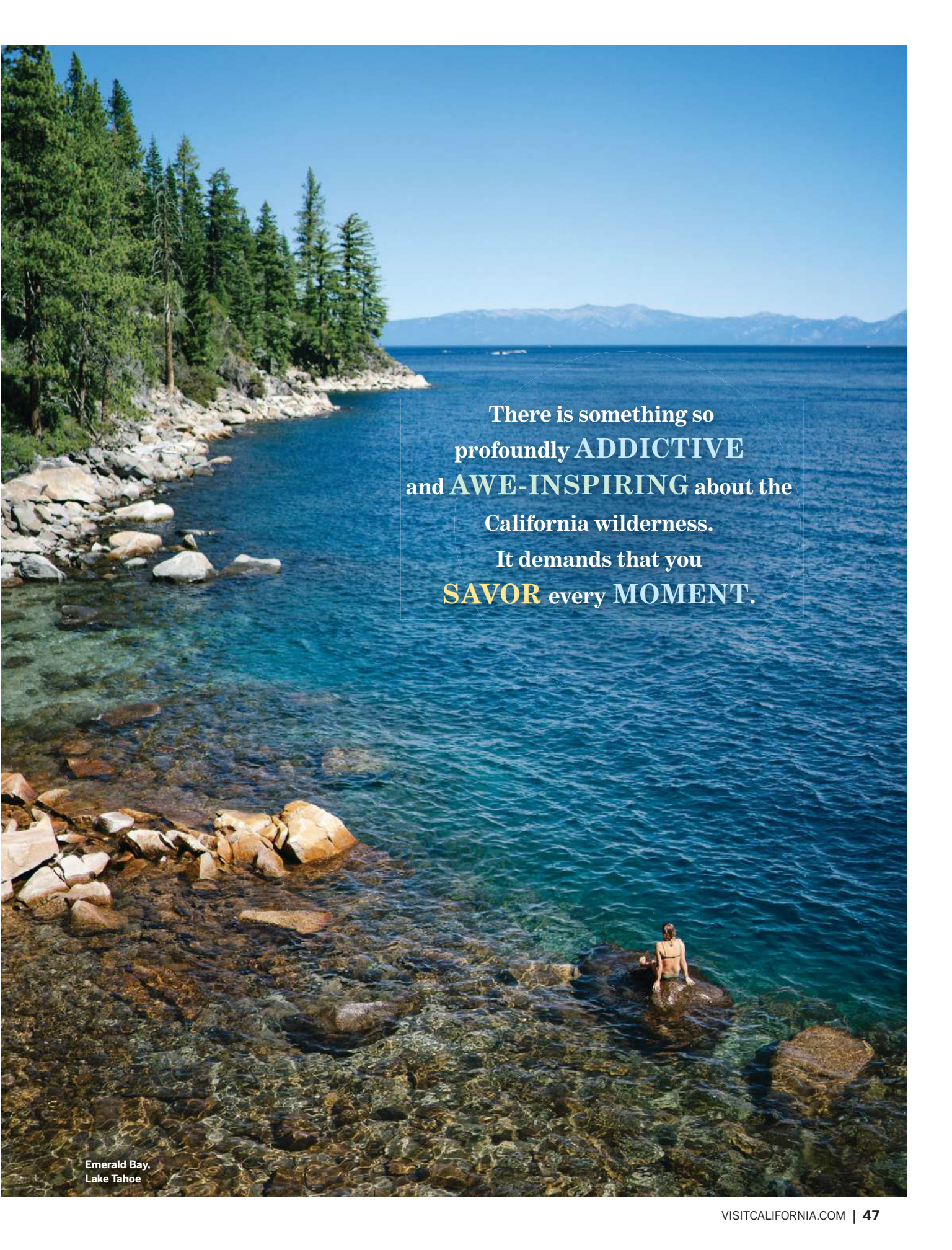
**La Jolla, San Diego**  
A stunning series of cove beaches that populate the coast of San Diego's posh seaside suburb

**Del Rio Woods, Russian River**  
Lazy river float in Sonoma wine country

**Buttermilk Bend, South Fork Yuba River**  
Sandy beaches and deep pools on voluptuous riverbends







There is something so  
profoundly **ADDICTIVE**  
and **AWE-INSPIRING** about the  
California wilderness.  
It demands that you  
**SAVOR** every **MOMENT**.

Emerald Bay,  
Lake Tahoe





"We treat swimming as an access point to exploring the many wild and diverse identities of the state," says Dillon Seitchik-Reardon, co-author of *Places We Swim California*. "The variety of environments in California continues to amaze us." Three examples, clockwise from top: Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica; Pismo Beach; Big Sur River Gorge.





And though it's a near-impossible choice, we do have some favorites. We could write a whole book on the Yuba River and its various forks. From Emerald Pools, near the Sierra crest, down to Buttermilk Bend at the edge of the Sacramento Valley, the shimmering South Fork contains some of California's most stunning swimming holes, with miles of smooth granite boulders and intensely green water.

Just outside of Nevada City, one place stands apart. Highway 49 Crossing is a popular locals' spot and the de-facto public square. The historic arched bridge perfectly frames a sprawling pool of deep, clear water. There's plenty of space here, and seen from above, the colorful towels, umbrellas, and inflatable rings create a sumptuous summer scene. About a mile upstream is Hoyt's Crossing, a broad pebble beach set in a half-pipe of polished granite walls. Butterflies dance around the water, willow trees shade sandy beaches, and unclad sunbakers lie on smooth boulders (it's Nevada City's unofficial nudist beach). There is something here for everyone.

In stark contrast, another one of our favorite places was the town of Tecopa, a bizarre desert outpost sitting virtually alone in the southeast corner of the state, just outside of Death Valley National Park. Here, the sublime, otherworldly beauty of the Mojave Desert is a mineral palette saturated by the winter sun. Chloride green rocks, yellow sulfur hills, and black mountains with white borax scars serve as the backdrop to abundant hot springs.

Clusters of tall palms are scattered among natural thermal pools, a Japanese sento-style bathhouse, and a simple resort where kitschy classical busts, friezes, and fountains adorn the common areas like a post-apocalyptic Caesars Palace. Artists, brewers, and chefs have found their way to this frontier community of eccentrics and nonconformists. There are a couple of breweries, a barbecue joint, a five-table steakhouse, and a café. The best part: no cell phone service.

California is dense, and six months of travel flew by. Our trip didn't always go as planned, but we woke up each morning with a sense of wonder and curiosity for

the next adventure around the corner. We were buoyed by the many people who helped guide our adventures, by sharing their own experiences and advice. The kind strangers who fed us and gave us a place to park. Mechanics who got us back on the road as quickly as possible. Our friends and family who joined us throughout the journey. All of them helped us to capture the California that we know and love.

Most importantly, we found the answer to our question: What makes California so special? It gives us permission to be small. To be dwarfed by places that are so much greater than us and feel awe at being part of it all. Being in nature, and better yet being alone in nature, allows us to unburden our cluttered minds and become totally engrossed in the present. It's an increasingly rare gift to be able to focus our senses, whether in the concentrated effort of hiking up a steep hill or in the crushing exhilaration of cold water squeezing the air from your lungs. These moments make us feel truly alive.

Our book is a reminder that the best of what our world has to offer lies in the things we cannot make. Enjoy these precious, beautiful places. Take care of them and protect them. Drink them in with joy and share them with the people you love.

*Dillon Seitchik-Reardon and Caroline Clements are the authors of Places We Swim California, a guide to the state's best rivers, lakes, waterfalls, beaches, gorges, and hot springs. The book is published by Hardie Grant Travel and will be available in bookstores in April 2024. Follow their journey on Instagram @placesweswim.*



HOLD YOUR PHONE CAMERA OVER THIS SMART CODE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE BOOK

## MOST SECLUDED SWIMMING SPOTS

Quiet swimming spots are ones that people cherish and even pride themselves on knowing about. There is a sense that having a place to yourself is the highlight of the swim. If that is you, then you will enjoy these out-of-the-way locations, whether high in the hills or down in a valley. Some require a hike to get to, but they are all worth the mission.



**Shadow Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park**  
A prized lake in the shadow of an active volcano

**Minaret Lake, Ansel Adams Wilderness**  
An immaculate glacial lake beneath jagged, otherworldly peaks

**Upper Salmon Creek Falls, Big Sur**  
Secluded hike and waterfall on Big Sur's southern coast

**Devil's Elbow, Trinity River**  
The Trinity Alps' hidden paradise

**Middle Fork Tule River Falls, Sequoia National Forest**  
Cascades, waterfalls, and deep pools in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills

## BEST RIVER SWIMS

Probably the hardest list to whittle down, but for that reason the strongest. These rivers hold some of the most pristine water in the world. In our opinion, rivers are the best places to swim in California.

**Smith River Confluence, Six Rivers National Forest**  
Iridescent water and pebble beaches along California's most wild and scenic river

**Highway 49, Yuba River South Fork**  
Deep clear pools under a historic highway bridge, and a famous nude swimming spot upstream

**Carlton Falls, Tuolumne River South Fork**  
A glistening waterfall and emerald-clear pools create a natural water park

**Big Sur River Gorge, Big Sur**  
A glassy freshwater pool along Big Sur River

**Gualala River Redwood Park, Gualala**  
A secluded redwood swimming hole with summer-camp vibes









MEET 9

**CALIFORNIA**  
**SKI**  
**INSIDERS**

Envision the perfect ski day: carving through pillowy powder, savoring white-frosted vistas, or maybe watching your six-year-old crush her first black diamond. This bluebird day belongs to you, but it can't happen without an army of people hustling to keep you happy and safe. Here are some of their stories.

BY ANN MARIE BROWN





## ALEX COLTON >>

MT. SHASTA SKI PARK LIFT  
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Colton's team of 40 "lifties" ensure that skiers get on and off the chairlift safely—and that means easing the fears of adult beginners and helping little kids whose legs are too short for the chairs. "We're out there talking to guests and helping everybody have a great day, and it really makes a difference."

**PERKS:** "I grew up in Southern California's high desert where we didn't have snow, and now I'm in love with it. Our season lasted 130 days last year, and I work outside every day. Even on my days off I come up here to snowboard and have fun."

**CALMING FEARS:** "The chairlifts can be a little alarming for beginners who are afraid of heights. We reassure them that it's safe and they're going to be OK. Once they take their first ride, they're always thrilled by the views and they love it."





SORAYA MATOS (2), PREVIOUS SPREAD: SORAYA MATOS

## JOSH HELLING

**BADGER PASS YOSEMITE NORDIC CENTER DIRECTOR**

Helling guides backcountry skiing tours and sets up cross-country skiers and snowshoers with rental equipment, then points them toward snow-blanketed meadows and mountain vistas.

**VISITOR TIPS:** “Beginners can ski or snowshoe along Glacier Point Road to Summit Meadow, about two miles round-trip. It’s groomed almost every night. More experienced skiers can continue to Clark Range Vista for a view of the eastern peaks, or go to Dewey Point, which is a trek to an iconic vista.”

**APRÈS-SKI:** “I like to bring my kids to the ice rink at Curry Village. You can skate, or you can just sip hot chocolate with a great view of Half Dome.”

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## BEN MOGREN

**PALISADES TAHOE EXECUTIVE CHEF**

Mogren heads up nine slope-side eateries, overseeing a team of 250 spread across four mountains. He started working in restaurants during his years as a ski racer, then decided to attend the Culinary Institute of America.

**CHALLENGES:** “Getting the food to our on-mountain locations requires a ton of logistics. Most of it goes up the chairlifts, the Funitel, and the aerial tram. We also have a World War II-era snowcat that carries food and supplies. Our team doesn’t just cook; they also shovel snow.”

**MOUNTAIN FOOD:** “Each restaurant is different. We serve everything from chorizo-crust halibut at Granite Bistro to spicy Nashville chicken sandwiches in Olympic House and California-style burritos at Funi’s.”

## DAVID HUTCHISON

**NORTHSTAR CALIFORNIA SNOWMAKING MANAGER**

Hutchison and his team combine air and water to make snow using large underground pipes and hydrants all over the mountain. “We make snow every year regardless of how much falls from the sky. We start in the fall long before the resort opens. Ideally, we make a good base, then Mother Nature delivers the rest.”

**PERKS:** “Snowmakers care about their jobs to an absurd degree. It’s hard work, but we get to see the results. And we get to watch the sunrise and the sunset from the top of the mountain. When you see the colors bouncing off the clouds, you know you have a great job.”





## JOSH PIGHETTI >>

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN  
ADAPTIVE SKIING INSTRUCTOR

Pighetti works with Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES), a nonprofit that partners with Mammoth Mountain to help people with disabilities get out on the snow.

**JOB LOVE:** “It’s really important that people with disabilities are able to ski and snowboard with their families, friends, and colleagues. We try to give them the freedom and independence to be able to ski with the people they care about.”

**VISITOR TIP:** “On the mountain’s back side, the Melt House’s deck has an amazing view. That’s where I go to take a break, bask in the sun, and just think about how grateful I am to be in a place that takes my breath away every day.”





**“We try to give people with disabilities the independence to be able to ski with the people they care about.”**

– JOSH PIGHETTI



FROM LEFT: MAX WHITTAKER; COURTESY: AMY ARMSTRONG

## ANTHONY DOTTO

**BIG BEAR MOUNTAIN RESORT SENIOR  
MANAGER OF TERRAIN PARKS**

Dotto and a crew of welders, carpenters, and painters design and build terrain parks. “We’re building jumps and rails to suit the ‘rad dad’ and his kids, and we’re also building for extremely advanced riders.”

**HOW THEY DO IT:** “We have a night crew that installs features and resurfaces the park while everyone is sleeping. During the day, a crew of riders tests each feature to make sure it’s safe.”

**PERKS:** “I love getting to enjoy the features we’ve built. Going off jumps gives me that surge of adrenaline that I love so much.”

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## AMY ARMSTRONG

**KIRKWOOD SKI PATROL  
ARTILLERY MANAGER**

Armstrong and her team use hand-thrown explosives and military artillery to protect skiers from destructive avalanches. “The mountain has so many avalanche paths that we need all hands on deck to get the resort open. The goal is to trigger small avalanches so that larger ones don’t happen.”

**CHALLENGES:** “Snow is always changing, and we’re trying to predict and manage it. But you can never fully control the mountain. We’re aware of the dangers, and that makes our patrollers a really tight family. We look out for each other.”





**“The dogs’ primary function is for avalanche rescues, but they do their share of guest relations, too.”**

— RYAN McPARTLAND



## MIRANDA EDWARDS

SUGAR BOWL  
GONDOLA OPERATOR

Edwards operates the Village Gondola, which takes guests from the parking lot to Sugar Bowl Village.

**HOW THEY DO IT:** “At 7 a.m., we start loading people into the gondola cabins—employees, hotel guests, skiers, and riders. People have equipment, groceries, dogs, babies. It’s fast-paced, but I like the hustle. I try to keep a calm, friendly face even if there’s chaos.”

**VISITOR TIP:** “The top of Lincoln chair has the best view of Donner Lake and the wilderness on Sugar Bowl’s back side.”

## « RYAN McPARTLAND

HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN SKI RESORT  
ASSISTANT SKI PATROL DIRECTOR

Ski patrollers are problem solvers, McPartland says. “We move around the ski area looking for hazards, grooming issues, changing snow conditions. A big part of our job is identifying hazards and coming up with the safest way to mitigate them. If a skier gets injured, we’re here to help.”

**THE TEAM:** “We have about 70 full-time patrollers who are certified EMTs. We also have six avalanche rescue dogs, including my golden retriever Yuba. The dogs’ primary function is for avalanche rescues, but they do their share of guest relations, too. They make people smile.”



# ROAM WHERE NATURE LEADS

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# California Shopping

an **A to Z** guide

BY ALLISON HATA



We've got gift shops galore. Niche boutiques for the most obscure interests. Some of the biggest malls in America and impressive luxury flagships. Shopping in the Golden State is more than an activity; it's an art form. You can browse handmade crafts from local makers on downtown promenades or hit the outlets to score the deal of a lifetime. Just follow your passion (and don't forget your wallet) to find clothes, books, vintage vinyl, and one-of-a-kind artisan wares. Here's your alphabetic guide to some of the best shopping streets and malls, designers, and local treasures, from the most coveted it-jewelry to zero-waste shops that reflect California's eco-friendly ethos.



## A IS FOR AMOEBA RECORDS ▼

A staggering amount—millions—of records, CDs, DVDs, and even cassettes fill the aisles at one of the world's largest independently owned record stores. The Berkeley, San Francisco, and Hollywood shops feature all genres of music; the one in Hollywood even has a stage for in-store performances adorned with an original Shepard Fairey mural. Fun fact: Paul McCartney famously played a secret show at the old Hollywood location in 2007.



## C IS FOR CAST JEWELRY ▲

Colorful jewelry from this Corte Madera boutique played a starring role on season two of HBO's *The White Lotus*. Glam up your look with statement pieces like mixed metal signet rings and hand-painted enamel cuffs worn by Tanya (Jennifer Coolidge), or shop for understated ceramic-edge earrings favored by Harper (Aubrey Plaza).

## B IS FOR THE BARLOW ▼

Bring home your favorite flavors from this downtown Sebastopol culinary hub, like basil-infused 100 percent extra virgin olive oil from Il Fusti, using olives from the Sonoma family estate, or a bottle of natural wine from The Punchdown, a shop with a list of around 100 bottles from Sonoma County alone. Shop for spiraled glass napkin rings handblown by Michael Dickinson or super-soft cashmere scarfs from JG Switzer, both made in onsite workshops. Golden State Cider's taproom is the perfect place to enjoy a pint; it's also a retail outlet selling the popular Mighty Dry blend, specialty ciders, and merch featuring the oh-so-cute otter mascot.



## D IS FOR DISCO RANCH

Inside a rustic Boonville barn along Highway 128 is a selection of bottles that *Wine Spectator* recognized with its Award of Excellence. California varietals are the standouts in Wendy Lamer's specialty shop: There's a shelf perpetually stocked with local wines from Anderson Valley and Mendocino County small producers, many without tasting rooms of their own.

## E IS FOR EL PASEO SHOPPING DISTRICT ▼

It's not a mirage. Known as the Rodeo Drive of the Desert, this mile-long stretch in Greater Palm Springs is known for luxe brands like Gucci and Ralph Lauren, which you'll find at The Shops on El Paseo, along with independent high-end clothing boutiques. The Gardens on El Paseo, an open-air mall on the strip, hosts the West Coast's largest consumer fashion show every spring.





# F

## IS FOR FLEA MARKETS

Want to capture California's effortlessly cool style? Shop for vintage clothing and one-of-a-kind treasures. Pasadena's monthly Rose Bowl Flea Market is the biggest on the West Coast; add other L.A.-area stops like Melrose Trading Post and Los Feliz Flea Market to your browse list as well. Farther north, TreasureFest offers views of the San Francisco Bay while Berkeley Flea is known for its art and accessories from international vendors.

# G

## IS FOR GOLDEN GATE MERCANTILE

General stores showcase California's small-town charm with trinkets and local delicacies that make for the perfect souvenirs. Nestled on an idyllic street between Victorian buildings in Ferndale, Golden Gate Mercantile has it all: an old-fashioned candy counter, heirloom jewelry, handmade lotions and soaps, and period headwear. The two-story shop also features a small museum with displays of artifacts from the 1800s and a millinery showing how hats were once made. You'll find more homegrown shops up and down the state, from McCloud Mercantile Co. in Shasta Cascade to San Diego's Rust General Store.

# H

## IS FOR HOTEL POP-UP SHOPS

We're not talking lobby gift shops—picture ultra-luxury boutique experiences like Dioriviera, a summer pop-up previously based at Rosewood Miramar Beach and Beverly Hills Hotel. At Stanly Ranch in Napa and The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel, you can browse like a VIP year-round at the Fifth Avenue Club pop-up. Personal stylists from Saks Fifth Avenue will bring a selection of designer clothing and accessories to the hotel and create a curated shopping display just for you.

## IS FOR INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES ▼

Read all about it: There are more bookstores in California than any other state, including dozens of independently owned gems.

We've got outdoor indie bookstores, including the country's largest, Bart's Books in Ojai, as well as niche shops for special interests. Shopping for an aspiring chef? Check out L.A.'s Now Serving or the Bay Area's Omnivore Books on Food. There are even bookstores that moonlight as publishers—back in 1956, City Lights in San Francisco famously released *Howl and Other Poems* by Beat writer Allen Ginsberg.



## J IS FOR JUST ONE EYE ▼

Explore this L.A. emporium where the art world meets fashion (and a little bit of history). Works by Murakami hang on the walls, while rare designer pieces—like a \$55,000 backpack collab created by artist Damien Hirst and The Row—line the shelves. The central L.A. boutique offers its uber-luxe, elite shopping experience inside an art deco building that formerly housed Howard Hughes' business operations.

Just One Eye







# K IS FOR KJ MURPHY'S ▶

Calling all cowboys: This hat maker in the Santa Ynez Valley takes his measurements for bespoke headwear in a swanky Western-style atelier. You can customize every detail, down to the trimmings on the brim.



# L IS FOR LUXURY

The directory at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa reads like a who's who of high fashion. There's Hermès, Dior, Burberry, and dozens more alongside affordable luxury including Coach and Michael Kors. It's one of the most expansive (and expensive!) malls in the country. The red carpet is rolled out for VIPs at the exclusive Access Lounge, where big spenders can sip complimentary Champagne and savor small snacks. To see the biggest Chanel boutique in the U.S., visit Rodeo Drive, where the fashion house recently joined other standouts on the Beverly Hills street, such as a three-story Gucci flagship and the largest Harry Winston salon in the world. If you love a good deal, find the largest concentration of luxury outlets in California—around 180 stores, including Armani, Celine, Prada, and Saint Laurent—at Desert Hills Premium Outlets near Palm Springs.

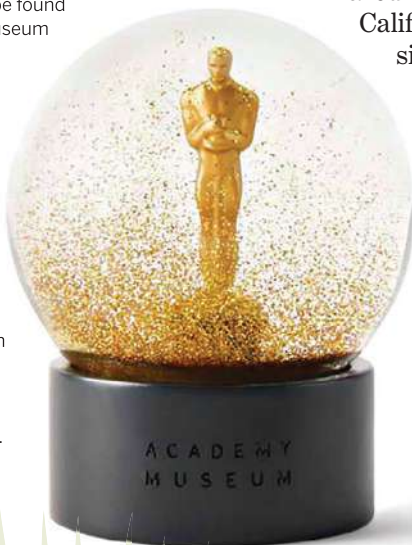
# O IS FOR ONTARIO MILLS ▶



To save big, you need to think big. How big? 1,422,000 square feet, to be exact. The Inland Empire is home to this sprawling complex of around 200 stores—which makes it not only California's largest outlet, but also the biggest single-level mall on the West Coast. You can score deals at Nordstrom Rack, Saks Off Fifth, and Nike Factory Store, and browse outlet outposts for all budgets—from Kate Spade and Coach to Forever 21 and H&M.

# M IS FOR MUSEUM GIFT SHOPS ▼

As beautifully curated as the exhibits they help support, these onsite stores are packed with take-home treasures. Reprints of masterpieces can be found at the SFMOMA Museum Store, along with jewelry, lamps, clocks, and other housewares. Let kids wander the gift shops at California Academy of Sciences and Exploratorium in San Francisco and MOXI in Santa Barbara—all three offer STEM toys inspired by popular exhibits. In L.A., pick up cinematic memorabilia at the Academy Museum Store, signed collectible vinyl at the Grammy Museum, or Van Gogh-inspired glass earrings at The Getty. Check out the diverse collection of museums in San Diego's Balboa Park, where shop souvenirs range from lucky cats at the Japanese Friendship Garden to graphic novels at the Comic-Con Museum.



# N IS FOR NIK KACY

The founder of Equality Fashion Week, NiK Kacy is also the pioneering creative behind the first gender-equal luxury footwear line. An Asian immigrant and former Google project manager turned designer, they run their eponymous brand out of a downtown L.A. HQ, creating high-top sneakers, combat boots, and other styles for genders and identities on all spectrums.

# P IS FOR PROMENADES

Pack your walking shoes—California's downtown stretches are packed with local shops and designer boutiques. Spots like Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade are car-free, making it easy to stroll at your leisure. In Santa Barbara, the 10-block State Street Promenade is filled with galleries and clothing stores like Brandy Melville, Vuori, and Lululemon. And in downtown San Diego, the Gaslamp Promenade features plazas lined with shops selling candy, shoes, and custom jewelry.

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY KJ MURPHY'S; COURTESY ONTARIO MILLS; COURTESY THE ACADEMY MUSEUM



# Q

## IS FOR QUEEN BEE MARKET

Twice a year in San Diego County, SoCal's longest-running makers' market offers a chance to browse jewelry, pottery, accessories, clothing, and vintage wares from more than 100 artisans. You can meet the makers in person or take a pop-up workshop to learn skills like leatherworking and wreath-making.



## R IS FOR ROADSIDE STANDS ▶

Pull over for the perfect pit stop. A California road trip can showcase the state's vast agricultural bounty. Dig into sweet, salty, and savory specialty snacks, including oils and vinegars at the Olive Pit in Corning, fresh and pickled products at Garlic World in Gilroy, and dried apricots at Casa de Fruta in Hollister. Or stretch your legs at Bravo Farms, a Kettleman City stopover that features a play area for kids, old-fashioned ice cream and date shakes, and a wine-tasting counter.

## S IS FOR SURF SHOPS ▼

Gear up for the official state sport at dozens of stores lining the coast, from Mollusk Surf Shop in San Francisco to Jack's Surfboards in Huntington

Beach (where the Surfing Walk of Fame is etched into the sidewalk) to Hansen Surfboards, San Diego County's largest surf store founded by pro shaper Don Hansen. At O'Neill's Capitola corporate office—founded by the man who trademarked the phrase "surf shop"—you can not only purchase a wetsuit, but also see one of the brand's first designs.



## T IS FOR THICK AS THIEVES ▶

A husband-and-wife team in Palm Springs runs a downtown boutique filled with odds and ends created by local makers, including apparel like Palm Springs t-shirts, handmade jewelry, and apothecary goods. A soy wax blend candle, hand-poured by Joshua Tree Candle Co., is a great way to revisit your desert getaway after you return home.







## U IS FOR UNION SQUARE

Heralded as the heart of San Francisco—and fittingly marked by heart-shaped sculptures at each corner—this shopping district is where you can find everything from luxury jewelry and handbags at Louis Vuitton and Dior to athletic wear at Nike. It's surrounded by shopping streets like Maiden Lane, a pedestrian-friendly stretch with shops including Chanel, Van Cleef & Arpels, and Bottega Veneta. Stop by Neiman Marcus to get a view of the square from the four-story rotunda, enclosed by an opulent stained-glass dome that's part of the original 1800s-era department store.

## V IS FOR VANS

This homegrown O.C. skate brand, born in Anaheim in 1966, has a Huntington Beach boutique attached to the official Vans Off the Wall Skatepark. Shop for your shoes and a new board—and maybe a pair of cool checkerboard slip-ons for back home—and hit the free 35,000-square-foot action sports playground.



## W IS FOR WILKES BASHFORD

The legacy of San Francisco's legendary menswear clothier lives on in his eponymous department store. A curator of luxury styles, Bashford brought designers like Brunello Cucinelli to the city at a time where long hair and hippie tie-dye were de rigueur. Today, a high-end shopping experience awaits with made-to-measure style advisers, a custom jewelry studio, and a fully stocked bar with Scotch, coffee, and snacks.

## Z IS FOR ZERO-WASTE SHOPS

When in the Golden State, think green. You can embrace an eco-friendly ethos at sustainable shops known for zero-waste packaging such as Fill Good Co. in Berkeley, which is stocked with self-care goodies like eucalyptus muscle rubs, clay masks, and lip balms. If you're headed to SoCal, the certified woman-owned small business Sustain LA has more giftables, from salves and scrubs to essential oils and exfoliants. And Eco Now is bringing a new wave of sustainability to O.C. as the first green-certified business in Costa Mesa, with additional locations in Anaheim, Laguna Beach, and Riverside. The boutiques have treasures like small-batch perfumes and locally sourced, handmade body care products.

## X IS FOR XANADU SKATE BOUTIQUE

Ready to roll? Santa Barbara's colorful boutique is the only one of its kind along the Central Coast. Check out hard-to-find Moxi and Riedell brand roller skates, along with laces, helmets, and other accessories. Or build a personalized pair with custom wheels attached to high tops or Doc Martens.

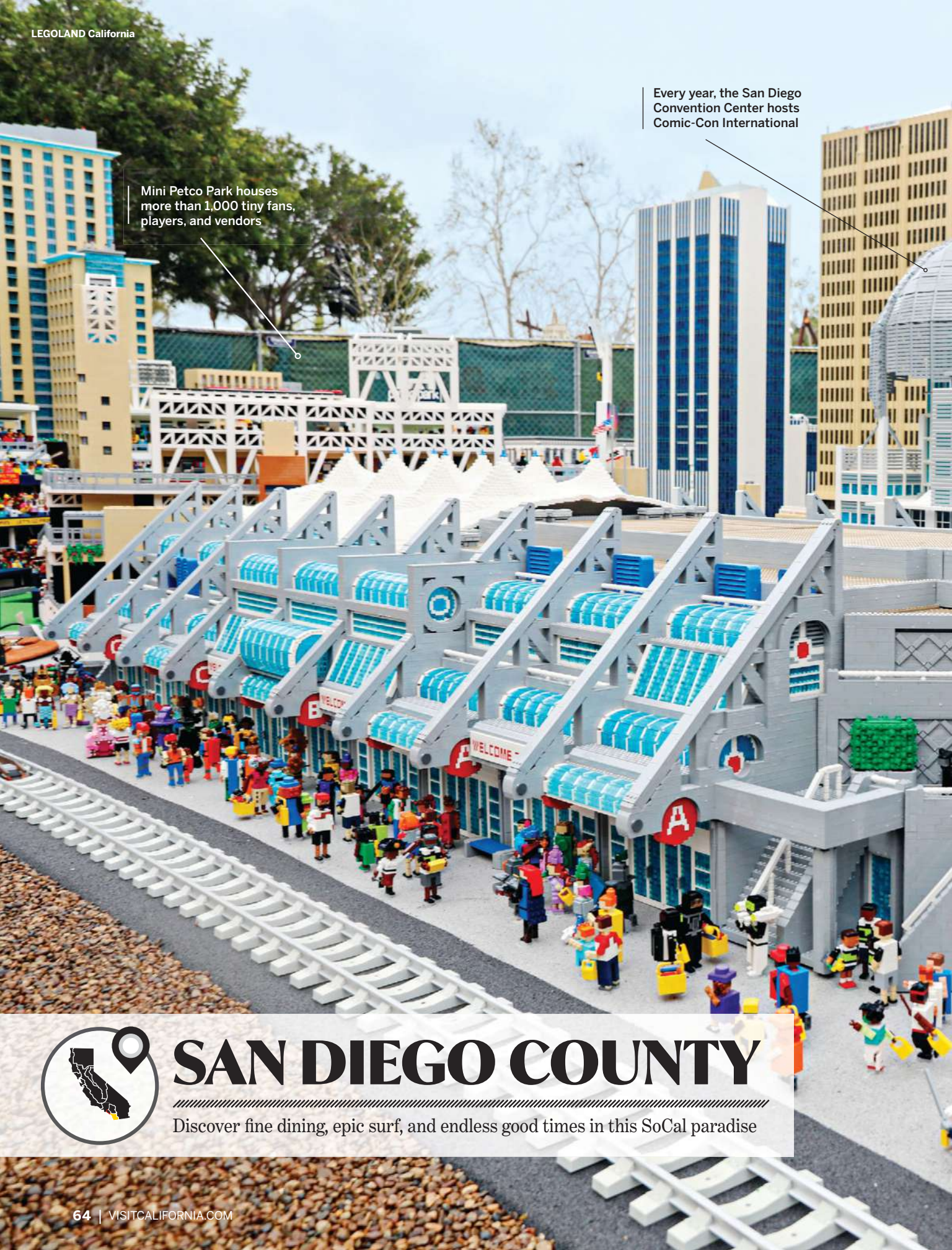


CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: TWENTY47/STUDIO/GETTY IMAGES; BERGAMONT/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY VANS; COURTESY WILKES BASHFORD; COURTESY XANADU SKATE BOUTIQUE



Every year, the San Diego Convention Center hosts Comic-Con International

Mini Petco Park houses more than 1,000 tiny fans, players, and vendors



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Discover fine dining, epic surf, and endless good times in this SoCal paradise





At 500 feet high, the real One America Plaza is San Diego's tallest building

Miniland San Diego features 55 local landmarks constructed from 5 million LEGO bricks

The meticulously crafted mini-city took a year and a half to construct





## Mad for Museums

**G**et a flash tattoo. Dance across a light floor. Step into a thunderstorm. Museums in San Diego dispel the long-held notion that you should look but not touch. The first West Coast location of the high-tech **WDR Museum** opened last year with immersive exhibits like *Quantum Mirror*, which pairs reflective surfaces with digital visuals, and *Masterpiece*, where you can render famous artworks unrecognizable with the shake of your arm. With kids in tow, visit the **Museum of Illusions**, a new

Gaslamp Quarter experience with mind-bending interactive exhibits.

There's plenty happening at San Diego's mainstays, too. *Popnology* at the **Comic-Con Museum** features futuristic technology such as driverless cars, robots, and 3D printers—the latter of which was used to create a life-sized *Back to the Future* DeLorean car. The Nature Garden at the **San Diego Natural History Museum** also debuts this spring, letting visitors wander along interpretive trails surrounded by native plants.

## EDITOR'S PICKS

The Beach Bug is all the buzz in Pacific Beach. The new electric shuttle service lets beachgoers hitch a ride to top neighborhood destinations and the Balboa Transit Station.

For the first time, a U.S. city has been selected as the new World Design Capital. The San Diego-Tijuana region will host a year-long program of lectures, exhibits, and performances that celebrate the power of design across the binational communities.

Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres, was named the best MLB ballpark by *USA Today* in 2023, and a \$20 million renovation of Gallagher Square makes it even better. Expect a brand-new baseball-themed playground, an off-leash dog park, and a viewing deck that houses a bronze statue of Mr. Padre himself, Hall of Fame right fielder Tony Gwynn.

Part tour and part tasting, the Carlsbad Aquafarm excursion includes a guided walk with touch tanks, a shucking class, and a seat on a patio where you can savor the views and the bivalves at SoCal's only oyster farm.



FROM TOP: TYLER CURTIS/COURTESY WDR MUSEUM; COURTESY CARLSBAD AQUAFARM



# IF YOU'RE HAPPY & YOU KNOW IT

...San Diego inspires you to really show it.  
Stretch that smile wide with 70 miles of coastline and  
year-round sunshine. Delight in the buzz of beach-city  
vibes until you can hardly contain your excitement.  
A visit to San Diego just feels good. And so will you.

*San Diego*<sup>®</sup> *Happiness  
is calling*





NORTH PARK

# Lafayette Hotel

If walls could talk, North Park's decades-old Lafayette Hotel would have some colorful stories to tell. Its very first guest—who visited back in 1946—was entertainer Bob Hope. Hollywood stars like Lana Turner, Katharine Hepburn, and Bing Crosby once retreated here from Tinseltown. But over the years, the Colonial-style property had lost a bit of its luster.

With a \$31 million makeover completed in 2023, what was old is shiny, colorful, and new again. An ornate European-style lobby with richly patterned banquettes leads to the pool, an atrium-style bar, and the Beginner's Diner, a 24/7 eatery inspired by a 1940s Worcester lunch car. Off the lobby are the romantic Oaxacan restaurant Quixote and The Gutter, a cocktail bar that invites all players with a two-lane bowling alley plus skeeball and pop-a-shot.

The 131 rooms showcase whimsical art deco details: canopied beds, chairs festooned with animal prints and tassels, and throwback wallpaper that depicts giant lizards and hunting parties. Most of the rooms have city views, but a few open up onto the pool, with a movie star-worthy chaise waiting outside your door.



The reimagined Lafayette Hotel is the height of art deco maximalism. This historic property's extensive renovation includes 131 eclectic rooms, glitzy bars, and a pool designed by Tarzan actor Johnny Weissmuller.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: HALEY HILL/COURTESY LAFAYETTE HOTEL (2); ARLENE IBARRA/COURTESY LAFAYETTE HOTEL; OPPOSITE PAGE: JOHN FRANCIS PETERS/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REXUS





WELL, LOOK AT THAT...



YOUR OWN PERSONAL PLAYGROUND.



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Chicano Park

## Barrio Logan

VENTURE OFF THE BEATEN PATH TO EXPLORE SAN DIEGO'S VIBRANT CHICANO MURALS AND NEIGHBORING BUSINESSES

### AN ARTISTIC AWAKENING

More than 100 outdoor paintings at Chicano Park tell an important story. In the 1970s, shortly after hundreds of locals formed a human chain to save the land from development, colorful artworks began to appear on the concrete pylons beneath Coronado Bay Bridge. Today, it's the world's largest collection of Chicano murals.

Opened in late 2022, the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center provides an in-depth look at the public art and historical narrative of the Chicano movement. Also check out Bread & Salt, a cutting-edge gallery in Logan Heights showing original works from local and international artists.

### AUTHENTIC EATS

You'll find one of San Diego's oldest Mexican restaurants along Logan Avenue. Las Cuatro Milpas has been refining its homemade tortillas since 1933. Crowds wrap around the block

to order no-frills taco plates. Don't miss the rolled tacos—and don't forget to bring cash (they don't accept plastic).

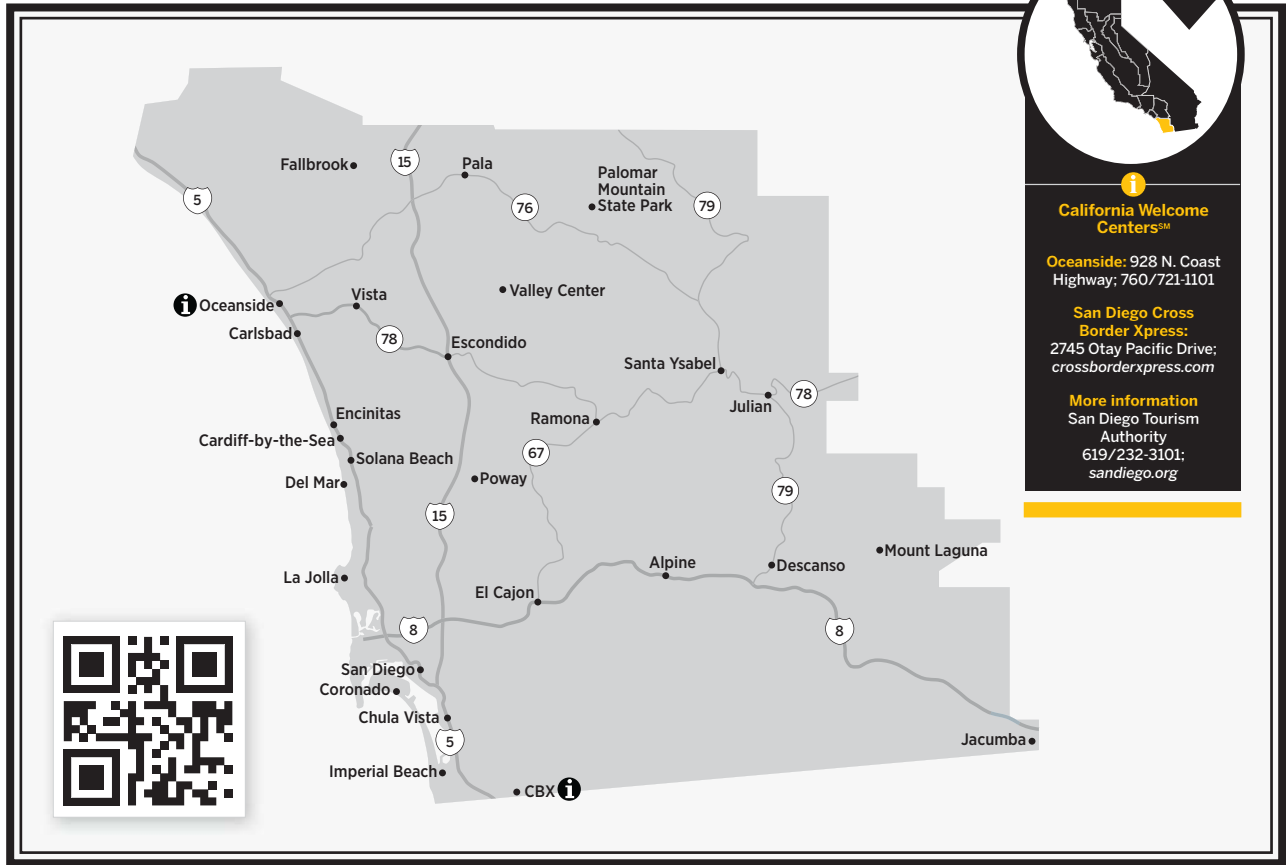
### BOTTOMS UP

Por Vida brews up horchata cold brews and Mexican mochas in a café where eye-catching murals bring a bit of the neighborhood flavor indoors. For the harder stuff, Border X Brewing is a local favorite with a horchata golden stout and a hibiscus saison inspired by the Mexican drink agua de jamaica.

### SHOP SMALL

Surrounding Chicano Park is an equally colorful shopping scene centered around Logan Avenue. Handwoven crafts and clothing like loteria aprons and shawls from Mexican-owned Casa XoVi make great suitcase-friendly souvenirs. Chicana designer Claudia Biezunski-Rodriguez is the visionary behind Sew Loca, a boutique filled with sustainable apparel and upcycled goods.





**California Welcome Centers<sup>SM</sup>**  
**Oceanside:** 928 N. Coast Highway; 760/721-1101  
**San Diego Cross Border Xpress:** 2745 Otay Pacific Drive; [crossborderxpress.com](http://crossborderxpress.com)  
**More information**  
 San Diego Tourism Authority  
 619/232-3101; [sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org)



visit

**CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA**  
**Cardiff State Beach.** Find a gently sloping sandy beach with warm water and consistent waves. Cardiff Reef on the beach's north side is one of the county's most iconic surf spots. 760/720-7001; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**San Elijo State Beach.** Camp atop ocean bluffs at this popular park, across the street from a hub of restaurants, coffee spots, and gift shops. Wooden stairways lead down to the beach. 760/753-5091; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**CARLSBAD**  
**Batiquitos Lagoon.** Stop by the nature center to grab a trail map or sign up for a guided walk. Hike along a coastal wetland trail through stands of eucalyptus and palms. 442/320-7009; [batiquitosfoundation.org](http://batiquitosfoundation.org)  
**Carlsbad.** Consider this your invitation to come enjoy yourself however you like. With beautiful beaches, an exciting restaurant scene, big-time attractions, and so much more, Carlsbad is all about playing your way. [visitcarlsbad.com](http://visitcarlsbad.com) See ad, page 69.

**Carlsbad Visitor Center.** Learn about railroad history—and get information on local attractions—at this visitor center, housed in a beautiful turn-of-the-century structure, a former depot on the Santa Fe line. [visitcarlsbad.com](http://visitcarlsbad.com) See ad, page 69.

**The Flower Fields.** See 50 acres of seasonal flower displays. Purple, red, yellow, pink and white blooms are

planted in rainbow-like rows. Flowers peak in March, April, and May. 760/431-0352; [theflowerfields.com](http://theflowerfields.com)

**LEGOLAND® California Resort.** One LEGOLAND® Drive. The ultimate LEGO® experience has more than 60 rides, shows and attractions, including SEA LIFE® Aquarium, LEGOLAND® Water Park, and two LEGO-themed hotels located right at the main entrance of the park. 760/918-LEGO; [LEGOLAND.com](http://LEGOLAND.com)

**CHULA VISTA**  
**San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge.** Hike, stroll, or bike through about 2,600 acres of protected land. Bring your binoculars for birdwatching, or simply enjoy the sweeping views of San Diego Bay. 619/221-3473; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

**CORONADO**  
**Silver Strand State Beach.** Known as “The Strand,” this wide beach offers camping, swimming, surfing, picnic spots, and more. A 10-mile-long bike path runs parallel to the beach from Imperial Beach to Coronado. 619/435-5184; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**ENCINITAS**  
**San Diego Botanic Garden.** Explore a variety of themed gardens, including bamboo groves, a tropical rainforest, California native plants, and a subtropical fruit garden at this 37-acre property. 760/436-3036; [sdbgarden.org](http://sdbgarden.org)

**ESCONDIDO**  
**California Center for the Arts.** The sprawling 12-acre campus in downtown Escondido comprises a 1,500-seat concert hall, visual arts museum, art studios, and

more—all hosting rotating exhibits and performances. 760/839-4138; [artcenter.org](http://artcenter.org)

**FALLBROOK**  
**Myrtle Creek Vineyards.** Taste Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Syrah, and more at this family-owned boutique winery and tasting room located on a former citrus and avocado orchard. 442/444-5066; [myrtlecreekvineyards.com](http://myrtlecreekvineyards.com)

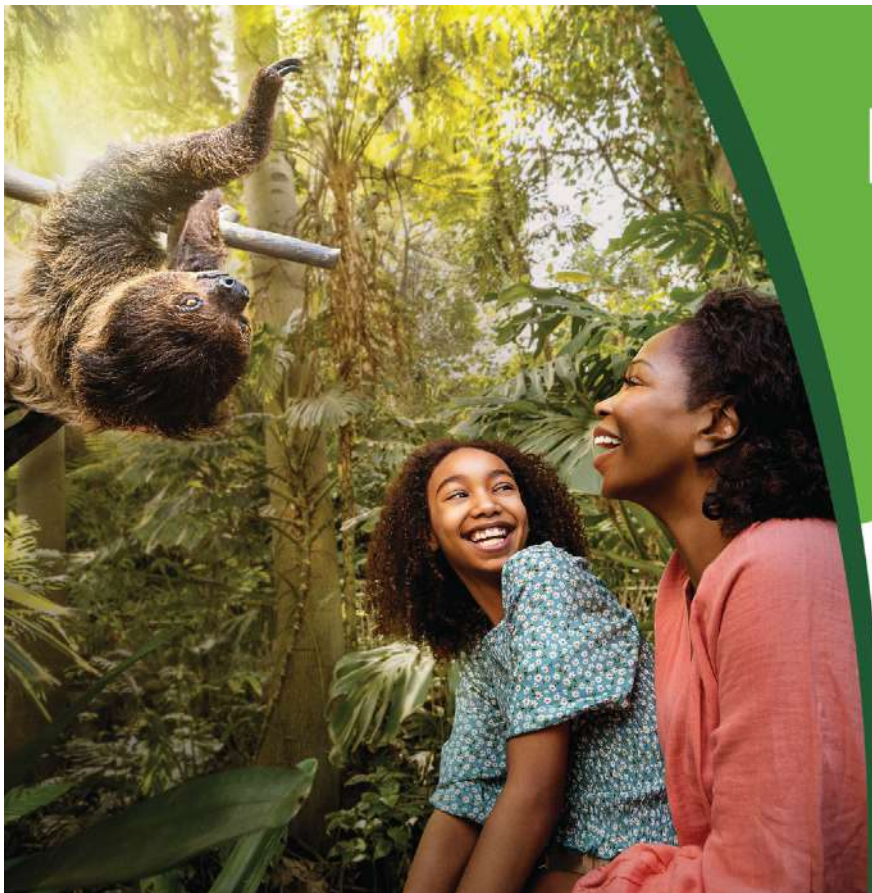
**JULIAN**  
**Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.** Explore 100 miles of trails for hiking and biking. Cuyamaca Peak offers inspiring views of deserts to the east and the coast to the west. 760/765-3020; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**LA JOLLA**  
**Torrey Pines State Beach.** Swim, surf, or sunbathe beneath coastal cliffs—a popular launch spot for hang gliders and paragliders. This wide, sandy beach stretches for 4.5 miles. 858/755-2063; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve.** Explore 1,500 acres of wild coastal land, home to our nation's rarest pine tree, *Pinus torreyana*. Follow trails up the cliffsides to find the perfect sunset spot. 858/755-2063; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**OCEANSIDE**  
**California Surf Museum.** Learn about surf lifestyle, history, and the science behind waves. The permanent exhibit showcases a timeline of surfboards, starting with wooden models from the early 1900s. 760/721-6876; [surfmuseum.org](http://surfmuseum.org)





# Every Visit Goes a Long Way



**Visit Oceanside.** Calling all adventure enthusiasts, vacation planners, and good time go-getters, consider this your invitation to O'side! Located at the top of San Diego County, enjoy spectacular weather, stellar dining, and endless activities. To learn more, head to [visitoceanside.org](http://visitoceanside.org) or call 800/350-7873. See ad, inside back cover.

**Oceanside Cultural District.** Explore an eclectic, emerging art scene just east of Oceanside Pier. Galleries, venues, local murals, and tattoo artists capture the area's coastal beauty and military heritage. 916/322-6555; [caculturaldistricts.org](http://caculturaldistricts.org)

## SAN DIEGO

**Balboa Park Cultural District.** This 1,200-acre greenspace is the cultural heart of San Diego. Explore 17 museums, lush gardens, performing arts venues, a public golf course, and the San Diego Zoo. 916/322-6584; [caculturaldistricts.org](http://caculturaldistricts.org)

**Barrio Logan Cultural District.** Chicano Park serves as the heart of this vibrant area, celebrating Mexican-American culture. View local art in a variety of galleries, cafes, and breweries. 916/322-6555; [caculturaldistricts.org](http://caculturaldistricts.org)

**San Diego Tourism Authority.** The official travel resource for the San Diego region. Explore 70 miles of picturesque coast, world-class attractions, vibrant neighborhoods, unique food culture, and more. Plan your trip at [sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org) See ad, page 67.

**San Diego Zoo.** 2920 Zoo Dr. A lush tropical oasis teeming with life, in the heart of downtown San Diego. Learn about the Zoo's special tours and their efforts to save species from extinction at [sandiegozoo.org](http://sandiegozoo.org). 619/231-1515; See ad, this page.

## VISTA

**Alta Vista Botanical Gardens.** Stroll through manicured gardens dotted with ponds and whimsical sculptures at this hilltop park in Vista. Practice walking meditation at the garden labyrinth. 760/945-3954; [altavistabotanicalgardens.org](http://altavistabotanicalgardens.org)

## stay

### HOTELS AND RESORTS

## CARLSBAD

**LEGOLAND® Hotel and LEGOLAND® Castle Hotel.** One LEGOLAND® Dr. 500 rooms. Located at the front entrance of LEGOLAND® California Resort, both hotels feature LEGO®-themed rooms, interactive LEGO® features, family pools, and exclusive early entrance to LEGOLAND®. 877/534-6526; [LEGOLAND.com](http://LEGOLAND.com) \$\$\$



## CORONADO

**Hotel del Coronado, Curio Collection by Hilton.** Your personal California dream. There is a feeling that you come to at Hotel del Coronado. Enveloped by the simple luxuries of sun, sea, and time together, your senses engage, and you're transported into The Del state of mind. 619/435-6611; [hilton.com/en/hotels/sanqqq-hotel-del-coronado/](http://hilton.com/en/hotels/sanqqq-hotel-del-coronado/) \$\$\$



## LA JOLLA

**The Lodge at Torrey Pines.** 170 rooms. 11480 North Torrey Pines Road. 170 rooms. Step into the timeless charm of this AAA Five Diamond rated resort, overlooking the world-renowned Torrey Pines Golf Course with views of the Pacific Ocean. 858/453-4420; [lodgetorrey.pines.com](http://lodgetorrey.pines.com) \$\$\$



## SAN DIEGO

**Bahia Resort Hotel.** 998 West Mission Bay Dr. 313 rooms. San Diego's premier resort in Mission Bay. A scenic family-friendly escape tucked away on a 14-acre peninsula, featuring lush tropical gardens and a secluded beach. 858/488-0551; [bahiahotel.com](http://bahiahotel.com) \$\$\$-\$\$\$



**Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa.** 3999 Mission Blvd. 310 rooms. A tropical Polynesian-themed hideaway in Pacific Beach community offers casual elegance, with Mission Bay as its backyard and the Pacific Ocean across the street. 858/488-1081; [catamaranresort.com](http://catamaranresort.com) \$\$-\$\$\$



**Marriott Vacation Club Pulse™ San Diego.** 7701A St. Stylish downtown retreat with historic ambience and contemporary design near Gaslamp Quarter, restaurants, bars and art galleries. 800/845-5279; [marriott.com/sanva](http://marriott.com/sanva) \$\$-\$\$\$



### KEY



WIFI



RESTAURANT ON PREMISES



FITNESS CENTER



SWIMMING POOL



HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE



SPA/SAUNA/HOT TUB



PETS WELCOME



UNDER \$100/NIGHT



\$100-\$200/NIGHT



OVER \$200/NIGHT





# DESERTS

Discover why nature lovers and A-listers flock to this glamorous inland region



The Sahara Tent's DJ-driven sets are some of the festival's most legendary

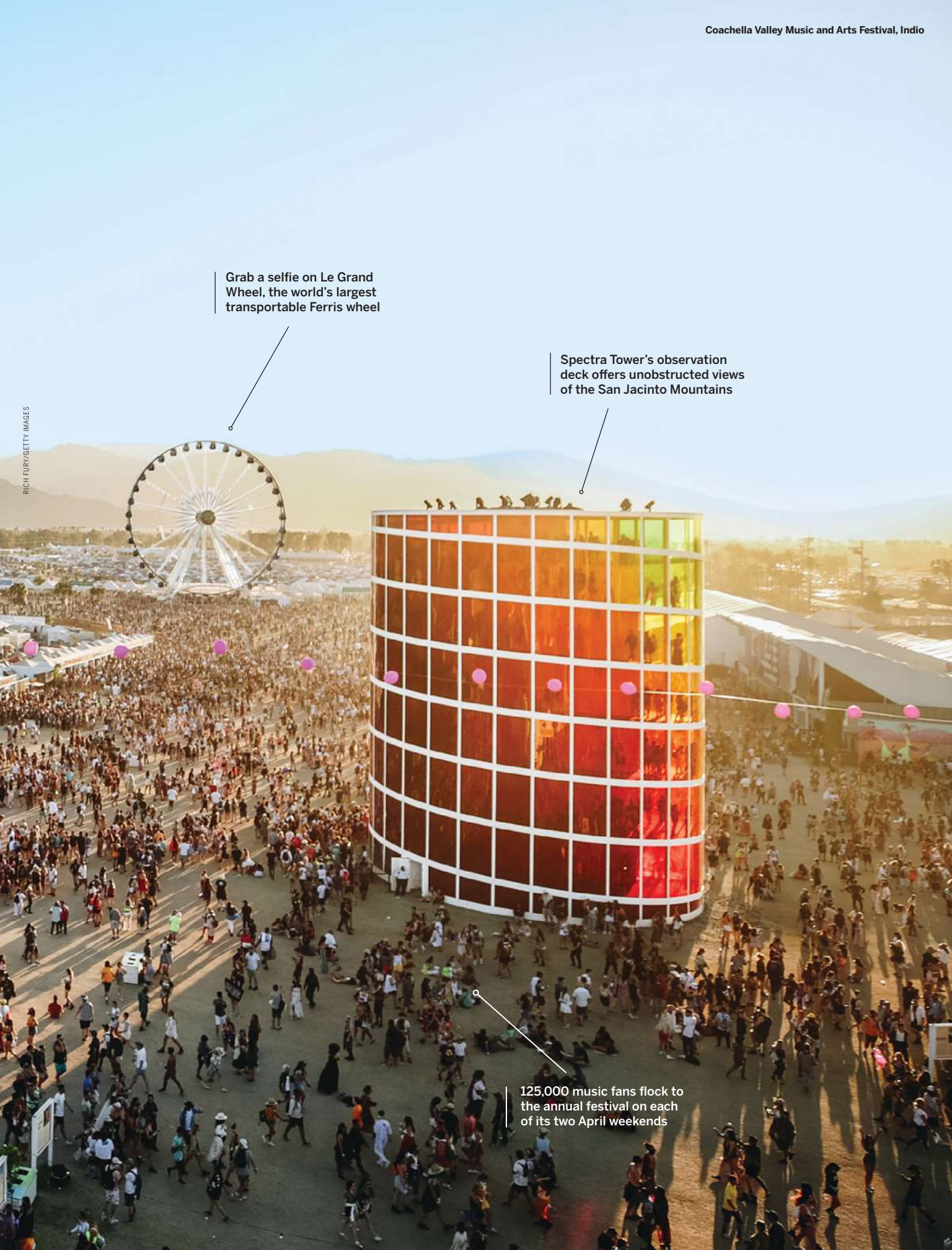
Headliners who have played Coachella's main stage include Radiohead, Beyoncé, and AC/DC



Grab a selfie on Le Grand Wheel, the world's largest transportable Ferris wheel

Spectra Tower's observation deck offers unobstructed views of the San Jacinto Mountains

125,000 music fans flock to the annual festival on each of its two April weekends





Brandini Toffee



## EDITOR'S PICKS

At Sensei Porcupine Creek in Rancho Mirage, expert practitioners use cutting-edge technology and health assessments to create bespoke fitness, nutrition, sleep, and mindset practices. It all takes place on 230 sun-warmed acres dotted with luxury villas, museum-quality art, and a guests-only Nobu restaurant.



The brainchild of two Italian-born musicians, Spaghetti Western Saloon offers live music, Wild West-inspired cocktails, and spaghetti dinners in Morongo Valley, located 15 miles from Joshua Tree National Park.



Pack your Hawaiian shirts for the first Tommy Bahama-brand resort, the Tommy Bahama Miramonte Resort and Spa in Indian Wells. The 215-room oasis features three pools, a 12,000-square-foot spa, and island-vibe dining.



Palm Springs Surf Club features a state-of-the-art wave pool that gives surfers perfect, ocean-like barrels every day of the year (opening in early 2024).

# Cool Desert Treats

*DATE SHAKES RULE THE REGION'S SWEET TOOTH, BUT THEY AREN'T THE ONLY FROZEN TREAT AROUND THE COACHELLA VALLEY*

### Palm Springs

Brandini Toffee is famous for its buttery, crunchy confections, but on the hottest days, order the toffee ice cream bar—vanilla ice cream dipped in milk chocolate and covered in almond toffee crumbles. Pair it with a toffee milkshake for an off-the-charts sugar high.

### Cathedral City

Cool off with Azucena's raspados, or Mexican shaved ice. A machine scrapes fine crystals from large blocks of ice, and the powdery snow is topped with pineapple, mango, pistachio, or tamarind syrup—plus chunks of fruit and a dash of chili lime salt.

### Palm Desert

Tucked into The Gardens on El Paseo, Perfect Pint churns out frozen custard, an old-school blend of egg yolks, milk, cream, and sugar. The shop's small-batch lineup includes banana pudding, Black Forest cake, peanut butter and jelly, and Nutella s'mores.

### La Quinta

Right before your eyes at Nitroinfusions, your dessert is flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen, which eliminates ice crystals and air to produce a super-smooth frozen concoction. Flavors include banana-lavender, strawberry cheesecake, and salted caramel.



FROM TOP: COURTESY BRANDINI TOFFEE; ANGHY/BETTY IMAGES



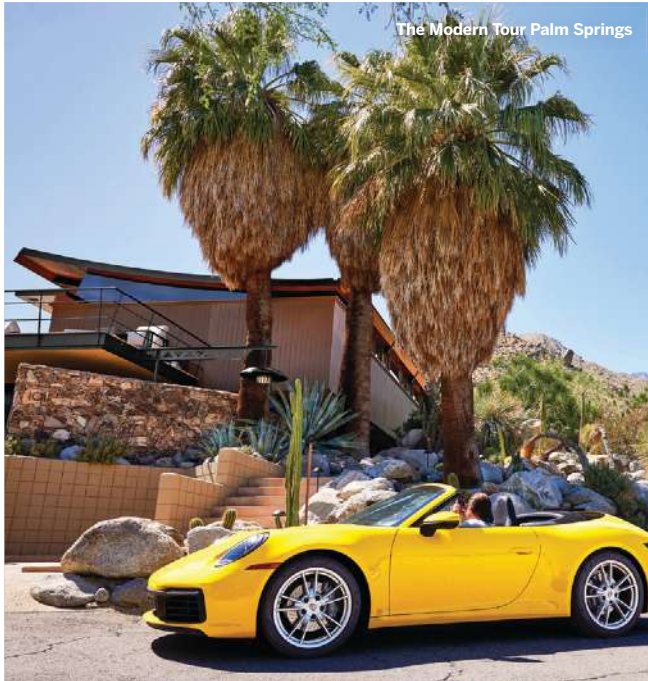
IN THE MIDDLE OF  
**NOWHERE**  
YOU'D RATHER BE.



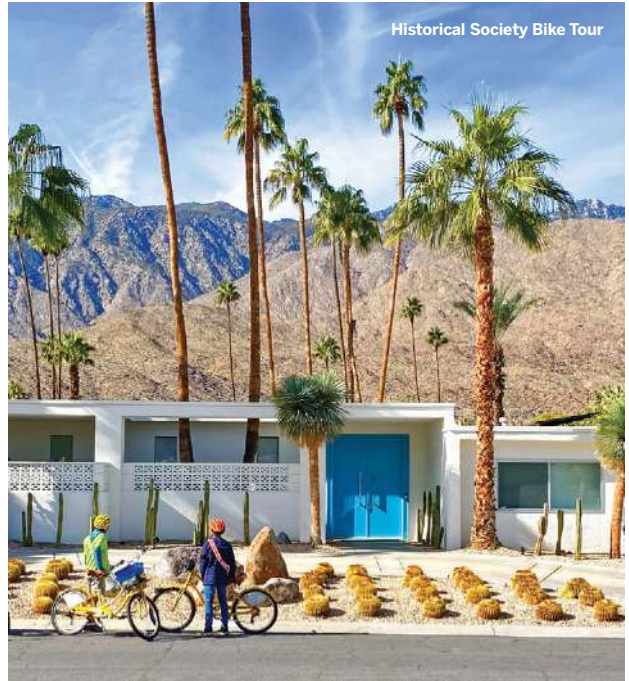
You don't come to Death Valley because abundant life flourishes here. Which is exactly why a four-diamond resort in the middle of it is so special. Join us to experience two unique hotels in one amazing location: North America's only authentic desert oasis. Learn more at [OasisAtDeathValley.com](https://www.OasisAtDeathValley.com)







The Modern Tour Palm Springs



Historical Society Bike Tour

# Splurge vs Save

THERE'S A DIVINE DESERT EXPERIENCE FOR EVERY BUDGET

## SPA

Savor the ultimate pampering with a four-hour Transformational Journey, a treatment that includes body brushing, ginger-lime sugar scrub, full-body massage, and facial at The Spa at Colony Palms (\$850).

Get a day-cation glow with a pool pass for Avalon Hotel and Bungalows (\$45 from [resortpass.com](http://resortpass.com)). Float in three pools and two whirlpools or bliss out among the bougainvillea and climbing vines.

## SLEEP

Rendezvous with luxury at L'Horizon Resort, where Old Hollywood glamour blends with a modern aesthetic. Sleep in a Steve Hermann–designed bungalow (\$1,100+), dine alfresco at So.Pa, and luxuriate with a poolside massage.

Relive the 1960s tiki craze in a kitschy-cool room at Caliente Tropics Resort (\$200). To ease your transition into tropical bliss, order a round of mai tais at The Reef and play Jimmy Buffett on repeat.

## SHOP

Scan A La Mod's shelves brimming with 1960s-were-cooler decor and pick out a pair of vintage Lucite and brass table lamps (\$6,000).

At Gypsyland, nab a selfie with the pink poodle out front, then shop for affordable retro finds like Jet Age lamps (\$50) and 45-rpm records (\$5).

## DINE

Old Hollywood elegance lives on at Melvyn's, Frank Sinatra's favorite dinner spot. Chandeliers glow as waiters in tuxedo vests flambé steak Diane at your table. Order a Wagyu burger (\$36) or beef Wellington (\$75).

Satisfy your hunger on a Taco Tuesday budget at Tyler's Burgers. About \$10 buys you a cheeseburger or chicken salad sandwich plus downtown people-watching from your patio table.

## TOUR

Rent a splashy sports car to meet up with your guide from The Modern Tour Palm Springs. You'll walk through the interiors of mid-century modern gems like the William Cody Residence and Albert Frey House II (\$275/person).

Join a Palm Springs Historical Society guide for a three-hour bike ride through neighborhoods filled with classic mid-century architecture (\$65, includes bike and helmet).





Calico

## Barstow



**ALEX RINGLE**

OWNER OF EDDIEWORLD,  
CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST  
GAS STATION

### EDDIEWORLD

"We focus on cultivating a road-trip experience you can't find anywhere else. We sell 500 varieties of candy and 40 kinds of jerky. We make our ice cream and popcorn on site. We bake our own bread. We serve sandwiches, pizza, salads, sushi, burgers, and chicken tenders. For kids, we have plush toys of all sizes."

### CALICO GHOST TOWN

"Calico is an Old West silver mining town that's really fun and educational. Some of the old buildings date back to the 1890s. You can tour a silver mine, pan for gold, or step into the saloon. The campground is really popular with families, and they have cabins for rent, too."

### LOS DOMINGOS

"This is hands-down the best Mexican food. All the locals eat here. When you order guacamole, they make it right at your table. I always get the San Antonio Grilled Chicken plate, which is chicken and rice with a cheese rancheros sauce."

### HARVEY HOUSE MUSEUMS

"The 1911 Harvey House is a cool historic building with two museums. The Barstow Route 66 Mother Road Museum has old photographs, vintage motorcycles, and gas pumps.

The Western American Railroad Museum has antique cabooses and locomotives parked outside that kids can climb around on."



EddieWorld



Harvey House





**California Welcome Centers™**

**Ridgecrest:**  
880 N. China Lake Blvd.  
760/375-8202

**Cabazon:** Cabazon  
Outlets, 48750 Seminole  
Dr., #100; 951/922-3000

**Barstow:** 2796 Tanger  
Way, Suite 100;  
760/253-4782

**Yucca Valley:**  
56711 Twentynine Palms  
Highway; 760/365-5464

**More information**  
Greater Palm Springs  
Convention & Visitors  
Bureau; 760/770-9000;  
[visitgreaterpalm  
springs.com](http://visitgreaterpalm<br/>springs.com)



visit

**AMBOY**

**Amboy Crater.** Take a day trip to this volcanic cinder cone, designated a National Natural Landmark. Reach the peak by way of the 4.1-mile Western Cone Trail. 760/326-7000; [blm.gov/ca](http://blm.gov/ca)

**BARSTOW**

**Desert Discovery Center.** See the "Old Woman Meteorite"—second largest meteorite in the United States—and learn about the Mojave Desert at this non-profit center that promotes hands-on field education for K-12 students and the general public. 760/252-6060; [desertdc.com](http://desertdc.com)

**Mojave National Preserve.** Find singing sand dunes, cinder cone volcanos, Joshua tree forests, mesas, and spring wildflowers at this 1.6-million-acre park. Most campgrounds are first come, first served. 760/252-6100; [nps.gov/moja](http://nps.gov/moja)

**Route 66 "Mother Road" Museum.** Travel back to the halcyon days of this iconic highway through photography, art, and other exhibits. Housed in the historic Casa del Desierto, Harvey House. 760/255-1890; [route66museum.org](http://route66museum.org)

**BORON**

**Twenty Mule Team Museum.** Explore local history, including borax mining in Death Valley and Boron. Exhibits include a recreated 1930s kitchen, beauty shop, and volunteer firefighter department. 760/762-5810; [20muleteamuseum.com](http://20muleteamuseum.com)

**BORREGO SPRINGS**

**Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.** Visit this expansive desert landscape in San Diego County to see dramatic badlands, cool palm oases, twisting slot canyons, and cactus-studded slopes. 760/767-4205; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Borrego Art Institute.** This non-profit art gallery in a gleaming midcentury-modern building is famous for its annual plein-air invitational and rotating exhibits by desert artists. Browse the gallery or sign up for a class. 760/767-5152; [borregoartinstitute.org](http://borregoartinstitute.org)

**Borrego Desert Nature Center.** Find books and maps dedicated to desert anthropology, birding, nature, history, and plant and flower identification. Register for a guided hike or educational program. 760/767-3098; [abdnh.org](http://abdnh.org)

**CALIFORNIA CITY**

**Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area.** Learn about one of the earth's oldest inhabitants—California's

official state reptile, the desert tortoise. 442/294-4258; [tortoise-tracks.org](http://tortoise-tracks.org)

**CALIPATRIA**

**Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.** Located on the Pacific Flyway, this unique refuge sits at 277 feet below sea level. Stop in to the visitor center and hike along a levee trail to spot birds. Waterfowl hunting season is October through February. 760/348-5278; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

**CANTIL**

**Red Rock Canyon State Park.** Climb the colorful desert cliffs, buttes, and badlands of the El Paso Mountains. In spring, the park's floral displays are in full bloom. 661/946-6092; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**CATHEDRAL CITY**

**Museum of Ancient Wonders.** Find nearly 400 replicas and fossils, including full-scale reproductions of King Tutankhamun's chariot and treasures—all in an unassuming strip mall. 442/268-5004; [moaw.org](http://moaw.org)

**DEATH VALLEY**

**Death Valley National Park.** The hottest, driest, and lowest national park in the U.S. boasts a diverse landscape of salt flats, sand dunes, badlands, valleys, canyons, and mountains. 760/786-3200; [nps.gov/deva](http://nps.gov/deva)



## DESERT HOT SPRINGS

**Cabot's Pueblo Museum.** This 5,000-square-foot Hopi-inspired structure was built from materials salvaged from the desert. The 35-room pueblo also houses a collection of Native American pottery and early 20th century artifacts. 760/329-7610; [cabotsmuseum.org](http://cabotsmuseum.org)

## ESSEX

**Mitchell Caverns.** Tucked into a cliff in Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, these limestone caverns are a glittering netherworld of stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and curtains. 760/928-2586; reserve tour tickets at [reservercalifornia.com](http://reservercalifornia.com).

## FURNACE CREEK

**Furnace Creek Visitors Center.** Watch a short film about the park. During the winter season, try a ranger-led walk or presentation about Death Valley's cultural and natural history. 760/786-3200; [nps.gov/deva](http://nps.gov/deva)

## INDIO

**Coachella Valley History Museum.** Explore rotating exhibits, a 1909 schoolhouse, and the world's only date museum, which highlights the origins of the desert fruit. Free for children 18 and under. 760/342-6651; [cvhm.org](http://cvhm.org)

## MECCA

**Mecca Hills Wilderness.** This vast, undeveloped swath of desert shelters a maze of pastel-hued slot canyons formed by movement along the San Andreas Fault. Wander through a colorful labyrinthine canyon and explore water-carved slot canyons and steep sandstone ridges. 760/833-7100; [blm.gov/ca](http://blm.gov/ca)

## MORONGO VALLEY

**Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.** Hike through lush canyonlands in the Little San Bernardino Mountains of the Transverse Ranges, home to desert bighorn sheep, bobcats, and more than 250 bird species. 760/792-1843; [bigmorongo.org](http://bigmorongo.org)

## NEEDLES

**Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.** Enjoy fishing, boating, kayaking, and spectacular wildlife-watching along the Pacific Flyway. Watch for the southwestern willow flycatcher, Yuma clapper rail, doves, and snow geese. 760/326-3853; [fws.gov/refuge/havasu](http://fws.gov/refuge/havasu)

## PALM DESERT

**Palm to Pines Scenic Byway.** Start in Palm Desert before winding your way through mountain switchbacks, pine forests, and stunning vistas with views of the Greater Palm Springs area. 760/862-9984; [blm.gov](http://blm.gov)

**Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert.** This small museum features indoor rotating exhibits, as well as outdoor art, in a peaceful garden marked with palm trees and flowing water. 760/322-4800; [psmuseum.org](http://psmuseum.org)

**The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens.** Explore this family-friendly zoo and botanical gardens specializing in deserts, with more than 450 animals and 1,400 plant species. Feed a giraffe or hike nature trails. 760/346-5694; [livingdesert.org](http://livingdesert.org)

**Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center.** Discover palm oases and snow-capped mountains that reach 10,834 feet in elevation. Hike the easy Randall Henderson Trail from the visitor center, or set out on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. 760/862-9984; [blm.gov](http://blm.gov)

## PALM SPRINGS

**Moorten Botanical Garden and Cactarium.** Established in 1938, this family-owned arboretum features more than 3,000 varieties of desert plants alongside colorful rocks, ancient fossils, and pioneer relics. 760/327-6555; [moortenbotanicalgarden.com](http://moortenbotanicalgarden.com)

**Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.** 1 Tram Way, Palm Springs. World's largest rotating tram cars. Spectacular views, two restaurants, 50 miles of hiking trails, camping, winter activities, and more. 760/325-1391; 888/515-TRAM; [pstramway.com](http://pstramway.com) See ad, this page.

**Palm Springs Air Museum.** Visit one of the world's largest collections of flyable WWII aircraft. Book a flight on a T-28 Trojan or T-33 Shooting Star jet. 760/778-6262; [palmspringsairmuseum.org](http://palmspringsairmuseum.org)

**Palm Springs Art Museum.** See the Aluminaire House, Albert Frey's masterpiece of modern design, plus rotating exhibits focusing on contemporary art and design. 760/322-4800; [psmuseum.org](http://psmuseum.org)

## RANCHO MIRAGE

**Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert.** Kids have fun while interacting with more than 80 hands-on exhibits that focus on gardening, animals, science, cooking, and nutrition. 760/321-0602; [cdmod.org](http://cdmod.org)

**Sunnylands Center & Gardens.** Tour the 200-acre former estate of publishing magnate Walter Annenberg and his wife Lenore. The massive glass-walled home is a stunning example of midcentury modern architecture. Stroll 15 acres of gorgeous gardens or reserve a spot for a guided home tour. 760/202-2222; [sunnylands.org](http://sunnylands.org)

## RIDGECREST

**Maturango Museum.** View exhibits about the natural history of the Mojave Desert, or join a museum-sponsored tour of Little Petroglyph Canyon, home to paleolithic-era petroglyphs carved into ancient volcanic outcrops. 760/375-6900; [maturango.org](http://maturango.org)

**Ridgecrest Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.** Drop by the Visitors Bureau to plan desert adventures. Find out where to view Native American petroglyphs and unique geological attractions. 760/375-8202; [racvb.com](http://racvb.com)

**Trona Pinnacles.** See these otherworldly geologic gems that have been featured in *Star Trek* and dozens of other films and commercials. More than 500 tufa spires, some as high as 140 feet, rise from the bed of the Searles Dry Lake basin. 760/384-5400; [blm.gov/ca](http://blm.gov/ca)

## SHOSHONE

**Shoshone Museum.** Ethnic and tribal art, history, minerals, and paleontology pack this small museum. View the skeletal remains of a prehistoric mammoth unearthed near Death Valley. 760/852-4224; [shoshonevillage.com](http://shoshonevillage.com)

## TWENTYNINE PALMS

**Joshua Tree National Park.** Go rock climbing, hiking, and camping while enjoying a stark landscape dotted with cholla cactus, creosote bush, and the park's namesake Joshua trees. In spring, wildflowers carpet the desert floor. 760/367-5500; [nps.gov/jotr](http://nps.gov/jotr)

## YERMO

**Calico Ghost Town.** Explore an Old West silver-mining town, founded in 1881. Enjoy shopping, restaurants, horseback riding, and camping. Visit Maggie Mine and take a ride on the Calico Odessa Railroad. 909/387-2757; [parks.sbcounty.gov](http://parks.sbcounty.gov)

## YUCCA VALLEY

**Hi-Desert Nature Museum.** Enhance your high-desert appreciation by exploring these interactive natural history and cultural exhibits. Observe native snakes, lizards, arachnids, and insects in the mini zoo. 760/369-7212; [hidesertnaturemuseum.org](http://hidesertnaturemuseum.org)

stay

HOTELS AND RESORTS

## DEATH VALLEY

**The Oasis at Death Valley.** Reclaim your senses at The Oasis at Death Valley, North America's true desert oasis. Enjoy two unique hotels in one amazing location. All surrounded by the largest national park in the lower 48. 760/786-2345; [oasisatdeathvalley.com](http://oasisatdeathvalley.com); \$\$\$ See ad, p. 75



## PALM DESERT

**The Westin Desert Willow Villas.** 75 Willow Ridge. Enjoy superb resort amenities and spacious 1- and 2-bedroom villas with living/dining area, kitchen or kitchenette and washer/dryer. No resort fees. 800/845-5279; [marriott.com/pspwd](http://marriott.com/pspwd) \$\$\$-\$\$\$



## RANCHO MIRAGE

**The Westin Mission Hills Resort Villas.** 7177 Dinah Shore Drive. Premium villa resort overlooking fairways. Enjoy spacious living/dining area, kitchen or kitchenette, washer/dryer and more. No resort fees. 800/845-5279; [marriott.com/pspwm](http://marriott.com/pspwm) \$\$\$-\$\$\$



### KEY



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# INLAND EMPIRE

Discover outdoor thrills, mountain adventures, and off-the-beaten-path wineries

Pechanga Resort Casino is one of California's largest casinos

The Cove features two twisty water slides and a high-speed closed slide





COURTESY PECHANGA RESORT CASINO

The casino features 5,400 slot machines, 152 table games, and a 38-table poker room

The resort is flanked by the Agua Tibia Wilderness and the Santa Margarita Ecological Preserve

Guests can sink into a submerged seat at The Cove's elegant swim-up bar





## Drink Wine, Break Bread

**O**ld Town Temecula has an undeniable Western flair, but **Two Travelers Wine Bar + Merchant** is anything but old-fashioned. Leave the Wild West behind when you step over the threshold of this new wine bar from the ownership team behind Temecula's top-rated eatery, Goat & Vine.

While food is the main event at the restaurant, the upscale bar goes all-in on grapes with hand-selected wines on its curated wine list. Sink into a plush couch to sip pours produced in the Temecula Valley and around the world. On-staff certified

sommeliers can lend their expert palates to help you choose a vintage to enjoy by the glass or bottle.

Complement your wine with shareable plates like garlic-butter prawns, chicken pâté with berry compote, and focaccia bruschetta made with bread baked in-house. Unwind and enjoy the chic-yet-relaxed vibe with moody lighting, floor-to-ceiling wine shelves, and rustic wood tables that offer a subtle nod to Temecula's cowboy heritage.

Two Travelers

## EDITOR'S PICKS

Possibly the longest-running pop-up restaurant in Riverside, Cenaduría Oaxaqueña Donaji is also one of the hottest parties in town. Taste authentic Oaxacan cuisine—tlayuda platters and molotes, among other dishes—served in a local family's backyard.

Once a general store circa 1947, the renovated Creekstone Inn now pairs the rustic vibes of Idyllwild's mountains with modern design flourishes. While the lobby has all the coziness of a wood-paneled ski chalet, guest rooms are appointed with upscale finishes like in-room fireplaces and a clawfoot bathtub in the 1,200-square-foot private cottage.

Gather round the wood stove in your private chalet at Noble+Proper, Big Bear's newest mountain lodge. It's just one of many little luxuries—guests also enjoy complimentary French press coffee, sparkling water, and loaner bikes.

This Corona crystal shop has a speakeasy spirit. Shop for gems, jewelry, and chakra-balancing bowls at Manifested Lab, then pop into the hidden café for coffee, tea, and live music.





# 72 Hours in the Inland Empire

The Inland Empire is a hub for America's pastime, hosting minor league franchises for SoCal's three Major League Baseball teams: the Padres, Angels, and Dodgers. For a family-friendly way to explore, pick a three-day weekend and see a game at each team's ballpark.

## Day 1:

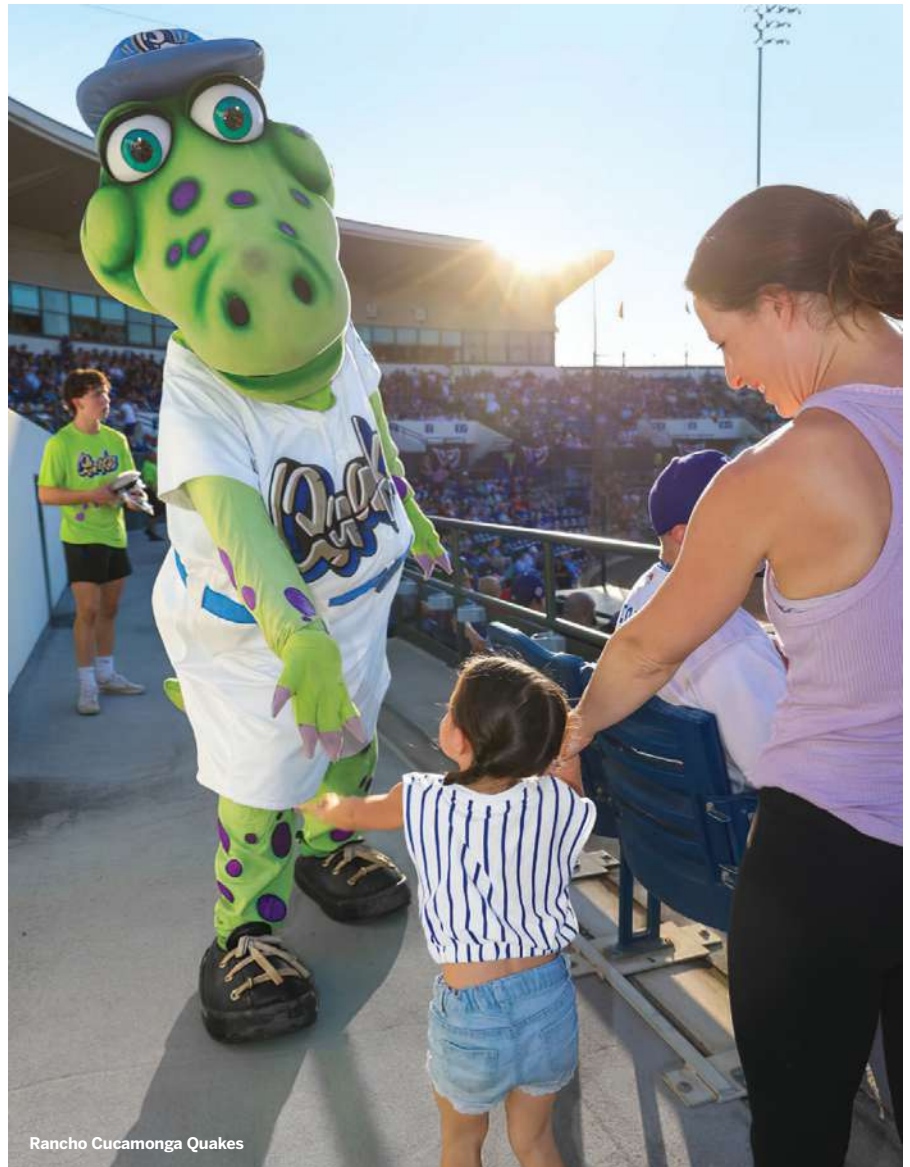
### LAKE ELSINORE STORM

The San Diego Padres' Single-A affiliate is turning up the heat in this I.E. town bordering Southern California's largest natural freshwater lake. Before hitting the ballpark, enjoy a slice at Stadium Pizza, a sports-themed joint with a microbrewery on site. Fill your downtime with a picnic at Elm Grove Beach or hiking through wildflower fields at Walker Canyon. Grab your gear at Storm Stadium or stop by the nearby Lake Elsinore Outlets to purchase ball caps or other collectible sports memorabilia. For night games, book an affordable room at nearby hotels including Best Western Plus Lake Elsinore Inn & Suites.

## Day 2:

### INLAND EMPIRE 66ERS, SAN BERNARDINO

Get the inside scoop on the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim's future talent at San Manuel Stadium, which is also a stone's throw from one of the city's most popular attractions—the Original McDonald's Site and Museum.



Rancho Cucamonga Quakes

Opened in 1940, the colorful building houses 80 years of history with memorabilia like news clippings, Happy Meal toys, and retro machinery. Fast food's not all there is to eat here, though there is another local connection: Mitla Cafe along Route 66 often has a line out the door thanks to a family recipe that was the inspiration behind Taco Bell's creation.

Get some fresh air at Glen Helen Regional Park, where kids can enjoy the splash pad and water slides in the summer. You'll have your pick of budget hotels along I-10 or you can drive south to Riverside for a luxury getaway at the historic Mission Inn Hotel & Spa.

## Day 3:

### RANCHO CUCAMONGA QUAKEs

Catch back-to-back games at LoanMart Field, home to the Dodgers' Single-A team. Plan a stay at the Four Points by Sheraton, which puts you within walking distance of the Victoria Gardens mall. There's a Dodger's Clubhouse, where you can pick up exclusive merch, along with eateries to satisfy any craving. Save some room for a feast at the historic Sycamore Inn Steakhouse, a local institution.

Don't leave town before exploring the North Etiwanda Preserve, where a 3.5-mile out-and-back hike leads to a waterfall.



THE QUAKEs FRANCHISE TRACES ITS ROOTS BACK TO 1966 AND LODI. WITH SUCCESSIVE STOPS IN VENTURA AND SAN BERNARDINO



# Ontario



**SANTO RIBOLI**

PRESIDENT OF  
SAN ANTONIO WINERY

**CENTRO BASCO**

"I am a fan of older establishments. The Centro Basco Restaurant in Old Town Chino has been around since 1940, the early days of Basque shepherders in the area. Basque food is centered around family-style dining with friends and strangers alike. It's a great way to meet people in the Ontario community and enjoy a traditional and unique meal."

**KLATCH COFFEE**

"Klatch Coffee is another family-owned business that our staff likes to support. It is also near the airport, so if you're visiting, it's a good stopping point before or after wine tasting."

**VICTORIA GARDENS**

"If you're looking for a one-stop shop, you can easily spend all day there without having to go anywhere else. They hold a farmers' market each Friday that includes fresh produce [and] one-of-a-kind art pieces."

**SAN ANTONIO WINERY'S  
GIFT SHOP**

"About 50 years ago, we purchased a 1930s-era winery and vineyard, which would go on to become an outdoor produce market. During that time, we started our winery, which became the first modern tasting room in the Ontario area. Our gift shop is so unique. We definitely have a little bit of everything you could think of."



Victoria Gardens



San Antonio Winery



Klatch Coffee

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY SANTO RIBOLI; AMANDA FRIEDMAN (2); COURTESY SAN ANTONIO WINERY



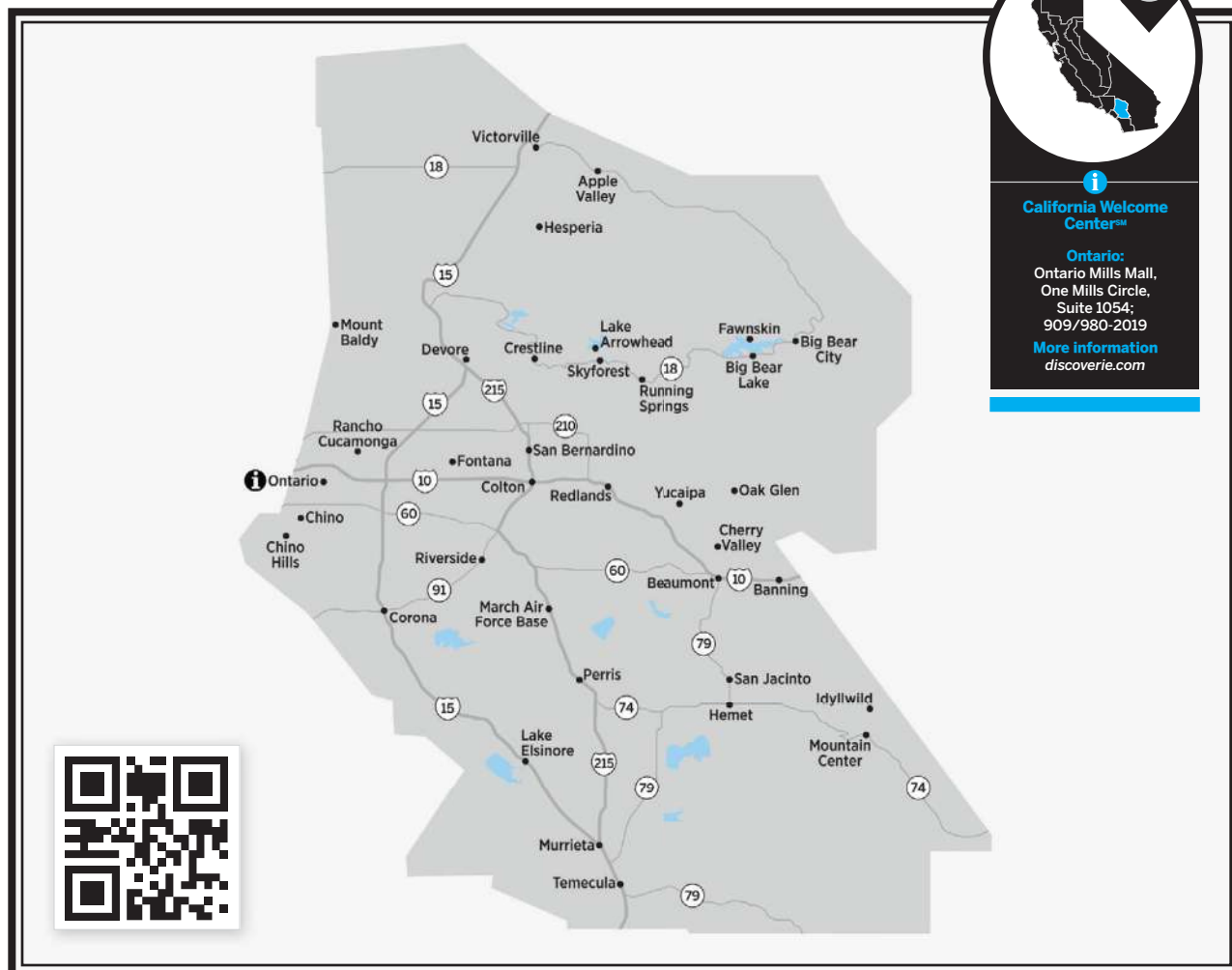


# It's GO time.

Looking for a SoCal experience packed with surprises? It's time to embark on adventures throughout Greater Ontario California. Choose from an easy flight into Ontario International Airport or plan a road trip along the famed Route 66. Take a nature hike. Go local wine tasting. Try a melting pot of local flavors. And if the day excites you, the night comes alive with concerts, soccer, hockey, and basketball, along with a wide array of entertainment possibilities. So much. So close. SoCal.







**California Welcome Center<sup>SM</sup>**

**Ontario:**  
Ontario Mills Mall,  
One Mills Circle,  
Suite 1054;  
909/980-2019

**More information**  
[discoverie.com](http://discoverie.com)

## visit

### APPLE VALLEY

**Victor Valley Museum.** Learn about the history, archaeology, and anthropology of the High Desert. See geological and paleontological specimens, Native American artifacts, and historical objects. 760/995-8770; [museum.sbcounty.gov/victor-valley-museum/](http://museum.sbcounty.gov/victor-valley-museum/)

### BANNING

**Gilman Historic Ranch & Wagon Museum.** Pan for gold, hike scenic trails, and create traditional Native American crafts at this historic ranch and stagecoach station on the Bradshaw Trail. 951/922-9200; [rivcoparks.org](http://rivcoparks.org)

**Malki Museum.** View artifacts at the oldest nonprofit museum founded by Native Americans in the U.S. Stroll through the garden, featuring plants used for food and medicine. 951/849-7289; [malkimuseum.org](http://malkimuseum.org)

### BIG BEAR LAKE

**Big Big Bear Lake...Your Mountain Lake Escape.** Explore four seasons of adventure. Ski/snowboard, bike, hike, fish, and more while enjoying amazing views, great trails, and a beautiful lake in the best mountain

lake escape in Southern California. 800/424-4232; [bigbear.com](http://bigbear.com) See ad, p. 87

**Bear Mountain Ski Resort.** Comprising two mountains, Snow Summit and Bear Mountain, both accessible from one lift ticket. At 8,805 feet, Bear Peak is Southern California's highest summit accessible by lift. 844/462-2327; [bigbearmountainresort.com](http://bigbearmountainresort.com)

### CHINO

**Planes of Fame Air Museum.** Rare collections of aircraft are preserved in this living history museum. See a replica of the 1903 Kitty Hawk Flyer and a flying veteran of WWI. 909/597-3722; [planesoffame.org](http://planesoffame.org)

### CHINO HILLS

**Chino Hills State Park.** Find peace and solitude with 90 miles of trails through green, rolling hills. The multi-use trail system is available to walkers, hikers, runners, bicyclists, and equestrians. [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### FAWSKIN

**Big Bear Discovery Center.** Find information on hiking trails, mountain biking, camping, wildlife, and seasonal activities. Sign up for naturalist-led tours and interpretive programs. 909/382-2790; [mountainsfoundation.org](http://mountainsfoundation.org)

### IDYLLWILD

**Mount San Jacinto State Park.** Camp and explore among granite peaks, subalpine forests, and fern-bordered meadows. Hike to the 10,834-foot summit via the Pacific Crest Trail. 951/659-2607; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### LAKE ARROWHEAD

**Rim of the World Scenic Byway.** Enjoy great views along this 110-mile-long byway, with a name inspired by the stunning cliffs of the San Bernardino Mountains from Cajon Pass to San Geronio Pass. 909/382-2790; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

### LAKE ELSINORE

**Lake Elsinore Historical Society Museum.** Located downtown, this little museum celebrates the history of the Lake Elsinore Valley. Explore artifacts including Native American baskets, pottery, and cooking tools. 951/579-4852; [lakeelsinorehistoricalsociety.org](http://lakeelsinorehistoricalsociety.org)

### MOUNT BALDY

**Mount Baldy Ski Lifts.** Enjoy traditional runs, open bowls, chutes, and tree runs. In summer, take the lifts up to the highest summit of the San Gabriel Mountains to hike or bike back down. 909/982-0800; [mtbaldyresort.com](http://mtbaldyresort.com)



## MOUNTAIN CENTER

**Lake Hemet.** Swim, fish, and boat in this lake bounded by manzanita, pines, and oaks. Each year the lake is stocked with more than 13,000 pounds of rainbow trout. 951/659-2680; [golakehemet.com](http://golakehemet.com)

## MURRIETA

**Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.** Discover woodlands, wetlands, and prairies at this hidden gem. Look for more than 200 species of native birds, as well as bobcats and badgers. 951/677-6951; [rivcoparks.org](http://rivcoparks.org)

## OAK GLEN

**Oak Glen Apple Growers Association.** Pick your own fruit at mile-high apple farms in the San Bernardino Mountain foothills east of Yucaipa. Taste apple butter, apple cider, and apple pie. [oakglen.net](http://oakglen.net)

## ONTARIO

**CA Welcome Center.** Located in the Fashion Alley at Ontario Mills, this is your one-stop to discover California, including the Greater Ontario Region which has so much to offer. Dream big and create a true California adventure. Let our destination services team answer questions, make itinerary suggestions, provide concierge guest services and assist with hotel, rental car, and restaurant reservations. 909/980-2019; [visitcalifornia.com/welcome-centers](http://visitcalifornia.com/welcome-centers)

**GOCAL (Greater Ontario, California).** Discover the local flavor of SoCal cities Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga. Breathtaking outdoor adventures, world-class shopping, authentic global cuisines, and top-tier entertainment. Why wait? Let's go! 800/455-5755 [go-cal.org](http://go-cal.org) See ad, page 85

**Ontario International Airport.** Southern California's Ontario International Airport (ONT) is the fastest growing airport in the United States. It is a full-service airport offering nonstop commercial jet service to major airports in the U.S., Mexico, and Taiwan. [flyontario.com](http://flyontario.com)

**Ontario Museum of History and Art.** Walk through wrought iron gates of Ontario's historic former city hall to explore exhibits focused on the arts and culture of the Inland Empire. Admission is free. 909/395-2510; [ontariomuseum.org](http://ontariomuseum.org)

## PERRIS

**Lake Perris State Recreation Area.** Lake Perris has white beaches, blue water, and rocky Alessandro Island, where you can pull up your kayak and have lunch. Hike, bike, or horseback ride on nine miles of trails surrounding the lake, or go rock climbing on 180-foot-high Big Rock. 951/940-5600; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.** Get a taste of the 1,200-mile trail that the Spanish expeditionary leader traveled in the 1770s. Download a map and create your own adventure. [nps.gov/juba](http://nps.gov/juba)

**Southern California Railway Museum.** Take a narrated tour of the museum and tootle along on restored trains that helped shape modern life in Southern California. 951/943-3020; [socalrailway.org](http://socalrailway.org)

## RANCHO CUCAMONGA

**John Rains House.** Docents greet you at the door of this 1860 house in Rancho Cucamonga, which has been restored and features period furnishings. 909/798-8608; [sbcounty.gov](http://sbcounty.gov)

**Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts.** World's largest collection of Sam Maloof furniture in a California modernist home built by the famous woodworker. Tours, gallery, workshops, garden and gifts. Smithsonian Affiliate. [malooffoundation.org](http://malooffoundation.org)

## REDLANDS

**Kimberly Crest House & Gardens.** View a historic 7,000-square-foot Victorian "petite chateau" that dates to 1897 and an Italian Renaissance-style garden. Group tours available. 909/792-2111; [kimberlycrest.org](http://kimberlycrest.org)

**San Bernardino County Museum.** Natural history exhibits, a live animal discovery center, and more in Redlands, midway between L.A. and Palm Springs. 909/798-8608; [museum.sbcounty.gov](http://museum.sbcounty.gov)

## RIVERSIDE

**University of California, Riverside Botanic Gardens.** A 40-acre living plant museum with more than 3,500 plant species from around the world. Explore on your own, or sign up for a guided summer Twilight Tour. 951/827-7090; [gardens.ucr.edu](http://gardens.ucr.edu)

**Riverside Art Museum.** Housed in a 1929 building designed by famed Hearst Castle architect Julia Morgan, RAM features traditional and contemporary art, and also offers art classes for all ages. 951/684-7111; [riversideartmuseum.org](http://riversideartmuseum.org)

## RUNNING SPRINGS

**Rim Nordic Ski Area.** Cross-country ski and snowshoe through the San Bernardino National Forest on tree-lined, machined-groomed trails. 909/867-2600; [rimnordic.com](http://rimnordic.com)

**Snow Valley Mountain Resort.** Started in 1924, Snow Valley is the oldest operating ski resort in Southern California. Now part of Big Bear Mountain Resort, with runs ranging from beginner to black diamonds. [bigbearmountainresort.com](http://bigbearmountainresort.com)

## SAN BERNARDINO

**San Bernardino National Forest.** Southern California's go-to forest for recreation offers fishing, hiking, off-highway vehicle areas and trails, with 42 campsites and more. 909/382-2600; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**San Bernardino History and Railroad Museum.** Housed in the historic, Mission-style Santa Fe Depot, this museum features railroad memorabilia: explore it on your own or take a First Wednesdays tour. 951/544-4449; [sbdepotmuseum.com](http://sbdepotmuseum.com)

## SKYFOREST

**Heaps Peak Arboretum.** Experience the demonstration gardens, the "animal tracks trail," and a guided tour of the mile-long Sequoia Trail at this beautiful mountain oasis. [hparboretum.com](http://hparboretum.com)

## TEMECULA

**Rose Haven Heritage Garden.** Two miles from downtown, take a walk amid 1,600 roses, among them hybrid teas, floribundas, and mini-roses. 951/526-3479; [temeculavalleyrosesociety.org](http://temeculavalleyrosesociety.org)

**Visit Temecula Valley.** Located approximately 90 miles south of Los Angeles and 60 miles north of San Diego, Temecula Valley combines a convenient destination with unbelievable scenic beauty. 888/363-2852; [visittemecula-valley.com](http://visittemecula-valley.com)

## WRIGHTWOOD

**Mountain High Ski Resort.** A mere 80 miles from Los Angeles, this ski resort in the San Gabriel Mountains is open from mid-November through mid-April. 888/754-7878; [mthigh.com](http://mthigh.com)

## YUCAIPA

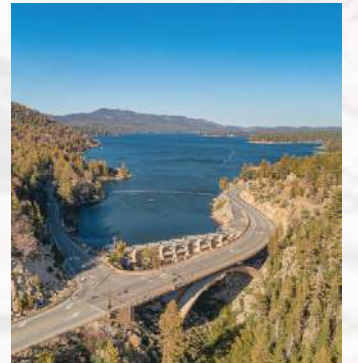
**Wildwood Canyon State Park.** Enjoy sweeping views of the surrounding valleys in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. See groves of ancient live oaks and possibly a bobcat or coyotes. 951/940-5600; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)



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**COME SAY HI AT:**  
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Pixar Pier was largely inspired by California's classic coastal boardwalks

The Lamplight Lounge serves showbiz-themed cocktails





# ORANGE COUNTY

Whether you lean toward theme park thrills or beach lounging, this oceanfront region offers fun for everyone

With a top speed of 55 mph, Incredicoaster is Disneyland Resort's fastest ride

Each of the Pixar Pal-A-Round's gondolas features a different Disney or Pixar character

Paradise Bay hosts *World of Color*, a night-time show set to music



## EDITOR'S PICKS

Check out the Pride-themed rainbow tower at West Street Beach—the first in O.C.—installed in summer 2023 to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community's history in Laguna Beach.

Step into the world of *Big Hero 6* at Disney California Adventure Park, where the new San Fransokyo Square houses a food court of East-meets-West flavors. Give Baymax a fist-bump before grabbing a cold one from the new Port of San Fransokyo Cervecería.

It's free to wander the 25,000 square feet of exhibit space at Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa's newest cultural hot spot housing modern and contemporary works. The all-day cafe, Verdant, is a museum highlight on the third floor with a mostly vegetarian menu created by award-winning local chefs.

Look up at the Santa Ana Zoo, where a treetop trail system in the *Amazon's Edge* exhibit has created an irresistible aerial play space for monkeys. There's also an underwater viewing area for giant river otters, an endangered species rarely seen in zoos.

# Shh! O.C.'s Secret Sips

**S**neak behind a sliding bookcase in San Clemente to find a sleek tiki bar serving up temaki sushi and cocktails mixed with housemade bitters and tinctures. **Momoku No Usagi** lets spirits shine with cocktails like the rye-based Pumpernickel and a series of old-fashioned cocktails crafted with Japanese whisky. Opened in late 2022, Momoku No Usagi means “the blind rabbit” in Japanese, the name of the owner's other secret spot that draws crowds in the Anaheim Packing District. It's one of the newest additions to O.C.'s speakeasy scene, along with **Kai Lounge's** whiskey room in Huntington Beach. Walk through the Pacific City restaurant to access this coastal cocktail den hidden beyond a set of shelves. With just 10

seats, it's an exclusive way to sip whiskeys and Tokyo-inspired cocktails or enjoy an 18-course omakase dinner.

The vibe runs more Western in Costa Mesa, where **Cowboys & Poodles** puts a casual spin on the speakeasy experience. Cowboy hats dangling from the ceiling welcome visitors into a space where a disco ball spinning below a wagon wheel doesn't seem out of place. If you can't snag prime seating inside the stagecoach carriage, sidle up to the bar and grab a stool shaped like a horse's hindquarters. Come for the cocktails—A Whole Mood with pineapple rum and sage bitters is a winner—but stay for a raucous good time that includes burlesque dancers and flaming drinks.



FROM TOP: COURTESY MOMOKU NO USAGI; COURTESY OF SANTA ANA ZOO



WE HAVE

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Photo Courtesy of @MattLamard  
Dana Wharf Whale Watching



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Steelcraft



# Garden Grove

*THIS DIVERSE ORANGE COUNTY CITY OFFERS VIBRANT NIGHTLIFE AND EATERIES, BUT STILL MANAGES TO FLY UNDER THE RADAR.*

## STEP BACK IN TIME

Asphalt gives way to brick-like pavement in Garden Grove's historic district, which packs a nostalgic punch in a walkable one-block stretch. Main Street mainstays like the 1950s-inspired diner Kaye's Kitchen and Azteca Mexican Restaurant—where Elvis memorabilia lines the walls—evoke a cozy, mid-20th-century nostalgia.

The arcade bar Barcode pays homage to the more recent past with 1990s pop-culture decor and retro video games like "Street Fighter" and "Sega Blast City." There's more history up the street at the Stanley Ranch Museum, a two-acre complex of historic buildings, including the garage Walt Disney used as an animation studio in 1923.

## GRAB A BITE

Find Vietnamese flavors at Pho 79, a Michelin Bib Gourmand eatery where visitors line up to slurp oxtail noodle soup. Two miles away, Brodard Chateau is an upscale spot beloved for nem nuong cuon (pork spring rolls wrapped in rice paper).

Nosh your way through Steelcraft, an open-air food hall packed with shipping-container eateries serving casual fare. Sample Korean-Filipino barbecue from Barrio or burgers and dogs from The Penalty Box, a concept by National Hockey League Hall of Famer Teemu Selanne.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Friday night lights are trained on Main Street, where the longest-running car show in O.C. draws

antique autos and restored hot rods every week at 4 p.m. The street becomes a pedestrian promenade featuring classic cars and live music. The city's biggest bash—the Strawberry Festival—takes place on Memorial Day weekend with a parade, rides, and kiddie contests.

## LIVE FROM GARDEN GROVE

The town turns up the volume at the 530-seat Garden Amp, which opened in 2019 and hosts punk rock, reggae, and rock acts. For entertainment of a more classical nature, check the marquee at Main Street's The Gem Theatre. The 1920s vaudeville stage is now a live performance venue for local artists producing jukebox musicals, Broadway plays, and holiday shows.



GARDEN GROVE WAS ONCE KNOWN FOR ITS STRAWBERRY FIELDS AND CITRUS ORCHARDS

COURTESY STEELCRAFT GARDEN GROVE





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小红书





# Splurge vs Save

YOU CAN LIVE IT UP OR DIAL IT DOWN IN THIS ORANGE COUNTY BEACH TOWN

## DINING

A hidden gem on the second floor of a retail plaza, Sushi Ii offers one of the most luxurious meals in town with three omakase menus (\$150–\$275) and à la carte nigiri that have garnered Michelin Guide recognition.

Get your grab-and-go beach fare at Sancho's Tacos on the Balboa Peninsula. Locals love the Chubby Sauce, which pairs well with carnitas piled onto a soft-fried taco shell (\$4.25).

## SHOPPING

The only Neiman Marcus in Orange County is at Fashion Island, an ocean-view center where you can buy a \$19,500 Cosmograph Daytona Rolex at Hyde Park Jewelers or a \$10,780 pair of Jordan 1 Retros at Paired Up.

Stroll Balboa Island's boutiques for souvenirs at Balboa Surf & Style, then treat yourself to some saltwater taffy (\$3.85/quarter-pound) from the bins at Balboa Candy.

## ON THE WATER

Cruise the Newport coast by chartering a 76-foot yacht for 12 (\$7,495) from Captain Newport. VIPs may want to upgrade to the private chef experience (\$1,450).

Park for free in the neighborhoods and hike down to Little Corona Beach. The rocky cove is home to tide pool creatures and gentle waves safe enough for kids to splash and explore.

## LODGING

Recharge with a Himalayan salt stone massage (\$275 for 60 minutes) at the spa after checking into The Resort at Pelican Hill, where two-bedroom villas (from \$1,195–\$3,000 per night) offer Pacific Ocean views.

Just steps from your tent, RV, or cottage at Newport Dunes (winter rates from \$75), you'll have easy access to the back bay beach and the resort's cozy amenities—including an inflatable aquatic park in the summer.

## ART

Ethos Contemporary Art showcases Carolyn Johnson's upcycled surfboards (\$2,900) plus Artlord's pop-art paintings and David Krovblit's cutting-edge collages (\$4,000–\$9,000).

At Seaside Gallery and Goods, browse local artisans' watercolor and acrylic beach scenes (\$50 and up), or attend a workshop in painting, calligraphy, or block-printing.

FROM LEFT: COURTESY THE RESORT AT PELICAN HILL; COURTESY NEWPORT DUNES



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**San Clemente:** 101 W Avenida Vista Hermosa, Suite 190; 949/535-2323

**More information**  
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714/786-8585;  
[travelcostamesa.com](http://travelcostamesa.com)

Visit Anaheim  
714/765-2800;  
[visitanaim.com](http://visitanaim.com)

## visit

### ANAHEIM

**Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center.** Explore diverse heritages, cultures, and arts through the museum's creative programs. Exhibits include fossil findings, ancient Native American wares, and 19th-century winery and citrus-farming tools. 714/765-6450; [muzeo.org](http://muzeo.org)

**Oak Canyon Nature Center.** A 58-acre natural park nestled in the Anaheim Hills. Follow a stream by oak woodlands and coastal sage scrub through three adjoining canyons. 714/998-8380; [anaheim.net](http://anaheim.net)

### BUENA PARK

**Visit Buena Park.** SoCal's Fun City is home to Knott's Berry Farm theme park, water park, interactive dinner shows, dueling piano bar, award-winning dining and affordable hotels. Get your free guide at [visitbuenapark.com](http://visitbuenapark.com) See ad, p. 91

### CORONA DEL MAR

**Corona del Mar State Beach.** Popular with swimmers, surfers, divers, and sunbathers, this half-mile-long sandy beach is framed by cliffs at the east entrance to Newport Harbor. [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Sherman Library and Gardens.** Botanical collections span the globe with gardens focused on bromeliads, ferns, orchids, and succulents. The charming adobe house library covers Pacific Southwest history. 949/673-2261; [thesherman.org](http://thesherman.org)

### COSTA MESA

**OC Fair & Event Center.** Join us for Orange County's iconic summer festival at the OC Fair, July 19 to August 18, 2024. Visit [ocfair.com](http://ocfair.com) to discover more events and programming happening all year long. See ad, p. 97

**Orange County Museum of Art.** This stunning 53,000-square-foot contemporary art museum sits on the campus of Segerstrom Center for the Arts. 714/780-2130; [ocma.art](http://ocma.art)

**Segerstrom Center for the Arts.** Four performance halls and an outdoor arts plaza spread over 14 acres. Hear symphonies in the concert hall, and see plays at the Tony Award-winning repertory. 714/556-2787; [scfta.org](http://scfta.org)

**South Coast Plaza.** "Southern California's Ultimate Shopping Destination" is the luxury shopping experience with 250 extraordinary boutiques, fine dining, personal shopping services, and upscale amenities. 714/435-2000; 800/782-8888; [southcoastplaza.com](http://southcoastplaza.com) See ad, p. 93

### DANA POINT

**Doheny State Beach.** Find a surfing beach, a five-acre lawn with picnic facilities, volleyball courts, and campgrounds. Get up close to sea life at the rocky tidepools or the visitor center's aquariums. 949/496-6171; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Visit Dana Point.** Boasting seven miles of prominent coastal bluffs, Dana Point brings together the best of luxury amenities and laid-back surf culture. Visitors enjoy world-class accommodations, shopping, sport fishing, bicycling, parasailing and the abundance of pristine beaches. [visitdanapoint.com](http://visitdanapoint.com) See ad, p. 91

### FULLERTON

**Fullerton Arboretum.** See rare and worldly plant collections at this 26-acre botanical garden located on the California State University, Fullerton campus. Take a class on herbalism, composting, bonsai gardening, or forest bathing. 657/278-3407; [fullertonarboretum.org](http://fullertonarboretum.org)

### HUNTINGTON BEACH

**Huntington State Beach.** Sprawling over 121 acres, this expansive park extends two miles along the shore. Surf famous breaks, jog or bike along the paved coastal trail, or spread out a towel on the brayed-tan sand. [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)



**International Surfing Museum.** Surfers Walk of Fame, surf films, plus memorabilia and totally rad boards. The collection includes Duke Kahanamoku's original board as well as the world's largest surfboard. 714/960-3483; [huntingtonbeachsurfingmuseum.org](http://huntingtonbeachsurfingmuseum.org)

**Visit Huntington Beach.** Ten miles of sand, laid-back luxury resorts, outdoor activities, a historic downtown, and over 100 years of surf history are here in Surf City USA. 800/729-6232; [surfcityusa.com](http://surfcityusa.com) See ad, p. 95

### IRVINE

**Destination Irvine.** A leading tech and life-science powerhouse, Irvine surprises with the most open space in OC. 16,500 acres offering miles of hiking and biking trails. Centrally located to beaches and attractions—an ideal SoCal getaway. [destinationirvine.com](http://destinationirvine.com)

**San Joaquin Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary.** Discover over 300 acres of coastal freshwater wetlands in the heart of busy Orange County. Hike more than 12 miles of trails to watch waterfowl. 949/453-5300; [irwd.com/san-joaquin-marsh](http://irwd.com/san-joaquin-marsh)

### LA HABRA

**Children's Museum at La Habra.** Learn more about science, performing arts, and transportation via hands-on galleries. Don't miss the outdoor dinosaur garden, model train village, mini carousel, and 1940s caboose. 562/383-4236; [lhcm.org](http://lhcm.org)

### LAGUNA BEACH

**Laguna Art Museum.** View works of art that were created by California artists and represent the life and history of the state. Founded in 1918, it's one of the state's oldest art institutions. 949/494-8971; [lagunaartmuseum.org](http://lagunaartmuseum.org)

**Visit Laguna Beach.** Laguna Beach, where art and the outdoors come together. Explore 30+ beaches/coves, 20k acres of wilderness, 100+ art galleries, and more beachfront hotels than any other city in California. 800/877-1115; [visitlagunabeach.com](http://visitlagunabeach.com); See ad, inside front cover

### LAGUNA NIGUEL

**Niguel Botanical Preserve.** Stroll through the trails at this 18.2-acre garden featuring flora from five areas of the world with Mediterranean climates similar to Southern California. It features four miles of walking trails. Open 365 days a year. 949/425-5100; [niguelbotanicalpreserve.org](http://niguelbotanicalpreserve.org)

### NEWPORT BEACH

**Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve.** Ideal for wildlife viewing, bird-watching, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and biking, this reserve is also home to the Back Bay Science Center. 949/640-9956; [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### ORANGE

**Coastkeeper Natural Play Garden.** This nature advocacy group's garden has tree-stump paths, a grass maze, and a hillside tunnel for kids to explore, and offers gardening workshops and a monthly plant share. 714/850-1965; [coastkeeper.org](http://coastkeeper.org)

### SAN CLEMENTE

**San Clemente State Beach.** Popular among water sports enthusiasts, the beautiful mile-long beach stretches between the curling ocean surf and the foot of a steep bluff. 949/492-3156; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**San Onofre State Beach.** Swim, sunbathe, kayak, and surf at one of the top five most visited state parks in California. Three miles of soft sand provide plenty of space for strolling and beachcombing. 949/492-4872; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

**Mission San Juan Capistrano.** Every March, see the return of swallows that migrated to Argentina for the winter. Take an audio tour to learn more, and see historic artifacts, paintings, and Native American art. 949/234-1300; [missionsjc.com](http://missionsjc.com)

### SANTA ANA

**Discovery Cube Orange County.** Explore kid-friendly interactive exhibits like the state-of-the-art Boeing Rocket Lab, the animated Planetary Research Station, an eco challenge, and more. 714/542-2823; [discoverycube.org](http://discoverycube.org)

### TUSTIN

**Marconi Automotive Museum.** Discover an eye-popping \$30 million collection of historical, exotic, and classic cars, from Lamborghinis to Ford Shelybys to Formula One race cars. 714/258-3001; [marconimuseum.org](http://marconimuseum.org)

### YORBA LINDA

**Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum.** Get a glimpse into the life of America's 37th president at this museum built on the former citrus farm where Nixon was born. Browse more than 60 exhibits, 300 artifacts, and see replicas of the East Room and Nixon's Oval Office. 714/983-9120; [nixonlibrary.gov](http://nixonlibrary.gov)

## stay

HOTELS AND RESORTS

### HUNTINGTON BEACH

**Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach.** 21500 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Our resort is directly across from the Pacific Ocean with a private skywalk bridge for easy beach access. With six restaurants, a full service spa and a robust recreational activity calendar, you don't have to leave the property. 714/698-1234; [huntingtonbeach.hyatt.com](http://huntingtonbeach.hyatt.com) \$\$\$ See ad, p. 95



**The Waterfront Beach Resort, a Hilton Hotel.** 21100 Pacific Coast Hwy. 437 rooms/suites with private balconies and ocean views. 50,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor event space. Three dining options, including rooftop lounge and Italian deli. Bonfires/fire pits with beach butler services. 714/845-8000; [waterfrontresort.com](http://waterfrontresort.com) \$\$\$ See ad, p. 95



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Roast to Go is the market's oldest vendor, serving authentic Mexican fare

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Grand Central Market has been feeding L.A. diners since its doors opened in 1917



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY

This vibrant hub for arts and culture offers endless opportunities for sun-soaked exploration



A legacy vendor, Torres Produce is a one-stop shop for fresh fruits and veggies

TORRES  
PRODUCE

P6

Score dried chiles, spices, beans, and even fresh moles at Valeria's

The downtown L.A. food hall and market sees two million visitors each year





Viceroy Santa Monica



# Santa Monica Hotels: New, Old, and New Again

**T**he palm-tree-lined stretch of Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica features new and renovated historic hotels, each with its own distinct character.

With its stately façade and reputation for hosting famous guests, it's no wonder why locals nicknamed **The Georgian** “the First Lady.” Drawing inspiration from the art deco and Romanesque revival movements, this Santa Monica institution’s striking architecture and distinctive turquoise exterior and would be at home in a Wes Anderson film.

In 2020, the hotel underwent an extensive restoration, which included the addition of two restaurants, an art gallery, and a library stocked with the books of California literary icons. Nestled below the hotel, guests will also discover The Georgian Room, a restaurant and piano bar once frequented by notables like “Bugsy” Siegel, Clark Gable, and Al Capone. Guest rooms are adorned with gold accents, scalloped headboards, and Polaroid cameras for documenting your trip, all while offering prime ocean views.

About a half-mile south, the **Viceroy Santa Monica** recently completed a three-year renovation. With new wellness programming including an outdoor sound-bathing experience and private poolside cabanas, this coastal getaway has completely reinvented itself. Guests are greeted by a large wood-planked ceiling that mirrors the experience of walking beneath the Santa Monica Pier.

A more recent addition to the downtown district is **The Pierside**, a boutique hotel located just steps from the famous pier. Highlights at this surf-inspired getaway include a saltwater pool, beachside restaurant, and full-service gear rental store, The Board Shop. The hotel also features a massive mural by celebrated street artist Shepard Fairey, which pays homage to the city’s vibrant surf, skate, and music cultures.



## EDITOR'S PICKS

It seems only fitting that L.A.'s first (and only) Mexican-inspired nonalcoholic bar would be located in the heart of uber-trendy Abbot Kinney. Bar Nuda serves handcrafted, zero-proof drinks for the sober, sober-curious, and anyone looking for a booze-free night out.

Follow Pasadena's new Boba Trail located on the historic Route 66. Made up of 30 boba shops, the trail highlights a diverse lineup of coffee and tea shops, each with their own take on the bubbly tapioca-based beverage brought here by Taiwanese immigrants in the 1990s.

Craving a cold one? Head to Hermosa Brewing Company's new Torrance location, where you'll get to choose from 27 craft beers ranging from blueberry sours to red ales and Mexican lagers. The taproom boasts funky murals and an arcade room fitted with pinball machines and vintage video games.

After a three-year renovation, the Queen Mary in Long Beach reopened to passengers in 2023 for guided tours and overnight stays. Explore the Winston Churchill exhibit, which documents the former British prime minister's relationship with the famed vessel.

FROM TOP: COURTESY VICEROY SANTA MONICA; MICHAEL ROSEBROCK/SHUTTERSTOCK





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Vasquez Rocks Natural Area



# Santa Clarita

GO BEYOND THE GRAVITY-DEFYING COASTERS AT MAGIC MOUNTAIN AND DISCOVER THIS CITY'S WINE SCENE, OPEN SPACES, AND MOVIEMAKING TRADITIONS

## WINE SCENE

The Old Town Newhall district is the best first stop for oenophiles. Hoi Polloi Winery crafts wines from premium grapes sourced at leading West Coast vineyards—taste the results at its Double Trouble Wine Room, which also pours Central Coast wines from Valencia's Pagter Brothers Winery. A block away, Pulchella Winery is the place to discover award-winning Zinfandels and Syrahs from the Paso Robles area. Or if you're looking for a list that spans the globe, check out the selection at the Newhall Press Room, a wine bar and bistro.

Agua Dulce Winery and Reyes Winery cultivate grapes in vineyards about 20 miles northeast of Santa Clarita in a high desert region known for Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon,

and Chardonnay. Visit their onsite tasting rooms or stop by Reyes Winery's tasting room and rooftop restaurant in Old Town.

## INTO THE OUTDOORS

Trails lead to a hidden waterfall at Placerita Canyon Natural Area. Take a hike through secluded canyons and savor panoramic views from the ridgeline at Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon. Or go see why directors have utilized the dramatic sandstone formations at Vasquez Rocks Natural Area and Nature Center to shoot everything from *Blazing Saddles* to *Star Trek: The Original Series*.

## FILM AND TV

TV and film fanatics will love "set jetting" in Santa Clarita, an extremely busy filming location

(it's sometimes called "Hollywood's backlot"). On the Visit Santa Clarita website, a four-day itinerary guides guests to locations featured in *Westworld*, *Justified*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Friends*, *Parks & Recreation*, and dozens more. Also, don't bother with drive-ins: At Boat Cinema on nearby Castaic Lake, you can watch movies while captaining your own electric boat.



IN 1962, WALT DISNEY DONATED EIGHT BISON TO A SANTA CLARITA PARK

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: SARAH FIELDS/SHUTTERSTOCK; COURTESY MIDSPACE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM; COURTESY KEN CONCEPCION; COURTESY DESCANSO GARDENS; JACOB LAYMAN/COURTESY KUYA LORD; CBS/GETTY IMAGES





Kidspace Children's Museum

# Los Angeles



**KEN CONCEPCION**

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**KIDSPACE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

"We love to go to Kidspace Children's Museum near the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. It's an indoor-outdoor playground that's really geared toward learning. There's a water feature that kids can get into. They offer story time and different craft classes too."

**KUYA LORD**

"This is my go-to for showstopping Filipino lechon (suckling pig), specifically their lucenachon (Filipino porchetta). I also love getting their pancit chami (sweet and spicy noodles). Add prawns!"

**L.A. STATE HISTORIC PARK**

"My favorite park is Los Angeles State Historic Park in Chinatown—it's nearly 33 acres of open green space. There's a track for runners and it has the best views of the skyline. I also like spending the day at Descanso Gardens in La Cañada Flintridge. It's a really nice place to go for a walk or just be surrounded by nature."

**MITSUWA MARKETPLACE**

"If you're as obsessed with food as I am, you can't go wrong exploring the aisles at Mitsuwa in Torrance or a Super H Mart. Eye-opening stuff and you'll want to get everything."

**HOLBOX**

"At the Mercado La Paloma near USC, this restaurant (pronounced *hole bosh*) makes incredible Yucatan-style seafood. They do amazing agua chiles, ceviches, and grilled octopus tacos. The flavors are really bright with a little bit of heat. Delicious stuff."



Kuya Lord

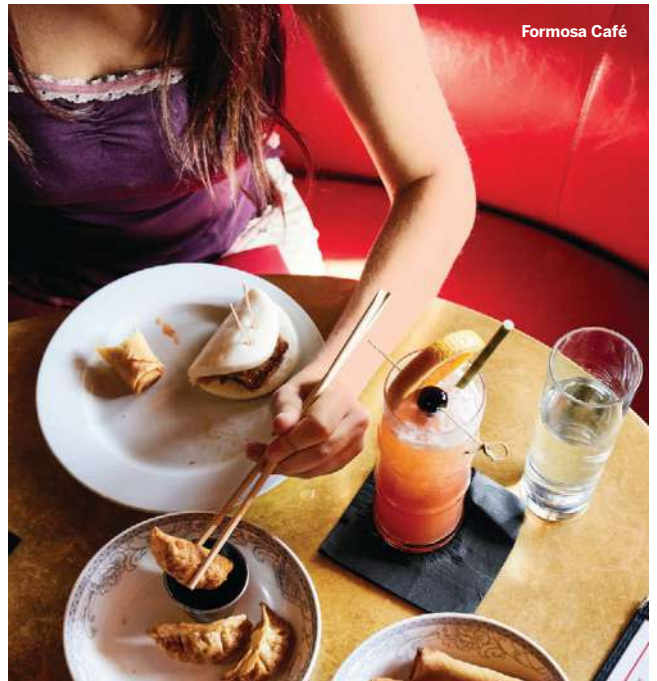


Descanso Gardens





Sushi Ginza Onodera



Formosa Café

# Splurge vs Save

## WEST HOLLYWOOD PLEASURES FOR WALLETS OF ALL SIZES

### SPA

Relax at Pendry West Hollywood's luxury spa with a two-hour hot-stone massage therapy session. You'll be rubbed down with a soufflé of whipped shea butter, coconut oil, and rosehip CO<sub>2</sub> (\$545).

Invigorate your body and mind with a cryotherapy session at Pause, where a spacious chamber equipped with cooling technology safely chills the air around you (\$40). Benefits include stress reduction and injury recovery.

### DINNER

Indulge in a feast of Edomae-style raw fish at two-Michelin-starred Sushi Ginza Onodera, where the 23-course seasonal omakase includes gold-crusting abalone and caviar egg custard (\$400).

At Formosa Café, chow down on luscious dan dan noodles and sticky short ribs in the same original red trolley car where Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley once dined. Dim sum dishes start at just \$8.

### FITNESS

Book a private workout session with trainer-to-the-stars Kirk Myers at Dogpound Gym, a favorite spot for A-listers such as Hugh Jackman and Taylor Swift (\$1,500).

Unleash your competitive spirit and hit the tennis and pickleball courts at West Hollywood Park. \$8 unlocks one hour of exhilarating play on the rooftop courts, which feature fantastic city views.

### NIGHTLIFE

Have a movie night to remember at Melrose Rooftop Theatre. The Ultimate Date Night package includes dinner for two at Bombo!, two VIP seats, blankets, and a bottle of rosé with popcorn to share (\$199).

Attend one of the many free author readings and book signings at Book Soup, a long-standing neighborhood bookstore on the Sunset Strip. Events typically start at 7 p.m.

### TOUR

Gaze out through the famous floor-to-ceiling windows at the Stahl House, designed by renowned architect Pierre Koenig. Evening tours offer a breathtaking look at the L.A. skyline at sunset (\$90 per person).

Get inspired at the MAK Center. Architectural tours through the Mackey Apartments and Fitzpatrick-Leland House are free, with tickets to the Schindler House priced at just \$10.



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**Torrance:** Del Amo Fashion Center, 3525 W. Carson St.; 424/392-7495

**More information**  
Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board  
[discoverlosangeles.com](http://discoverlosangeles.com)



visit

**ARCADIA**

**Angeles National Forest.** Enjoy spectacular scenery and the solitude of quiet wilderness areas in the San Gabriel Mountains and Sierra Pelona Mountains. 626/574-1613; [fs.usda.gov/angeles](http://fs.usda.gov/angeles)

**Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden.** Wander along paths that feature 127 acres of plants, natural landscapes, wildlife, and historic buildings nestled near the San Gabriel Mountains. 626/821-3222; [arboretum.org](http://arboretum.org)

**BEVERLY HILLS**

**Virginia Robinson Gardens.** This 1911 estate is home to one of Beverly Hills' first mansions. The opulent six-acre grounds feature period gardens where Hollywood elite enjoyed garden parties. Tours by reservation only. 310/550-2065; [robinsongardens.org](http://robinsongardens.org)

**Greystone Mansion.** Built in 1928 for the son of an oil tycoon, this elaborate mansion and estate is now a public park. Stroll through manicured gardens with man-made waterfalls. 310/285-6830; [beverlyhills.org](http://beverlyhills.org)

**BURBANK**

**Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood.** Get closer to the entertainment you love and see where Hollywood is made. Visit [wbstudiotour.com](http://wbstudiotour.com) for the operating schedule and to book your tour. Located at 3400 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505; [wbstudiotour.com](http://wbstudiotour.com) See ad, p. 101

**CATALINA ISLAND**

**Catalina Island Museum.** Located in the Ada Blanche Wrigley Schreiner Building, rotating exhibits tell the history of Catalina Island and cover a wide range of topics through art, artifacts, and documents. 310/510-2414; [catalinamuseum.org](http://catalinamuseum.org)

**CHATSWORTH**

**Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.** Where the Simi Hills meet the Santa Susana Mountains, find this 680-acre park. Native American village sites belonging to Tongva, Chumash, and Tataviam people remain. 818/784-4849; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**CITY OF INDUSTRY**

**Homestead Museum.** Visit the homes and private cemeteries of the pioneer Workman-Temple families, located in the heart of a former Mexican rancho. Free

guided tours available Wednesday through Sunday. 626/968-8492; [homesteadmuseum.org](http://homesteadmuseum.org)

**CLAREMONT**

**California Botanic Garden.** Home to the largest botanic garden dedicated to California flora, this 86-acre property is home to 2,000 different native varieties, including endangered and threatened plants. 909/625-8767; [calbg.org](http://calbg.org)

**Claremont Lewis Museum of Art.** Located inside a Spanish-style building and former train depot, this museum celebrates the community's cultural legacy through rotating art and architecture exhibitions. 909/621-3200; [clmoa.org](http://clmoa.org)

**Discover Claremont.** Take a break in LA's college and arts town. Claremont is home to a rich architectural heritage, a dynamic culinary scene with local ales and spirits, boutique shopping, over 20 museums, galleries and gardens, and more. [discoverclaremont.com](http://discoverclaremont.com) See ad, p. 108

**CULVER CITY**

**Sony Pictures Museum.** Take a guided walking tour and get a behind-the-scenes look at a working studio and a museum filled with Hollywood memorabilia. 310/244-8687; [sonypicturesstudiotours.com](http://sonypicturesstudiotours.com)



## ENCINO

**Los Encinos State Historic Park.** A popular spot along a 19th-century travel route, this rancho includes the original eight-room adobe home, blacksmith shop, and a natural spring. 818/784-4849; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## HOLLYWOOD

**Hollywood Museum.** Explore four floors of show-business treasures, from one-of-a-kind costumes to film scripts, props, and vintage posters. Housed in the historic Max Factor Building designed by Simeon Charles Lee. 323/464-7776; [thehollywoodmuseum.com](http://thehollywoodmuseum.com)

## INGLEWOOD

**So-Fi Stadium Tours.** Go behind-the-scenes at SoFi Stadium, home to the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers. Experience our most exclusive spaces including suites, locker rooms, field access, and more! [sofistadium.com/tours](http://sofistadium.com/tours) See ad, p108

## LANCASTER

**Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve.** After a good winter rain, spring wildflowers (mostly the famous golden California poppy) blanket the park's 1,700 acres. Stay on paths and don't pick the flowers. 661/724-1180; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Antelope Valley Indian Museum State Historic Park.** Exhibits and interpretive displays focus on the Great Basin Indian Cultures. The unique chalet-style structure was originally built in 1928. 661/946-3055; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## LONG BEACH

**Long Beach Museum of Art.** The permanent collection includes more than 3,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures, and decorative arts objects with a focus on California modernism and 20th-century European art. 562/439-2119; [lbma.org](http://lbma.org)

**The Museum of Latin American Art.** Dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American and Latino Art, MOLAA houses a collection of more than 1,600 works, including painting, sculptures, and multi-media. 562/437-1689; [molaa.org](http://molaa.org)

## LOS ANGELES

**Griffith Observatory.** Look through telescopes, explore exhibits, and see live shows in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium. Located on Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park. 213/473-0850; [griffithobservatory.org](http://griffithobservatory.org)

**La Brea Tar Pits and Museum.** See the bubbling pits and explore the mysteries of the Ice Age revealed at the world's only active, urban Ice Age excavation site. 213/763-3499; [tarpits.org](http://tarpits.org)

**Los Angeles County Museum of Art.** The largest art museum in the western U.S. The collection includes over 142,000 objects spanning history, from ancient times to present day. 323/857-6000; [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

**The Getty Center.** European and American art is complemented by modern design, open spaces, and breathtaking views. Take the tram up to the campus designed by Richard Meier. 310/440-7300; [getty.edu](http://getty.edu)

## MALIBU

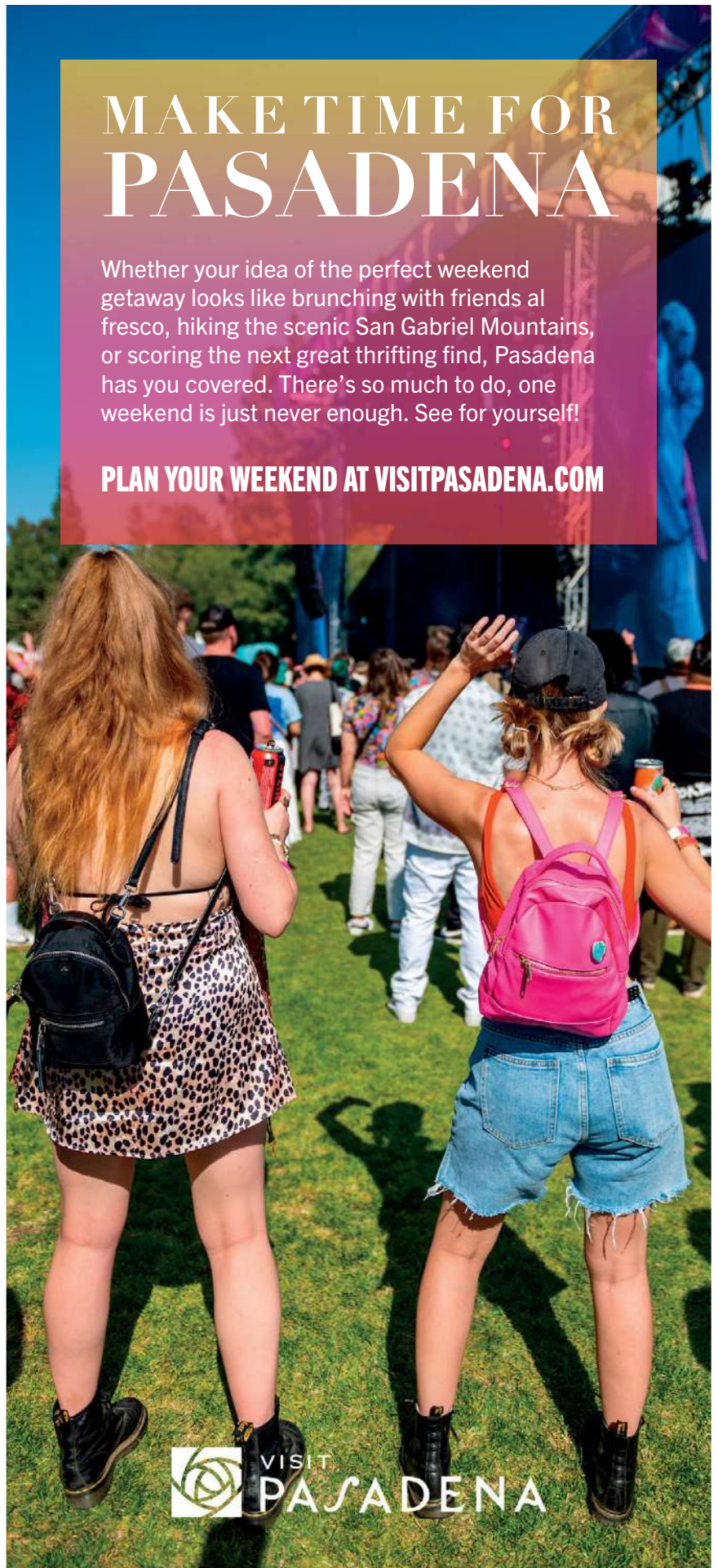
**Leo Carrillo State Park.** Find tidepools, coastal caves, and reefs for exploring. The park also features backcountry hiking and a beach for surfing, windsurfing, and beachcombing. 310/457-8143; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Malibu Creek State Park.** Explore more than 8,000 acres of sycamore woodlands and tallgrass plains. Follow streamside trails, perfect for hiking, fishing, birdwatching, mountain biking, and more. 818/880-0367; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

# MAKE TIME FOR PASADENA

Whether your idea of the perfect weekend getaway looks like brunching with friends al fresco, hiking the scenic San Gabriel Mountains, or scoring the next great thrifting find, Pasadena has you covered. There's so much to do, one weekend is just never enough. See for yourself!

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## los angeles county

### MARINA DEL REY

**Marina "Mother's" Beach.** Visit this peaceful 12-acre lagoon with seasonal lifeguards and summer food truck events. 424/526-7777; [visitmarinadelrey.com](http://visitmarinadelrey.com)

### MISSION HILLS

**Mission San Fernando Rey de España.** Founded in 1797, this mission is marked by a Spanish-style colonnade with 19 arches and a simple adobe church. Peacocks roam the grounds. 818/361-0186; [californiamissionsfoundation.org](http://californiamissionsfoundation.org)

### NEWHALL

**Placerita Canyon Natural Area.** Explore shady oak groves and a sycamore- and willow-lined stream on a network of hiking trails. 661/259-7721; [placerita.org](http://placerita.org)

### PACIFIC PALISADES

**Will Rogers State Historic Park.** The former estate of 1930s movie star Will Rogers. Explore Western memorabilia and paintings. Horseback riding lessons and guided trail rides are available at the stables. 310/230-2017; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### PALOS VERDES ESTATES

**South Coast Botanic Garden.** See plants native to California, the desert garden, and a banyan grove of Moreton Bay Fig trees, along with many other blooming flowers. 424/452-0920; [southcoastbotanicgarden.org](http://southcoastbotanicgarden.org)

### PASADENA

**Visit Pasadena.** Known for its historic landmarks, famous Rose Parade, arts & crafts architecture, museums, and shops lining Colorado Blvd., Pasadena embodies the lifestyle that travelers who venture

off the beaten path will experience. 800/307-7977; [visitpasadena.com](http://visitpasadena.com) See ad, p. 107

### SAN GABRIEL

**San Gabriel Arcángel Mission.** Take a self-guided tour of one of the state's best-preserved missions. View the painted stations of the cross as well as historic artifacts. 626/457-3035; [parish.sangabrielmissionchurch.org](http://parish.sangabrielmissionchurch.org)

### SAN MARINO

**The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Garden.** It's easy to spend a full day at this property, which features art exhibits, 120 acres of botanical gardens, and five dining establishments. 626/405-2100; [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)

### SAN PEDRO

**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.** Go tidepooling, watch sea otters play, take a whale-watching tour, and discover the underwater world of SoCal in the natural setting of San Pedro's Cabrillo Beach Coastal Park. 310/548-7562; [cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://cabrillomarineaquarium.org)

**Los Angeles Maritime Museum.** Learn the history of the Los Angeles harbor, including the legacy of the fishing industry. See the *SS Poseidon*, featured in the 1972 film *The Poseidon Adventure*. 310/548-7618; [lamaritimemuseum.org](http://lamaritimemuseum.org)

### SANTA CLARITA

**Visit Santa Clarita.** The gateway to L.A., with year-round fun and abundant sunshine! Come experience roller coaster thrills at Six Flags Magic Mountain, scrumptious local eats, great shopping and outdoor adventure! 661/286-4084. [visitsantaclarita.com](http://visitsantaclarita.com) See ad, p. 105

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Photo courtesy of Gus's BBQ



Photo courtesy of Hotel Casa 425

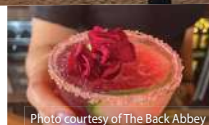


Photo courtesy of The Back Abbey



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# SANTA MONICA

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Come catch a wave and the good vibes at [SantaMonica.com](http://SantaMonica.com)

### SANTA MONICA

**California Heritage Museum.** Housed in the 19th-century home of a senator's son, this museum showcases artifacts connected to state and local history. Get an enriched experience with a docent-led tour. 310/392-8537; [californiaheritagemuseum.org](http://californiaheritagemuseum.org)

**Santa Monica State Beach.** This wide, sandy beach is marked by the Santa Monica Pier, which includes an amusement park, arcade, aquarium, and iconic solar-powered Ferris wheel. 310/458-8300; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Santa Monica Travel and Tourism.** Santa Monica is famous for its walkability, sunny beaches, attractions, outdoor spaces, wellness activities, over 400 culinary offerings, 8 unique neighborhoods, and 41 hotel properties. 800/544-5319; [santamonica.com](http://santamonica.com) See ad this page.

### SUN VALLEY

**Verdugo Mountains.** Hike through this lushly vegetated urban mountain range under the shade of coast live oaks, sycamores, bay laurels, and big leaf maples. Enjoy dramatic vistas from the upper slopes. 818/880-0363; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### TOPANGA

**Topanga State Park.** Find 36 miles of trails through open grassland and live oaks in the Santa Monica Mountains. Head to Eagle Rock for a panoramic view of the Pacific. 310/455-2465; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### WEST HOLLYWOOD

**MAK Center for Art and Architecture at the Schindler House.** Visit architect Rudolph M. Schindler's former house and studio, now a multi-disciplinary center. [makcenter.org](http://makcenter.org)

**Wattles Mansion and Garden.** Architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey designed this Mission Revival-style estate in 1907. Get a sense of Old Hollywood in the manicured gardens dotted with succulents. 323/969-9106; [laparks.org](http://laparks.org)

**West Hollywood.** Stay in the heart of L.A.: West Hollywood. The legendary Sunset Strip has never looked so good—with new luxury hotels and buzzy restaurants. Don't miss the best boutique shopping in the Design District and the always-on scene on Santa Monica Boulevard. [visitwesthollywood.com](http://visitwesthollywood.com) See ad, p. 5

### WHITTIER

**Pio Pico State Historic Park.** Explore historic gardens and the restored adobe home of Pio Pico, the last governor of Alta California under Mexican rule. 562/695-1217; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

stay

HOTELS AND RESORTS

### AVALON

**The Avalon Hotel on Catalina Island.** 124 Whittley Avenue. 15 rooms. Avalon's top-rated hotel on Trip Advisor. The Avalon offers ocean-view rooms and is walking distance to restaurants, shops, and activities. Rooftop deck with ocean views. Packages, continental breakfast. 310/510-7070; [theavalonhotel.com](http://theavalonhotel.com)  
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The humpback's knobby head is one of its most identifiable features



In 2023, the Santa Barbara Channel became a designated Whale Heritage Area, one of only nine such areas worldwide

Humpbacks have the most complex and diverse songs of any whale species



# CENTRAL COAST

Unwind along this sapphire stretch of coastline adorned with beach towns, blue-water views, and a tucked-away wine country

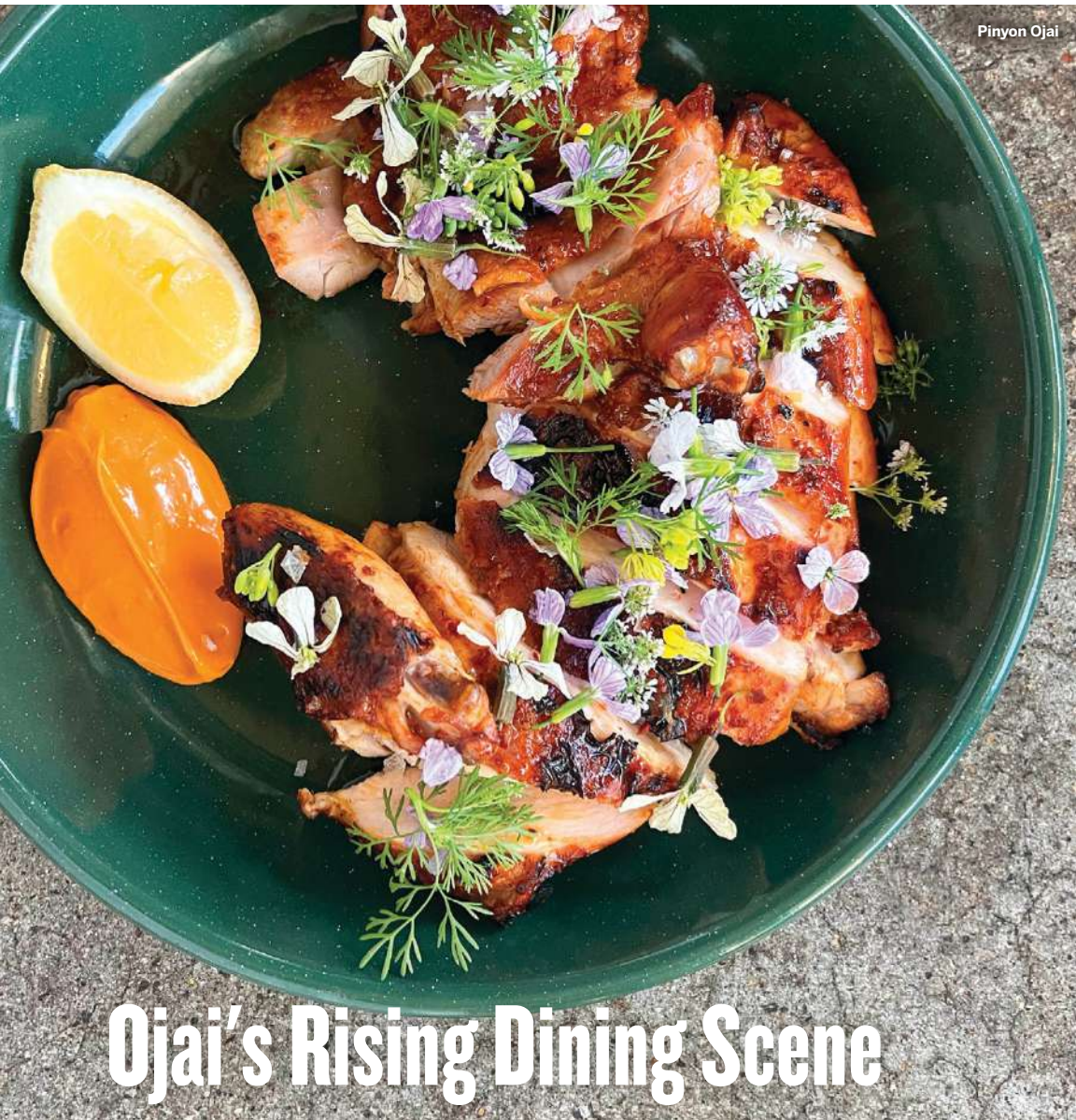


A humpback whale's pectoral flippers can be up to 15 feet long

These 53-ton mammals can grow up to 62 feet long

Monterey Bay is on the humpback migration path, active from April–December





Pinyon Ojai

## EDITOR'S PICKS

More than a decade in the making, the sustainably designed Santa Ynez Chumash Museum & Cultural Center is the place to discover the rich heritage of the Central Coast's Indigenous Chumash people.

Take to the high seas (or at least the mellow waters of Ventura Harbor) as you captain an eco-friendly and easy-to-operate vessel from Ventura Vision Electric Boat Rentals.

Steps from the ocean and just down the hill from Hearst Castle, San Simeon's 1852-vintage Sebastian's General Store has been renovated and reborn as a lunch spot, local foods emporium, and gift shop.

On the first Sunday of the month, Santa Barbara's pop-up Mujeres Makers Market is the place to find one-of-a-kind jewelry, art, and clothing made by local women of color.

Follow Monterey County's Artichoke Trail to find this regional delicacy in all its forms—from freshly harvested at area farmstands to fried, fire-roasted, and even infused into ice cream at local creameries.

# Ojai's Rising Dining Scene

A new roster of chefs has arrived in Ojai, and they are reinvigorating the local dining scene by taking full advantage of the area's bounty. In a building that formerly housed the 1920s-vintage Bill Baker's Ojai Bakery and later Azu Restaurant for more than 20 years, **The Dutchess** is really two dining destinations in one. It was launched by a pair of Ojai transplants, the celebrated husband-and-wife restaurant team of Josh Loeb and baker/cookbook author Zoe Nathan. By day The Dutchess is a bakery and café featuring the creations of pastry chef Kelsey Brito. At night it morphs into a Michelin-starred Burmese restaurant helmed by innovative executive chef Saw Naing. Biryani is Naing's

signature dish—a medley of ground lamb, basmati rice, cashews, and puff pastry. At **Rory's Place**, sisters Rory and Meave McAuliffe have built relationships with Central Coast ranchers, farmers, and seafood purveyors to source premium ingredients for their Cali-centric menu (the bone-in pork chop over stone fruit panzanella is a summer favorite).

While definitely local, **Pinyon Ojai's** wood-fired pizzas made with ingredients from area farmers also boast a more global pedigree. Co-owner Jeremy Alben apprenticed at world-renowned Fäviken in Sweden before refining his pizza chops in Brooklyn. Co-owner Tony Montagnaro, too, was pizza born—he comes from a pizzeria-owning family in New Jersey.



FROM TOP: COURTESY PINYON OJAI; CRISPIN LA VALIENTE/GETTY IMAGES



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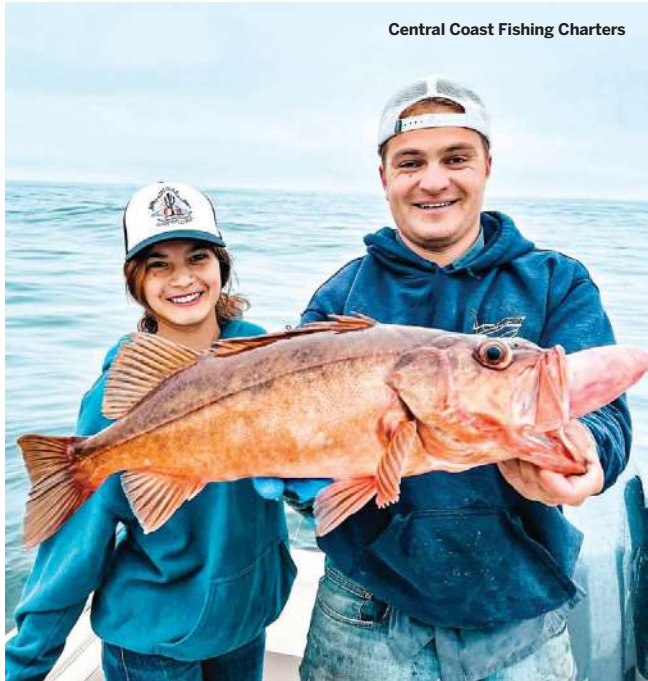


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Central Coast Fishing Charters



Pismo Beach Pier

# Splurge vs Save

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## TOUR

Take a two-hour specialty tour (\$100) at Hearst Castle for the inside story on architect Julia Morgan and this incomparable landmark's Hollywood history. Or gather your friends for a private four-hour tour (\$1,000 for six people).

Marvel at the grandeur of Hearst Castle on 70-minute introductory tours (from \$30) that focus on the estate's grand rooms, upstairs suites, and even the kitchen. The 5-mile tram ride up to the castle is narrated by Alex Trebek.

## SLEEP

Bask in the unreal beauty of the Pacific from a Pacific Suite at Vespera Resort on Pismo Beach. Enjoy 800 square feet of lounging space, a balcony overlooking the waves, and daily wellness classes (\$1,200).

Relax among the whimsical design and eclectic art of Farmhouse Paso Robles. This cottage-style lodging offers 26 chic rooms, outdoor firepits, loaner bikes, a hidden garden, and a Farm Shop filled with curated goods (\$179).

## MUSIC

Treat yourself to front-row seats at Vina Robles Amphitheater in Paso Robles for concerts by the likes of Mexican superstar Lupita D'Alessio (\$125), The Psychedelic Furs, and Squeeze (VIP packages run \$345).

Pack a blanket or folding chair and head to downtown San Luis Obispo for bluegrass, Afro-Latin dance, and reggae performances during the free summer Concerts in the Plaza.

## WINE

Enjoy barrel tastings, insights from a private guide, and caviar food pairings on Daou Vineyards Patrimony Immersion experience (\$275), an in-depth exploration of this Paso Robles winery's flagship estate collection.

Named one of *Food & Wine's* top 10 Paso Robles wineries to visit, Eberle Winery offers complimentary 90-minute tastings with visits to the wine cave, a 16,800-square-foot network of tunnels located directly beneath the winery.

## FISH

Head out from Morro Bay and troll for bluefin and bonita on the Bluewater Package with Central Coast Fishing Charters (\$600). Or spend the day hooking rockfish with Morro Bay Fishing Charters (\$880 for four people).

Catch surfperch, halibut, and even guitarfish from Pismo Beach Pier, where the fishing is free—no license is required. Cast your line in the early morning or right before sunset for the best chance at hooking whatever swims by.





THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY IS HOME TO MORE THAN 170 WINERIES AND TASTING ROOMS



LOS OLIVOS

# Inn at Mattei's Tavern

In the heart of Los Olivos, the Inn at Mattei's Tavern embodies the history and evolution of the Santa Ynez Valley. The resort is named for Felix Mattei, who, back in the days when Los Olivos was along the main route between San Francisco and Los Angeles, operated a stagecoach stop and railway inn called the Central Hotel. It quickly gained a reputation as a fine-dining destination and later operated as a speakeasy during Prohibition. Then, following the rise of the surrounding wine region, the inn housed a series of acclaimed restaurants.

Now part of the Auberge Resorts Collection, today's inn embraces the property's history in its decor, including an old ledger from the 1800s and portraits by Mattei's son Clarence, a Paris-trained artist. The building's original floors have been beautifully restored, and its 67 rooms feature exposed beams and stylish furnishings that create a rustic-chic ambience.

But the inn is not just an exercise in nostalgia. Rejuvenate with a spa treatment, or take part in one of the inn's complimentary movement classes at The Cottage Spa. The Tavern, the inn's restaurant, carries on the tradition of ranch-inspired cuisine in dishes made with produce from Mattei's garden and nearby farms.

Dating back to 1886, this luxurious 6.5-acre resort blends the property's Old West heritage with contemporary country style. Highlights include rustic-chic cottage rooms, a restaurant serving ranch-inspired cuisine, and a state-of-the-art spa.







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**California Welcome Centers**<sup>SM</sup>

**Gilroy:** 8155-6 Arroyo Circle, Building A; 408/842-6436

**Salinas:** 1-B Station Place; 831/757-8687

**Pismo Beach:** Pismo Beach Premium Outlets, 333 5 Cities Dr.; 805/668-7354

**More information**  
Central Coast Tourism Council  
[centralcoast-tourism.com](http://centralcoast-tourism.com)



## visit

### BIG SUR

**Andrew Molera State Park.** Admire majestic views of the Pacific coast as you wander through miles of meadow, beach, bluff, and hilltop trails in this relatively undeveloped park. 831/667-1112; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.** Explore rugged coastline and ancient redwoods. Don't miss McWay Falls, a picturesque waterfall that drops 80 feet over granite cliffs onto the beach below. 831/667-1112; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### CAMARILLO

**Visit Camarillo.** Hit the road for Camarillo, where sunshine reigns supreme, families come to play, and farm-fresh flavors are everywhere! Find relaxing retreats and fill up on outdoor adventures. Shop miles of styles, from our quaint Old Town district to the Camarillo Premium Outlets. Sunny days are here. 805/201-0506; [visitcamarillo.com](http://visitcamarillo.com) See ad, p. 119

### CAMBRIA

**Hearst San Simeon State Park.** View marine mammals in their natural habitat at the Elephant Seal Boardwalk.

Explore the Pa-nu Cultural Preserve, an archeological site dating back 5,850 years. 805/927-2070; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

**Carmel River State Beach.** Popular with birders, this mile-long beach beckons belted kingfisher, royal tern, and killdeer thanks to the Carmel River Lagoon and Wetlands Natural Reserve. 831/649-2836; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.** Hike through headlands and meadows to explore fields of wildflowers, diverse wildlife, hidden ocean coves, and a turn-of-the-century whaler's cabin. 831/624-4909; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### CARPINTERIA

**Carpinteria State Beach.** Swim, fish, picnic, and camp on 62 acres of family-friendly beachfront. Kids will love exploring tide pools filled with starfish, crabs, sea urchins, and octopi. 805/566-2494; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### CAYUCOS

**Cayucos State Beach.** This tranquil beach is popular for surfing and swimming. Fishermen flock to the long wooden pier, which is lit after sundown and does not require a fishing license. 805/781-5930; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### CENTRAL COAST

**Central Coast California.** It's About Time. Time to ditch your feed. Time to explore 350 miles of the world's most vibrant and stunning coastline. If you take the time, it will give you all the time you need. And it's worth every second. [theoriginalroadtrip.com](http://theoriginalroadtrip.com) See ad, pgs. 119-121..

### GILROY

**Visit Gilroy.** The "Garlic Capital of the World" is home to Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park, Gilroy Premium Outlets, a charming historic downtown, award-winning wineries, and outdoor adventures. 408/842-6436; [visitgilroy.com](http://visitgilroy.com)

**Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park.** Discover this charming amusement park with over 40 rides and attractions, water slides, majestic gardens, and over 10,000 trees, including the world-famous Circus Trees. 408/840-7100; [gilroygardens.org](http://gilroygardens.org) See ad, p. 121

### GOLETA

**El Capitán State Beach.** Enjoy more than 100 campsites with tables, fire rings, and coin-operated showers 20 miles away from Santa Barbara. A wooden stairway connects bluffs to the beach, a popular spot for surf-fishing. 805/968-1033; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)



**Refugio State Beach.** Crystal waters are lined by large palm trees, lending the beach a tropical look. Rent a kayak and paddle offshore for views of Channel Islands National Park. 805/968-1033; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**GUADALUPE**

**Point Sal State Beach.** Accessible only by a 9.8-mile hike, this remote beach includes 1.5 miles of coastline. Look for seals sunning offshore on Lion Rock. 805/585-1869; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**HOLLISTER**

**Casa de Fruta.** What started as a humble cherry stand in 1908 is now a popular roadside attraction. With a massive market, restaurant, sweetshop, RV park, 14-room inn, and playground, there's something at Fruta for the whole family. 408/842-7282; [casadefruta.com](http://casadefruta.com)

**LOMPOC**

**Space to Explore in Lompoc.** Located on scenic Highway 1 along the Central Coast, Lompoc is the best vantage point for rocket launches on the West Coast. La Purísima Mission, dozens of boutique wineries and outdoor murals, Jalama Beach, skydiving, and championship golf. [explorelompoc.com](http://explorelompoc.com) See ad, p. 113

**LOS OSOS**

**Montaña de Oro State Park.** Walk or mountain bike on trails that lead to wildflowers, coastal plains, and the 1,347-foot Valencia Peak. Visit in spring to see fields of golden flowers in full bloom. 805/772-6101; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**MARINA**

**Marina State Beach.** Winding through Marina Dunes Preserve, this is a popular spot for hang gliding, paragliding, and kite flying. Hike along a sandy boardwalk on the Dune Nature Trail. 831/649-2836; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**MONTEREY**

**Cannery Row.** The Central Coast's premier visitor destination with ocean-view hotels, award-winning restaurants, boutiques, wine tasting, attractions, and exciting nightlife. Plan your visit at [canneryrow.com](http://canneryrow.com). See ad, p. 11

**See Monterey.** Monterey County is made up of endless paths, from the majestic redwoods to the verdant valleys and pristine coastline. No matter which path you take, it's sure to lead to inspiration. [seemonterey.com](http://seemonterey.com) See ad, pgs. 19, 121

**MORRO BAY**

**Morro Bay State Park.** Camp, hike, and explore the lagoon and natural bay habitat. Enjoy views of Morro Rock, a registered historical landmark and bird sanctuary for the peregrine falcon. 805/772-6101; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Morro Strand State Beach.** Three miles of sand stretch between the north and south entrance of this coastal frontage park on Estero Bay. Spend the night at one of 85 campsites. 805/772-6101; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**MOSS LANDING**

**Moss Landing State Beach.** This long sandy beach, protected by dunes and popular with surfers, is known for its world-class waves. View western snowy plovers nesting right on the sand. 831/649-2836; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**OCEANO**

**Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area.** Over five miles of beach and sand dunes offer a unique spot for recreational off-road vehicle use and only-here sand activities, including beach camping, horseback riding, and Hummer rides. 805/773-7170; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**OXNARD**

**Visit Oxnard.** Mix things up in Oxnard—gateway to Channel Islands National Park—home to a picturesque harbor, miles of pristine beaches, world-class museums and Dallas Cowboys Training Camp. 800/2-OXNARD; [visitoxnard.com](http://visitoxnard.com) See ad, p. 119

**PACIFIC GROVE**

**Monarch Grove Sanctuary.** View the colorful monarch butterfly migration, arriving in November and departing in late February. Admission is free. 831/648-5716; [pigmuseum.org](http://pigmuseum.org)

**PAICINES**

**Pinnacles National Park.** Pinnacles offers great rock climbing, hiking, wildlife, camping, and wildflower blooms. Visiting during the cooler months is recommended. 831/200-1722; [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

**PASO ROBLES**

**Paso Robles Visitors Center.** Located in the heart of downtown. Pick up a visitor guide and a wine map to explore this small town, rich in history and dotted by vineyards. 805/238-0506; [pasorobleschamber.com](http://pasorobleschamber.com)

**PISMO BEACH**

**Experience Pismo Beach.** Classic California, famous for its world-famous pier, miles of beautiful white sand beaches, outstanding accommodations, and a rich wine region minutes away. Check out lodging specials at [experiencepismo.com](http://experiencepismo.com). Join us on Facebook, X, YouTube, Instagram, and Pinterest. See ad, p. 120

**SALINAS**

**National Steinbeck Center.** This center celebrates the creativity of the Salinas-born literary master John Steinbeck. Learn about his work through theatrical sets and interactive exhibits. 831/775-4721; [steinbeck.org](http://steinbeck.org)

**SAN JUAN BAUTISTA**

**Spirit of San Juan Bautista, CA.** Alive with California History. Old Mission, State Historic Park, San Andreas Faultline, Juan de Anza Trail. Eat, drink, shop, or attend a festival. All within a leisurely walk. [SanJuanBautistaCA.com](http://SanJuanBautistaCA.com) See ad, p. 121

**SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**City of San Luis Obispo.** We're small-town California with big-time charm, ready to welcome you. Enjoy wine tasting, hiking, biking, boutique shopping and more at your home base for Central Coast adventure. 877/SLO-TOWN; [visitslo.com](http://visitslo.com) See ad, p. 121

**Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa.** This 1772 mission offers a museum with artifacts, a tranquil garden, and docent-led tours of the mission and its grounds. 805/543-6850; [missionsanluisobispo.org](http://missionsanluisobispo.org)

**SAN SIMEON**

**Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery.** In winter, see (and hear) bellowing elephant seals as they bring their little ones into the world. 805/924-1628; [elephantseal.org](http://elephantseal.org)

**SANTA BARBARA**

**Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.** Hike 5.5 miles of trails through this 78-acre garden filled with native plants. View colorful wildflowers and groves of sky-high redwood trees. 805/682-4726; [sbbg.org](http://sbbg.org)

**Visit Santa Barbara.** A culturally radiant coastal city that elevates the spirit, refreshes the soul and awakens the senses. Plan your getaway and get a free Visitor Magazine at [santabarbaraca.com](http://santabarbaraca.com). 800/676-1266 See ad, back cover

**SANTA MARIA VALLEY**

**Santa Maria Valley.** Home to 34 wineries and tasting rooms, 24 scenic hiking trails and 15 beaches in the heart of Santa Barbara County. Unbottle a much-needed getaway and enjoy the uncrowded coastline of Santa Maria Valley. 805/925-2403; [santamariavalley.com](http://santamariavalley.com) See ad, p. 120

**SANTA YNEZ VALLEY**

**Visit the Santa Ynez Valley.** Two hours north of L.A., discover 100+ wineries, incredible food, and an authentic, relaxed vibe. For a complete listing of properties, restaurants, wineries, tasting rooms, and events, go to [visitsyv.com](http://visitsyv.com) See ad, p. 120

**SIMI VALLEY**

**Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.** This Ventura County complex celebrates the 40th U.S. president, and sits on 100 hilltop acres with sweeping views of the ocean. 805/522-2977; [reaganfoundation.org](http://reaganfoundation.org)

**SOLVANG**

**City of Solvang.** Just 45 minutes from Santa Barbara Airport, Solvang's Denmark-inspired architecture frames Danish pastry-filled itineraries. Experience Europe – in America. "Hygge," history, and heritage fill Solvang stories at: [SolvangUSA.com](http://SolvangUSA.com) See ad, p. 120

**VENTURA**

**Channel Islands National Park.** Known as "the American Galapagos," these islands offer stunning scenery and biological diversity, plus sea-cave kayaking, snorkeling, diving, camping, and whale watching. 805/658-5730; [nps.gov/chis](http://nps.gov/chis)

**Ventura Harbor Village.** A vibrant, seaside attraction with 35+ waterfront restaurants, coastal boutiques, wine tasting, live music, entertainment, artisans, fresh seafood, pamper services, boat and kayak rentals, oceanfront hotels, Channel Islands NP Visitor Center and excursions. Open daily. [venturaharborvillage.com](http://venturaharborvillage.com) See ad, p. 119

**Visit Ventura.** You saw our sunsets on TV during X Games 2023, and now it's your turn to experience Ventura. Relax on uncrowded beaches, enjoy fresh harborside eats, and venture out to Channel Islands National Park. 805/641-1400; [visitventuraca.com](http://visitventuraca.com) See ad, p. 120

stay  
HOTELS AND RESORTS

**CARMEL**

**Tickle Pink Inn at Carmel Highlands.** 155 Highland Drive. 35 rooms. Our enchanting coastal hideaway overlooks the Big Sur coastline, and a host of luxurious complimentary amenities pamper you from morning to night. 800/614-7437; [ticklepinkinn.com](http://ticklepinkinn.com) \$\$\$ See ad, p. 113



**MONTEREY**

**Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay.** 2 Portola Plaza. California's premier family-friendly destination with unparalleled modern coastal luxury, in the heart of downtown Monterey with 379 guest rooms, on-site dining, a spa, and access to the destination's most popular attractions. 831/649-4511; [portolahotel.com](http://portolahotel.com) \$\$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 121



<b>KEY</b>	WIFI	RESTAURANT ON PREMISES	FITNESS CENTER	SWIMMING POOL	HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE	SPA/SAUNA/HOT TUB	PETS WELCOME	\$ UNDER \$100/NIGHT	\$\$ \$100-\$200/NIGHT	\$\$\$ OVER \$200/NIGHT
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# CENTRAL COAST CALIFORNIA

It's about time  
and worth every second  
[theoriginalroadtrip.com](http://theoriginalroadtrip.com)



## CAMARILLO

Hit the road for Camarillo, where sunshine reigns supreme, families come to play and farm-fresh flavors are everywhere! Find relaxing retreats and fill up on outdoor adventures. Shop miles of styles, from our quaint Old Town district to the Camarillo Premium Outlets. Sunny days are here.

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

## OXNARD

Mix things up in Oxnard, where Pacific Coast Highway meets Highway 101. Oxnard is home to the #1 Best Beach on the West Coast (2023 USA Today 10 Best Reader's Choice Awards), electric nightlife, some of the best taquerias in the state, world-class museums, Dallas Cowboys Training Camp and an expansively picturesque harbor that serves as the closest access point to Channel Islands National Park.

[visitoxnard.com](http://visitoxnard.com) | 800-2-OXNARD



## VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

Seaside vibes year-round at Ventura Harbor Village - vacay, relax & unwind! Fresh seafood, waterfront dining, wine tasting, casual eats, sweet treats, coastal boutiques, pamper services, live music, escape rooms, boat, kayak & pedal boat rentals, whale watch, beaches, Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center & island excursions. Open daily.

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







## VENTURA

You saw us on TV during X Games 2023. Now it's your turn to explore Ventura. Leave your car keys in the hotel room, wander through our charming Downtown with just your two feet, and experience Ventura's classic California vibes at your own pace.

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

## SOLVANG

Just 45 minutes from Santa Barbara Airport, Solvang's Denmark-inspired architecture frames Danish pastry-filled itineraries that transport visitors to Europe – in America. History and heritage, Michelin-listed restaurants, 20+ wine tasting locations, museums and galleries, independently owned shops, plus year 'round events fill Solvang stories. Book now.

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



## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Two hours north of Los Angeles and four hours south of San Francisco, travelers will find more than 100 wineries, over 30 lodging options for a variety of budgets and tastes, a thriving culinary scene, outdoor adventure, and wide-open spaces to relax, rejuvenate and explore in the Santa Ynez Valley.

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



## SANTA MARIA VALLEY

Anytime is the right time to take the much-needed break you've been waiting for. Ditch the crowds and the price hikes for the Central Coast where you can eat, drink and adventure until your heart's content. It's time you book the getaway you need.

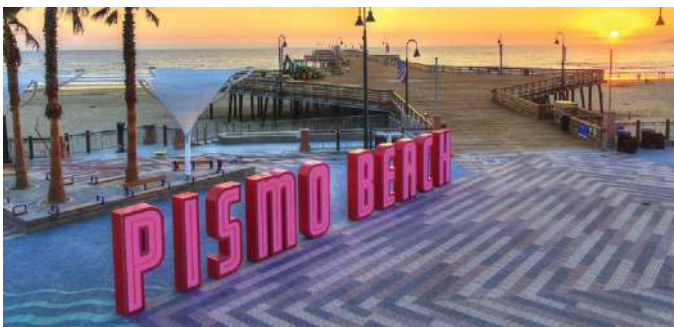
[santamariavalley.com](http://santamariavalley.com)



## PISMO

Classic California Pismo Beach. Pismo Beach is the true Classic California beach town, famous for its world-famous pier, miles of beautiful white sand beaches, outstanding accommodations and a rich wine region only minutes away. Check out our lodging specials at [experiencepismoeach.com](http://experiencepismoeach.com). *Join us* on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, *and* Pinterest.

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





## SAN LUIS OBISPO

Come live the SLO Life. Enjoy vibrant locally-sourced food, world-class wines, outdoor adventure, lively entertainment and year-round sunshine. And of course, don't miss our famous Downtown SLO Farmers' Market every Thursday night! Make us your Highway 1 home base for exploring the Central Coast.

[visitslo.com](http://visitslo.com) | 1-877-SLO-TOWN



## PORTOLA HOTEL & SPA

Portola Hotel & Spa is California's premier family-friendly, AAA Four Diamond hotel. Reflecting unparalleled modern coastal luxury in downtown Monterey, Portola features 379 coastal-inspired guest rooms and several on-site, award-winning amenities, including, a day spa, exceptional dining, a craft brewery, pet-friendly accommodations, and much more!

[portolahotel.com](http://portolahotel.com) | 888-222-5851

## MONTEREY COUNTY

Monterey County is made up of endless paths, from the majestic redwoods to the verdant valleys and pristine coastline. Discover wellness retreats and world-class dining, renowned golf courses, and outdoor adventure, the spirit of exploration awaits. No matter which path you take, it's sure to lead to inspiration.

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



## SAN JUAN BAUTISTA

San Juan Bautista –alive with early California history. Tour the Old Mission, the State Historic Park, Shop, Eat, and Drink in the Shopping District, checkout San Andreas Faultline, hike the Juan de Anza Trail, attend a Festival, Stargaze, and Birdwatch. All within a leisurely walk.

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

## GILROY GARDENS

### Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park

Discover this charming amusement park with over 40 rides and attractions, water slides, majestic gardens, and over 10,000 trees—including the world-famous Circus Trees.

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







# CENTRAL VALLEY

Discover small towns, diverse culture, and agricultural bounty in this farm- and vineyard-dotted region

Lodi's vineyards produce 32% of all California Zinfandel

Berghold's tasting room is filled with Victorian-era antiques, including a 1918 concert grand piano





Lodi is home to more than 85 wineries and 100,000 acres of wine grapes

120 grape varieties from Aglianico to Zweigelt grow in Lodi's wine country

Berghold Vineyards' 85-acre estate produces Sangiovese, Syrah, and dessert wines



CALIFORNIA'S  
*Central Valley*  
GET A TASTE.



MAP AREA



Reno-Tahoe  
60 mi / 100 km

Las Vegas  
235 mi / 380 km



visit  
*California*





## Yolo County

Yolo County offers a wide range of experiences that are rooted in authenticity.

Come savor the seasons and gather year-round to discover where good times grow. You Only Live Once!

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



## Stockton

Make a stop in Stockton; Stocked full of delicious food, diverse cultural experiences,

farms and markets, shopping, and attractions for the whole family to enjoy. Stockton is the perfect rest stop on your journey through the central valley! Plan your trip to Stockton.

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



## Modesto

Located half-way between San Francisco and Yosemite National Park sits Modesto —

a vibrant, year-round city where each season brings locally-grown tasty delights. Fill your trunk with home-grown goods — and stop for an affordable foodie getaway, basecamp for outdoor excursions to the Sierras, or a top-notch concert weekend.

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



## Visit Visalia

Family-friendly Visalia is a destination for those wanting to explore nearby Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. Ride the seasonal Sequoia Shuttle from Visalia to Sequoia National Park. Play at Imagine U Children's Museum and at Adventure Park/Sequoia Springs Water Slides. Enjoy Visalia's micro-brewery district and thriving food scene filled with seasonal specialties. The welcoming atmosphere connects visitors to a small-city experience with big-city amenities. Start planning now:

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

Follow us @VisitVisalia



## Sequoia Tourism Council

Explore the biggest trees and the deepest canyon in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and National Forest. Come for outdoor adventures, music, food and arts festivals, shopping and restaurants for the national parks trip you've been waiting for. There's so much to discover when you visit Tulare County. Get a FREE Visitors Guide:

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

Follow us: @SequoiaTourismCouncil



## Visit Fresno County

See another side of California when you experience Fresno County. Real

foodies will discover the ultimate farm-to-fork destination. Explore our unique, world-class attractions and three nearby national parks. Spend time at our breweries and enjoy our vibrant nightlife and arts scene.

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



## Visit Bakersfield

Experience the streets of Bakersfield! Sample locally-crafted beers on the Bakersfield Kern County Brewery Trail. Eat at one of our historic Basque restaurants. Sip your way through the Bakersfield Kern County Wine Trail. Bike 30+ miles of paved path along the Kern River Parkway. Brave the rapids of the mighty Kern River. Enjoy music, comedy, sports, theater and more in California's ninth largest city. Visit Bakersfield... The Sound of Something Better.

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

Follow us @VisitBakersfield

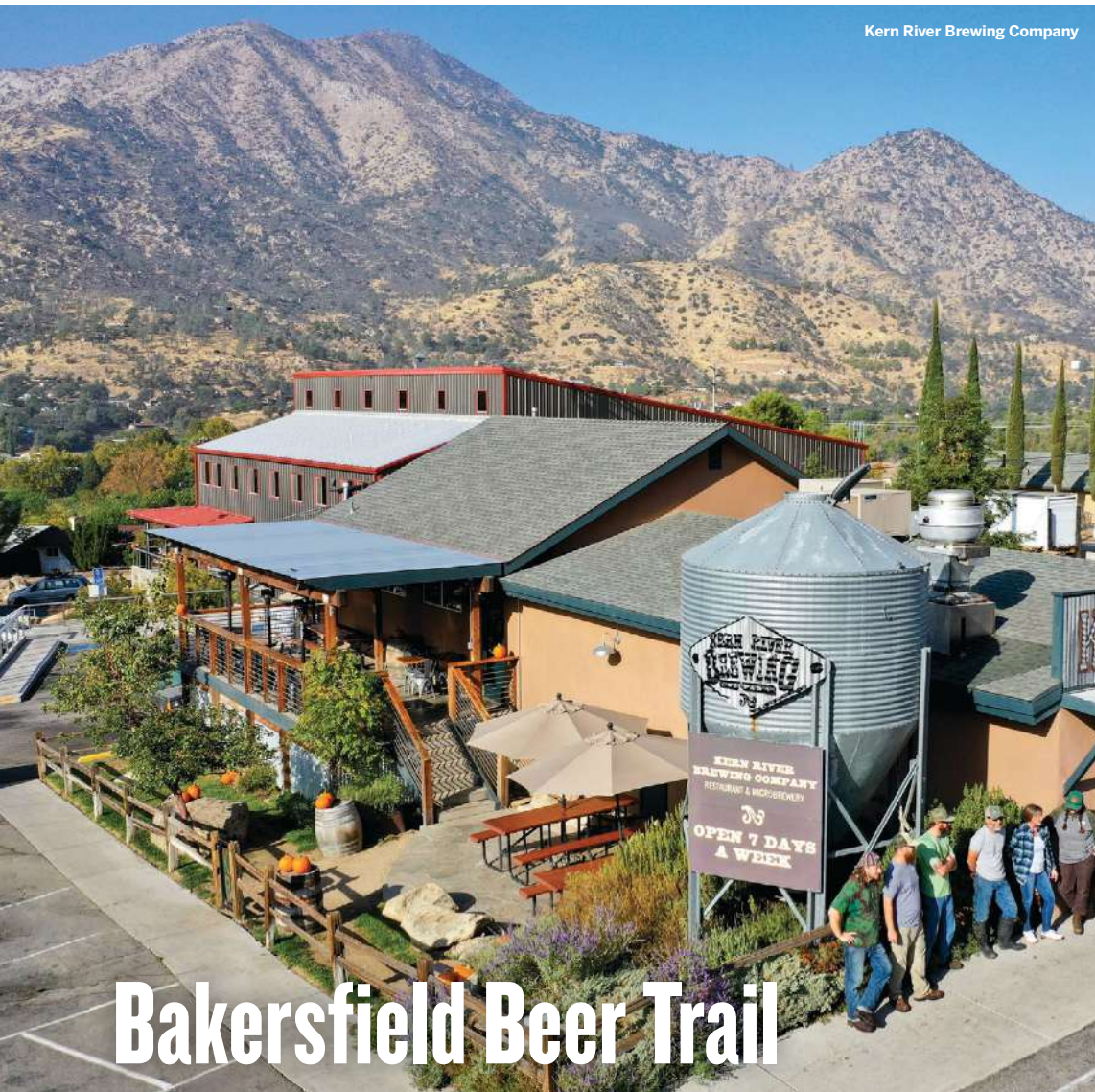
Request a free guide @

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

Central Valley Tourism Association  
1008 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Modesto, CA 95354



Kern River Brewing Company



# Bakersfield Beer Trail

**B**akersfield knows its beer. In a town celebrated for honky-tonks and the eponymous musical sound made famous by Buck Owens and Merle Haggard, craft beer holds an honored place.

Discover the best of the city's breweries by following the Bakersfield Kern County Brewery Trail, a driving route that travels to 12 craft beer hot spots in and around town.

At Great Change Brewing, patrons kick back in a lofty warehouse space, play cornhole on the patio, sip pale and blonde ales, and nab meals from food trucks parked out front. Less than two miles away, Dionysus Brewing is celebrated for sours like the Super Funkadelic, a gose-styled ale brewed with coriander and sea salt. Lengthwise Brewing Company operates three Bakersfield locations, including one near Cal State University Bakersfield. The chain's hearty menu is a major draw—burgers,

tri-tip sandwiches, and fish tacos are served alongside popular beers like the Zeus Imperial Ale, a refreshing, unfiltered brew.

Traditionalists will appreciate Crusader Brewing's Guy Fawkes Yorkshire Old Ale. More adventurous drinkers should try Temblor Brewing Company's Blood Orange Belgian Wit or Ruby's Boysenberry Cobbler Kettle Sour. The tart, fruit-forward brew won a gold medal at the 2022 U.S. Beer Open.

For a sip of the Old West, drive an hour northeast to Kernville's Kern River Brewing Company, which has two locations serving pub grub by the brewery's namesake river. After a day of whitewater rafting or hiking, nothing tastes better than a blonde or red ale with a plate of calamari and a tall pile of waffle fries.

## EDITOR'S PICKS

Student winemakers get their start at Fresno State Winery, the first commercial winery on a U.S. university campus. Buy their award-winning wines at Gibson Farm Market on Chestnut Ave., or schedule a tour of the crush pad, barrel room, bottling room, and more.

The Central Valley grows 80 percent of the world's almonds, and Modesto's Almond Blossom Cruise audio tour app leads drivers to tasty landmarks like Roberts Ferry Gourmet, purveyors of almond butter milkshakes.

Discover the Central Valley's natural side on half-day guided kayaking outings or seasonal bald eagle tours with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

Check out the lively urban scene in Stockton's historic Yosemite Street Village, home to beloved Terra Coffee and a monthly night market during summer.

Jelly Bellies are not only delicious, they're historic, too, with roots dating back to 1869. The newly opened Jelly Belly Museum in Fairfield displays vintage candy-making equipment and tells the unique story of this family-owned company.



FROM TOP: COURTESY KERN RIVER BREWING; COURTESY JELLY BELLY



# A PERFECT VACATION STARTS IN YOUR INBOX



visit  
**California**

Sign up for  
Visit California's  
e-newsletter.

## EXPLORE 85+ WINERIES IN LODI



Lodi Wine Country is a special place. With over 125 varietals grown here and 450 labels, you can taste from a vast portfolio of wines. Seven different soils make Lodi one of the most diverse winegrape growing regions in the U.S. From world class Zinfandels to award-winning Rhone, Spanish, German, Italian and Portuguese varietals - you can experience the world from here.

This is Lodi Wine Country! Visit 85+ boutique wineries from 5th generation artisan winemakers. Share laughs with friends on winery patios. Eat wood-fired pizza while listening to live jazz music.

Experience award-winning restaurants serving farm to fork cuisine. Kayak the Mokelumne River. Visit an olive mill and learn how olive oil is made. And when the day is done, stay overnight in a world-class resort, bed & breakfast inn, one of Lodi's dozen of individually owned properties or your favorite franchise. Above all, meet the people of Lodi and experience the amazing hospitality.

**LODI**  
CALIFORNIA  
wine country

[www.visitlodi.com](http://www.visitlodi.com)  
(209) 365-1195

25 North School Street, Lodi, CA 95240





Downtown Winters

# Winters

*TASTE THE CENTRAL VALLEY'S BOUNTY IN WINTERS, A SMALL TOWN WITH A BIG REPUTATION FOR FOOD AND WINE*

Established in 1875 on the banks of Putah Creek, this Yolo County community has a National Historic Register-listed Main Street lined with late 19th- and early 20th-century buildings. The exteriors are vintage, but inside those aging brick and stone structures is a surprisingly contemporary culinary scene. Winters' chefs take full advantage of this fertile region's farms, ranches, vineyards, and artisanal food purveyors to create meals that are well worth a detour.

## RESTAURANTS

Plenty of people make the 30-mile drive from Sacramento just for breakfast at Putah Creek Café, where favorites include thick-sliced brioche French toast (best with a

side of applewood bacon), carnitas huevos rancheros, or fried chicken on a buttermilk waffle.

Across Main Street in a onetime hotel that dates back to 1889, the famed Buckhorn Steakhouse fires up prime-certified Angus beef that's been aged 60-plus days and broiled at 1,500 degrees for juiciness.

One block over, Preserve Public House serves organic fried chicken, Moroccan braised short rib, and cioppino swimming with rock cod, lobster, and shellfish.

At popular Ficelle, the tapas selection includes not only Spanish-style small plates like gambas al ajillo (garlic shrimp), but also dishes inspired by Mexican classics, like stuffed chile relleno and tinga de pollo.

## WINE AND SPECIALTY FOODS

With its handful of downtown tasting rooms, Winters is a hassle-free place to discover Yolo County's wines. Sample estate wines from Berryessa Gap Vineyards, including its acclaimed Albariño, while listening to live music in a rustic-chic tasting room. A short walk away, Turkovich Family Wines is celebrated for its Rhône varietals and sparkling wines.

At Patio29 Spirits Company, you can taste handcrafted bourbon, gin, vodka, rum, or brandy and take a tour of the distillery. Or book an appointment for olive-oil tasting at Bondolio, makers of a Sicilian estate blend that scored top honors at the 2023 NYIOOC World Olive Oil Competition.



THEODORE WINTERS, THE TOWN'S NAMESAKE, BRED AND RAISED PRIZE-WINNING RACEHORSES HERE FROM 1865 TO 1890.





10th Street Art Alley

# Modesto



**AARON VICKERY**

OWNER OF GRAPHIC DESIGN FIRM  
FASM CREATIVE

**GRUB HUBS MODESTO**

"I'll take out-of-towners to Grub Hubs because it has such food variety. I go to Fonzi's Tacos a lot. They have a really good shrimp taco. A famous mural artist friend from Argentina put me on to them. He's been back twice for those shrimp tacos."

**VIRGINIA CORRIDOR TRAILWAY**

"It's Modesto's newer trail and goes right through town. You can eat at restaurants in Roseburg Square. At the trail's south end, Contentment Brewery is a nice spot for pinball and shuffleboard or to cool off under the misters."

**10TH STREET ART ALLEY**

"I've curated a mural festival for five years downtown. One of the first spots was 10th Street Alley. It has big walls, and you can see art by artists from all over the world, big names in the mural game. It's really cool for Modesto to have this kind of art."

**CHURCHKEY**

"I love their Cowboy Cobb salad. It has pickled onions to give a bit of sour to the salad. My second favorite is the bacon-and-egg pizza with a thin crust."

**GRAFFITI WALL**

"There's an alley off Stoddard west of McHenry that artists paint maybe once a month with graffiti letters and funky characters. It gets painted over and over and over. You'll always see something new."



Virginia Corridor Trailway



Churchkey's Cowboy Cobb

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY PUTAH CREEK CAFE; DAVID ALEXANDER ARNOLD; COURTESY AARON VICKERY; DAVID ALEXANDER ARNOLD (2)





**California Welcome Centers<sup>SM</sup>**

**Fairfield:** Jelly Belly Candy Company, 1 Jelly Belly Lane  
877/793-7386

**Modesto:** 1008 12th Street  
209/526-5588

**More information**  
Central Valley Tourism Association  
[visitcentralvalley.com](http://visitcentralvalley.com)



visit

**ANTIOCH**

**Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge.** Explore a sand-dune habitat on the south shore of the San Joaquin River via monthly guided tours. Visit in spring to see bright white Antioch Dunes evening primrose in bloom. 510/377-9229; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

**Antioch Historical Museum.** Located in a striking brick turn-of-the-century structure, this museum is dedicated to preserving local history. Explore sports memorabilia and antique firefighting equipment. 925/757-1326; [antiochhistoricalmuseum.org](http://antiochhistoricalmuseum.org)

**BAKERSFIELD**

**Bakersfield Museum of Art.** Permanent exhibits feature works by contemporary California artists from the 20th century to present. 661/323-7219; [bmoa.org](http://bmoa.org)

**Visit Bakersfield.** Experience the streets of Bakersfield! Sip locally-crafted beers on the Bakersfield Brewery Trail. Try one of Bakersfield's historic Basque restaurants. Save when you visit our Bakersfield Museum Trail. 866/425-7353; [visitbakersfield.com](http://visitbakersfield.com) See ad, p. 125

**BUTTONWILLOW**

**Tule Elk State Natural Reserve.** Enjoy nature, bird-watching, and a picnic area at this reserve, where a small herd of tule elk, once in danger of extinction, are protected. 661/764-6881; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**CLOVIS**

**Sierra Heritage Scenic Byway.** This 70-mile, vista-filled byway starts in Old Town Clovis, then snakes through Huntington Lake and Kaiser Pass Meadow before ending at the Kaiser Wilderness in Sierra Canyon. 559/297-0706; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**Wild Water Adventure Park.** We are Central California's largest water park with 20 attractions and 38 slides for a full day of fun for everyone. Perfect for thrill-seekers as well as families with young children. Celebrating our 51st anniversary. 559/299-9453; [wildwater.net](http://wildwater.net) See ad, p. 131

**DAVIS**

**UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden.** Walk, run, or cycle the 3.5-mile paved loop to explore 22,000 trees, plants, and water features. Free to visit; open 24 hours a day. 530/752-4880; [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

**Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.** Located in the heart of the Pacific Flyway, this refuge is home to nearly 200 species of birds. 530/757-3780; [yolobasin.org](http://yolobasin.org)

**DELANO**

**Kern National Wildlife Refuge.** See diverse wildlife and habitats; take a 6-mile auto tour through the wetlands to spot herons, turkey vultures, ospreys, falcons, and more. Keep your eyes peeled for the endangered Tipton kangaroo rat. 661/725-2767; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

**EARLIMART**

**Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park.** Allensworth was a town founded by African Americans in 1908; today it's a bike-friendly historic site with restored and reconstructed early-20th-century buildings. 661/849-3433; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**FRESNO**

**The Discovery Center.** Hands-on, interactive science museum, featuring kid-friendly exhibits, including a fossil discovery center. Head outside to enjoy the cactus garden, tortoise habitat, and open meadows. 559/251-5533; [fresnodiscoverycenter.org](http://fresnodiscoverycenter.org)

**Visit Fresno County.** 1180 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 201, Fresno. Fresno County is California's agricultural heartland with a diverse community and surrounded by three national parks. @visitfresnocounty; 800/788-0836; [visitfresnocounty.org](http://visitfresnocounty.org) See ad, p. 125

**GUSTINE**

**Great Valley Grasslands State Park.** View one of the remaining patches of native grasslands within the Central Valley, as well as the largest contiguous wetlands in California. 209/826-1197; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**KEENE**

**César E. Chávez National Monument.** This park marks the final home of the American labor leader and community organizer, César Chávez. Visit the memorial garden and burial site, walled by Italian cypress. 661/823-6134; [nps.gov/cech](http://nps.gov/cech)

**LEBEC**

**Fort Tejon State Historic Park.** Located in the Grapevine Canyon, view 400-year-old valley oak trees and restored adobes from the original fort, originally a U.S. Army outpost from 1854-1864. 661/248-6692; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**LOCKE**

**Chinese School Museum.** Constructed in 1915, this schoolhouse has been a center of Chinese education and culture, in various incarnations, for more than 100 years. Open Tuesday-Sunday. Free admission. 916/776-1684; [locke-foundation.org](http://locke-foundation.org)

**LODI**

**Lodi Visitor Center.** Visit 85+ wineries and taste over 125 varietals in the most diverse winegrape growing region in California. Pick up free guides, taste fresh olive oil, and visit the birthplace of A&W root beer. 209/365-1195. [visitlodi.com](http://visitlodi.com) See ad, p. 127

**LOS BANOS**

**San Luis National Wildlife Refuge.** Wetlands beckon thousands of ducks as they travel along the Pacific Flyway. The refuge is also home to songbirds, hawks, owls, and a herd of tule elk. 209/826-3508; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

**MERCED**

**Merced Courthouse Museum.** Designed in 1875, this historic courthouse features a blacksmith shop and schoolhouse. Learn about the settlers of the Great Central Valley. Open Wednesday-Sunday. 209/723-2401; [mercedmuseum.org](http://mercedmuseum.org)

**Merced National Wildlife Refuge.** Visit in the winter and drive the 5-mile tour to see ducks, geese, and cranes who call the wetlands home for a few months



each year. Nature trails are also available for wildlife spotting and photography. 209/826-3508; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

**MODESTO**

**Visit Modesto.** Modesto shines in early spring when almond orchards bloom and Firefall glows. Just 90 miles from Yosemite. Voted #1 "America's Hidden Gem Live Music Scene." With mural art tours in a charming downtown, Modesto is a natural NorCal basecamp. [visitmodesto.com](http://visitmodesto.com) See ad, p. 125

**PORTERVILLE**

**Sequoia National Forest.** Named for the massive sequoia trees that populate the area, this forest comprises more than 1.1 million acres. Camp, hike, horseback ride, mountain bike, canoe, and more. 559/920-1588; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**RIPON**

**Caswell Memorial State Park.** Home to a riparian oak woodland and endangered animal species, including the riparian brush rabbit, this park along the Stanislaus River offers camping and hiking. Fishing, junior ranger programs, and nature walks are also available. 209/599-3810; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**SANGER**

**Sanger Depot Museum.** The boomtown history of this community, known as "America's Christmas Tree City," is on display via exhibits dedicated to the Yokut Indians, pioneer families, and the Victorian era. 559/392-0815; [sangerdepotmuseum.com](http://sangerdepotmuseum.com)

**STOCKTON**

**Central Valley Tourism Association.** Food and wine are abundant in this region filled with orchards, vineyards, and farms. Find museums, galleries, live entertainment, and events! [visitcentralvalley.com](http://visitcentralvalley.com) See ad, pgs. 124-125

**Visit Stockton.** 146 W. Weber. Free visitor information, guides, and maps. Info on attractions, dining, hotels, events, and farms. Email [visitorinfo@visitstockton.org](mailto:visitorinfo@visitstockton.org); 877/778-6258; [visitstockton.org](http://visitstockton.org) See ad, p. 125

**TEHACHAPI**

**Tehachapi Museum.** Visit this 1930s art deco-style former library building to find artifacts and exhibits on the Kawaiisu tribe, Gold Rush miners, and railroad history. 661/822-8152; [tehachapimuseum.org](http://tehachapimuseum.org)

**VACAVILLE**

**Vacaville History Museum.** Learn about the value of community heritage at this institution focused on the history of Solano County. Exhibits highlight the Berryessa Valley and the original Nut Tree. 707/447-4513; [vacavillemuseum.org](http://vacavillemuseum.org)

**VISALIA**

**Sequoia Tourism Council.** Home to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Tulare County invites you to explore the biggest trees, tallest mountains, and charming downtowns offering restaurants, festivals, events, and lodging. Start your adventure at [discoverthesequoias.com](http://discoverthesequoias.com) See ad, p. 125

**Visit Visalia.** Gateway to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and year-round destination for outdoor adventure. Just three hours from Los Angeles or San Francisco. Enjoy restaurants, festivals, entertainment, and family-friendly adventure! 559/334-0141; [visitvisalia.com](http://visitvisalia.com) See ad, p. 125

**WILLOWS**

**Mendocino National Forest.** Camp, hike, boat, watch for wildlife, and explore nearly 1 million acres. Don't miss the Cedar Roughts Wildlife Area, home to rare Sargent cypress trees. 530/934-3316; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**WINTERS**

**Visit Yolo.** Yolo County offers a wide range of experiences that are rooted in authenticity. Come savor the seasons and gather year-round to discover where good times grow. [visityolo.com](http://visityolo.com) See ad, p. 125

**WOODLAND**

**Woodland Opera House State Historic Park.** The first opera house in the Sacramento Valley, dating back to 1885, remains a functioning theater today. Enjoy a show at this California National Historic Landmark. 530/666-9617; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**stay**

**HOTELS AND RESORTS**

**Choice Hotels.** Visit and explore the West! Choice Hotels has the perfect hotel for you, offering affordable accommodations with friendly hospitality and all the amenities you enjoy to meet your travel needs. [choicehotels.com/gowest](http://choicehotels.com/gowest) \$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 9



<b>KEY</b>	WIFI	RESTAURANT ON PREMISES	FITNESS CENTER	SWIMMING POOL	HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE	SPA/SAUNA/HOT TUB	PETS WELCOME	<b>\$</b> UNDER \$100/NIGHT	<b>\$\$</b> \$100-\$200/NIGHT	<b>\$\$\$</b> OVER \$200/NIGHT
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**Wildwater** 50 YEARS OF FUN  
ADVENTURE PARK

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST WATERPARK!**

**WILDWATER.NET**

📍 CLOVIS, CALIFORNIA



The Base to Base Gondola spans 2.4 miles, offering breathtaking views of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada



Average annual snowfall at Palisades Tahoe is 400 inches per year, or more than 33 feet





# HIGH SIERRA

Embrace your adventurous side amid the grandeur of the Sierra Nevada mountains

At 6,000 acres, Palisades Tahoe is California's largest ski resort and the third largest in the U.S.

Skiers and snowboarders travel 1,870 vertical feet from The Village to the KT-22 mid-station



Glacier Point, Yosemite National Park



# Where to Try Sierra Winter Sports

**N**orthstar California’s cross-country center manager, Aaron Pearlman, loves all snow sports equally. “Alpine skiing and snowboarding are great, but not everybody likes to slide downhill. There’s a snow sport that’s right for everybody,” says the 40-year veteran of the ski industry. Here are Pearlman’s recommendations on where to find non-vertical fun:

**YOSEMITE CROSS-COUNTRY CENTER**  
“Badger Pass’ trail system is extensive. Beginners can learn to ski on Glacier Point Road; more advanced skiers can make the all-day trip to Glacier Point, where there’s a view of Half Dome and Yosemite Valley.”

**NORTHSTAR CROSS-COUNTRY, TELEMARK, AND SNOWSHOE CENTER**  
“The cross-country center is Northstar’s untapped secret. We offer rentals and lessons for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, telemark skiing, and fat-tire biking. Even on their first day, beginners can ski, snowshoe,

or pedal to the caboose, our old railroad car next to a warming hut. Intermediates can go another one and a half miles to an iconic overlook of Lake Tahoe.”

**KIRKWOOD CROSS-COUNTRY SKI AND SNOWSHOE CENTER**  
“Kirkwood and Northstar are the only two California resorts where you can rent fat-tire bikes. Kirkwood’s large, flat meadow is also great for learning to skate ski.”

**TAMARACK CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CENTER**  
“Tamarack has beginner terrain near Twin Lakes in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, and it’s a beautiful place to learn cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. You can head out for a few hours, or you can have a real immersion experience by spending the night at Tamarack Lodge, an old-school lodge with a big fireplace room.”

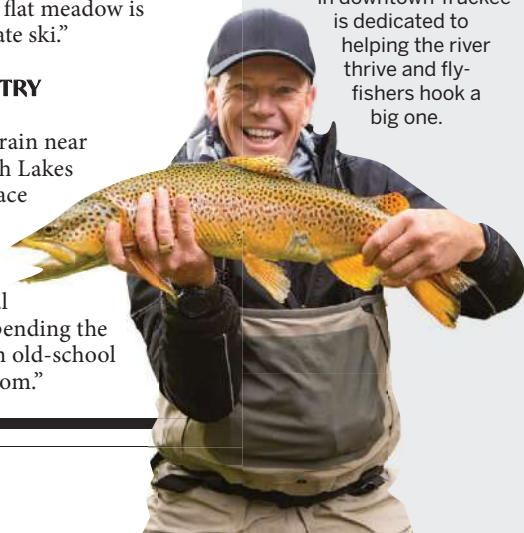
## EDITOR’S PICKS

Whatever comes out of East Side Bake Shop’s oven is worth its caloric price, from dark chocolate spice cookies to Meyer lemon bars and blackberry bread pudding. Find the bakery at McGee Creek Lodge, 30 miles north of Bishop.

At Yosemite Valley’s new Welcome Center, park rangers and volunteers help visitors plan their trips. The 3,000-square-foot building replaces the Valley Visitor Center that has operated since 1967. Located much closer to the valley’s central parking lot, the center features educational displays, restrooms, and a 20,000-square-foot outdoor plaza.

Near Sequoia National Park, stop in to Three Rivers for new-wave diner food alongside the Kaweah River. Buckaroo Diner serves crispy Brussels sprouts, kale Caesar salad, and vegan burgers.

The Truckee River is one of California’s most challenging trout fisheries—anglers call it “The Tricky” due to varying water temperatures that keep the trout on the move. Truckee Creek Outfitters in downtown Truckee is dedicated to helping the river thrive and fly-fishers hook a big one.



FROM TOP: COURTESY ARAMARK DESTINATIONS; STEVE SMITH





# THE PERFECT CALIFORNIA ROAD TRIP DESTINATION!





Rainbow Pack Outfitters



# Bishop

WITH FLIGHTS ARRIVING DAILY, BISHOP IS THE SIERRA'S TRAVEL HUB. IT'S ALSO AN OUTDOOR PARADISE OF ALPINE TRAILS, SAW-TOOTHED PEAKS, AND TROUT-FILLED LAKES.



BISHOP'S ELEVATION IS ONLY 4,100 FEET, BUT SURROUNDING PEAKS SOAR TO 14,000 FEET

## ADVENTURE FUEL

Start your day with nutrition-packed avocado toast at Pupfish Café or an egg sandwich at Great Basin Bakery. Or fill up on buttery carbs at Bishop's two bakeries, Great Basin and Erick Schat's. For lunch, pick up jackfruit tacos at Mercado Mexico or brawny sandwiches at Mahogany Smoked Meats.

To cap off a day of adventure, join the locals for award-winning ales at Mountain Rambler Brewery or artisan cocktails at Owens Valley Distillery. Dinner might be brisket sandwiches at 1903 Taphouse, steaks at Back Alley Bowl and Grill, or St. Louis-style ribs at Aaron Schat's Roadhouse. Or switch out your hiking boots for sandals and head to Molcajetes Fusion for shrimp, steak, chiles, and nopales served in a volcanic stone bowl.

## PLAY OUTDOORS

Bishop is the gateway to the John Muir Wilderness, so pick from a wealth of hikes leading to glacially carved lakes. Your car does the climbing to reach 9,000 feet at South Lake, where you hop out and walk: A 3-mile hike leads to sparkling Treasure Lakes, and a 5-mile trek delivers amazing Sierra views at the top of Bishop Pass. If you'd rather ride than hike, the trusty steeds at Rainbow Pack Outfitters will take you on day trips to mountain meadows and vistas.

A few miles away on Bishop Creek's Middle Fork, beguiling Lake Sabrina is backed by 13,000-foot peaks. Admire the views from the aspen-clad shoreline, or rent a kayak or canoe at Lake Sabrina Boat Landing. Anglers troll the lake for rainbow and brook trout.

To pump up your adrenaline, pedal a mountain bike through the Tungsten Hills, rock climb in the Owens River Gorge, or scramble up the Buttermilks' quartz monzonite boulders. Sierra Mountain Center offers classes and guided trips, and Bishop's top outdoor retailers—Eastside Sports, Sage to Summit, and Mammoth Mountaineering Supply—will set you up with gear and know-how.

## WHERE TO STAY

After a day of adventure-seeking, join the climbers and thru-hikers bunking at the Eastside Guesthouse and Bivy, a colorful hostel with a shared kitchen. Or elevate your sleeping game at Creekside Inn, where Bishop Creek winds through the grounds, and a king bed and heated pool beckon.



DISCOVER

## EXQUISITE NATURAL BEAUTY IS WELL WORTH PRESERVING

North Lake Tahoe's alpine blue waters and majestic mountain peaks have drawn visitors and locals for generations. With your commitment, we can protect and preserve the natural wonders we all love for future generations. Take the Traveler Responsibility Pledge and join us in preserving our treasured spaces by leaving them better than you found them. Be sure to pack out what you pack in, drink Tahoe Tap from a reusable bottle and pick up after your pet.

Learn more and take the Traveler Responsibility Pledge at [GoTahoeNorth.com/VCA](https://GoTahoeNorth.com/VCA)



north lake tahoe  
it's human nature





# Awe and then Some<sup>®</sup>





Come alive on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. It's Awe and then Some. When you visit, help us protect the awe. Let's look out for the lake, the mountains, the trails, the trees, the critters and all the people here, too.



#### CLEARLY TAHOE CLEAR KAYAKS

Choose from a variety of unique tours in completely transparent kayaks! Explore depths of up to 65ft on a day tour, relax under the night sky on an LED tour or enjoy wildlife on our eco-adventure!

ClearlyTahoe.com  
530-554-4664



#### MARGARITAVILLE RESORT LAKE TAHOE

Nestled at the base of Heavenly Mountain, the new Margaritaville Resort Lake Tahoe welcomes guests with lush island vibes and a tropical state of mind. Elevate your stay at Lake Tahoe's only all-suite resort.

MargaritavilleResortLakeTahoe.com  
530-544-5400



#### ADVENTURE MOUNTAIN

The highest tubing destination and the most snowfall in the Tahoe Basin at 7,400 ft elevation. Enjoy full-service tubing, snow play, fresh food at Mountainside Cafe, and mementos from the gift shop.

AdventureMountainTahoe.com  
530-659-7217



#### THE LOFT THEATRE

Tahoe's #1 rated show, Magic Fusion, in the The Loft Theatre. Heavenly Village performs 7-nights a week. This high-energy show is appropriate for all-ages. Save \$5, buy advance tic.

TheLoftTahoe.com



#### TAHOE LAKESHORE LODGE & SPA

Lake Tahoe's only all lakefront rustic lodge and condo property, where every room has full lake views. Enjoy the private beach, outdoor heated swimming pool and hot tub. The property is minutes away from Heavenly Mountain.

TahoeLakeshoreLodge.com  
530-541-2180



#### ZEPHYR COVE RESORT

Enjoy the stunning scenery on our Lake Tahoe Day and Dinner Cruises aboard the M.S. Dixie II. Cozy cabins with beach access and marina, and seasonal activities like parasailing, powerboating, and snowmobiling are available.

ZephyrCove.com  
800-23-TAHOE



#### TAHOE HELICOPTERS

Tahoe Helicopters offers scenic helicopter tours with peak-to-peak views as you fly over pristine wilderness and the unparalleled beauty of Lake Tahoe from the air. Visit [www.TahoeHelicopters.us](http://www.TahoeHelicopters.us) to book!

530-544-2211



#### CLEARLY TAHOE BIKES

Explore forested trails, beaches and lakes with a guided bike tour or rental. Choose from a variety of bikes and accessories such as our premium pedal assist cruisers and mountain bikes!

ClearlyTahoe.com/Bike-Experiences  
530-554-4664



#### LAKE TAHOE ADVENTURES

Lake Tahoe's premier tour company offers year-round tours for adventure enthusiasts. In the summer, explore the backcountry on our ATV and RZR tours. During the winter, enjoy the stunning scenery on our snowmobile tours.

LakeTahoeAdventures.com  
800-490-3995



#### LAKE TAHOE BALLOONS

Revel in magnificent views of Lake Tahoe and Sierra mountains from a hot air balloon! Lake Tahoe Balloons offers daily balloon rides at sunrise weather permitting.

[www.laketahoeballoons.com](http://www.laketahoeballoons.com)  
530-544-1221



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**lake tahoe**®



# Kings Canyon



**KRISTA SIMONIC**

OWNER OF SEQUOIA GUIDES  
IN KINGS CANYON AND SEQUOIA  
NATIONAL PARKS

**GIANT SEQUOIAS:**

“Seeing the General Grant Tree in Grant Grove is a must. It’s the second-largest sequoia in the world, and it’s designated as the nation’s Christmas tree. The trail is only a half-mile long and suitable for all ages and abilities.”

**AWESOME DRIVE:**

“Along the Kings Canyon Scenic Byway, you’re surrounded by thousands of acres of wilderness that are accessible only on foot or by horseback. You’ll have astounding views of the Kings River Canyon and towering cliffs. Be sure to stop at Junction View to look down on the confluence of two forks of the Kings River.”

**SWIMMING/BOATING:**

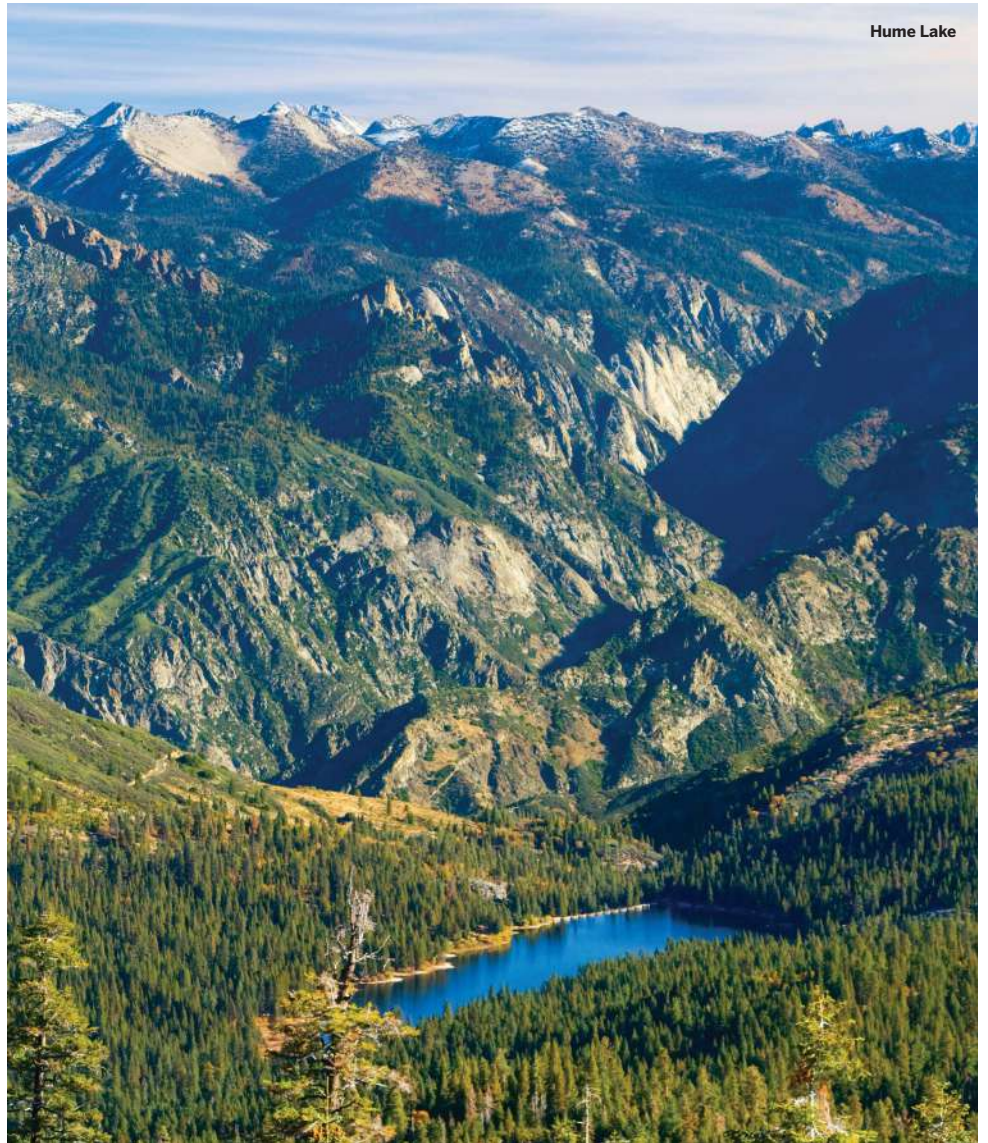
“Hume Lake is just a few miles off the Kings Canyon Byway and a short drive from Grant Grove. Park your car at Sandy Cove and go for a swim or rent a rowboat or kayak and paddle around.”

**FAVORITE HIKE:**

“In Cedar Grove, Zumwalt Meadow is a two-mile round-trip hike that offers beautiful views of granite cliffs and a gorgeous, fern-filled meadow.”

**GATEWAY TOWN LODGING:**

“Visalia has many lodging options including The Darling Hotel, a historic hotel with a rooftop restaurant. I also love the Buckeye Tree Lodge, which is on the Kaweah River in Three Rivers.”



Hume Lake



Zumwalt Meadow

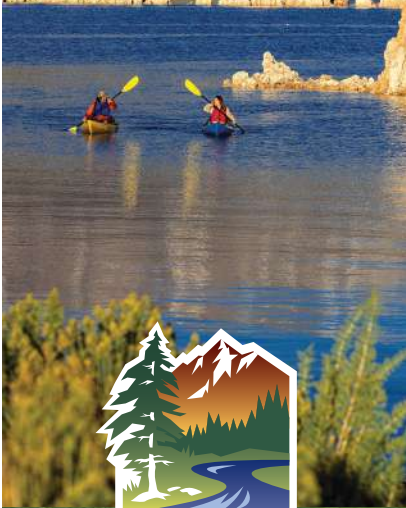


The Darling Hotel

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY KRISTA SIMONIC; GEORGE OSTERTAG/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; COURTESY THE DARLING HOTEL; DAVID CLAPP/GETTY IMAGES



# CALIFORNIA'S GREAT BEYOND



Beyond your wildest expectations, Mono County in California's Eastern Sierra is home to pristine hiking trails, world-class trout fishing, Yosemite's dramatic east entrance, Mono Lake's mystical tufas, California's official ghost town, Bodie — plus mountains of fun. **Welcome to Mono County.**



\*Highways 89, 108 and 120 subject to winter closures

FREE VISITOR GUIDE:  
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MonoCounty.org



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# entrance gate to CALIFORNIA

✈ BIH



*This place is exactly  
as I remember it...*



Photo by Amy Leist

(760) 873-8405 BISHOPVISITOR.COM @VISITBISHOP





**California Welcome Centers™**

**Mammoth Lakes:** 2510 Main St.; 760/924-5500 or 1-888/466-2666

**More information**  
 High Sierra Visitors Council  
[californiahighsierra.com](http://californiahighsierra.com)  
 North Lake Tahoe Visitors Bureau  
[visitinglaketahoe.com](http://visitinglaketahoe.com)  
 Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority  
[visitolaketahoe.com](http://visitolaketahoe.com)



## visit

### BASS LAKE

**Bass Lake Chamber of Commerce.** Nestled among the tall pines and only 14 miles to Yosemite National Park, this alpine mountain lake is the perfect warm water recreation lake, and was named one of the “West’s Best Lakes” by *Sunset* magazine. 559/642-3676; [basslakechamber.com](http://basslakechamber.com) See ad, p. 135

### BEAR VALLEY

**Bear Valley Mountain Resort.** Find an array of activities, from serene to adventurous. Visit in the winter to ski down 75+ runs accessible through nine lifts. Explore cross-country and snowshoe trails. 209/753-2301; [bearvalley.com](http://bearvalley.com)

### BISHOP

**Bishop Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau.** Bishop is the new entrance gate to California. Fly seasonally to Bishop Airport. Take the Eastern Sierra tour—the highest, lowest, oldest, earliest, and wildest 555-mile road trip in America. 760/873-8405; [bishopvisitor.com](http://bishopvisitor.com) See ad, p. 141

### BRIDGEPORT

**Bodie State Historic Park.** Walk the deserted streets of a gold-mining ghost town. Two hundred abandoned wooden buildings stand in a state of arrested decay. 760/616-5040; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### FISH CAMP

**Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad.** Highway 41, north of Oakhurst. An exciting steam train ride at Yosemite’s south gate. Groups welcome. April–October. Info at [ymspr.com](http://ymspr.com) or call 559/683-7273. See ad, p. 135

### FRESNO

**Fresno Yosemite International Airport.** Fresno Yosemite International Airport. 5175 E. Clinton Way. Central California’s premier airport. Your gateway to adventure and three majestic national parks. 559/621-4500; [flyfresno.com](http://flyfresno.com) See ad, p. 135

### GROVELAND

**Visit Tuolumne County.** Wander freely in Tuolumne County. Explore uncrowded Yosemite, authentic Gold Country, and scenic High Sierra in one amazing road trip, 2.5 hours east of the San Francisco Bay Area. Find lodging for all budgets. 209/533-4420; [visitctoday.com](http://visitctoday.com) See ad, pgs. 27, 149, 153.

### HOMWOOD

**Homewood Mountain Resort.** The 7,880-foot summit offers stunning views of the Lake Tahoe region. This family-friendly resort has runs for all skill levels. Visit in the summer for hiking and mountain biking. 530/525-2992; [skihomewood.com](http://skihomewood.com)

### JUNE LAKE

**June Mountain Ski Resort.** Visit in the winter for 1,500 acres of skiable slopes, beginner-friendly terrain, and views of the Eastern Sierra Nevada range. Family atmosphere with free skiing for children under 12. 888/586-3686; [junemountain.com](http://junemountain.com)

### KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

**Kings Canyon Scenic Byway.** Take a scenic drive and traverse 50 spectacular miles. Explore sights including Roaring River Falls, General Grant Grove, Hume Lake, and Boyden Cavern. 559/565-3341; [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

### KIRKWOOD

**Kirkwood Mountain Resort.** Rock climb, bike, and fish in summer; ski, snowboard, and snowshoe in winter. The base elevation of 7,800 feet makes snowfall plentiful and consistent. 209/258-6000; [kirkwood.com](http://kirkwood.com)

### LAKESHORE

**China Peak Mountain Resort.** Skiers will find a variety of terrain via seven lifts. Visit in summer for the mountain-bike park, scenic chair rides, and disc golf. 559/233-2500; [skichinapeak.com](http://skichinapeak.com)

### LEE VINING

**Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve.** See the “tufa towers,” unique geological features that were formed by the interaction of freshwater springs and the ancient, alkaline lake. 760/647-6331; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### MAMMOTH LAKES

**Mammoth Mountain Ski Resort.** Covering more than 3,500 acres, this large four-season resort boasts dramatic views of the Eastern Sierra Nevada range. Take a gondola ride up to the 11,053-foot summit. 800/626-6684; [mammothmountain.com](http://mammothmountain.com)

**Mammoth Lakes Tourism.** 2510 Main St. Official visitor information. Welcome to nature at its most unreal—Mammoth Mountain, Rainbow Falls, and Devils Postpile National Monument. It’s the real UNREAL. 888-466-2666; [visitmammoth.com](http://visitmammoth.com) See ad, p. 143

**Mono County Tourism.** Bridgeport. Explore California’s Eastern Sierra along Scenic Byway U.S. 395. Visit Yosemite’s east entrance, Bodie ghost town, Mono Lake’s tufa towers. Hiking, fishing, skiing, brilliant fall colors. Free visitors guide. 800/845-7922; [monocounty.org](http://monocounty.org) See ad, p. 141

### MARIPOSA

**Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau.** Mariposa County, home to Yosemite National Park—a year-round destination! Outdoor recreation, adventure, history and natural beauty are all here. Visit [yosemite.com](http://yosemite.com), the #1 Yosemite planning site. See ad, pgs. 57, 149, 153

### NORDEN

**Donner Ski Ranch.** A family-owned resort that has operated since 1937. Donner Ski Ranch has provided affordable adventures and instruction to generations of California skiers. 530/426-3635; [donnerskiranch.com](http://donnerskiranch.com)

**Sugar Bowl Resort.** Steeped in history as well as a high annual snowfall, this resort dates back to 1939 and is one of the closest places to hit the slopes from the San Francisco Bay Area. 530/426-9000; [sugarbowl.com](http://sugarbowl.com)





— IT WILL MAKE YOU QUESTION —  
**SO MANY THINGS.**  
*LIKE REALITY.*

— **ESCAPE TO THE UNREAL** —  
**WITH EASE.**

Fly to Mammoth Lakes from dozens of cities across the U.S. and Internationally. [VisitMammoth.com](http://VisitMammoth.com)

*#KEEPMAMMOTHUNREAL*

**WAKE-UP IN THE HEART OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

[TRAVELYOSEMITE.COM](http://TRAVELYOSEMITE.COM)

Authorized Concessioner

**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

**TAHOE CHAMBER**  
 When Tahoe Means Business

<p><b>1</b> Beach Bum's Bar &amp; Grill        300 US-50  <a href="http://roundhillphresort.com">roundhillphresort.com</a></p>	<p><b>5</b> Maggie's at Desolation Hotel        933 Poplar St.  <a href="http://maggiespub.com">maggiespub.com</a></p>	<p><b>9</b> Sidellis Lake Tahoe        3360 Sandy Way  <a href="http://sidellis.com">sidellis.com</a></p>	<p><b>13</b> The Beacon Bar &amp; Grill        1800 Jackson Steakh Rst.  <a href="http://campfirehilton.com">campfirehilton.com</a></p>
<p><b>2</b> Cafe Fiore        1109 Ski Run Blvd.  <a href="http://cafe-fiore.com">cafe-fiore.com</a></p>	<p><b>6</b> MacDuff's Public House        1041 Fremont Ave.  <a href="http://macduffspub.com">macduffspub.com</a></p>	<p><b>10</b> South Lake Brewing Co.        1920 Lake Tahoe Blvd  <a href="http://southlaketahoe.com">southlaketahoe.com</a></p>	<p><b>14</b> The Hangar        2451 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  <a href="http://thehangar.laketahoe">thehangar.laketahoe</a></p>
<p><b>3</b> Chicken In A Barrel        2100 Lake Tahoe Blvd  <a href="http://chickeninabarrel.com">chickeninabarrel.com</a></p>	<p><b>7</b> Off the Hook Sushi        2600 Lake Tahoe Blvd  <a href="http://offthehooklakesushi.com">offthehooklakesushi.com</a></p>	<p><b>11</b> South of North Brewing Co.        832 Stakeline Ave.  <a href="http://southofnorthbeer.com">southofnorthbeer.com</a></p>	<p><b>15</b> The Loft        1001 Hoanani Village Way  <a href="http://theloft.laketahoe.com">theloft.laketahoe.com</a></p>
<p><b>4</b> Coldwater Brewery &amp; Grill        2544 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  <a href="http://coldwaterbrewery.com">coldwaterbrewery.com</a></p>	<p><b>8</b> Riva Grill        900 Ski Run Blvd.  <a href="http://riva grill.com">riva grill.com</a></p>	<p><b>12</b> The Baked Bear        4118 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  <a href="http://thebakedbear.com">thebakedbear.com</a></p>	<p><b>16</b> Verde Mexican Rotisserie        2016 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  <a href="http://verdemexicanrotisserie.com">verdemexicanrotisserie.com</a></p>



## NORTH LAKE TAHOE

**North Lake Tahoe.** A destination that inspires year-round human connectivity with nature, set amongst 12 unique towns, majestic mountains and one of the purest lakes in the world. The region offers a variety of activities from athletic to relaxing. [gotahoenorth.com](http://gotahoenorth.com) See ad, pg. 137

## OAKHURST

**Majestic Mountain Loop.** Visit three of California's National Parks in as little as three days: Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite. Take a plane, take a car, or take a guided tour. 559/683-4636; [majesticmountainloop.com](http://majesticmountainloop.com) See ad, p. 135

**Visit Yosemite | Madera County.** 40343 Highway 41, Oakhurst, Madera County: California's Gateway to Yosemite. Affordable lodging, wine trail, Bass Lake, historic railroad, casino, arts, and more. 559/683-4636; [yosemitethisyear.com](http://yosemitethisyear.com) See ad, p. 135

## OLYMPIC VALLEY

**Palisades Tahoe.** Skiers and snowboarders have 43 lifts at their service and 270 trails to choose from. Visitors can also shop, ice-skate, and snowshoe. 800/403-0206; [palisadestahoe.com](http://palisadestahoe.com)

## SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

**Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks.** Home of 14,495-foot Mount Whitney and the world's largest sequoia, the General Sherman Tree. Go underground at Crystal Cave or climb to the top of Moro Rock. 559/565-3341; [nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)

## SIERRA CITY

**Sierra County Chamber of Commerce.** Where meadows meet forests and rivers run wild: Sierra County is a recreational playground. Visit historic towns, go shopping, and enjoy fine dining. 800/200-4949; [info@sierracountychamber.com](mailto:info@sierracountychamber.com). See ad, p. 153

## SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

**Adventure Mountain Lake Tahoe.** Our full-service tubing and snow-play area is the highest tubing destination in the Tahoe Basin. We have fresh food options at our Mountainside Café. Bring home a token from our gift shop. 530/659-7217; [adventuremountaintahoe.com](http://adventuremountaintahoe.com) See ad, p. 139

**Clearly Tahoe Bikes.** Explore forest trails, beaches, and lakes with a guided bike tour or rental. Choose from a variety of bikes, including premium pedal-assist cruisers and mountain bikes. 530/544-4664; [clearlytahoe.com](http://clearlytahoe.com) See ad, p. 139

**Clearly Tahoe Clear Kayaks.** Choose from a variety of unique tours in completely transparent kayaks. Explore depths of up to 65 feet on a day tour, relax under the night sky on an LED tour, or enjoy wildlife on our eco-adventure. 530/544-4664; [clearlytahoe.com](http://clearlytahoe.com) See ad, p. 139

**Heavenly Ski Resort.** One of the biggest ski resorts in the country, Heavenly boasts 97 runs, four base camps, and the highest elevation of any of the Lake Tahoe—area resorts. 775/586-7000; [skiheavenly.com](http://skiheavenly.com)

**Lake Tahoe Adventures.** We offer tours year-round. Soak up the summer sun and experience the backcountry on our ATV and RZR tours. Take advantage of our free shuttle and enjoy the winter scenery on our snowmobile tours. 800/490-3995; [laketahoeadventures.com](http://laketahoeadventures.com) See ad, p. 139

**Lake Tahoe Balloons.** Revel in magnificent views of Lake Tahoe and Sierra Nevada mountains from a hot air balloon! Lake Tahoe Balloons offers daily balloon rides at sunrise, weather permitting. 530/544-1221; [laketahoeballoons.com](http://laketahoeballoons.com) See ad, p. 139

**Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority.** Experience awe and then some. Catch a world-class entertainer, or see the lake at its clearest point in decades. There are millions of reasons to visit South Lake Tahoe. 530/542-4637; [visittaketahoe.com](http://visittaketahoe.com) See ad, pgs. 138-139

**The Loft Theatre.** Lake Tahoe's #1 rated show, Magic Fusion, in The Loft Theatre, Heavenly Village, now in its eighth smash year performs seven nights a week, year-round. This high-energy show is appropriate for all ages. Save \$5, buy advance tickets at [thelofttahoe.com](http://thelofttahoe.com) See ad, p. 139

**South Tahoe Restaurant Association.** The South Tahoe Restaurant Association vision is to be recognized as a destination of exceptional culinary and hospitality experience. Visit [tahoechoamber.org](http://tahoechoamber.org) for a list of participating restaurants. See ad, p. 143

**Tahoe Helicopters.** Tahoe Helicopters offers scenic helicopter tours with peak-to-peak views as you fly over pristine wilderness and the unparalleled beauty of Lake Tahoe from the air. Visit [tahoehelicopters.us](http://tahoehelicopters.us) to book! 530/544-2211; See ad, p. 139

## TRUCKEE

**Boreal Mountain Resort.** Sister resort to Soda Springs, the skiing and boarding slopes here are joined by all-terrain parks and tubing runs to offer something for everyone. 530/426-3666; [rideboreal.com](http://rideboreal.com)

**Donner Memorial State Park.** Preserving the site of the ill-fated Donner Camp, this park also features hiking and camping, plus fishing, boating, and water-skiing in beautiful Donner Lake. 530/582-7892; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Northstar California Ski Resort.** Visitors to North Lake Tahoe's Northstar enjoy the services of 20 ski lifts, ski runs that are 60 percent intermediate, and a cross-country center. 530/562-2267; [northstarcalifornia.com](http://northstarcalifornia.com)

**Soda Springs Mountain Resort.** About 30 miles northeast of Lake Tahoe, Soda Springs has wide-open slopes on all sorts of terrain, plus Planet Kids and Tube Town for little ones. 530/426-1010; [skisodasprings.com](http://skisodasprings.com)

**Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Resort.** Located in the charming High Sierra town of Truckee, this ski resort offers instructional services and family-friendly slopes at affordable prices. 530/587-9400; [tahoedonner.com](http://tahoedonner.com)

## TWIN BRIDGES

**Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort.** 12 miles south of South Lake Tahoe, this resort in the El Dorado National Forest is known for its heavy annual snowfall and family-friendly slopes. 530/659-7453; [sierraattahoe.com](http://sierraattahoe.com)

## YOSEMITE

**Yosemite National Park.** One of the most celebrated national parks, Yosemite's 1,200 square miles of High Sierra wilderness is home to ancient sequoia trees, waterfalls, and rock faces. 209/372-0200; [nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose) See ad, p. 135

# stay

HOTELS AND RESORTS

## COARSEGOLD

**Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino.** Located 30 minutes from the Yosemite south entrance on Hwy 41. AAA Four Diamond resort with premier gaming, dining, and an indoor/outdoor pool and spa. 866/794-6946;

[chukchansigold.com](http://chukchansigold.com) \$\$\$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 141



## FISH CAMP

**Tenaya at Yosemite.** The ideal base camp for exploration of the Sierra Mountains and Yosemite National Park. It is where exhilaration and relaxation meet and moments turn into extraordinary memories. 888/514-2167; [visitttenaya.com](http://visitttenaya.com) \$\$\$ See ad, p. 57



## GROVELAND

**Evergreen Lodge at Yosemite.** 33160 Evergreen Rd. 88 cabins. Frommer's Favorite; Fodor's Highly Recommended. Idyllic mountain resort bordering Yosemite. Restaurant/tavern, activities, guided trips. 209/379-2606; [info@evergreenlodge.com](mailto:info@evergreenlodge.com); [evergreenlodge.com](http://evergreenlodge.com) \$\$-\$\$\$



**Rush Creek Lodge & Spa at Yosemite.** 34001 Highway 120. 143 rooms. New spa open now! Restaurant, tavern, pool, hot tubs, recreation guide service, daily activities, and general store, at Yosemite's Hwy 120 West entrance. 209/379-2373; [info@rushcreeklodge.com](mailto:info@rushcreeklodge.com); [rushcreeklodge.com](http://rushcreeklodge.com) \$\$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 27



## SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

**Margaritaville Resort Lake Tahoe.** Nestled at the base of Heavenly Mountain, the new Margaritaville Resort Lake Tahoe welcomes guests with lush island vibes and a tropical state of mind. Elevate your stay at Lake Tahoe's only all-suite resort. 530/544-5400; [margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-resort-lake-tahoe](http://margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-resort-lake-tahoe) \$\$\$ See ad, p. 139



**Tahoe Lakeshore Lodge & Spa.** Lake Tahoe's only all lakefront rustic lodge and condo property, where every room has full lake views. Enjoy the private beach, outdoor heated swimming pool and hot tub. The property is minutes away from Heavenly Mountain. 800/448-4577; [tahoelakeshorelodge.com](http://tahoelakeshorelodge.com) \$\$\$ See ad, p. 139



## Zephyr Cove Resort, Marina & RV/Campground.

Stay in cabins, campsites and Airstream campers. Enjoy beach access, boat rentals, lake cruises aboard the MS Dixie II. Seasonal activities include parasailing, powerboats, snowmobiling, and more. 800/238-2463; [zephyrcove.com](http://zephyrcove.com) \$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 139



## YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

**The Redwoods In Yosemite.** 8038 Chilnualna Falls Rd. 75 Years of bringing Yosemite to your doorstep. Choose from our 115 year-round Yosemite cabins & luxury vacation homes. Wedding & Event Center inside the park. 844/245-5141; [redwoodsinyosemite.com](http://redwoodsinyosemite.com) \$\$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 145



**Yosemite's Scenic Wonders.** Established in 1988, mountain homes, cabins, and condos located inside the gates of Yosemite. 130 properties. Closest to Yosemite Valley, Badger Pass Ski Area, and the Mariposa Grove of Sequoias. [scenicwonders.com](http://scenicwonders.com) \$\$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 145



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## YOSEMITE'S SCENIC WONDERS



Yosemite's Scenic Wonders has over 130 properties to choose from, offering its guests four different locations that are unique to the Park. Each location offers a great starting point for adventuring in and around Yosemite's High Sierras. Experience the charm, space, privacy and intimacy of your very own vacation home. Established 1988.

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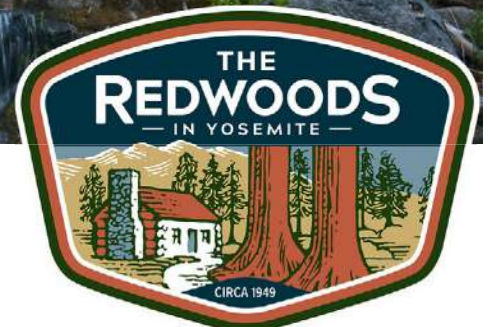
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# GOLD COUNTRY

Explore the sun-drenched expanse where California's pioneering spirit was born and outdoor adventure abounds

These foothill slopes are blanketed with chaparral, oaks, and buckeyes

The Eastside Trail, just above Mammoth Bar, has been used by off-roaders for nearly 25 years



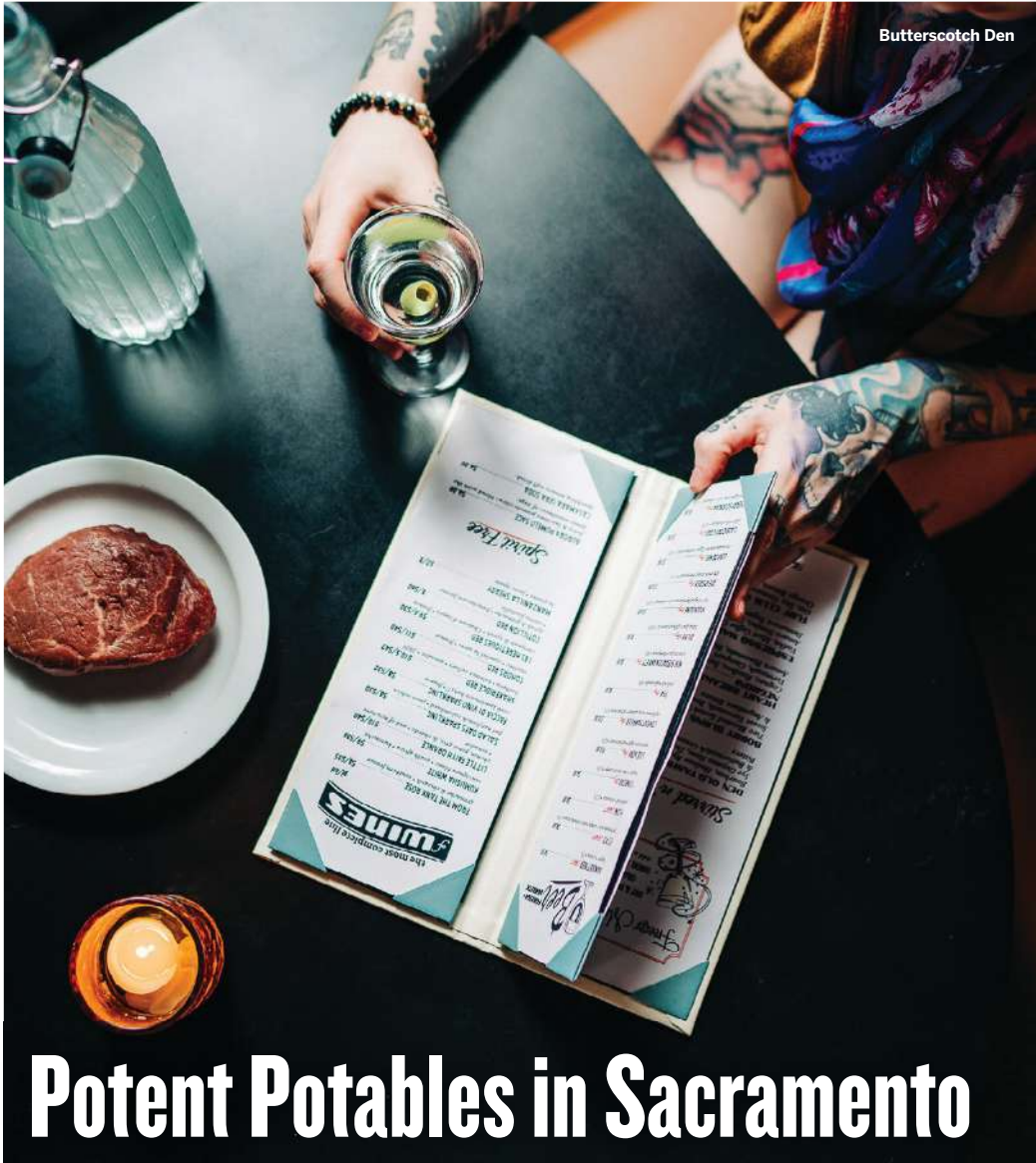


Auburn State Recreation Area is home to more than 100 bird species, including the American bald eagle

Rafters love the American River's Middle Fork for its class IV and V rapids

Over 1,900 runners flocked to Auburn for the 2023 Canyons Endurance Runs by UTMB, which include a 100-mile race





# Potent Potables in Sacramento

A crop of new places to drink in the capital city offer some surprising twists. Flashback to the 1970s at the **Butterscotch Den**, a supper club-style restaurant where cooking your own sirloin is the only way to dine. Select your main-course meat, and it's delivered raw for you to grill to ideal doneness. (Choose sauces and seasoning, too—and don't skip the chimichurri.) Add sides, like garlic bread, potato salad, or a prawn cocktail. Vegetarians can grill their own portobello sandwich or veggie skewers. The retro restaurant sets the vibe with funky wallpaper and a mirrored back bar, then channels that energy into its drink menu, offering hip, throwback cocktails. Try a freezer martini with 50/50 gin and dry vermouth; add caviar for a few extra bucks.

At **Betty**, a grown-up bar and bottle shop in Southside Park, pair sandwiches and snacky bar bites with wine by the glass or bottle. Or sample the smoked specialty cocktails and tropical drinks at the equestrian-themed **Tack Room** in Midtown. At **Star Lounge**, drink like it's yesteryear at the Masonic women's meeting place reborn as a moody third-floor cocktail bar. Sip an Old Fashioned or a Manhattan and enjoy views of Sutter's Fort.

A few miles away in Rancho Cordova, the fast-growing **Barrel District** houses six breweries (including one that specializes in hard kombucha), two distilleries, a meadery, and a wine bar. In Elk Grove, **Prost Beer Hall** serves German and local beers with jumbo pretzels and sausage platters at its Old Town biergarten.

## EDITOR'S PICKS

You've likely heard of train rides paired with beer or wine, but the Sacramento River Fox Train's boba tea excursion is one of a kind. Take a 90-minute ride along the river while tasting boba paired with dumplings and mochi donuts.

More than 150 locals banded together to purchase and reopen the Columbia City Hotel Restaurant and its adjacent What Cheer Saloon after it closed over a utility dispute in 2020. Now Columbia State Historic Park visitors can enjoy a great meal or refreshing libation in an authentic Gold Rush setting.

Explore Stanislaus National Forest with Miller's Off-Road Adventures in Groveland. On this drive-yourself Jeep tour, you'll steer your way to grand views of the Tuolumne River canyon near Yosemite.

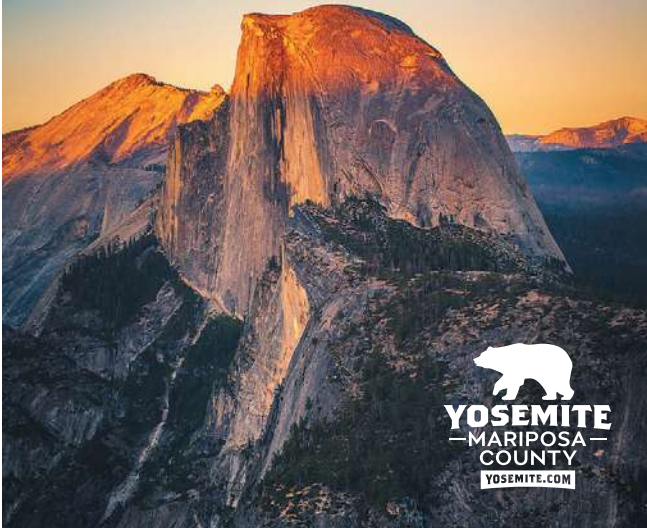
Try Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort's summer activities: 18-hole disc golf course, lift-service mountain biking, and a waterslide for kids. Base Camp Bar + Grill offers creek views and free yard games.



FROM TOP: ANNA WICK/COURTESY BUTTERSCOTCH DEN; COURTESY DODGE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RESORT



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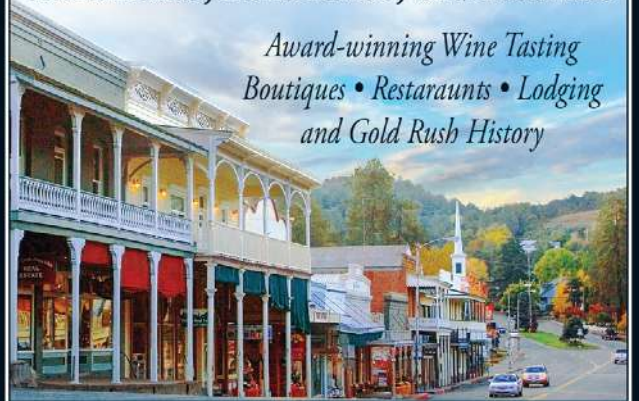
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The Armory

# Sonora

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## LEARN ABOUT THE PAST

See why Sonora was nicknamed “Queen of the Southern Mines” by strolling charming Washington Street, where buildings that date back to the city’s founding still stand. One such structure is the Sonora Opera Hall, which hosts town events. To see exhibits on Native American culture and the Gold Rush, visit the Tuolumne County Museum & History Research Center in the old county jail. Just beyond Sonora, find Columbia State Historic Park, a preserved Gold Rush town with stagecoach rides, shops, and eateries.

## GOLD COUNTRY EATS

Snag a patio table at El Jardin and fill up on margaritas paired with bottomless chips and salsa and the mole-topped chicken enchiladas. Or find hearty red-sauce pasta dishes and oven-baked Italian sandwiches at family-owned Pinocchio, first

opened in the 1950s. Love food trails? Follow the Tuolumne County Craft Burger Trail to The Armory for a burger in its beer garden, or taste The Standard Pour’s Kobe beef burger at its historic location in the Pickering Lumber Company office.

## SIP LOCAL

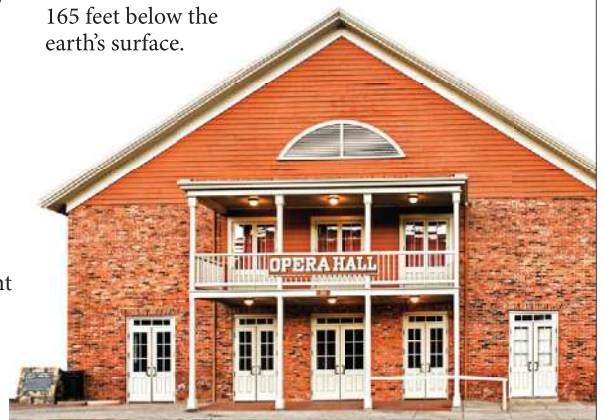
Wake up with Tuolumne-roasted beans at Revive Coffee. When happy hour calls, step back to the Gold Rush era at Servente’s Saloon. In Sonora’s oldest bar, a frosty craft brew pairs perfectly with Old West architecture. For more modern libations, sip a Trailblazer IPA at Sonora Brewing Company, the first brewery in Sonora to open since 1907. Find 20 beers on tap at the Sonora Tap Room, or pair wine with small plates at The Independent Wine Co. Pack a picnic to enjoy with organic hard apple cider and brandy at Indigeny Reserve’s beautiful orchard.

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Sonora may be best known for its proximity to Yosemite, but it has great outdoor experiences right in town. Hike Dragoon Gulch’s three miles of pathways for a peaceful stroll through leafy oaks. For underground excitement, head to nearby Moaning Caverns Adventure Park, where guided tours down a spiral staircase lead to a cavern 165 feet below the earth’s surface.



MUCH OF SONORA IS BUILT ABOVE ABANDONED GOLD MINES, ACCORDING TO LOCAL LORE.



FROM TOP: COURTESY THE ARMORY; COURTESY VISIT TUOLUMNE COUNTY



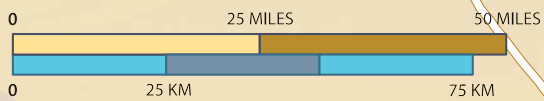




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year-round. Numerous lakes and rivers provide for various water activities including fishing and boating. Hundreds of unpretentious wineries, along with breweries and cideries, complemented by farm-to-fork dining, farmers' markets and culinary events provide a destination food and wine experience. ■





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  WINE REGIONS





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GRASS VALLEY

# Holbrooke Hotel

Steeped in California history, the Holbrooke Hotel has played host to five U.S. presidents, writers Mark Twain and Bret Harte, dancer Lola Montez, and a cabal of bona fide bandits and bootleggers. After a multi-year restoration, this 1862 gem reopened in 2020 and has fast become a boutique favorite.

The redesigned hotel retains its Gold Rush heritage while dazzling with 28 modern, one-of-a-kind rooms. Vintage fixtures and furnishings blend with contemporary comforts like Bluetooth speakers and fluffy spa robes. For special occasions, book a King Suite with a clawfoot tub, double-headed walk-in shower, and downtown views from the balcony.

The Holbrooke's Golden Gate Saloon—one of the West's longest operating watering holes—harks back to the Victorian era with copper-clad walls, ornate mirrors, and an original mahogany bar gleaming with marble and stained glass. Order a meal of rabbit mole or braised short rib, then slip downstairs to The Iron Door. Order a classy cocktail while you listen to live jazz at this stone-walled speakeasy with a wooden ceiling, plush banquettes, and metal doors that once opened to secret underground tunnels.

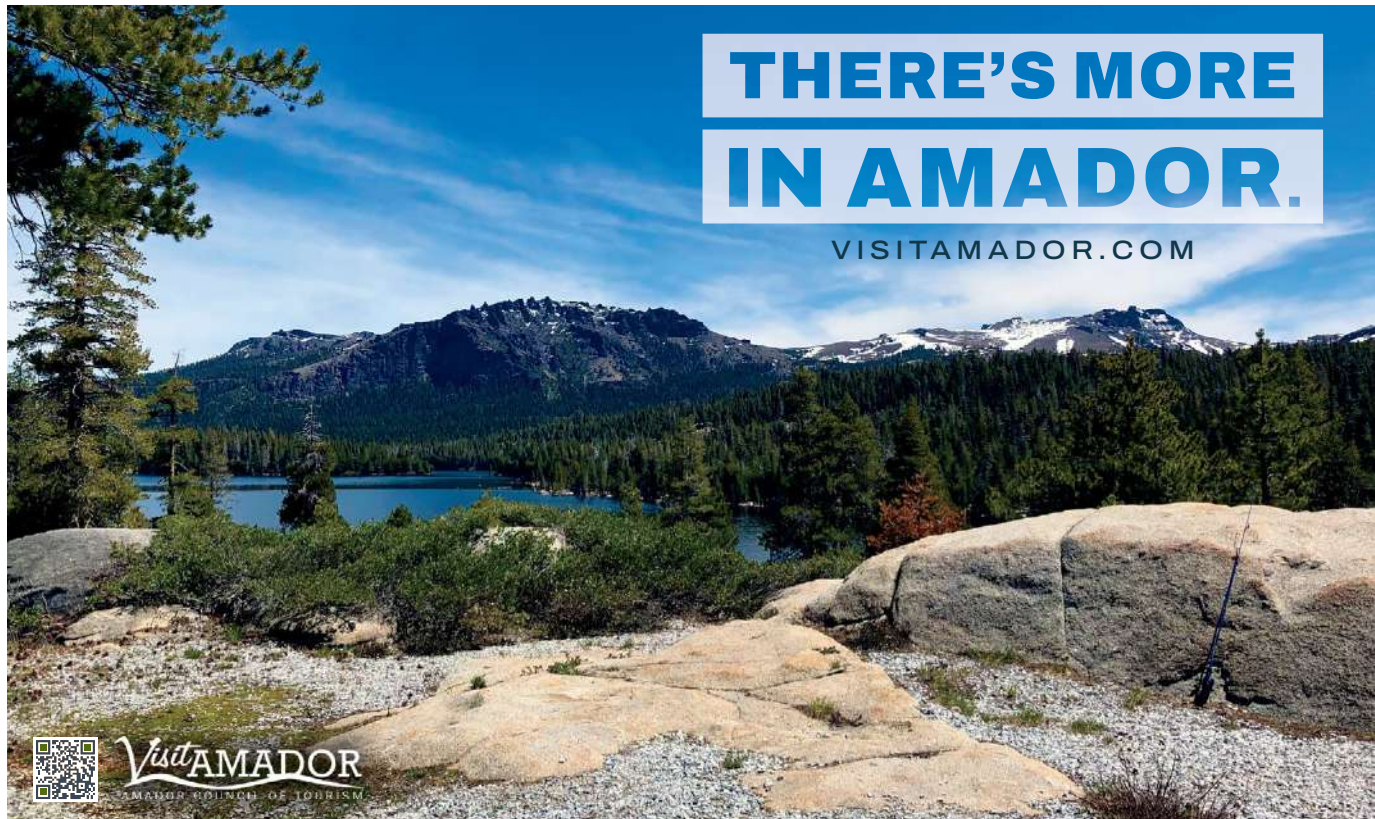
The Holbrooke's sister property, the National Exchange Hotel in Nevada City, is an equally stunning Gold Rush revamp just four miles away. Book a stay in one of 38 well-appointed rooms or dine at European-inspired Lola.



The hotel has survived multiple fires since its opening in 1862; it now features 28 rooms with vintage details, plus a lively saloon that was once an actual speakeasy.







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

water activities, and huge ice cream cones. 530/692-1600; [collinslake.com](http://collinslake.com)

**CAMINO**

**Apple Hill.** Visit a beautiful foothill community of more than 50 family farms, where you can pick your own apples, taste local wine, stay at a Gold Rush-era bed-and-breakfast, and more. 530/644-7692; [applehill.com](http://applehill.com)

**Eldorado National Forest.** Find more than 80 developed campgrounds and picnic areas, hundreds of miles of roads, trails, rivers, and streams, and great scenery within the central Sierra Nevada mountain range. 530/622-5061; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**COLFAX**

**Rollins Lake.** Rent a boat for a day, set up a tent at one of four privately run campgrounds, or find a perfect lounging and reading spot along the conifer-dotted shoreline. Fish for spotted bass, crappie, and bluegill. [visitplacer.com/rollins-lake](http://visitplacer.com/rollins-lake)

**COLOMA**

**Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.** Try panning for gold in the American River, enjoy hikes and picnics, see a replica of the original sawmill, and learn what life was like in a 1850s tent town. 530/622-3470; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**COLUMBIA**

**Columbia State Historic Park.** Time-travel to the 1850s, when gold miners rubbed shoulders with businessmen. Watch proprietors in period clothing ply their trades, ride a 100-year-old stagecoach, and pan for gold. 209/588-9128; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**COULTERVILLE**

**Northern Mariposa County History Center.** Learn about the life and times of early California, from the early 1800s through the boom days of the 1849 California Gold Rush and the post-Gold Rush era. 209/878-3015; [coultervillehistorycenter.org](http://coultervillehistorycenter.org)

**DOWNIEVILLE**

**Downieville Museum.** Located in a stone building with original iron doors and window shutters that date back to 1852. Artifacts depict the life of this community from its Gold Rush origins to the present day. 530/289-3506; [sierranevadageotourism.org](http://sierranevadageotourism.org)

**ELK GROVE**

**Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.** Hike through grasslands, along a riparian zone, and on a platform above managed wetlands at this urban refuge. Sign up for a docent-led kayak tour. 916/775-4421; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

**FOLSOM**

**Folsom History Museum.** In downtown's Folsom Historic District, find this museum that showcases the area's gold mining history, railroad, agriculture, and Native American past. [folsomhistoricalsociety.org](http://folsomhistoricalsociety.org)

**Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.** Located at the base of the Sierra foothills, this area offers hiking, camping, horseback riding, and boating, with 75 miles of shoreline, campgrounds and picnic areas along the water. A 32-mile-long bicycle path stretches all the way to Old Sacramento. 916/988-0205; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park.** Tour this 1895 generating facility, which looks much as it did more than 100 years ago, overlooking Lake Natoma from atop a bluff. See the massive transformers and the system that brought water from the dam. or 916/985-4843; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

visit

**ALLEGHANY**

**Underground Gold Miners Museum.** Learn about the stories and history of Alleghany through the eyes of California's underground miners, and the evolution of hard-rock mining through photos and artifacts. 530/287-3330; [undergroundgold.com](http://undergroundgold.com)

**ANGELS CAMP**

**Angels Camp Museum.** Located on the three-acre site of the Angels Quartz Mine, this museum is home to one of the largest collections of carriages and wagons in the nation. Wander through the historic park to see indoor and outdoor exhibits about the Gold Rush and Mark Twain. 209/736-2963; [gocalaveras.com/business](http://gocalaveras.com/business)

**Calaveras Visitors Bureau.** Welcome to Calaveras County, a beautiful and diverse region with something for everyone: giant sequoias, Gold Rush history, award-winning wines, a host of charming small towns, and unique festivals. 209/736-0049; [gocalaveras.com](http://gocalaveras.com)  
See ad, p. 153

**OARS California Rafting.** OARS California Rafting offers splashy family fun and exhilarating Class IV+

whitewater experiences near Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, and Yosemite. Find your next greatest adventure at [oars.com/california-rafting](http://oars.com/california-rafting). See ad p. 145

**AUBURN**

**Auburn State Recreation Area.** Go hiking, fishing, camping, mountain biking, gold panning, and off-highway motorcycle riding. California's highest bridge, the 730-foot Foresthill Bridge, is within the park. 530/885-4527; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Placer County Museum.** Within this courthouse, built in 1894, you'll find Native American artifacts, a gold collection, Thomas Kinkade's *Auburn Centennial*, a historic women's jail, and more. Admission is free. 530/889-6500; [placer.ca.gov](http://placer.ca.gov)

**Visit Placer.** There is never an off-season in Placer County with easy access to experience a year-round mix of activities, outdoor adventure, wineries, breweries, world-class shopping, dining, history, arts and culture, and more. 530/887-2111; [visitplacer.com](http://visitplacer.com)  
See ad, p. 153

**BROWNS VALLEY**

**Collins Lake Recreation Area.** At the base of the Gold Country foothills, our family-friendly campground and 1,600-acre lake is famous for trout and bass fishing,



**Folsom Tourism Bureau.** 200 Wool St. River town near Sacramento is famous for its historic district, bike trails, boating, outlet shopping, and Folsom Prison Museum. 916/985-2698; [visitfolsom.com](http://visitfolsom.com) See ad, p. 153

**Johnny Cash Trail.** Honoring the legendary musician who once performed in Folsom's notorious penitentiary (as a guest, not an inmate), this three-mile trail goes from the Folsom Historic District toward the Folsom Lake Crossing Trail. You'll see artwork, architecture, and bridges along the way. [folsomcashtrail.com](http://folsomcashtrail.com)

### GRASS VALLEY

**Empire Mine State Historic Park.** Learn about the history of one of the oldest, deepest, and richest gold mines in California. Guided tours of the mine yard, restored gardens, and owner's estate are offered throughout the day. The park also offers 856 acres with more than 14 miles of trails for easy hiking and mountain biking. 530/273-8522; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### JAMESTOWN

**Railtown 1897 State Historic Park.** Home to the famous Sierra No. 3, newly restored No. 28 steam locomotive, historic Roundhouse and more, Railtown 1897 offers weekend excursion train rides (April–Oct). [railtown1897.org](http://railtown1897.org)

### MARIPOSA

**Yosemite/Mariposa County Tourism Bureau.** Mariposa County, home to Yosemite National Park: a year-round destination! Outdoor recreation, Gold Rush history and natural beauty are all here. Visit the #1 Yosemite planning site [yosemite.com](http://yosemite.com). See ad, pgs. 57, 149, 153

### MOUNTAIN RANCH

**California Cavern State Historic Landmark.** Find a Trail of Lights and the Trail of Lakes cave walking tour through this limestone cavern. Groups learn about the history and geology of the cavern as well as the surrounding countryside. Take a professionally guided cavern spelunking trip. 888/488-1960; [cavetouring.com](http://cavetouring.com)

### MURPHYS

**Mercer Caverns.** Descend 160 vertical feet to see this subterranean wonderland discovered by Walter J. Mercer in 1885. Take a 45-minute walking tour and learn about the history and geology of the caverns. 209/728-2101; [mercercaverns.net](http://mercercaverns.net)

### NEVADA CITY

**Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District.** These twin cities, famous for their Gold Rush pasts, have transformed into cultural hubs with more than 100 arts-related organizations. 916/322-6555; [caculturaldistricts.org/grassvalley-nevadacity](http://caculturaldistricts.org/grassvalley-nevadacity)

**Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park.** Site of California's largest "hydraulic" mine. View cliffs carved by mighty streams of water, the result of the gold-mining technique of washing away entire mountains to find the precious metal. 530/265-2740; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Miners Foundry Cultural Center.** Discover a California Historical Landmark at this cultural arts and community events center, the first manufacturing site of the Pelton wheel. Check website for events. 530/265-5040; [minersfoundry.org](http://minersfoundry.org)

**Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum.** Learn about local transportation history and view artifacts from the narrow-gauge railroad era. Visit on Saturdays to take a ride on the railbus. 530/470-0902; [ncngrrmuseum.org](http://ncngrrmuseum.org)

**Yuba-Donner Scenic Byway.** Winding through the Tahoe National Forest, follow this stunning 160-mile loop through the Sierra foothills and mountains, along

the North Yuba River, into pine forests, and across the valley north of Lake Tahoe. [sierranevadageotourism.org](http://sierranevadageotourism.org)

### PENN VALLEY

**South Yuba River State Park.** Swim, bird-watch, and pan for gold along 20 miles of the South Yuba River's rugged canyon. Throughout the park, look for various bridges dating back to the Gold Rush era through the mid-20th century. 530/432-2546; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### PINECREST

**Dodge Ridge Mountain Resort.** Operating since 1950, Dodge Ridge offers 67 trails, 11 lifts, and 862 skiable acres. Located in California's Central Sierra, it boasts 1,600 vertical feet and 350 inches of annual snowfall. 209/965-3474; [dodgeridge.com](http://dodgeridge.com) See ad p. 27

### PINE GROVE

**Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park.** This park gets its name from 1,185 mortar holes ground into the marbled limestone by early Native Americans. Don't miss the Chaw'se Regional Indian Museum. 209/296-7488; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### PLACERVILLE

**Downtown Placerville.** Historic Main Street features unique shops, antiques, fine art galleries, and restaurants. Enjoy small-town charm with a backdrop of Gold Rush history. [visitel dorado.com/downtown-placerville](http://visitel dorado.com/downtown-placerville)

**Visit El Dorado.** Located between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe, El Dorado is overflowing with outdoor adventure, a welcoming wine and agricultural scene, family fun, and a proud Gold Rush history. [visitel dorado.com](http://visitel dorado.com) See ad, p. 153

### RANCHO CORDOVA

**Sacramento Children's Museum.** With hands-on exhibits designed for children from infants to age 8, SCM engages youngsters in meaningful discovery. Bring the kids for a few hours of imaginative play. 916/730-5079; [sackids.org](http://sackids.org)

**Visit Rancho Cordova.** Discover small-town charm in Rancho Cordova, one of the nation's most diverse cities. The quirky region is ripe for memorable outdoor experiences, international cuisine, and libations in the Barrel District. [visitranchocordova.com](http://visitranchocordova.com) See ad, p. 153

### SACRAMENTO

**Aerospace Museum of California.** Find a world-class opportunity to learn about and celebrate aviation's past, present, and future. Discover more than 40 historic aircraft and get hands-on by piloting your own STEM adventure. 916/643-3192; [aerospaceca.org](http://aerospaceca.org)

**California State Capitol Museum.** Explore the history of the State Capitol building, home to the California state legislature since 1869. Visit restored offices of the governor and enjoy a picnic in Capitol Park. 916/324-0333; [capitolmuseum.ca.gov](http://capitolmuseum.ca.gov)

**California State Railroad Museum—Old Sacramento Waterfront.** A Smithsonian affiliate, the Railroad Museum is a "museum without walls" that offers weekend excursion train rides (April–Sept.), full-scale vintage locomotives, toy trains, interactive exhibits, and more. [californiarailroad.museum](http://californiarailroad.museum)

**Crocker Art Museum.** The first public art museum founded in the western United States, the Crocker Art Museum is still one of the leading museums in California today. The collection includes international ceramics, sculpture, and works by contemporary California artists. 916/808-7000; [crockerart.org](http://crockerart.org)

**Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park.** Tour the opulent 19,000-square-foot mansion, built in 1856 for Gold Rush merchant Sheldon Fogus and later purchased by the soon-to-be governor of California, Leland Stanford. 916/324-0575; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Old Sacramento State Historic Park.** View a cluster of noteworthy, early Gold Rush-era structures and historic buildings, including the 1849 Eagle Theater and the onetime home to the California Supreme Court. 916/445-7387; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**River Fox Train.** The River Fox Train, sister of the world-famous Skunk Train, traverses the countryside of Yolo County west of Sacramento with multiple experiences offered weekly, including Railbikes. 800/866-1690; [riverfoxtrain.com](http://riverfoxtrain.com) See ad, p. 155

**Visit Sacramento.** In America's Farm-to-Fork Capital, enjoy Michelin-rated restaurants, a vibrant downtown and great family fun along the Old Sacramento Waterfront for an authentic Sacramento experience. [visitsacramento.com](http://visitsacramento.com) See ad, p. 153

### SONORA

**Visit California's Gold Country.** An amazing American road trip filled with spectacular beauty. Gold Rush history, abundant outdoor adventures, and year-round fairs and festivals along historic Highway 49. Just two hours from San Francisco. [visitgoldcountry.com](http://visitgoldcountry.com) See ad, pgs. 151-153.

**Visit Sonora.** Known as the Queen of the Southern Mines, Sonora, California is a charming small town in Northern California's Gold Country. With dining, shopping, tasting rooms, and lodging options, Sonora makes a great base for visiting Yosemite. [sonoraca.com](http://sonoraca.com) See ad p. 27

**Visit Tuolumne County.** Wander Freely in Tuolumne County. Explore uncrowded Yosemite, authentic Gold Country, and scenic High Sierra in one amazing road trip, 2.5 hours east of the San Francisco Bay Area. Find lodging for all budgets. 209/533-4420; [visittoday.com](http://visittoday.com); See ad, pgs. 27, 149, 153

### SUTTER CREEK

**Visit Amador.** Experience rich California history above and below ground, distinctive local shops, independent restaurants and cafes, events year-round, and world class wineries. 209/267-9249; [hello@visitamador.com](http://hello@visitamador.com); [visitamador.com](http://visitamador.com) See ad, pgs. 153, 155

## stay

### HOTELS AND RESORTS

#### LA GRANGE

**Don Pedro Recreation Agency.** Nestled in the Sierra Nevada Foothills, Don Pedro Lake offers watersports, 3 dog-friendly campgrounds, a 2-acre swimming lagoon, biking, and hiking. For more info: [donpedrolake.com](http://donpedrolake.com). \$ See ad, p. 27



#### SONORA

**Hotel Lumberjack and Sonora Inn.** Modern accommodations meet historic charm at the Hotel Lumberjack and the Sonora Inn. Hotel Lumberjack is a newly envisaged Americana Motel experience, and the Sonora Inn is newly renovated. [hotellumberjack.com](http://hotellumberjack.com); [thesonorainn.com](http://thesonorainn.com); \$\$-\$\$\$ See ad, p. 149



<b>KEY</b>	WIFI	RESTAURANT ON PREMISES	FITNESS CENTER	SWIMMING POOL	HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE	SPA/SAUNA/HOT TUB	PETS WELCOME	\$ UNDER \$100/NIGHT	\$\$ \$100-\$200/NIGHT	\$\$\$ OVER \$200/NIGHT
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# SF BAY AREA

Experience dynamic cities, vibrant art, and an outstanding wine country

Golden Gate Park's west side is home to 10 bison, all of which are female

San Francisco's trendy South Beach neighborhood sits along the Embarcadero, overlooking the Bay Bridge



Spanish Revival-style buildings evoke The Presidio's history as a former Spanish military post

The Golden Gate Bridge's vibrant paint color is called "International Orange"

Each of the four dials on the Ferry Building's clock tower is 22 feet in diameter

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is four times as long as the Golden Gate Bridge





# San Jose's Street Art

**S**an Jose is known for innovation, says Michael Ogilvie, “but you can’t have innovation without creativity, and the city’s creativity is out there on the streets and on the walls.”

As San Jose’s public art director, Ogilvie credits a collection of organizations including Empire Seven Studios, the San Jose Downtown Association, Local Color, and the city’s Cultural Affairs department for sponsoring the city’s 150-plus murals.

“There’s a shared responsibility and interest in beautifying San Jose,” Ogilvie says. “There are a lot of creative people here, and not everybody creates with binary code.”

In 2023, artist Taylor Reinhold painted *Malama 'Aina*, a tribute to Pacific Islander culture, on an exterior wall of Pono Hawaiian Grill on North Market Street. The project was managed by Sarah Billings of the San Jose Downtown Association, who watched as the

artist and his crew brought the mural to life.

“People were walking by, asking questions, and engaging with the art,” Billings says. “Everyone asked about the title, which means ‘take care of the land.’”

Another of Billings’ projects was *Our Offering*, a SoFA District mural honoring two young San Jose organ donors. It features a hummingbird and loteria cards.

One of Ogilvie’s favorite murals is Mona Caron’s *Limonium*, which brightens the San Jose McEnery Convention Center. The painting depicts “flora that is often neglected in an urban environment, like small little flowers that break through a crack in the concrete.”

You could see it as a metaphor, Ogilvie says. “The city has a culture of treating the streetscape as a possibility for creation.”

Malama 'Aina mural

## EDITOR'S PICKS

Picnic beneath century-old pepper trees at Livermore’s Retzlaff Vineyards and sip Isabelle’s Blush Rosé, which won gold at the 2023 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition.

Retreat from Silicon Valley’s buzz at the new Treehouse Hotel in Sunnyvale. The property evokes Santa Clara Valley’s free-spirited, pre-Internet era with hammocks, nature-themed sculptures, and a beer garden.

Dokkaebier offers a taste of Asian culture in the form of craft beer. The Korean-owned brewery pours distinctive brews like Kimchi Sour and Yuza Blonde at its Jack London Square taproom in Oakland.

Sausalito’s vibrant art community now has a home at the Sausalito Center for the Arts. The downtown venue showcases cultural events, from visual art to music to spoken word, along with rotating exhibits and art classes.

For a transcendent wine country experience, book a stay at The Madrona in Healdsburg. After a \$6 million renovation, the 1881 inn has never looked better, and its bucolic Dry Creek Valley location is ideal for oenophiles.





# Visit Berkeley



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# San Francisco



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THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

**NOPA**

"If I had only one meal to show people quintessential SF dining, it would be Nopa, because it popularized many elements now ubiquitous in the Bay Area, from the cocktail program to the communal table. It's a San Francisco staple and a neighborhood gathering place."

**MARLOWE**

"This all-day American restaurant is always bustling with folks grabbing dinner after work or before a Giants game. Just about every table orders one of their great burgers, and they have lovely cocktail offerings, too."

**KITCHEN ISTANBUL**

"It has super Turkish food, solid service, and one of my favorite, best-priced wine lists. Side up to the unpretentious wine bar for delicious moussaka and a choice of Syraks."

**GOOD LUCK DIM SUM**

"My fave for dim sum. They have everything from shrimp har gow to turnip cakes to sesame balls, plus amazing barbecue pork buns, steamed or baked."

**TURTLE TOWER**

"The Hanoi-style pho is so soothing, it can probably resolve any internal conflicts you may have. The soup is light and flavorful, and I always drink every drop, especially of the No. 6—stir-fried beef with leek noodle soup."



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: WILFRED WONG/COURTESY EVAN GOLDSTEIN; AUBRIE PICK/COURTESY NOPA; JEN FEDRIZZI; SORAYA MATOS



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Petaluma's riverfront

# Petaluma

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## RESTAURANTS

Northern California's bounty meets Southern comfort food in a hip, buzzy atmosphere at Easy Rider. The menu features upscale renditions of classics like fried chicken with collard greens and shrimp 'n' grits.

Sonoma County produce stars at Luma Bar & Eatery, set in an open, contemporary space with a riverfront patio. Dishes lean toward Mediterranean with a California twist—the pastas are a standout—and the drink menu highlights natural wines and craft cocktails.

## TIKI BAR

Decked out with hand-carved Balinese tiki sculptures, colorful paper lanterns, and a massive, thatched-roofed bar, Kapu owes its escapist interiors to legendary SoCal tiki bar designer Ben Bassham, aka

"Bamboo Ben." The not-overly-sweet tropical drinks are as delicious as they look, especially when paired with Kapu's flavorful Asian- and island-inspired bites.

## WINE TASTING

A century-old building that originally housed a Studebaker dealership has been reinvented as Brooks Note tasting room. Flights of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay include a sampling of local charcuterie. Barber Cellars and Black Knight Vineyards also have downtown tasting rooms.

## RECORD STORES

After selling records in Boulder, Colorado, for 30 years, the owners of Paradise Found opened a second shop in Petaluma. Rock, jazz, punk—they have it all, plus

turntables for vinyl newbies. Three former bandmates opened another music mecca, Rain Dog Records, in 2021. Shelves are packed with hard-to-find cassettes and CDs plus vintage albums from Patsy Cline and the New York Dolls.

## HOME AND GARDEN GOODS

Take home a potted succulent or houseplant from Flourish, or stock up on heritage tomato and cucumber seeds and daffodil bulbs at Petaluma Seed Bank.

For unique household goods, peruse Ceto Home's block-printed pillows and cloth napkins made from sustainable textiles. The Find carries vintage furniture and home decor like 1970s stoneware and 1980s collectibles. Pick up bulk bath and cleaning products and other low-waste items at Refill Mercantile.





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# 72 Hours in Napa Valley

Napa Valley stretches 30 miles north to south, with many distinctive towns and experiences to discover in between. This tour hits the highlights, from the buzzy town of Napa to quirky and cool Calistoga.

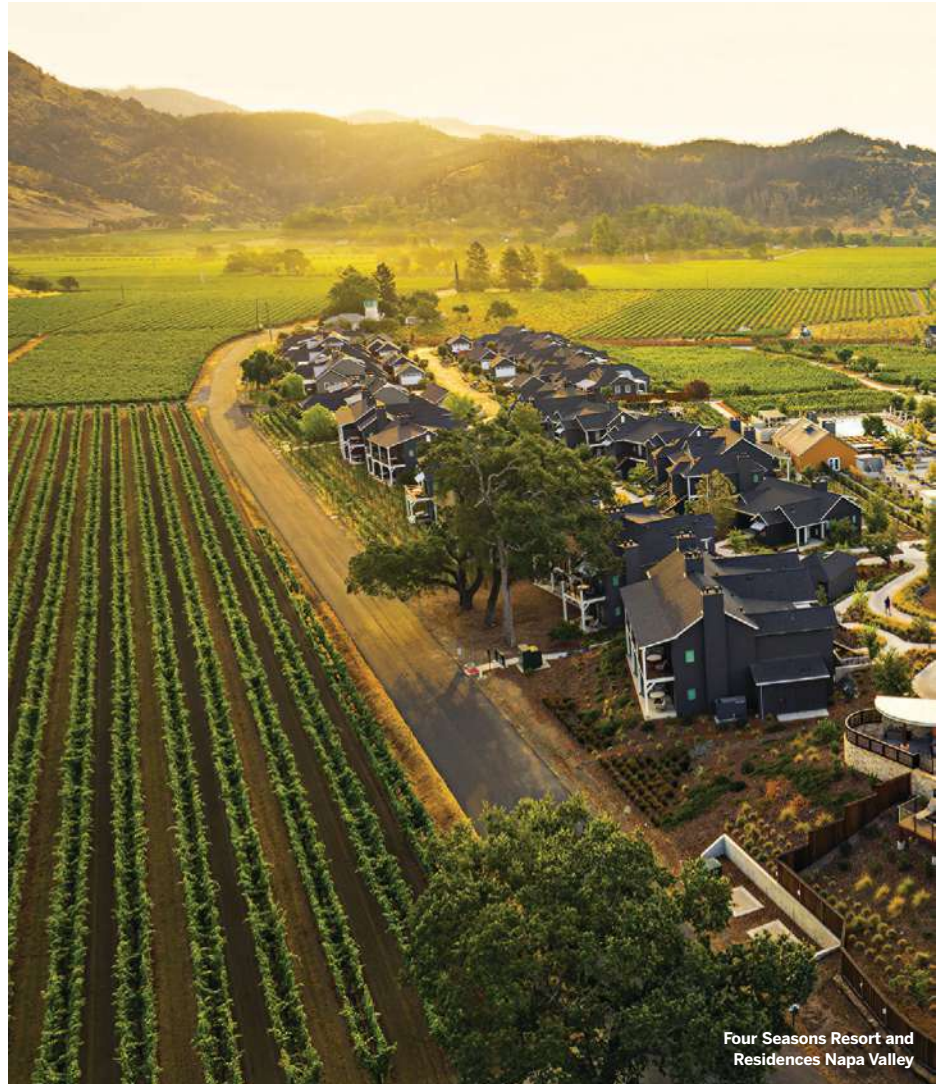
## Day 1: NAPA

Start in Napa, a vibrant city full of trendy tasting rooms, boutiques, and restaurants. After fueling up on chilaquiles or pillowy pancakes at Grace's Table, rent a bicycle or e-bike at Napa Valley Bike Shop and take a scenic pedal to Yountville on the car-free Napa Valley Vine Trail. Recharge over French bistro fare at Michelin-starred Bouchon, then stroll Washington Street to explore shops, tasting rooms, and the Yountville Art Walk sculpture tour.

Pedal back to Napa and spend the afternoon browsing the riverfront shops. For a vinous pick-me-up with a vinyl soundtrack, visit Benevolent Neglect Wines. Next, head to dinner at Compline, celebrated for its unpretentious wine list and the best burger in town. Settle in for the night at the blissfully remote Poetry Inn or the hip, urban-style Andaz.

## Day 2: ST. HELENA

Make your way up the valley to St. Helena, which boasts a blend of small-town charm and city sophistication. Begin at Model



Bakery on boutique-rich Main Street for pastries or a breakfast sandwich made with one of their legendary English muffins.

Next, set out for Spottswode Estate Vineyard and Winery to sample organic Cabernet Sauvignon. Continue tasting at Faust, a restored Victorian mansion with a stunning modern aesthetic. A farm-to-table lunch is just five minutes away at Farmstead at Long Meadow Ranch, a casual spot that showcases homegrown produce, beef, and wines from the ranch.

When you're ready to chill, check in at the elegant Alila Napa Valley, which is perfectly situated among the vines. Dine at Goose & Gander, set in a 1920s Craftsman bungalow, and order anything from the wood-fired oven.

## Day 3: CALISTOGA

Drive north to laid-back Calistoga, famous for its mud baths and mineral spas. Splurge on the plush Four Seasons Resort, which includes a working winery, or stay at one of the downtown hotel-spa resorts that are also known for their restaurants, like Sam's Social Club at Indian Springs Resort & Spa, or SolBar at the upscale Solage Resort & Spa are both great. Check out eclectic shops along Lincoln Avenue, like Blackbird, a California-centric home decor and kitchenware boutique. Toast your excellent taste, and cap off your three-day stay, with a flight of five sparkling wines at Schramsberg.



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**San Francisco:** PIER 39, #B16, 2nd Level; 415/377-2707

**More information**  
San Francisco Travel Association  
[sftravel.com](http://sftravel.com)

visit

**ALAMEDA**

**Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach.** This 2.5-mile-long beach was once known as the "Coney Island of the West." Go to the visitor center to learn about the park's past. 510/544-3175; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**USS Hornet Sea, Air, & Space Museum.** Moored at a former naval air station, this ship has been transformed into a state-of-the-art museum environment. Explore exhibits from the NASA Apollo moon missions. 510/521-8448; [uss-hornet.org](http://uss-hornet.org)

**APTOS**

**The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.** Enjoy hiking, jogging, and biking on more than 30 miles of trails, rising from sea level to steep coastal mountains of more than 2,600 feet. Picnic tables and barbecue pits are available. 831/763-7063; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Seacliff State Beach.** Known for its fishing pier, this beach also has a long stretch of sand backed by bluffs and is a popular swimming spot. The weather can be changeable; layered clothing is recommended. 831/685-6500; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**BENICIA**

**Benicia Capitol State Historic Park.** Bring a picnic and enjoy the grounds or take a guided tour (advance reservations required) to learn about an important time in California's history. 707/745-3385; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**BERKELEY**

**Visit Berkeley/Visitor Information Center.** 2030 Addison St., Ste. 102. Located in the Downtown Arts District, with free maps and information on lodging, restaurants, shopping, tours, and events. 510/549-7040; 800/847-4823; [visitor@visitberkeley.com](mailto:visitor@visitberkeley.com); [visitberkeley.com](http://visitberkeley.com) See ad, p. 161

**University of California Botanical Garden.** The 34-acre garden has more than 10,000 different kinds of plants from around the world, cultivated by region. 510/643-2755; [botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

**University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.** One of the largest university art museums in the United States, with a gallery, store, theaters, and a café in downtown Berkeley. 510/642-0808; [bampfa.berkeley.edu](http://bampfa.berkeley.edu)

**BODEGA BAY**

**Sonoma Coast State Park.** Find sandy beaches below rugged headlands, a craggy coastline, and secluded

coves. Foggy mornings usually shift to cool ocean breezes in the afternoon. 707/875-3483; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**BOLINAS**

**Bolinas Museum.** Five galleries preserve and exhibit the art and history of coastal Marin at this free museum. Dance performances, gallery talks, historical photos, plus contemporary sculpture, photography, and graphic arts. 415/868-0330; [bolinasmuseum.org](http://bolinasmuseum.org)

**Point Blue Conservation Science.** Formerly known as the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, this research center offers bird-banding and mist-netting demonstrations, a visitor center, and a short nature trail at its Palomarin Field Station. 415/868-0655; [pointblue.org](http://pointblue.org)

**BOULDER CREEK**

**Big Basin Redwoods State Park.** Established in 1902, the state's oldest park is home to the largest continuous stand of coast redwoods south of San Francisco. 831/338-8860; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**CALISTOGA**

**Robert Louis Stevenson State Park.** Climb to the top of Mt. Saint Helena, the tallest peak in California's wine country, for 360-degree views of Napa, Sonoma, and Lake Counties. 707/942-4575; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)



**Visit Calistoga.** 1133 Washington Street. Famous for hot-springs spas, world-class wines, artisan shops, and award-winning restaurants. A sophisticated, friendly small town with the most stunning scenery in Napa Valley. 707/942-6333; [visitcalistoga.com](http://visitcalistoga.com) See ad, p. 167

## CAPITOLA

**New Brighton State Beach.** Located just south of Santa Cruz, this beach features picnic areas, swimming, fishing, and a nearby forest. The camping area is on a bluff and overlooks northern Monterey Bay. 831/464-6329; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## CLOVERDALE

**Cloverdale History Center and Museum.** Sign up for a docent-led tour of the 19th-century Gould-Shaw House, one of town's oldest documented dwellings, as well as a vintage mud wagon and cannonball safe. 707/894-2067; [cloverdalehistoricalsociety.org](http://cloverdalehistoricalsociety.org)

## CONCORD

**Concord Pavilion.** Each spring through fall, this premiere venue is where music and comedy fans can see their favorite performers take center stage. [livenation.com/venues/14806/concord-pavilion](http://livenation.com/venues/14806/concord-pavilion)

**Markham Nature Park and Arboretum.** Gardens, a bee farm, and 45 plant species from California, South Africa, Australia, South America with the Galindo Creek running through! [markhamarboretum.org](http://markhamarboretum.org)

**Mount Diablo.** Towering 3,849 ft., Mount Diablo brings hikers, cyclists, and campers to its 20,000-acre park with over 400 plant and animal species and amazing views. [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Pixieland.** An amusement park just for children with colorful and fun rides like Red Baron Airplanes, Dragon Roller Coaster, and the Pixieland Express. [pixieland.com](http://pixieland.com)

**Six Flags Hurricane Harbor.** Northern California's biggest and most thrilling water park, home to more than 35 world-class water attractions. [sixflags.com/hurricaneharborconcord](http://sixflags.com/hurricaneharborconcord)

**Todos Santos Plaza.** Live music and events all year. The park is surrounded by incredible spots for food and beverage too! [visitconcordca.com/outdoors/todos-santos-plaza/](http://visitconcordca.com/outdoors/todos-santos-plaza/)

**Visit Concord—Visitor Center.** 2151 Salvio Street. Stop by our visitor center in the heart of historic downtown Concord. Find information on things to do, places to eat, and all the community has to offer. [visitconcordca.com](http://visitconcordca.com) See ad, p. 165

## DANVILLE

**Blackhawk Museum.** This Danville museum is a must-visit for car lovers and history buffs. Experience all five of the museum's distinct galleries: The Classic Car Collection, The Spirit of the Old West, Into China, Art of Africa, and World of Nature. 925/736-2277; [blackhawkmuseum.org](http://blackhawkmuseum.org)

**Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site.** Visit the home where this first American playwright to win the Nobel Prize for Literature penned the play *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. 925/228-8860 x6422; [nps.gov/euon](http://nps.gov/euon)

## DUBLIN

**Dublin Camp Parks Military History Center.** Visit the military base that transformed Dublin into a thriving city. See fascinating exhibits, take a virtual tour, or peruse the free Military Book Library. 925/452-2100; [dublin.ca.gov](http://dublin.ca.gov)

**The Wave.** Bring your bathing suit to this Dublin waterpark to experience state-of-the-art aquatics facilities including an expansive indoor pool, water

slide tower, and splash zone with water play features. 925/574-4800; [thedublinwave.com](http://thedublinwave.com)

## EMERYVILLE

**Rotten City—Emeryville Cultural Arts District.** This arts colony first emerged when guerilla art began to appear on the shoreline. The former industrial area is now home to film studios, galleries, and theaters. [caculturaldistricts.org/emeryville](http://caculturaldistricts.org/emeryville)

## FAIRFIELD

**Jelly Belly Candy Company.** 1 Jelly Belly Lane, Fairfield. Store open 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Factory Tours 9:15 a.m.–4 p.m., Café 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Visit [jellybelly.com](http://jellybelly.com) under Visit Us, or call 707/399-2286 for current information. See ad, p. 21

**Visit Fairfield.** Situated between San Francisco and Sacramento, Fairfield is home to the Jelly Belly Candy Factory, the Suisun Valley wine region, and just minutes from Napa and Sonoma. [visitfairfieldca.com](http://visitfairfieldca.com) See ad, p. 21

## FORT BRAGG

**Skunk Train.** Redwood tours by rail. An easy escape into the storied redwoods of Nor Cal. Willits Depot is just 2.5 hours from San Francisco on Hwy 101. Or try the railbikes in Fort Bragg. 707/964-6371; [skunktrain.com](http://skunktrain.com) See ad, pgs. 167, 175

## FREMONT

**Mission San José.** Learn about the history of this 1797 mission at the Mission Museum before taking a self-guided tour of the cemetery and peaceful church, home to a rare Spanish pipe organ. 510/657-1797; [missionsanjose.org](http://missionsanjose.org)

## GLEN ELLEN

**Jack London State Historic Park.** A National Historic Landmark, this park has more than 26 miles of trails and historic buildings from the time when the famous writer and adventurer called it his home. 707/938-5216; [jacklondonpark.com](http://jacklondonpark.com)

## GUERNEVILLE

**Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve.** Magnificent sequoia trees stand together as a testament to the wonders of the natural world. The reserve includes a visitor center, outdoor amphitheater, nature trails, and picnic facilities. 707/869-2015; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Russian River Visitor Center.** Find friendly greeters who can help you explore the majestic redwoods, find a winery that suits your taste, book spa experiences, and enjoy river activities. Open daily. 707/869-9000; [russianriver.com](http://russianriver.com)

## HALF MOON BAY

**Gray Whale Cove State Beach.** This rugged beach gets its name from the whales that can often be spotted close to shore. Access the sheltered cove via a trail leading down from cliffs. 650/726-8819; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Half Moon Bay State Beach.** Camp, hike, run, sunbathe, or swim along four miles of broad, sandy beach. Camp overnight at one of 52 sites, both for tents and recreational vehicles. 650/726-8819; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## HEALDSBURG

**Healdsburg Museum.** Learn about the history of Sonoma County through permanent displays and changing exhibitions. Located in the former Carnegie Library, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. 707/431-3325; [healdsburgmuseum.org](http://healdsburgmuseum.org)

**Sonoma County Wine Library.** With a collection of 5,000 books, this is one of the most comprehensive collections of wine information in the world. Housed within the Healdsburg Regional Library. 707/433-3772; [sonomalibrary.org/locations](http://sonomalibrary.org/locations)

**Wine Road Northern Sonoma County.** Your connection to over 130 wineries and 40 lodgings in beautiful northern Sonoma County, CA. Just an hour north of the Golden Gate. Tune in to [wineroadpodcast.com](http://wineroadpodcast.com) for winemaker interviews and itinerary ideas. 707/433-4335; [wineroad.com](http://wineroad.com)

## INVERNESS

**Tomales Bay State Park.** This park comprises three distinct areas: Millerton Point, Shell Beach, and Heart's Desire. Hike a mile-long trail to Jepson Memorial Grove, one of the finest remaining groves of Bishop pine. 415/669-1140; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## JENNER

**Fort Ross State Historic Park.** Venture into the past at this former settlement from the early 1800s. Stop by the visitor center and bring lunch to enjoy one of three picnic areas. 707/847-3437; [fortross.org](http://fortross.org)

**Salt Point State Park.** Discover panoramic views, kelp-dotted coves, and open grasslands along 20 miles of hiking trails and six miles of rugged coastline. Camping available. 707/847-3221; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## KENWOOD

**Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.** Walk the self-guided nature trail along the headwaters of Sonoma Creek and view scenic rock outcroppings, redwoods, and ferns. A 25-foot waterfall flows after winter rains. 707/833-5712; [sugarloafpark.org](http://sugarloafpark.org)

## LIVERMORE

**Discovery Center at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.** Experience a broad-based display of science and technology, as well as highlights of the laboratory's history. Free admission. 925/423-3272; [lnl.gov](http://lnl.gov)

**Livermore Valley Wine Country.** Oenophiles, head east of San Francisco to the scenic Livermore Valley, where you'll find 50 family-owned wineries. Enjoy intimate tastings, award-winning wines, and plenty of vineyard tours at affordable prices. 925/447-9463; [lvwine.org](http://lvwine.org)

## LOS ALTOS

**Los Altos History Museum.** Learn about the area's transformation from an agricultural paradise to the high-tech hub of Silicon Valley. Housed in a turn-of-the-century Craftsman-style house. Free admission. 650/948-9427; [losaltoshistory.org](http://losaltoshistory.org)

## LOS GATOS

**Castle Rock State Park.** Located along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains, this park is popular for hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and climbing on the area's caverns and rocks. 408/868-9540; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## MARTINEZ

**John Muir National Historic Site.** Begin your exploration of John Muir's life and legacy at the visitor center, then hike Mount Wanda and explore the grounds on your own. 925/228-8860; [nps.gov/jomu](http://nps.gov/jomu)

**Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial.** This seaside memorial is dedicated to the deadliest home-front disaster in WWII. Learn about the explosion that occurred when two ships loaded with munitions met a tragic end. 925/228-8860; [nps.gov/poch](http://nps.gov/poch)



## MILL VALLEY

**Aero Adventures.** Offering the most unique air tour experience in California. One-of-a-kind air tours over the Bay Area by seaplanes and helicopters, giving a guest a bird's eye view of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, the San Francisco skyline, Muir Woods, Sausalito, and more! 888/SEAPLANE; [seaplane.com](http://seaplane.com)

**Mount Tamalpais State Park.** Enjoy redwood groves, oak woodlands, and spectacular views. More than 50 miles of hiking trails within the park connect to a larger, 200-mile-long trail system. 415/388-2070; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Muir Woods National Monument.** Surround yourself in a primeval redwood forest. Explore trails, points of interest, or attend a ranger-led program. Reservations are required for all vehicles and shuttle riders. 415/561-2850; [nps.gov/muwo](http://nps.gov/muwo)

## MONTARA

**Montara State Beach.** Explore tide pools, go surf fishing, and find a sea cave, exposed at low tide. This mile-long sandy beach is protected by sculpted sandstone cliffs and features a historic lighthouse. 650/726-8819; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## MOSS BEACH

**Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.** During low tides, discover colorful sea creatures that are revealed by the departing waves on this 3-mile-long reef running from Point Montara to Pillar Point, one of California's largest intertidal reefs. 650/728-3584; [fitzgeraldreserve.org](http://fitzgeraldreserve.org)

## MOUNT HAMILTON

**Lick Observatory.** View exhibits in the main observatory, built in 1888, and enjoy an informal educational talk. Gift shop and visitor center are open Thursday through Sunday. 408/274-5061; [ucolick.org](http://ucolick.org)

## MOUNTAIN VIEW

**Computer History Museum.** In the heart of California's technology hub, learn about Silicon Valley icons and the 2,000-year history of computers at the largest computer history exhibition in the world. 650/810-1010; [computerhistory.org](http://computerhistory.org)

**NASA-Ames Exploration Center.** Stop by the visitor center at Moffett Field for a free self-guided tour and to learn more about this facility. Find official gear and collectibles in the gift shop. [nasa.gov/ames](http://nasa.gov/ames)

## NAPA

**Napa Art Walk.** Biennial rotating art exhibit throughout downtown Napa. In the squares all around the town, you'll see large marvels of imagination and craft created by artists. [napaartwalk.org](http://napaartwalk.org)

## NOVATO

**Olompali State Historic Park.** This historic park was once home to the Miwok Tribe. Enjoy views of the Petaluma River and San Pablo Bay or hike the 9-mile loop up Mount Burdell. 707/769-5652; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## OAKLAND

**African American Museum & Library at Oakland.** Dedicated to the discovery, preservation, interpretation, and sharing of historical and cultural experiences of African Americans in California and the West. 510/637-0200; [oaklandlibrary.org/locations](http://oaklandlibrary.org/locations)

**Chabot Space and Science Center.** In the Oakland hills' Redwood Regional Park, this state-of-the-art museum has interactive displays on the wonders of the galaxies, visitor-accessible telescopes, and a first-rate planetarium. 510/336-7300; [chabotspace.org](http://chabotspace.org)

**Oakland Museum of California.** View collections dedicated to state history, art, and the natural world.

Exhibits are animated by innovative interpretive tools and interactive features. Don't miss the terraced roof gardens and koi pond. 510/318-8400; [museumca.org](http://museumca.org)

**USS Potomac.** Take a tour of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential yacht, the "floating White House." The 165-foot vessel is open for dockside tours and two-hour cruises from June through November, and on weekends in December. 510/627-1215; [usspotomac.org](http://usspotomac.org)

## PACIFICA

**Pacifica State Beach.** Also known as Linda Mar, this crescent-shaped beach is located at the mouth of San Pedro Valley. Take a stroll along the ocean-side trail or surf the break. 650/738-7381; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## PALO ALTO

**Museum of American Heritage.** Discover inventions that shaped America, displayed in a century-old home and garden. Learn about domestic technologies that shaped the 20th century. Permanent and rotating exhibits. 650/321-1004; [moah.org](http://moah.org)

## PESCADERO

**Año Nuevo State Park.** Take a 3- to 4-mile hike to view elephant seals; obtain a free visitor's permit daily from the entrance station. Explore the natural history exhibit within the Marine Education Center. 650/879-2025; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Pescadero State Beach.** Hike the mile-long shoreline to discover sandy coves, rocky cliffs, and tide pools. Across the highway, find a marshlands preserve, popular with birders. 650/726-8819; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park.** The 115-foot-tall lighthouse, dating back to 1872, is one of the tallest in the U.S. Hike along the coastal areas to spot seals in the surf. 650/879-2120; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## PETALUMA

**Marin French Cheese Co.—California Original Since 1865.** The country's oldest cheese company is hand-crafting traditional, award-winning, soft-ripened cheeses with milk from local neighboring dairies. Stop by our cheese shop and scenic picnic by the pond. Open daily. 707/762-6001; [marinfrenchcheese.com](http://marinfrenchcheese.com) See ad, p. 25

**Visit Petaluma.** Where historic charm meets urban sophistication in Wine Country. Boutique and antique shopping, art galleries, award-winning dining, river recreation, craft breweries, and wine in a bustling downtown. 707/769-0429; [visitpetaluma.com](http://visitpetaluma.com) See ad, p. 25

## PLEASANT HILL

**Pleasant Hill.** Pleasant Hill is at the center of everything in the Bay Area. With an array of outdoor hiking and walking trails, wineries, restaurants and shopping outlets, whether you're visiting friends and family or just stopping through, enjoy our picks of the best things to do and see. [staypleasanthill.com](http://staypleasanthill.com) See ad, p. 165

## PLEASANTON

**Alameda County Fairgrounds.** These sprawling fairgrounds host more than 300 events each year in Pleasanton, including food festivals, drive-in movies, car shows, and the annual Alameda County Fair. 925/426-7600; [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com)

**Visit Tri-Valley.** Local California—walkable downtowns, alfresco dining, and trails to tickle every fancy from craft beer to hiking to ice cream. For California's oldest wine country, largest premium outlets, and sunshine you can count on, [visittrivalley.com](http://visittrivalley.com) See ad, p. 165

## POINT REYES STATION

**Point Reyes National Seashore.** More than 100 square miles of pristine ocean beaches with excellent hiking and backpacking opportunities, plus 1,500 species of animals and plants to discover, including a large herd of tule elk. 415/464-5100; [nps.gov/pore](http://nps.gov/pore)

## RICHMOND

**Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park.** Learn about the sacrifices made by civilians on the home front during WWII. The museum's collection includes written narratives, photographs, personal belongings, and defense industry equipment. 510/232-5050; [nps.gov/rori](http://nps.gov/rori)

## SAN CARLOS

**Hiller Aviation Museum.** Celebrate the spirit of discovery and the innovation of aviation pioneers at this museum, located, appropriately, at the San Carlos Airport. Open daily. 650/654-0200; [hiller.org](http://hiller.org)

## SAN FRANCISCO

**Alcatraz Island.** Located 1.25 miles offshore from San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz has served as a fort, a military prison, and a maximum-security federal penitentiary. Sign up for a behind-the-scenes tour. 415/561-4900; [nps.gov/alca](http://nps.gov/alca)

**Asian Art Museum.** Take a free guided tour of this museum's collection, a veritable panorama of Asian art and culture. Special exhibitions and self-guided tours are available daily. 415/581-3500; [asianart.org](http://asianart.org)

**Cable Car Museum.** Learn about the inventor, technologies, builders, and expansion of the cable cars of San Francisco. Admission is free. Located in San Francisco's Washington-Mason powerhouse and carbarn. 415/474-1887; [cablecarmuseum.org](http://cablecarmuseum.org)

**Chinatown.** Discover shops filled with food, herbs, porcelains, furniture, fabrics, and curios from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan in this historic area, one of the country's oldest and most established Chinatowns. [sanfranciscochinatown.com](http://sanfranciscochinatown.com)

**Exploratorium.** The Exploratorium is more than an iconic museum—it's an all-ages gateway to joyful exploration of science, art, and human perception. Uncover your wonder at TripAdvisor's #1 rated museum in SF. Pier 15 on the Embarcadero. [exploratorium.edu](http://exploratorium.edu) See ad, p. 171

**Ghirardelli Chocolate Company.** Visit the Ghirardelli Ice Cream and Chocolate shop at Ghirardelli Square for delicious sundaes including the World Famous Hot Fudge Sundae made with handmade Ghirardelli hot fudge! 415/447-2846; [ghirardelli.com](http://ghirardelli.com) See ad, p. 161

**PIER 39.** The Embarcadero at Beach St. Two levels of dining, entertainment, shopping and attractions, surrounded by unbeatable views of the city and the bay. Take it from our world-famous sea lions: a visit to San Francisco starts at The Pier. 800/325-7437; [pier39.com](http://pier39.com) See ad, p. 163

## THE SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA

**The San Francisco Peninsula.** South of San Francisco, north of expectations. Parks, hiking trails, bay and Pacific coast beaches, farm-to-table cuisine, easy access to San Francisco, dog-friendly. Explore The Peninsula. [thesanfranciscopeninsula.com](http://thesanfranciscopeninsula.com) See ad, p. 163

## SAN GREGORIO

**Pomponio State Beach.** Wide, sweeping sand stretches and roaring surf make this beach a popular destination. Picnic tables, barbecues, and plentiful parking for day-use; open 8 a.m. to sunset. 650/726-8819; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)



## SAN JOSE

**Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose.** Kids learn about science—from fossil-digging to bubble blowing and gardening—at this hands-on museum with more than 150 exhibits. 408/298-5437; [cdm.org](http://cdm.org)

## Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium.

The most extensive collection of ancient Egyptian artifacts west of the Mississippi. Galleries display mummies, burial tombs, children's toys, and a replica of the Rosetta Stone. 408/947-3600; [egyptianmuseum.org](http://egyptianmuseum.org)

## Visit San Jose—San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau.

408 Almaden Boulevard. In the heart of Silicon Valley. You know San Jose for innovation. What may surprise you are the diverse neighborhoods and natural beauty. Three hundred days of sunshine make dining alfresco a year-round event. 800/SAN-JOSE; [sanjose.org](http://sanjose.org) See ad, p. 2

## SAN RAFAEL

**Downtown San Rafael Arts District.** Enjoy galleries, open studios, art exhibits, and more within this district, founded with the goal of promoting socioeconomic and ethnic diversity through local arts and culture. 415/451-8119; [artsanrafael.org](http://artsanrafael.org)

**Marin Convention and Visitors Bureau.** Marin offers the best views, hiking, biking, and healthy activities in the Bay Area, and the hotels are perfect for team building retreats or romantic getaways. Marin County is an affordable alternative to San Francisco on the sunny side of the Golden Gate Bridge. [visitmarin.org](http://visitmarin.org)

## SANTA CLARA

**Mission Santa Clara de Asís.** Dating back to 1777, this mission remains an active church today. In addition to regular services, the mission hosts choral, orchestra, and other Santa Clara University musical events. 408/554-4023; [scu.edu/missionchurch](http://scu.edu/missionchurch)

## SANTA CRUZ

**Lighthouse Field State Beach.** Surfers, beach lovers, birds, and monarch butterflies (during winter months) are all drawn to this sandy stretch. After a day in the sun, take a tour of the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum. 831/423-4609; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park.** Learn about the legacy of the Spanish mission system from the Native American perspective at this historical site; the remaining early 1800s adobe structure used to house Indian residents. 831/425-5849; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Visit Santa Cruz County.** Located on California's iconic Highway 1, Santa Cruz County is the birthplace of mainland surfing in the U.S. Coastal air, breezy forest trails, and a classic West Coast vibe combine with boutique wineries and farm-to-table freshness. 831/425-1234; 800/833-3494; [visitsantacruz.org](http://visitsantacruz.org)

## SANTA ROSA

**Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center.** 2301 Hardies Lane. Spend the day with Snoopy and the Peanuts gang. See original Peanuts comic strips, explore Charles M. Schulz's studio, create your own comics, and enjoy exhibitions for all ages. 707/579-4452; [schulzmuseum.org](http://schulzmuseum.org) See ad, p. 25

## SARATOGA

**Hakone Gardens.** Enjoy the serenity and beauty of a historic (built in 1917) Japanese garden estate as you stroll through the authentic hill-and-pond style strolling garden featuring a waterfall, colorful koi, and beautiful colors. 408/741-4994; [hakone.com](http://hakone.com)

## SAUSALITO

**Bay Area Discovery Museum.** At the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge, this museum encourages kids to awaken curiosity at every turn. 415/339-3900; [bayareadiscoverymuseum.org](http://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org)

**Marine Mammal Center.** In the Marin Headlands, learn about Pacific harbor seals and enjoy educational programs and tours or explore exhibits on your own. 415/289-7325; [marinemammalcenter.org](http://marinemammalcenter.org)

## SEBASTOPOL

**The Barlow.** This 12-acre outdoor mercantile center showcases offerings from Sonoma County makers, including brewers, distillers, vintners, chefs, designers, and artists. Dog-friendly. 707/824-5600; [thebarlow.net](http://thebarlow.net)

## SONOMA

**Mission San Francisco de Solano.** This mission was the last to be established in Alta California and the site of the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. 707/938-1519; [missionscalifornia.com](http://missionscalifornia.com)

**Sonoma County Tourism.** Life opens up in Sonoma County. Just 30 miles north of San Francisco, experience our laid-back sophistication at 425+ wineries, organic farms, towering redwoods, and miles of Pacific Coast. 800/576-6662; Order a free visitors guide at [sonomacounty.com](http://sonomacounty.com) See ad, p. 25

## WALNUT CREEK

**Visit Walnut Creek.** Just outside San Francisco, Walnut Creek provides the excitement of a vibrant city and the charm of hometown California. You'll find an eclectic

collection of culture, award-winning shopping, hotels, sports facilities and cuisine. [visitwalnutcreek.org](http://visitwalnutcreek.org) See ad, p. 165

## WATSONVILLE

**Elkhorn Slough.** Watch otters and seals play in the estuary and spot birds traveling the Pacific Flyway. 831/728-2822; [elkhornslough.org](http://elkhornslough.org)

## stay

HOTELS AND RESORTS

## CALISTOGA

**Dr. Wilkinson's Backyard Resort and Mineral Springs.** 1507 Lincoln Ave. Since 1952, Dr. Wilkinson's has been providing wellness, relaxation and good times. Home to healing waters, mud baths, and a backyard that keeps you connected—Calistoga's original wellness resort. 707/942-4102; [drwilkinson.com](http://drwilkinson.com) \$\$\$ See ad, p. 167



## PETALUMA

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# NORTH COAST

Explore charming villages where ancient redwood forests and the rugged California coastline meet



At 130 feet, Pewetole Island is the largest sea stack in Trinidad

The rocks and islands at Trinidad State Beach are part of California Coastal National Monument

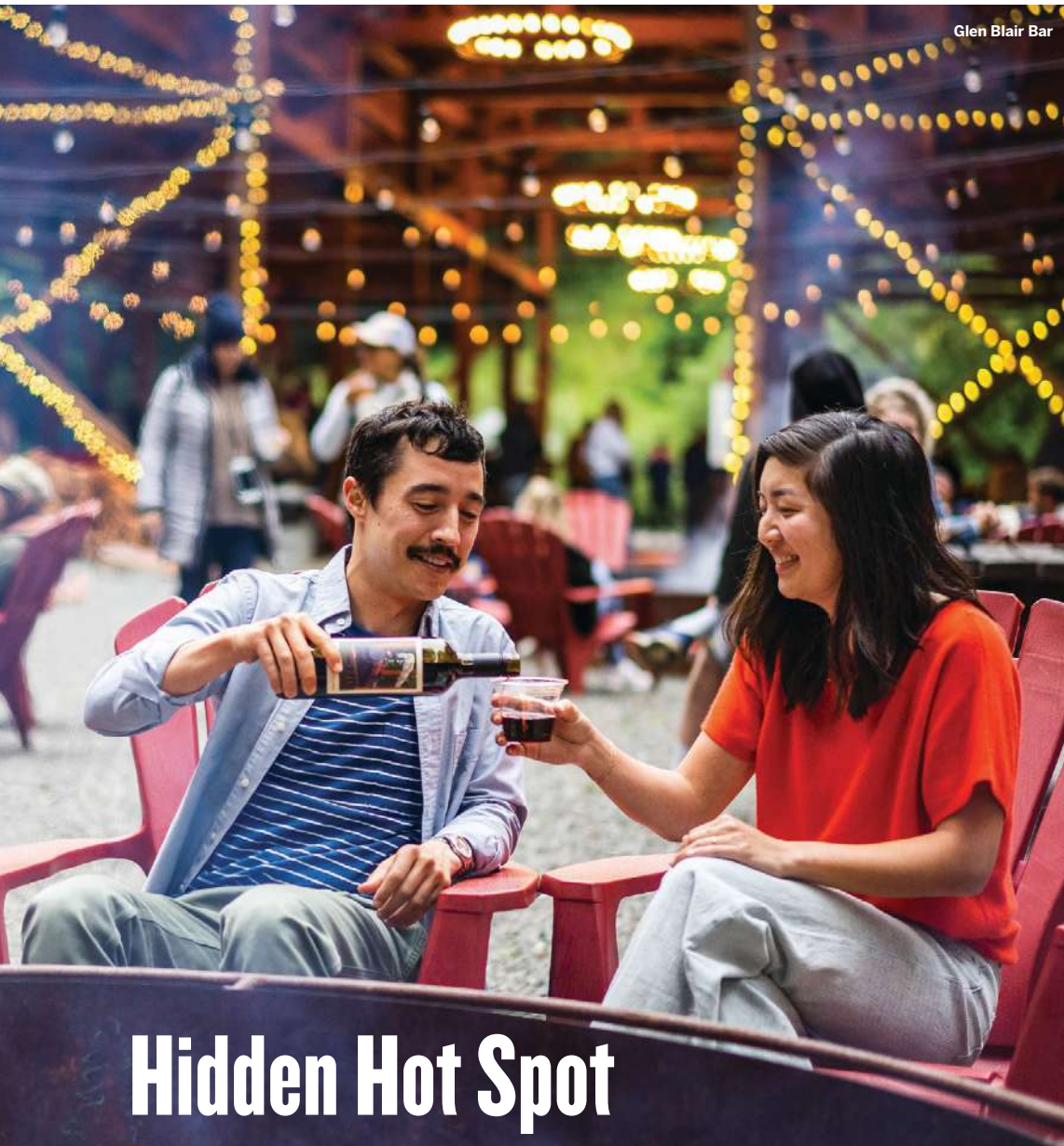


Sitka spruce are one of the few trees that can endure the salty sea air

Composed of hardy greenstone and basalt, sea stacks resist erosion by wind and waves

Barnacles, sea stars, and a wealth of other intertidal life populate the waters of Trinidad State Beach





Glen Blair Bar

# Hidden Hot Spot

**T**he only way to sip a cocktail at the outdoor speakeasy **Glen Blair Bar** is to travel by train from Fort Bragg in Mendocino County. And not just any train—you need a ticket for the historic Skunk Train, which has been chugging along the tracks since 1885.

Choose a leather seat in the club car or post up on the open-air deck, then kick back for a leisurely 25-minute ride along the Pudding Creek Estuary, across trestle bridges, and into the Noyo River canyon's redwood groves. The Skunk Train once carried logs from the inland forest to coastal sawmills and ports, but today's passengers snap selfies and admire the scenery.

When you see twinkling string lights up ahead, prepare to disembark at the woody oasis of Glen Blair Bar, a rustic encampment hugged by stately redwoods. Stroll into the pole-barn pavilion and order a Skunk Beer Amber Ale or signature cocktail, then join the patrons mingling by the firepits and listening to live music. The weather may be warm and sunny or damp and drizzly, but this forested watering hole always feels cozy.

The adults-only bar comes to life on Friday and select Saturday nights from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. (check the online calendar). Leashed dogs can join the fun.

## EDITOR'S PICKS

Next door to Mendocino's Café Beaujolais, the Nicholson House is an updated 1904 Victorian with six rooms decked out in handcrafted furniture. Reserve Suite 7 for sweeping ocean views.

The New Museum isn't a repository of history or art. It's a new brewery in Point Arena's oldest building, where brewmasters Peter McDowell and Rose Walterbach craft Belgian ales and hop-forward IPAs.

At Dancing Crow Vineyards' new Hopland tasting room, guests sip wine, nosh on charcuterie boards, and play cornhole on an expansive courtyard with views of the green Mayacamas Mountains.

Satisfy cravings for Malaysian curry and steamed dumplings at Ukiah's City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Jyun Kang Vegetarian Restaurant has reopened after a three-year closure.

Eureka's Sequoia Park Zoo is home for American black bears and coyotes that can't be released back into the wild. View the animals from a 400-foot-long boardwalk suspended five feet in the air.



FROM TOP: ©VISIT CALIFORNIA/DAVID H. COLLIER; MLORENZ/PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES





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FORT BRAGG & WILLITS, CALIFORNIA



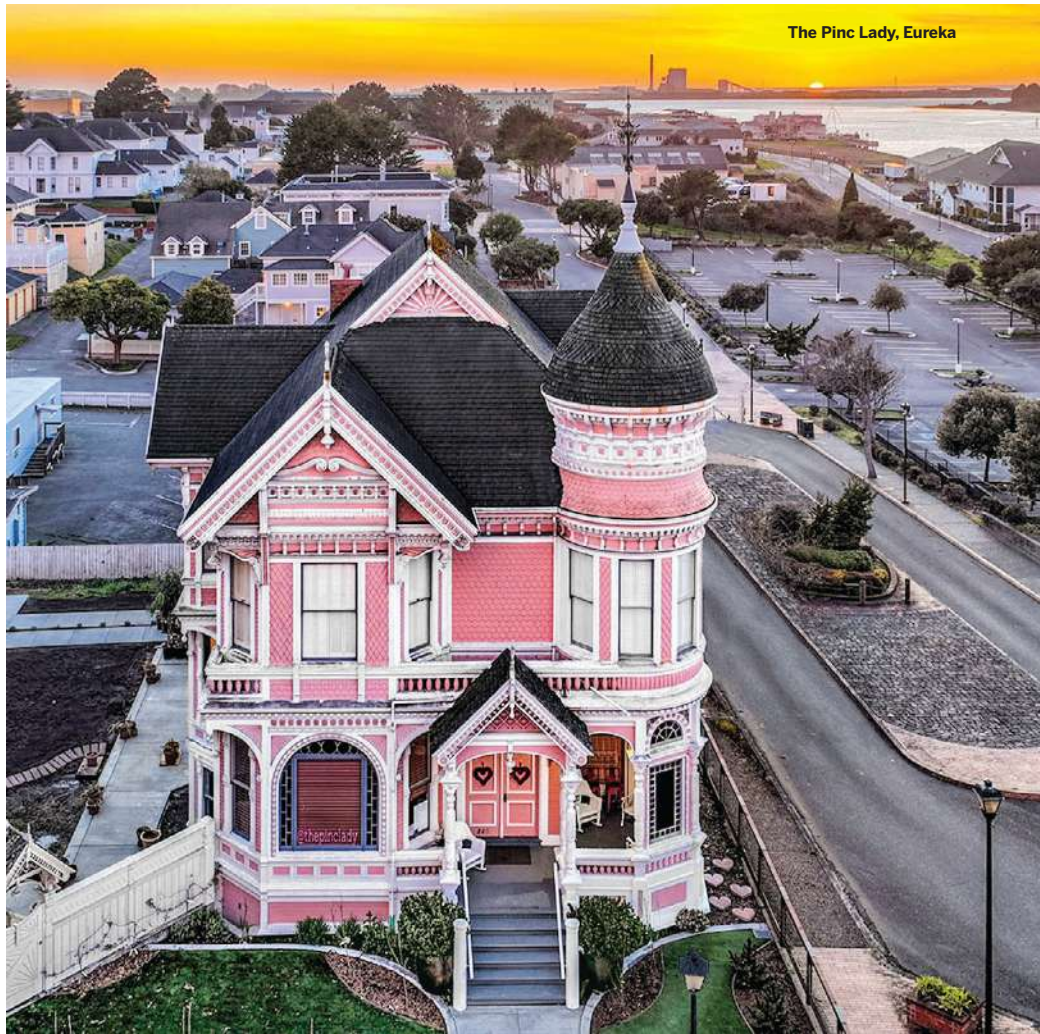
# 48 Hours in Humboldt County

This northwest California county is famous for magnificent redwoods, but its human history is fascinating, too. This trip is a peek into the lives of North Coast people, from the Native American tribes who fished and hunted on this remote coast to the sailors, gold-seekers, and lumber barons who followed.

## Day 1: EUREKA

Start at the Clarke Historical Museum, where you'll learn about Humboldt Bay's sailing heritage, the "Red Gold Rush" lumber boom, and Native American basketry. Next, take a self-guided walking tour of Old Town's waterfront, a cluster of coffeehouses, bookstores, and galleries housed in historic buildings. More than 60 percent of Eureka's architecture dates back to the Victorian era of water-glass windows, hand-milled woodwork, and ornamental details. Learn how these ornate features are made at Blue Ox Millworks Living History Park, where master craftspeople use vintage machinery to create architectural pieces that replicate 1800s originals.

Head to lunch at the Buhne Building, an 1884 Italianate structure made for the first European sea captain to sail into Humboldt Bay. Behind the Buhne's stately windows, Humboldt Bay Provisions serves local oysters,



The Pinc Lady, Eureka

bread, olives, beer, and wine. Stroll over to M Street to the fabulous Carson Mansion, a four-story masterpiece built for lumber baron William Carson. This monument to 1880s gingerbread is still the most photographed building in town. Across the street, The Pinc Lady, an 1889 Queen Anne Victorian, glows with Barbie-pink splendor. Now a hotel and event space, the mansion was built as a wedding gift for Carson's son. Climb the curved staircase to the Turret Room, then spend a restful night among velvet furnishings and floor-to-ceiling windows.

## Day 2: FORTUNA & SCOTIA

Drive 18 miles south to the Fortuna Depot Museum in

Rohner Park. This restored 1893 Northwestern Pacific depot houses historic bric-a-brac: vintage fishing poles, typewriters, barbed wire, and more. If you're not in a rush, drop by Eel River Brewing Co.'s bustling pub and order an Emerald Triangle IPA.

Continue southward to Scotia, one of the West's longest-running company-owned towns. The Pacific Lumber Company built it in 1869, and its residents worked at logging operations until 2008. Stop in for a hearty burger at the Scotia Lodge, a 1923 charmer that still retains its art deco glory.

On your trip back, take a walk around Fort Humboldt State Historic Park, perched on a bluff overlooking Humboldt Bay. Established in 1853, the fort's most famous resident was Ulysses S. Grant, who briefly served as captain 15 years before becoming the 18th U.S. president.



TWENTY  
EUREKA  
BUILDINGS  
ARE ON THE  
NATIONAL  
HISTORIC  
REGISTER,  
INCLUDING  
SEVERAL  
QUEEN ANNE  
VICTORIANS



The Mercantile



## Lake County Wine



**TAMMY LIPPS**

CHEF AND OWNER OF  
THE RIPE CHOICE FARM STAY  
AND CATERING

### SIX SIGMA RANCH

"It's a huge working cattle and sheep ranch. The tasting room is rustic and quaint, and they have wonderful cheeses and charcuterie to go with their wines. Guests can tour the ranch in a Pinzgauer, bike and hike on their trails, camp overnight, or visit the farm animals."

### SHANNON FAMILY OF WINES

"Their tasting room, The Mercantile, is modern and stylish, and it offers more than just great wine. Guests can buy picnic food and housewares, or attend events like Taco Tuesdays and Friday Night Pizza."

### LANGTRY FARMS VINEYARD & WINERY

"The winemaker, Melissa Hackett, is making some excellent wines. It has indoor and outdoor tastings and a group picnic experience."

### CHACEWATER WINERY & OLIVE MILL

"When the weather is good, you can sit outside the barrel room and order a cheese board to go with your wine. You can also taste their olive oils."

### BOATIQUE WINERY

"Boatique makes excellent wine and has a gorgeous tasting room and gardens. What's unique is their antique boat museum.

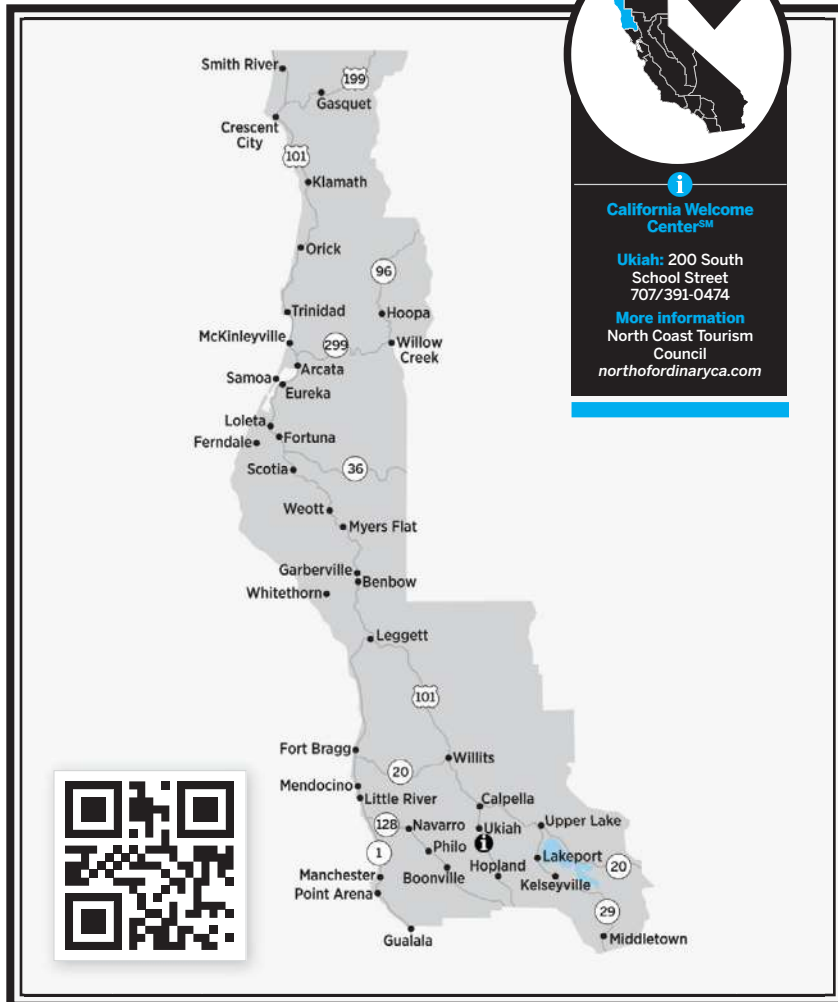
When you come to taste, you also get to see all these beautiful old wooden boats."

Boatique Winery



Six Sigma Ranch





**California Welcome Center<sup>SM</sup>**

**Ukiah:** 200 South School Street  
707/391-0474

**More information**  
North Coast Tourism Council  
[northofordinaryca.com](http://northofordinaryca.com)

**ELK**

**Greenwood State Beach.** Climb a steep trail down to this driftwood-laden beach. The cove is a popular spot with kayakers, who can paddle around a rock island, sea stacks, and rock arches. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Navarro River Redwoods State Park.** Choose between sleeping under redwood groves or alongside a sandy beach at this park's two picturesque campgrounds. Day users take advantage of fishing and kayaking. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**EUREKA**

**Clarke Historical Museum.** Step inside the historic Bank of Eureka building to learn about the rich history of Humboldt County. Walk through period-decorated rooms for a journey through time. 707/443-1947; [clarkemuseum.org](http://clarkemuseum.org)

**Fort Humboldt State Historic Park.** Discover an 1853 military post situated on a bluff overlooking Humboldt Bay. Visit the historic hospital building to see a vintage mountain howitzer cannon and a dugout canoe. 707/445-6547; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Humboldt Botanical Garden.** Located near Humboldt Bay, these gardens feature plants from both a coastal and Mediterranean climate. Practice moving meditation at *All Happy Now*, Peter Stanino's labyrinth-like art installation. 707/442-5139; [hbgf.org](http://hbgf.org)

**Morris Graves Museum of Art.** Housed in a 1902 Carnegie Library, this museum's permanent collection features works by Morris Graves, a 20th century American painter known for his mystical view of nature, as well as other internationally recognized artists. 707/442-0278; [humboldtarts.org](http://humboldtarts.org)

**Redwood Discovery Museum.** Bring the kids to this interactive museum where they can play, tinker, and learn about science, art, culture, technology, and healthy living. 707/443-9694; [discovery-museum.org](http://discovery-museum.org)

**FERNDALE**

**Ferndale State Historic Landmark.** This remote fairy-tale village and onetime dairy hub features carefully preserved Victorian-era homes, once known as Butterfat Palaces. Today you'll find art galleries, five-and-dimes, and diners in the one-square-mile town. 707/786-4477; [visitterndale.com](http://visitterndale.com)

**FORT BRAGG**

**International Sea Glass Museum.** Visit one of the world's largest permanent sea glass exhibits. Learn about the history of nearby Glass Beach, where the shore is covered with little pieces of rounded glass. 707/357-1585; [internationalseaglassmuseum.com](http://internationalseaglassmuseum.com)

**Jug Handle State Natural Reserve.** Enjoy beautiful ocean views, enchanting pygmy forests, and a bridge built in the 1930s. Hike the popular 2.5-mile Ecological Staircase Trail to explore wave-cut terraces. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**MacKerricher State Park.** Listen for barking seals on the rocky outcroppings and search for tiny creatures in the tidepools that line the shore. Popular with runners, cyclists, and equestrians. 707/964-9112; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens.** Lose your sense of time in this 47-acre garden by the sea. Rhododendrons, camellias, and magnolias tower over cultivated displays of dahlias, begonias, roses, and more. Dogs welcome. [gardenbythesea.org](http://gardenbythesea.org) See ad, p. 175

**Skunk Train.** An adventurous ride deep into the redwood forest on one of America's most scenic railroads. Trips depart from Fort Bragg and Willits. 707/964-6371; [skunktrain.com](http://skunktrain.com) See ad pgs. 167, 175

visit

**ARCATA**

**Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.** These 300 acres of constructed wetlands are a mecca for birds and also serve as a wastewater treatment facility. Visit the interpretive center, then walk, bike, or birdwatch on five miles of paths alongside freshwater and brackish marshes, tidal sloughs, salt marshes, and mudflats. 707/826-2359; [cityofarcata.org](http://cityofarcata.org)

**CARLOTTA**

**Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park.** View majestic redwoods in this small, off-the-beaten-path park. Camp along the Van Duzen River and explore 5 miles of secluded hiking trails. 707/777-3683; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**CASPAR**

**Caspar Headlands State Beach.** Explore a quiet stretch of sand sandwiched between Doyle Creek and Caspar Creek. Watch for migrating gray whales as you hike along the coastal bluffs. Also popular for surf fishing. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**CRESCENT CITY**

**Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.** Find solace at this remote stretch of rugged coastline. Hike the 2-mile Damnation Creek Trail to travel from fern-filled redwood forests down to the coast. 707/464-6101; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Del Norte County.** Wander with us in Del Norte County. Find the top things to do and plan your trip to the redwoods and the California coast from the Oregon border to Crescent City to Klamath. Hike, bike, fish, raft, surf, and more. 707/464-3174; [visitdelnortecounty.com](http://visitdelnortecounty.com)

**Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.** Hike through the shady forest filled with giant, ancient trees and 20 miles of trails. Fish, kayak, or snorkel in the Smith River. 707/464-6101; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Redwood National & State Parks.** Explore a spectacular network of parks protecting nearly half of the world's coast redwoods. Find lush rainforest, sandy beaches, massive trees, and herds of Roosevelt elk. 707/464-6101; [nps.gov/redw](http://nps.gov/redw)

**Tolowa Dunes State Park.** Horseback ride or hike through 5,000 acres of pristine wetland habitat, ocean beach, and sand dunes. Visit in spring to see wildflowers. 707/464-6101; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)



## GARBERVILLE

**Richardson Grove State Park.** Visit an exceptional grove of lowland trees, including one so big you can walk through its trunk, at one of California's first redwood parks, which has grown to 1,800 acres. Swim or fish for steelhead in the South Fork of the Eel River. 707/247-3318; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## KELSEYVILLE

**Clear Lake State Park.** Located on the shores of California's largest freshwater lake, this park is a popular spot for fishing, boating, swimming, and water sports. 707/279-4293; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## KLAMATH

**Trees of Mystery.** Redwood Hwy. 101. Explore Trees of Mystery. Experience the Sky Trail Gondola and the new Redwood Canopy Trail. Walk among redwood carvings. Visit the museum. CLIA member. 800/638-3389; [treesofmystery.net](http://treesofmystery.net) See ad, p. 175

## LEGGETT

**Smithe Redwoods State Natural Reserve.** Find the beautiful Frank and Bess Smithe Grove of redwood trees, as well as a 60-foot waterfall. Bring a picnic, a swimsuit, and your fishing pole. 707/247-3318; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Chandelier Drive-Thru Tree.** This towering redwood has stood for more than 2,400 years and served as a reliable photo-op spot for more than 80 years. Drive your car through the six-foot-wide tunnel, which was carved into its trunk in 1937. 707/925-6464; [drivethrutree.com](http://drivethrutree.com)

## LITTLE RIVER

**Van Damme State Park.** Find a scenic trail system, lush fern-filled groves, kayak tours, and year-round camping. View stunted trees in the pygmy forest and watch salmon spawn in Little River. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## LOWER LAKE

**Anderson Marsh State Historic Park.** Visit a 10,000-year-old archeological site of the Southeastern Pomo and a 19th-century ranch house at this 1,065-acre park. Explore protected habitats through hiking and boating trails. 707/279-2267; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## MANCHESTER

**Manchester State Park.** A "catch basin" for sea debris, this five-mile-long beach is great for strolling at the base of sand dunes and searching for sea treasures. Also found here: wildflowers of all hues, tundra swans, and grazing sheep. 707/882-2463; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## MCKINLEYVILLE

**Azalea State Natural Reserve.** Thanks to its namesake flora, each spring this reserve explodes with pink and white blossoms, their fragrant scent filling the air (April and May are peak bloom months). 707/677-3570; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Little River State Beach.** Serene and undeveloped, this broad beach and its rolling dunes are bordered on the north by the Little River and on the south by Clam Beach County Park, which offers camping facilities. 707/488-2041; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## MENDOCINO

**Big River Beach.** This broad, sandy beach where Big River meets the Pacific Ocean is ideal for strolling, dog-walking, picnicking, and birding. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Caspar Headlands State Natural Reserve.** Four miles north of the town of Mendocino, this dog-friendly reserve features a jagged, rocky shoreline, wildflowers, and pounding surf. Camping is available at the adjacent Caspar Beach and RV Campground. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Ford House Visitors Center and Museum.** Find travel information and volunteers to help plan your Mendocino County vacation in the historic 1854 Ford House. Visit the museum to see local artifacts and several works by Emmy Lou Packard. 707/937-4700; [mendoparks.org](http://mendoparks.org)

**Kelley House Museum.** Learn how lumbermen first moved to Mendocino in the late 1800s and started building homes out of the region's coast redwoods. Browse artifacts, photographs, and documents. 707/937-5791; [kelleyhousemuseum.org](http://kelleyhousemuseum.org)

**Mendocino Art Center.** Founded by Bill and Jennie Zacha in 1959, this art center lured legions of artists to settle in Mendocino. See works by local creatives, shop the gallery store, or take a ceramics class. 707/937-5818; [mendocinoartcenter.org](http://mendocinoartcenter.org)

**Mendocino Headlands State Park.** Hiking, surfing, whale watching, and fishing are popular activities at this park's broad beach. It's minutes from the village of Mendocino. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Point Cabrillo Light Station.** Visit this California State Historic Landmark to see a fully restored 1909 lighthouse and blacksmith and carpentry shops. On 270 acres of coastal bluffs. 707/937-6123; [pointcabrillo.org](http://pointcabrillo.org)

**Russian Gulch State Park.** Hike a 3-mile trail through a lush wash of greenery. Take in pristine beaches and a 36-foot waterfall. Watch the tumultuous Devil's Punchbowl. Also: bike, fish, dive, and kayak. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## ORICK

**Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.** Sandy beaches, giant sequoias, and fern- and lichen-draped trails are this park's signature attractions. Hike and camp or rent a cabin, and keep your eyes peeled for Roosevelt elk. 707/488-2039; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## PHILO

**Hendy Woods State Park.** Two groves of towering redwoods are preserved at this park, located in the heart of Anderson Valley wine country. See trees that are 300 feet tall and nearly 1,000 years old. Enjoy hiking, camping, swimming, canoeing, and kayaking. 707/895-3141; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## POINT ARENA

**Point Arena Lighthouse & Museum.** Standing watch over the rocky shore of Point Arena, this light station—the tallest on the Pacific Coast—offers guided tours. 877/725-4448; [pointarenalighthouse.com](http://pointarenalighthouse.com)

**Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands.** Hike 8 miles of marked trails along the rugged coastline. View sea arches, sandy beaches, and a milk barn dating back to the early 20th century. 707/468-4000; [blm.gov](http://blm.gov)

**Schooner Gulch State Beach.** This beach and its headlands are a scenic spot to commune with the Mendocino coast. Picnicking, surfing, and fishing are big draws, as is the minus-tide attraction known as Bowling Ball Beach. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## SMITH RIVER

**Pelican State Beach.** Just south of the Oregon state line, the relatively small, secluded stretch of coastline preserved here is great for sandy walks and beachcombing. 707/464-6101; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## TRINIDAD

**Humboldt Lagoons State Park.** Freshwater ponds meet the wide open ocean at this sprawling park. Spot whales, elk, and pelicans, and fish for trout and salmon. Kayaks available for rent. 707/677-3570; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Sue-meg State Park.** Lush forests meet the sea at this park, where visitors camp, watch for migrating whales, observe sea lions and seals, or explore tidepools. You can also visit a native plant garden and reconstructed Yurok plank-house village. 707/677-3570; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Trinidad Museum.** Housed in a renovated turn-of-the-century Italianate bungalow, this museum has Native American artifacts as well as exhibits on the Gold Rush and the region's whaling, shipping, fishing, and logging industries. 707/677-3883; [trinidadmuseum.org](http://trinidadmuseum.org)

**Trinidad State Beach.** Dramatic rocky outcroppings and stands of alders dot this secluded cove, which surrounds a sandy beach. Open sunrise to sunset, come here during low tide to wander amidst the waves, picnic, or simply get away from it all. 707/677-3570; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## UKIAH

**Grace Hudson Museum.** American painter Grace Hudson and her ethnologist husband spent the last years of their life in Ukiah. Visit their historic home and adjacent museum dedicated to their life and work. 707/467-2836; [gracehudsonmuseum.org](http://gracehudsonmuseum.org)

**Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve.**

This daytime-use-only reserve is home to towering redwoods, most notably the magical Kelliowen Grove, which is accessible via the two-mile Montgomery Trail. 707/937-5804; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Visit Mendocino County.** Magic is real in Mendocino County! Experience breathtaking coastlines, vibrant vineyards, and charming boutiques. A haven for outdoor enthusiasts, wine lovers, and artists. [visitmendocino.com](http://visitmendocino.com) See ad, p. 175

**Visit Ukiah.** Ukiah is known for its scenic landscapes, for outdoor adventures, wine, culinary experiences, and a culture of innovators, creators, and mavericks. Discover our treasures, inspire your senses, enjoy a relaxed pace, and "Just Be U." 707/462-4705; [visitukiah.com](http://visitukiah.com) See ad, p. 175

## WEOTT

**Humboldt Redwoods State Park.** One of the best places to view soaring redwoods by car is via the 32-mile Avenue of the Giants, an enchanting route that parallels Highway 101. The park also has more than 250 campsites and 100-plus miles of trails. 707/946-2409; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## WESTPORT

**Westport-Union Landing State Beach.** Camp along the rugged North Coast shoreline—86 first-come, first-served family campsites on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific provide magnificent views. 707/964-4406; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## WHITETHORN

**Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.** This 60-mile stretch of rugged terrain features the kind of untamed wilds that once dominated the Mendocino Coast. Trails are steep; campsites are primitive. This is how the Lost Coast earned its name. 707/247-3318; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## WILLITS

**Mendocino County Museum.** Dive deep into local history with artifacts including a 10,000-year-old Clovis point spearhead, 19th-century stagecoaches, and recovered items from a famous shipwreck. 707/459-2736; [mendocinocounty.org](http://mendocinocounty.org)





# SHASTA CASCADE

Discover grand landscapes carved by volcanic and glacial forces



In less than half a mile, hikers ascend 750 feet to reach the Cinder Cone's rim

The Cinder Cone's two visible rims are evidence of two separate eruptions





Scattered Jeffrey pines have put down roots along the crater's rim

Lassen Volcanic National Park's Cinder Cone last erupted about 1650 CE

Cinder cones—technically called scoria cones—are the most common type of volcano

The cone has two concentric craters, which are 1,050 feet and 590 feet wide



Shasta Gravity Adventures



## EDITOR'S PICKS

Order a mimosa flight and sip fruity bubbles at Redding's Branch House Riverfront Bistro, which is situated alongside the Sundial Bridge and the Sacramento River.



At Oroville's Live Vine Vineyard, Shawn and Susan Smith run a micro-winery that produces only 300 cases a year. But when the bottling season ends, the couple makes carbonated meads, hard ciders, and agave seltzers under their Smith House label.



A petite yellow cottage in Mt. Shasta City houses Crave, where hungry hikers and climbers fuel up on street tacos, tri-tip sandwiches, and 17-hour slow-smoked brisket.



In Yreka's historic downtown, vinyl records play and baristas bustle at Zephyr Books and Coffee, a community hub packed to the rafters with \$5 used books. Pull something intriguing from the stacks and sit down with a latte to read.



Fifth-generation farmers Bill and Kristin Weller use their rice and wheat crops to make Farmers Brewing Company beers. Try their cold-fermented Farmers Light Lager or Sun Up 'Til Sun Down West Coast IPA at their Princeton and Chico taprooms.

# 5 Fresh Reasons to Ride

IN SHASTA CASCADE, TWO-WHEELED TRAVEL KEEPS GAINING MOMENTUM. BRING (OR RENT) A BIKE TO TRY THESE NEW EXPERIENCES.

### Shasta Bike Depot:

In May 2023, the nonprofit Shasta Living Streets opened the Shasta Bike Depot with a fleet of 70 electric bikes, an outdoor courtyard with restaurants, and 120 docking stations scattered around Redding. Riders can hop on a bike to cruise along the Sacramento River Trail or join a guided e-bike educational tour.

### Bike Shasta:

The Mount Shasta Mountain Biking Association, aka Bike Shasta, is building

new trails in Shasta Trinity National Forest. Already completed: The Gateway Trail System near Mt. Shasta City has a 10-mile trail network through a ponderosa pine forest that delivers spectacular mountain views. Another 46 miles of trails are in the works.

### Shuttles, tours, coaching:

Shasta Gravity Adventures offers shuttle rides for mountain bikers tackling the Sisson-Callahan National Recreation Trail near Mt. Eddy or Mt.

Shasta's 10 Gallon Trail. Guides also lead half-day tours and offer private coaching.

### Lost Sierra Route:

Greg Williams, a Downieville mountain-biking pioneer and founder of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, has a big plan: to build a 600-mile trail network that links 15 mountain towns, from Westwood to Truckee. Scheduled to be completed by 2030, the Lost Sierra Route will welcome mountain bikers, e-bikers, hikers, and equestrians.

### Mt. Shasta Mountain Bike Park:

This wintertime ski hill becomes a bike park in summer. Ten miles of chairlift-accessed trails boast smooth rollers and twisting descents. After your ride, take advantage of outdoor showers and the Bigfoot Snack Shack.



FROM TOP: COURTESY SHASTA GRAVITY ADVENTURES; COURTESY FARMERS BREWING COMPANY



# There's more to California in **UpState CA:** We're down to earth and **up for anything!**



In Partnership With Visit California  
Photo: Sundial Bridge in Redding, CA

COUNTIES OF UPSTATECA: BUTTE LASSEN MODOC PLUMAS SHASTA SISKIYOU TEHAMA TRINITY



**Lake Shasta Caverns**  
LakeShastaCaverns.com  
800-795-CAVE



**Win-River Resort & Casino**  
winriver.com  
800-280-UWIN



**Turtle Bay Exploration Park**  
TurtleBay.org  
530-243-8850



**Almendra Winery, Distillery  
and Restaurant**  
AlmendraWinery.com  
530-343-6893



**Timber House Brewery-  
Distillery-Lodge**  
TimberHouseLodge.com  
530-815-8159



**Shasta Marina at Packers Bay**  
ShastaLake.net  
800-959-3359



**McCloud River Mercantile Co.  
Store & Hotel**  
McCloudMercantile.com  
530-964-2330



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**Phone: (530) 365-7500**



Eagle Lake



# Land of Lakes

*FEW THINGS ARE AS RELAXING AS TIME SPENT ON THE WATER, WHETHER YOU'RE WAKEBOARDING, PADDLING, FISHING, OR SLEEPING ON A HOUSEBOAT*



EAGLE LAKE WAS CREATED BY MELTING GLACIERS DURING THE LAST ICE AGE

## SHASTA LAKE, REDDING

California's largest reservoir reigns as the state's boating capital. Shasta Lake's numbers tell all: 30,000 surface acres of water, 370 miles of shoreline, eight full-service marinas, six public boat ramps, and more than a dozen campgrounds. You can wakeboard or water-ski, fish for 20 different species, sleep on a houseboat, or plan a date night with Lake Shasta Dinner Cruises.

## LEWISTON LAKE, WEAVERVILLE

This serene body of water is one of California's best fly-fishing lakes, popular with anglers casting from float tubes. Even if you don't catch a trout, you might see a bald eagle nab one. A 10-mile-per-hour speed limit keeps the water quiet for kayaks and canoes.

## WHISKEYTOWN LAKE, REDDING

This five-mile-long lake is so

clear, you can see 30 feet below its surface. Give it a try by peering over the edge of a sailboat, kayak, paddleboard, or windsurfer. The Redding Yacht Club offers sailing lessons, park rangers lead kayak and SUP trips, and two marinas rent boats and watercraft.

## LAKE SISKIYOU, MT. SHASTA CITY

Nestled at the foot of the Trinity Divide, this lake has warm water for swimming, miles of sandy shoreline, and plentiful trout. Lake Siskiyou Resort rents kayaks, paddleboards, and party barges. Bring the kids for a day of swimming or camp overnight.

## EAGLE LAKE, SUSANVILLE

The state's second-largest natural lake has more than 100 miles of shoreline and a special fish, the Eagle Lake rainbow trout. These fierce fighters grow as large as nine

pounds and can rip all the line from your reel. The lake has bountiful bird life, too, including bald eagles, osprey, and grebes.

## BUCKS LAKE, QUINCY

Hang out at your cabin at Lakeshore Resort, camp under towering pines, or rent a boat and explore Bucks Lake's clear waters. Anglers know this mountain lake as a top-notch trout water filled with trophy-sized rainbows, browns, kokanee, and mackinaw. But if you're not into fishing, it's also an idyllic spot to lounge on the shoreline.

## LAKE ALMANOR, CHESTER

Satisfy your need for speed at this shallow, warm lake. Fifty-plus miles of shoreline, splendid views of Lassen Peak, and warm summer water temps create ideal conditions for water-skiing, wakeboarding, and revved-up boating.





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# Siskiyou County



**JACK TROUT**

INTERNATIONAL FLY-FISHING  
GUIDE AND ACTOR

## THE OVEN BAKERY

"People do back flips over their stuff. They make the best turnovers on the face of the earth, plus all kinds of bread—sourdough, spelt, pumpernickel, jalapeño cheddar. They bake in a wood-fired oven, so everything has that artisan taste."

## DUNSMUIR BREWERY

"This brewery is great for beer and food. The brewmaster, Aaron Greener, is always brewing up some unique and flavorful beer. I like their Rusty Spike Imperial Red Ale."

## THE McCLOUD MERCANTILE

"There are several shops under one roof—a candy store, a bakery, a clothing store with everything from Carhartt to fashionable outdoor clothing. And they sell specialty wines, too."

## WATERFALLS

"Siskiyou County has so many great waterfalls. Everybody loves the three McCloud Falls on the McCloud River, but another great one is Faery Falls in Ney Springs Canyon. It's a 40-foot-high waterfall you can reach with an easy hike."

## MT. SHASTA SISSON MUSEUM

"This museum has local exhibits and all kinds of interesting fodder about natural history and geology. You can learn about early pioneers, the railroads, the ecology of natural springs. The museum hosts a lot of interesting events and programs, too."



The Oven Bakery



Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum

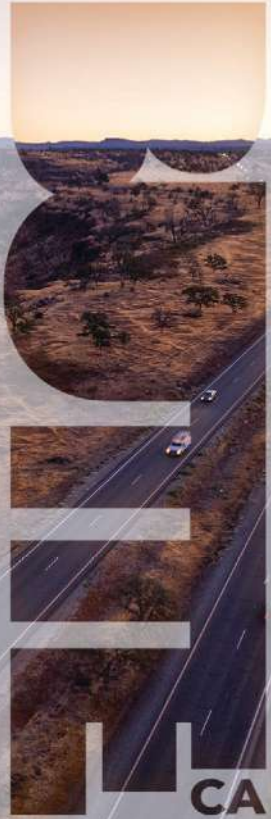


Faery Falls

FROM TOP: COURTESY THE OVEN BAKERY; COURTESY JACK TROUT; COURTESY MOUNT SHASTA SISSON MUSEUM; STEPHEN MOEHLZ/SHUTTERSTOCK



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### A HISTORIC BED & BREAKFAST LODGE IN THE HEART OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

St. Bernard Lodge is surrounded by scenic year-round views. Hike Lassen Volcanic National Park for the summer, or enjoy back-country skiing & snowshoeing in the winter. Enjoy thrilling motorcycle rides or bring your horse for mountain horseback rides.

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530.736.6188

[www.stbernardlodge.com](http://www.stbernardlodge.com)

## Destination Plumas County

basecamp for fun,  
adventure and relaxation



PLUMAS  
COUNTY  
[plumascountry.org](http://plumascountry.org)

# VISIT TRINITY COUNTY

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Festivals



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Lewiston Lake

Lakes &  
Leisure



[visittrinity.org](http://visittrinity.org) • 530.623-6101





California Welcome Center<sup>SM</sup>

**Anderson:**  
1699 Highway 273;  
530/365-1180

**More information**  
Shasta Cascade  
Wonderland Association  
530/365-7500;  
[upstateca.com](http://upstateca.com)



## visit

### ALTURAS

**Modoc National Forest.** See lava beds, high-desert plateaus, and the magnificent wild horses of the Devil’s Garden; enjoy the excellent trout fishing, hiking, and hunting of the South Warner Wilderness area. 530/233-5811; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**Modoc National Wildlife Refuge.** View wildlife at this 7,000-acre high-desert oasis created from snowmelt into the Pit River from the Warner Mountains. This refuge attracts seasonal migrants and offers a permanent home for upland game, owls, and small mammals. 530/233-3572; [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

### ANDERSON

**California Welcome Center.** 1699 Hwy. 273. Our friendly staff is available to assist you 7 days a week, 361 days a year. Free maps and brochures. Visit our wild trout pond and gift shop featuring local products. 530/365-7500; [upstateca.com](http://upstateca.com) See ad, p. 183

### BIEBER

**Ash Creek Wildlife Area.** Fish, camp, and bird-watch among 14,400 acres of freshwater wetlands. Bring your binoculars to spot wildlife including pronghorn antelopes, beavers, bobcats, and bald eagles. 530/294-5824; [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

### BLAIRSDEN

**Plumas-Eureka State Park and Museum.** Discover buildings that depict life in Gold Rush-era California. In the summer, enjoy docent-led tours of a miner’s bunkhouse, the Mohawk Stamp Mill, stable, and mine office. 530/836-2380; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### BURNEY

**McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park.** Relax and cool off in the spray of the park’s centerpiece, the 129-foot Burney Falls. The cascade flows at 100 million gallons every day. 530/335-2777; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### BUTTE COUNTY

**Explore Butte County.** Enjoy a weekend getaway and discover seasonal waterfalls and wildflowers, miles of waterways, hiking and biking trails, craft breweries, local wineries, and fun events year-round! 530/918-4585; [explorebuttecounty.com](http://explorebuttecounty.com) See ad, p. 187

### CASTELLA

**Castle Crags State Park.** See 170-million-year-old, 6,000-foot-tall granite pinnacles. Hike along 28 miles of trails, camp at 76 developed campsites, and fish at various access points along the Sacramento River. 530/235-2684; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

### CHESTER

**Lake Almanor.** Waterski, sail, kayak, paddleboard, and more at this large Plumas County lake with 52 miles of shoreline. Fish year-round for rainbow trout, salmon, and smallmouth bass. 530/258-2426; [lakealmanorarea.com](http://lakealmanorarea.com)

**Lake Almanor Area COC.** Lake Almanor Basin, the hidden gem of NorCal. Year-round events and activities with 52 miles of shoreline. Snowshoe, sled, cross-country ski, ice skate, water sports, kayak, world-class fishing, and more. 530/208-5330; [lakealmanorarea.com](http://lakealmanorarea.com)

### CHICO

**Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.** A beautiful, 26-room Victorian House Museum that stands as a memorial to political activists John and Annie Bidwell. Explore the mansion through a one-hour tour. 530/895-6144; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)



**Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park.** Fish for salmon, steelhead, and shad. Float down the river on an inner tube, kayak, or canoe. Stay on the lookout for frolicking river otters. 530/342-5185; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

**Chico Air Museum.** Located at the Chico Municipal Airport, find nearly 100 years of aviation history, including uniforms, historic flight logs, and aircraft like a WWI biplane and Czech jet trainer. 530/345-6468; [chicoairmuseum.org](http://chicoairmuseum.org)

**National Yo-Yo Museum.** The largest display of yo-yos and yo-yo memorabilia in the nation, including the 256-pound "Big-Yo," which won the Guinness World Record for "World's Biggest Working Wooden Yo-Yo." [nationalyooyo.org](http://nationalyooyo.org)

## COTTONWOOD

**Battle Creek Wildlife Area.** Lush marshes and riparian woodlands provide nesting grounds for bald eagles and ospreys. Hike and bird-watch to see California quail, wood ducks, and more. 530/225-2300; [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

## DUNSMUIR

**Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens.** Visit in spring to see the park in full bloom with native white dogwood trees. Any time of year, enjoy walking paths through manicured gardens and wooded areas. 530/926-2494; [dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org](http://dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org)

## DURHAM

**Almendra Winery, Distillery & Restaurant.** 9275 Midway. Almendra features our locally grown wines and spirits in a stunning family-friendly restaurant just minutes south of Chico. Wine and spirit tastings are available four days a week. 530/343-6893; [almendrawinery.com](http://almendrawinery.com) See ad, p. 183

## FALL RIVER MILLS

**Fort Crook Museum.** View period structures, including the Pittville School House (constructed in 1884) and the Fall River Jail. Attend a blacksmithing workshop. Explore the three-story Main Museum, filled with artifacts. 530/336-5110; [fortcrook.com](http://fortcrook.com)

## FORT JONES

**Fort Jones Museum.** See obsidian, fossils, and other geological artifacts. See the Shasta Rain Rock, a pitted boulder once used by Native Americans to control rainfall. 530/468-5568; [fortjonesmuseum.com](http://fortjonesmuseum.com)

## GRIDLEY

**Gray Lodge Wildlife Area.** This 9,100-acre area is located on the Pacific Flyway, making it a haven for migrant birds. Find a prime viewing spot to watch for more than 300 species. 530/846-7500; [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov)

## LAKE ALMANOR

**Lake Almanor Country Club Golf Course.** Nestled in the pines with breathtaking views, the beautiful LACC golf course is a semi-private course open to the public. Enjoy a challenging yet fun 9 or 18 holes, pro-shop and full bar. 530/259-2868; [lakealmanorcountryclub.org](http://lakealmanorcountryclub.org)

**Lake Almanor West Golf Course.** Lake Almanor West Golf Course, located on the west shore of scenic Lake Almanor, offers the very best golfing experience and BBQ around. Come golf at our pristine course and enjoy a hearty BBQ lunch overlooking the golf course. 530/259-4555; [lakealmanorwest.org](http://lakealmanorwest.org)

## LAKEHEAD

**Lake Shasta Caverns National Natural Landmark.** 20359 Shasta Caverns Rd. Two-hour tour includes a boat ride across Shasta Lake, a scenic bus ride to the caverns, and a one-hour guided tour of the caves. Open

all year. 800/795-2283; [lakeshastacaverns.com](http://lakeshastacaverns.com) See ad, p. 183

**Shasta Marina at Packers Bay.** A full-service marina offering luxury houseboats, patio boats, kayaks, paddleboards and lily pads. New store open year-round. We have fuel, ice, food, drinks, and souvenirs. Moorage available. 800/959-3359; [shastalake.net](http://shastalake.net) See ad, p.183

## MINERAL

**Lassen Volcanic National Park.** Known for its hydrothermal activity, this park is filled with steam vents, fumaroles, and bubbling mud pots. Paddle on the crystal-clear Manzanita Lake and stroll through fields filled with summertime flowers. 530/595-4480; [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

## MOUNT SHASTA CITY

**Mt. Shasta Ski Park.** All abilities can ski or snowboard at Marmot Ridge, Douglas Butte, and Coyote Butte. Visit in summer to enjoy scenic chairlift rides and mountain biking. 530/926-8610; [skipark.com](http://skipark.com)

**Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum.** Located on the grounds of a fish hatchery, this family-friendly museum explores local history. Get your photo taken on the 1915 fire truck and learn about Native American basket weaving. 530/926-5508; [mtshastamuseum.com](http://mtshastamuseum.com)

## OROVILLE

**Lake Oroville.** The second-largest reservoir in California, this lake has more than 167 miles of shoreline. Fish, swim, boat, camp, picnic, kayak, paddleboard, snorkel, and more. 530/538-2219; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

## PLUMAS COUNTY

**Plumas County Tourism.** Escape the crowds and enjoy four seasons of adventure, fun, and relaxation in Plumas County. Experience unparalleled access to the wonders of nature. Truly a unique place for making memories. [plumascounty.org](http://plumascounty.org) See ad, p. 187

## QUINCY

**Plumas National Forest.** Hike, bike, and horseback ride through mixed conifer forests and rich mountain valleys. About 75 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail stretch through this protected area. 530/283-2050; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**Quincy COC.** Experience the meaning of hometown. Stroll beautiful Main Street, taste a delicious craft brew, savor a meal in a cozy restaurant, or be entertained by a live performance at theatres and art galleries. 530/394-0541; [quincychamber.com](http://quincychamber.com)

## REDDING

**Choose Redding Lodging.** Traveling north of Los Angeles and south of Portland? Redding is the place to stay with the largest variety of lodging options in UpStateCA. Quaint B&Bs or favorite lodging brands, Redding has it all. 530/365-7500; [chooseredding.com](http://chooseredding.com) See ad, p. 183

**Shasta-Trinity National Forest.** Steep canyons, bare granite spires, alpine lakes, and dense conifer forests are why hikers, campers, climbers, and nature lovers of every stripe flock to this location, the largest national forest in the state. 530/226-2500; [fs.usda.gov](http://fs.usda.gov)

**Turtle Bay Exploration Park.** A fun, nonprofit, 300-acre cultural hub located along the Sacramento River. Featuring the Sundial Bridge, museum, playgrounds, forestry and wildlife center, botanical gardens, and more. 530/243-8850; [turtlebay.org](http://turtlebay.org) See ad, p. 183

**Win-River Resort & Casino.** 2100 Redding Rancheria Rd. Native American Gaming Resort & Casino offering entertainment, hospitality, latest slots, table games, and a relaxing spa in the North State. 800/280-UWIN; [winriver.com](http://winriver.com) See ad, p. 183

## TRINITY COUNTY

**Trinity County COC.** Explore the beauty of Trinity County and Choose your Adventure. Experience history, arts and culture on First Saturday Art Festivals. Discover amazing hiking/biking trails or dip into clear alpine waters. 530/623-6101; [visitrinity.com](http://visitrinity.com) See ad, p. 187

## TULELAKE

**Lava Beds National Monument.** Dotted with volcanic features, the biggest draws to this park are the historical sites of the Modoc War (1872-73) and lava-tube cave exploring. 530/667-8113; [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

## WEAVERVILLE

**Highland Art Center.** Centered by an 1893 white Victorian farmhouse, this campus features galleries, gardens, artists' studios, and a library. Enjoy monthly art shows. 530/623-5111; [highlandartcenter.org](http://highlandartcenter.org)

**Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park.** Known as the Temple of the Forest Beneath the Clouds, this is the oldest continuously used Chinese temple in California. 530/623-5284; [parks.ca.gov](http://parks.ca.gov)

stay

HOTELS AND RESORTS

## CHESTER

**Timber House Brewery-Distillery-Lodge-Restaurant.** 501 Main St. Timber House offers a unique place to stay, eat, and enjoy drinks, only 25 minutes from Lassen Volcanic National Park and 10 minutes from Lake Almanor. 530/815-8159; [timberhouselodge.com](http://timberhouselodge.com) \$\$ See ad, p. 183



## MCCLOUD

**McCloud River Mercantile Co. Store & Hotel.** 241 Main St. 12 rooms. A historic building, est. 1897, located in the heart of McCloud, with a unique hotel, event space, two restaurants, a café, and beautiful boutiques. 530/964-2602; [mccloudmercantile.com](http://mccloudmercantile.com) \$\$ See ad, p. 183



## MILL CREEK

**St. Bernard Lodge.** 7 rooms. 10 miles west of Chester on Hwy 36. Great location for visiting both the SW and SE entrances to Lassen Park. 15 minutes to Lake Almanor. Old European-style lodging with breakfast. Dinner and full bar available. Horse boarding & RV sites. 530/736-6188; [stbernardlodge.com](http://stbernardlodge.com) \$-\$ See ad, p. 187

## MOUNT SHASTA

**Mount Shasta Resort.** Chalets nestled in the forest along Lake Siskiyou, with kitchen, dining and living room, fireplace, and private deck. Golf 18 of the most scenic holes in California. Unwind in our lounge and restaurant. Then pamper yourself with a spa treatment. 530/926-3030; [mountshastaresort.com](http://mountshastaresort.com) \$\$-\$\$\$



KEY	WIFI	RESTAURANT ON PREMISES	FITNESS CENTER	SWIMMING POOL	HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE	SPA/SAUNA/HOT TUB	PETS WELCOME	\$ UNDER \$100/NIGHT	\$\$ \$100-\$200/NIGHT	\$\$\$ OVER \$200/NIGHT
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	Bellflower <b>LAC</b>	Camino <b>GC</b>
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		Carmel-by-the-Sea <b>CC</b>

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	Cayucos <b>CC</b>	Cedar Grove <b>HS</b>
	Cedar Grove <b>HS</b>	Cedarville <b>SC</b>
	Cedarville <b>SC</b>	Century City <b>LAC</b>
	Ceres <b>CV</b>	Cerritos <b>LAC</b>
	Cerritos <b>LAC</b>	Channel Islands <b>CC</b>
	Channel Islands <b>CC</b>	Chatsworth <b>LAC</b>
	Cherry Valley <b>IE</b>	Chester <b>SC</b>
	Chester <b>SC</b>	Chico <b>SC</b>
	Chico <b>SC</b>	Chilcoot <b>SC</b>
	China Lake <b>D</b>	Chinese Camp <b>GC</b>
	Chino <b>IE</b>	Chino Hills <b>IE</b>
	Chino Hills <b>IE</b>	Chiriaco Summit <b>D</b>
	Chowchilla <b>CV</b>	Chula Vista <b>SD</b>
	Chula Vista <b>SD</b>	Cima <b>D</b>
	Cima <b>D</b>	Citrus Heights <b>GC</b>
	Citrus Heights <b>GC</b>	City of Industry <b>LAC</b>
	City of Industry <b>LAC</b>	Claremont <b>LAC</b>
	Claremont <b>LAC</b>	Clarksburg <b>CV</b>
	Clarksburg <b>CV</b>	Clayton <b>SFBA</b>
	Clayton <b>SFBA</b>	Clearlake <b>NC</b>
	Clearlake <b>NC</b>	Clearlake Oaks <b>NC</b>
	Clearlake Oaks <b>NC</b>	Clearlake State Park <b>NC</b>
	Clearlake State Park <b>NC</b>	Clements <b>CV</b>
	Clements <b>CV</b>	Cleone <b>NC</b>
	Cleone <b>NC</b>	Cloverdale <b>SFBA</b>
	Cloverdale <b>SFBA</b>	Clovis <b>CV</b>
	Clovis <b>CV</b>	Coachella <b>D</b>
	Coachella <b>D</b>	Coalinga <b>CV</b>
	Coalinga <b>CV</b>	Coarsegold <b>GC</b>
	Coarsegold <b>GC</b>	Cobb <b>NC</b>
	Cobb <b>NC</b>	Coffee Creek <b>SC</b>
	Coffee Creek <b>SC</b>	Coleville <b>HS</b>
	Coleville <b>HS</b>	Colfax <b>GC</b>
	Colfax <b>GC</b>	Colma <b>SFBA</b>
	Colma <b>SFBA</b>	Coloma <b>GC</b>
	Coloma <b>GC</b>	Colton <b>IE</b>
	Colton <b>IE</b>	Columbia <b>GC</b>
	Columbia <b>GC</b>	Colusa <b>CV</b>
	Colusa <b>CV</b>	Commerce <b>LAC</b>
	Commerce <b>LAC</b>	Compton <b>LAC</b>
	Compton <b>LAC</b>	Concord <b>SFBA</b>
	Concord <b>SFBA</b>	Cool <b>GC</b>
	Cool <b>GC</b>	Copperopolis <b>GC</b>
	Copperopolis <b>GC</b>	Corcoran <b>CV</b>
	Corcoran <b>CV</b>	Corning <b>SC</b>
	Corning <b>SC</b>	Corona <b>IE</b>
	Corona <b>IE</b>	Corona del Mar <b>OC</b>
	Corona del Mar <b>OC</b>	Coronado <b>SD</b>
	Coronado <b>SD</b>	Corte Madera <b>SFBA</b>
	Corte Madera <b>SFBA</b>	Costa Mesa <b>OC</b>
	Costa Mesa <b>OC</b>	Cotati <b>SFBA</b>
	Cotati <b>SFBA</b>	Cottonwood <b>SC</b>
	Cottonwood <b>SC</b>	Coulterville <b>GC</b>
	Coulterville <b>GC</b>	Courtland <b>CV</b>
	Courtland <b>CV</b>	Covelo <b>NC</b>
	Covelo <b>NC</b>	Covina <b>LAC</b>
	Covina <b>LAC</b>	Crenshaw <b>LAC</b>
	Crenshaw <b>LAC</b>	Crescent City <b>NC</b>
	Crescent City <b>NC</b>	Crescent Mills <b>SC</b>
	Crescent Mills <b>SC</b>	Crescenta Valley <b>LAC</b>
	Crescenta Valley <b>LAC</b>	Crestline <b>IE</b>
	Crestline <b>IE</b>	Culver City <b>LAC</b>
	Culver City <b>LAC</b>	Cupertino <b>SFBA</b>
	Cupertino <b>SFBA</b>	Cutler <b>CV</b>
	Cutler <b>CV</b>	Cuyama <b>CC</b>
	Cuyama <b>CC</b>	Cypress <b>OC</b>
	Cypress <b>OC</b>	

<b>D</b>	Daggett <b>D</b>
	Daly City <b>SFBA</b>
	Dana Point <b>OC</b>
	Danville <b>SFBA</b>
	Davenport <b>SFBA</b>
	Davis <b>CV</b>
	Death Valley <b>D</b>
	Del Mar <b>SD</b>
	Del Norte <b>NC</b>
	Delano <b>CV</b>
	Descanso <b>SD</b>
	Desert Center <b>D</b>
	Desert Hot Springs <b>D</b>

	Devore <b>IE</b>	Gazelle <b>SC</b>
	Devore Heights <b>IE</b>	Georgetown <b>GC</b>
	Diamond Bar <b>LAC</b>	Geyserville <b>SFBA</b>
	Diamond Gateway <b>SD</b>	Giant Forest <b>HS</b>
	Diamond Springs <b>GC</b>	Gilroy <b>CC</b>
	Dinuba <b>CV</b>	Glen Avon <b>IE</b>
	Dixon <b>CV</b>	Glen Ellen <b>SFBA</b>
	Dorrington <b>GC</b>	Glendale <b>LAC</b>
	Dorris <b>SC</b>	Glendora <b>LAC</b>
	Dos Palos <b>CV</b>	Glennville <b>CV</b>
	Downey <b>LAC</b>	Goldstone <b>D</b>
	Downieville <b>GC</b>	Goleta <b>CC</b>
	Doyle <b>SC</b>	Gonzales <b>CC</b>
	Drytown <b>GC</b>	Gorman <b>LAC</b>
	Duarte <b>LAC</b>	Graeagle <b>SC</b>
	Dublin <b>SFBA</b>	Granada Hills <b>LAC</b>
	Dulzura <b>SD</b>	Grand Terrace <b>IE</b>
	Dunnigan <b>CV</b>	Granite Bay <b>GC</b>
	Dunsmuir <b>SC</b>	Grant Grove <b>HS</b>
	Durham <b>SC</b>	Grapevine <b>CV</b>
		Grass Valley <b>GC</b>
		Graton <b>SFBA</b>
		Green Valley Lake <b>IE</b>
		Greenbrae <b>SFBA</b>
		Greenfield <b>CC</b>
		Greenview <b>SC</b>
		Greenville <b>SC</b>
		Grenada <b>SC</b>
		Gridley <b>SC</b>
		Groveland <b>HS</b>
		Grover Beach <b>CC</b>
		Guadalupe <b>CC</b>
		Gualala <b>NC</b>
		Guerneville <b>SFBA</b>
		Gustine <b>CV</b>

<b>E</b>	Earlham <b>CV</b>
	Earp <b>D</b>
	Easton <b>CV</b>
	Edgewood <b>SC</b>
	El Cajon <b>SD</b>
	El Centro <b>D</b>
	El Cerrito <b>SFBA</b>
	El Dorado <b>GC</b>
	El Dorado Hills <b>GC</b>
	El Monte <b>LAC</b>
	El Portal <b>HS</b>
	El Segundo <b>LAC</b>
	El Sobrante <b>SFBA</b>
	El Toro <b>OC</b>
	Elk <b>NC</b>
	Elk Creek <b>CV</b>
	Elk Grove <b>GC</b>
	Emeryville <b>SFBA</b>
	Empire <b>CV</b>
	Encinitas <b>SD</b>
	Encino <b>LAC</b>
	Escalon <b>CV</b>
	Escondido <b>SD</b>
	Essex <b>D</b>
	Etna <b>IE</b>
	Eureka <b>NC</b>
	Exeter <b>CV</b>

<b>H</b>	Half Moon Bay <b>SFBA</b>
	Hamilton City <b>CV</b>
	Hanford <b>CV</b>
	Happy Camp <b>SC</b>
	Harbor City <b>LAC</b>
	Hat Creek <b>SC</b>
	Havilah <b>HS</b>
	Hawaiian Gardens <b>LAC</b>
	Hawthorne <b>LAC</b>
	Hayfork <b>SC</b>
	Hayward <b>SFBA</b>
	Healdsburg <b>SFBA</b>
	Heber <b>D</b>
	Helena <b>SC</b>
	Hemet <b>IE</b>
	Hercules <b>SFBA</b>
	Herlong <b>SC</b>
	Hermosa Beach <b>LAC</b>
	Hesperia <b>IE</b>
	Highland <b>IE</b>
	Highland Park <b>LAC</b>
	Hillsborough <b>SFBA</b>
	Hilmar <b>CV</b>
	Hiit <b>SC</b>
	Hinkley <b>D</b>
	Hollister <b>CC</b>
	Hollywood <b>LAC</b>
	Holtville <b>D</b>
	Home Gardens <b>IE</b>
	Homeland <b>IE</b>
	Homewood <b>HS</b>
	Honeydew <b>NC</b>
	Hood <b>CV</b>
	Hoopa <b>NC</b>
	Hopland <b>NC</b>
	Hornbrook <b>SC</b>
	Hornitos <b>GC</b>
	Horse Creek <b>SC</b>
	Hughson <b>CV</b>
	Huntington Beach <b>OC</b>
	Huntington Lake <b>HS</b>
	Huntington Park <b>LAC</b>
	Huron <b>CV</b>
	Hyampom <b>SC</b>

<b>I</b>	Idyllwild <b>IE</b>
	Imperial <b>D</b>
	Imperial Beach <b>SD</b>
	Independence <b>HS</b>
	Indian Springs <b>SFBA</b>
	Indian Valley <b>SC</b>
	Indian Wells <b>D</b>
	Indio <b>D</b>
	Inglewood <b>LAC</b>
	Inverness <b>SFBA</b>
	Inyokern <b>D</b>
	Ione <b>GC</b>
	Irvine <b>OC</b>
	Irwindale <b>LAC</b>

<b>J</b>	Jackson <b>GC</b>
	Jacumba <b>SD</b>
	Jamestown <b>GC</b>
	Janesville <b>SC</b>
	Jenner <b>SFBA</b>
	Johannesburg <b>D</b>
	Johnstonville <b>SC</b>
	Johnsville <b>SC</b>
	Jolon <b>CC</b>
	Joshua Tree <b>D</b>
	Julian <b>SD</b>
	Junction City <b>SC</b>
	June Lake <b>HS</b>
	Jurupa <b>IE</b>

<b>K</b>	Keeler <b>D</b>
	Keene <b>CV</b>
	Kelseyville <b>NC</b>
	Kelso <b>D</b>
	Kentwood in the Pines <b>SD</b>
	Kenwood <b>SFBA</b>
	Kerman <b>CV</b>
	Kern River Valley <b>HS</b>
	Kernville <b>HS</b>
	Kettleman City <b>CV</b>
	Keyes <b>CV</b>
	King City <b>CC</b>
	Kings Beach <b>HS</b>
	Kingsburg <b>CV</b>
	Kirkwood <b>HS</b>
	Kit Carson <b>HS</b>
	Klamath <b>NC</b>
	Klamath River <b>SC</b>
	Knights Ferry <b>CV</b>
	Knights Landing <b>CV</b>
	Kyburz <b>HS</b>

<b>L</b>	La Cañada Flintridge <b>LAC</b>
	La Crescenta <b>LAC</b>
	La Grange <b>GC</b>
	La Habra <b>OC</b>
	La Jolla <b>SD</b>
	La Mesa <b>SD</b>
	La Mirada <b>LAC</b>
	La Palma <b>OC</b>
	La Puente <b>LAC</b>
	La Quinta <b>D</b>
	La Verne <b>LAC</b>
	Lafayette <b>SFBA</b>
	Laguna Beach <b>OC</b>
	Laguna Hills <b>OC</b>
	Laguna Niguel <b>OC</b>
	Lagunitas <b>SFBA</b>
	Lake Arrowhead <b>IE</b>
	Lake Elsinore <b>IE</b>
	Lake Forest <b>OC</b>
	Lake Isabella <b>HS</b>
	Lake Los Angeles <b>LAC</b>
	Lakehead <b>SC</b>
	Lakeport <b>NC</b>
	Lakeshore <b>HS</b>
	Lakeside <b>SD</b>
	Lakewood <b>LAC</b>
	Lamont <b>CV</b>
	Lancaster <b>LAC</b>
	Landers <b>D</b>
	Larkspur <b>SFBA</b>
	Lathrop <b>CV</b>
	Laton <b>CV</b>
	Lawndale <b>LAC</b>
	Laytonville <b>NC</b>
	Le Grand <b>CV</b>
	Lebec <b>CV</b>
	Lee Vining <b>HS</b>
	Leggett <b>NC</b>
	Lemon Grove <b>SD</b>
	Lemoncove <b>CV</b>
	Lemoore <b>CV</b>
	Leucadia <b>SD</b>
	Lewiston <b>SC</b>
	Likely <b>SC</b>
	Lincoln <b>GC</b>
	Lincoln Heights <b>LAC</b>
	Linden <b>CV</b>
	Lindsay <b>CV</b>
	Little River <b>NC</b>
	Littlerock <b>LAC</b>
	Live Oak <b>CV</b>
	Livermore <b>SFBA</b>
	Livingston <b>CV</b>
	Locke <b>CV</b>



Lockeford CV  
Lodi CV  
Loleta NC  
Loma Linda IE  
Lomita LAC  
Lompoc CC  
Lone Pine HS  
Long Beach LAC  
Loomis GC  
Los Alamitos OC  
Los Alamos CC  
Los Altos SFBA  
Los Angeles LAC  
Los Banos CV  
Los Gatos SFBA  
Los Molinos SC  
Los Olivos CC  
Los Osos CC  
Lost Hills CV  
Lower Lake NC  
Loyalton GC  
Lucerne NC  
Lucerne Valley IE  
Lucia CC  
Ludlow D  
Lynwood LAC

### M

Macdoel SC  
Mad River SC  
Madera CV  
Malibu LAC  
Mammoth Lakes HS  
Manchester NC  
Manhattan Beach LAC  
Manteca CV  
Manton SC  
March Air Force Base IE  
Maricopa CV  
Marin City SFBA  
Marina CC  
Marina del Rey LAC  
Mariposa HS  
Mark West SFBA  
Markleeville HS  
Marshall SFBA  
Martinez SFBA  
Marysville CV  
Maxwell CV  
Maywood LAC  
McArthur SC  
McCloud SC  
McFarland CV  
McKinleyville NC  
McKittrick CV  
Meadow Vista GC  
Mecca D  
Meeks Bay HS  
Mendocino NC  
Mendota CV  
Menifee IE  
Menlo Park SFBA  
Merced CV  
Meyers HS  
Mi-wuk Village HS  
Middleton NC  
Midway City OC  
Mill Valley SFBA  
Millbrae SFBA  
Milpitas SFBA  
Mineral SC  
Mira Loma IE  
Mira Mesa SD  
Miranda NC  
Mission Beach SD  
Mission Hills LAC  
Mission Valley East SD  
Mission Valley West SD  
Mission Viejo OC  
Modesto CV  
Mojave D  
Mokelumne Hill GC  
Mono Lake HS  
Monrovia LAC  
Montague SC  
Montara SFBA  
Montclair IE  
Monte Rio SFBA  
Montebello LAC  
Montecito OC  
Monterey CC  
Monterey Park LAC  
Montrose LAC  
Moorpark CC  
Moraga SFBA  
Moreno Valley IE  
Morgan Hill CC  
Morongo Valley D  
Morro Bay CC

Moss Beach SFBA  
Moss Landing CC  
Mount Baldy IE  
Mount Hebron SC  
Mount Laguna SD  
Mount Shasta City SC  
Mountain Center IE  
Mountain Ranch GC  
Mountain View SFBA  
Murphys GC  
Murrieta IE  
Myers Flat NC

### N

Napa SFBA  
National City SD  
Needles D  
Nevada City GC  
New Cuyama CC  
Newark SFBA  
Newberry Springs D  
Newbury Park CC  
Newcastle GC  
Newell SC  
Newhall LAC  
Newman CV  
Newport Beach OC  
Nice NC  
Nipomo CC  
Nipton D  
Norco IE  
Nord SC  
Norden HS  
North Fork HS  
North Highlands GC  
North Hollywood LAC  
North Lake Tahoe HS  
North Sacramento GC  
North Shore D  
Northridge LAC  
Northstar HS  
Norwalk LAC  
Novato SFBA  
Nubieber SC

### O

O'Brien SC  
O'Neals GC  
Oak Glen IE  
Oak View CC  
Oakdale CV  
Oakhurst HS  
Oakland SFBA  
Oakley SFBA  
Oakville SFBA  
Occidental SFBA  
Ocean Beach SD  
Oceano CC  
Oceanside SD  
Ocotillo D  
Ocotillo Wells D  
Oildale CV  
Ojai CC  
Olancha D  
Old Station SC  
Olema SFBA  
Olivehurst CV  
Olympic Valley HS  
Ontario IE  
Orange OC  
Orange Cove CV  
Orangevale GC  
Orcutt CC  
Orick NC  
Orinda SFBA  
Orland CV  
Orleans NC  
Oro Grande D  
Orosi HS  
Oroville SC  
Otay SD  
Oxnard CC

### P

Pacific Beach SD  
Pacific Grove CC  
Pacific Palisades LAC  
Pacifica SFBA  
Pacoma LAC  
Paicines CC  
Pajaro CC  
Pala SD  
Palermo SC  
Palm City SD  
Palm Desert D  
Palm Springs D  
Palmdale LAC  
Palo Alto SFBA

Palo Cedro SC  
Palo Verde D  
Palomar Mountain SD  
Palos Verdes Estates LAC  
Panamint Springs D  
Paradise SC  
Paradise Hills SD  
Paramount LAC  
Parlier CV  
Pasadena LAC  
Paso Robles CC  
Patterson CV  
Pauma Valley SD  
Paynes Creek SC  
Pearblossom LAC  
Pebble Beach CC  
Penn Valley GC  
Penryn GC  
Perris IE  
Pescadero SFBA  
Petaluma SFBA  
Phelan IE  
Phillipsville NC  
Philo NC  
Picacho D  
Pico Rivera LAC  
Piercy NC  
Pine Grove GC  
Pine Valley SD  
Pinecrest HS  
Pinole SFBA  
Pioneer GC  
Pioneertown D  
Piru CC  
Pismo Beach CC  
Pittsburg CV  
Pixley CV  
Placentia OC  
Placerville GC  
Plainview CV  
Planada CV  
Platina SC  
Pleasant Hill SFBA  
Pleasanton SFBA  
Plymouth GC  
Point Arena NC  
Point Mugu CC  
Point Reyes Station SFBA  
Pollock Pines GC  
Pomo NC  
Pomona LAC  
Pondosa SC  
Pope Valley SFBA  
Poplar CV  
Port Hueneme CC  
Porterville CV  
Portola SC  
Poway SD  
Prather CV  
Princeton CV  
Princeton-by-the-Sea SFBA  
Prunedale CC  
Puente Hills LAC

### Q

Quail Valley IE  
Quartz Hill LAC  
Quincy SC

### R

Ramona SD  
Rancho Bernardo SD  
Rancho Cordova GC  
Rancho Cucamonga IE  
Rancho Mirage D  
Rancho Palos Verdes LAC  
Rancho Santa Fe SD  
Rancho Santa Margarita OC  
Randsburg D  
Ravendale SC  
Raymond GC  
Red Bluff SC  
Red Mountain D  
Redcrest NC  
Redding SC  
Redlands IE  
Redondo Beach LAC  
Redway NC  
Redwood City SFBA  
Redwood Valley NC  
Reedley CV  
Requa NC  
Reseda LAC  
Rialto IE  
Ricardo D  
Richgrove CV

Richmond SFBA  
Ridgecrest D  
Rio Dell NC  
Rio Linda GC  
Rio Vista CV  
Ripley D  
Ripon CV  
Riverbank CV  
Riverside IE  
Rocklin GC  
Rohnert Park SFBA  
Rohnerville NC  
Rolling Hills LAC  
Rosamond D  
Rosedale CV  
Rosemead LAC  
Roseville GC  
Rough and Ready GC  
Rowland Heights LAC  
Rubidoux IE  
Running Springs IE  
Ruth SC  
Rutherford SFBA  
Ryde CV

### S

Sacramento GC  
St. Helena SFBA  
Salinas CV  
Salton City D  
Salyer SC  
Samoa NC  
San Andreas GC  
San Anselmo SFBA  
San Ardo CC  
San Benito CC  
San Bernardino IE  
San Bruno SFBA  
San Carlos SFBA  
San Clemente OC  
San Diego SD  
San Dimas LAC  
San Fernando LAC  
San Francisco SFBA  
San Gabriel LAC  
San Gregorio SFBA  
San Jacinto IE  
San Joaquin CV  
San José SFBA  
San Juan Bautista CC  
San Juan Capistrano OC  
San Juan Hot Springs OC  
San Leandro SFBA  
San Lucas CC  
San Luis Obispo CC  
San Luis Rey SD  
San Marcos SD  
San Marino LAC  
San Martin CC  
San Mateo SFBA  
San Miguel CC  
San Ramon SFBA  
San Onofre OC  
San Pablo SFBA  
San Pedro LAC  
San Rafael SFBA  
San Ramon SFBA  
San Simeon CC  
San Ysidro SD  
Sanger CV  
Santa Ana OC  
Santa Barbara CC  
Santa Clara SFBA  
Santa Clarita LAC  
Santa Cruz SFBA  
Santa Fe Springs LAC  
Santa Margarita CC  
Santa Maria CV  
Santa Monica LAC  
Santa Nella CV  
Santa Paula CC  
Santa Rosa SFBA  
Santa Ynez CC  
Santa Ysabel SD  
Santee SD  
Saratoga SFBA  
Saticoy CC  
Sattley GC  
Sausalito SFBA  
Sawyers Bar SC  
Scotia NC  
Scott Bar SC  
Scotts Valley SFBA  
Sea Ranch SFBA  
Seal Beach OC  
Seaside CC  
Sebastopol SFBA  
Seiad Valley SC  
Selma CV  
Shafter CV

Shandon CC  
Shasta SC  
Shasta Lake SC  
Shaver Lake HS  
Shelter Cove NC  
Sherman Oaks LAC  
Shingle Springs GC  
Shingletown SC  
Shoshone D  
Sierra City GC  
Sierra Madre LAC  
Sierraville GC  
Signal Hill LAC  
Silverado D  
Simi Valley CC  
Skyforest IE  
Smith River NC  
Snelling CV  
Soda Springs HS  
Solana Beach SD  
Soledad CC  
Solvang CC  
Somerset GC  
Somes Bar SC  
Sonoma SFBA  
Sonora GC  
Soquel SFBA  
South Gate LAC  
South Laguna OC  
South Lake Tahoe HS  
South San Francisco SFBA  
Spring Valley SD  
Springville CV  
Stanford SFBA  
Stanton OC  
Stinson Beach SFBA  
Stockton CV  
Stovepipe Wells D  
Stratford CV  
Strathmore CV  
Studio City LAC  
Suisun City CV  
Summerland CC  
Sun City IE  
Sun Valley LAC  
Sunland LAC  
Sunnyvale SFBA  
Sunset Beach OC  
Surfside OC  
Susanville SC  
Sutter CV  
Sutter Creek GC  
Sylmar LAC

### T

Taft CV  
Tahoe City HS  
Tahoe Vista HS  
Tahoma HS  
Tarzana LAC  
Taylorsville SC  
Tecopa D  
Tehachapi CV  
Tehama SC  
Temecula IE  
Temple City LAC  
Templeton CC  
Terro SC  
Thermal D  
Thermalito SC  
Thornton CV  
Thousand Oaks CC  
Thousand Palms D  
Three Rivers CV  
Tiburon SFBA  
Tipton CV  
Toluca Lake LAC  
Tom's Place HS  
Tomasas SFBA  
Topanga LAC  
Torrance LAC  
Trabuco Canyon OC  
Tracy CV  
Trinidad NC  
Trinity Center SC  
Trona D  
Truckee HS  
Tujunga LAC  
Tulare CV  
Tulelake SC  
Tuolumne GC  
Turlock CV  
Tustin OC  
Twain Harte GC  
Twenty-nine Palms D  
Twin Bridges HS  
Two Harbors OC

### U

Ukiah NC  
Union City SFBA  
Universal City LAC  
Upland IE  
Upper Lake NC

### V

Vacaville CV  
Valencia LAC  
Vallejo GC  
Vallejo SFBA  
Valley Center SD  
Valley Ford SFBA  
Valley Springs GC  
Van Nuys LAC  
Venice LAC  
Ventucopa CC  
Ventura CC  
Vernalis CV  
Vernon LAC  
Victorville IE  
Vidal D  
Vidal Junction D  
Villa Park OC  
Vina SC  
Vinton SC  
Visalia CV  
Vista SD  
Volcano GC

### W

Walders Basin HS  
Walker HS  
Walnut LAC  
Walnut Creek SFBA  
Walnut Grove CV  
Warner Springs SD  
Wasco CV  
Waterford CV  
Watsonville SFBA  
Wawona HS  
Weaverville SC  
Weed SC  
Weimar GC  
Weitchpec NC  
Weldon HS  
Wendell SC  
Weott NC  
West Covina LAC  
West Hollywood LAC  
West Los Angeles LAC  
West Point GC  
West Sacramento CV  
Westchester LAC  
Westlake Village LAC  
Westley CV  
Westminster OC  
Westmoreland D  
Westport NC  
Westwood LAC  
Westwood SC  
Wheatland CV  
Wheeler Ridge CV  
Whiskeytown SC  
Whittier LAC  
Whittier NC  
Wildomar IE  
Williams CV  
Willits NC  
Willow Creek NC  
Willow Ranch SC  
Willows CV  
Wilmington LAC  
Winchester IE  
Windsor SFBA  
Winnetka LAC  
Winterhaven D  
Winters CV  
Winton CV  
Woodcrest IE  
Woodlake CV  
Woodland CV  
Woodland Hills LAC  
Woodside SFBA  
Woodville CV  
Wrightwood IE

### Y

Yermo D  
Yokuts Valley HS  
Yolo CV  
Yorba Linda OC  
Yosemite Village HS  
Yountville SFBA  
Yreka SC  
Yuba City CV  
Yucaipa IE  
Yucca Valley D



## CALIFORNIA QUESTIONNAIRE

# Zoey Deschanel

**Where do you live?**

Los Angeles.

**Why there?**

Because that's where my family lives.

**What is your greatest California love?**

I love the redwood forests. And the Hollywood Bowl.

**What is the biggest misperception about Californians?**

That we're all surfers, that we all love the beach.

**What is the stereotype that most holds true?**

That we're pretty friendly. We really are.

**What's your favorite California splurge?**

A smoothie from Erewhon.

**Time for a road trip.**

**Where are you going?**

A great road trip is going up to Ojai and then on to Montecito—you get the valley and the beach. Ojai is so cute. There are so many lovely restaurants and shops to visit. You can spend time just enjoying that beautiful place, and then it's only a half-hour drive to Montecito, which is on the beach. You could have lunch in Ojai and dinner in Montecito.

**Where would you go for the ultimate shopping spree?**

Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice has great shopping. It's unique, and there are a ton of stores there. It feels

very California. I can't think of any other place that's like it. Melrose Place also has a lot of really nice stores. It's a little tiny street off Melrose Avenue, and it feels very random and very L.A. Those are two good places to shop.

**If you could decree an official state culinary experience, what would it be?**

Tacos!

**Best California song?**

There's a Beach Boys song called "Surf's Up."

It feels very California.

It's a very beautiful, classically influenced pop song, and it's lovely.

**How would your California dream day unfold?**

I'd start by going to a wonderful place, the Huntington Botanical Gardens in Pasadena. The gardens look so beautiful—you feel like you're in Europe. There's another botanical garden nearby called Descanso Gardens, which feels more California-specific. I would go visit both gardens and then explore Pasadena, which is a lovely city. It's very historical. It has lots of beautiful architecture. After a full day like that, I'd probably go out to dinner. I like to cook, but I really love and appreciate going to restaurants.





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**OF THEIR OWN WAVES**  
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**TAKES THE ,**  
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