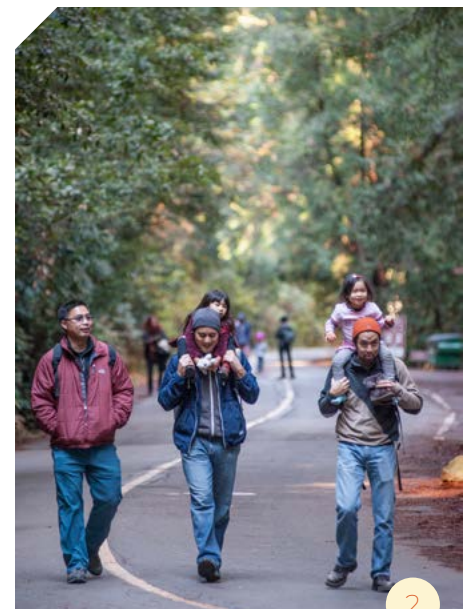
A full-page photograph of a redwood forest. A person stands at the base of a massive redwood tree trunk, with their arms outstretched to the sides, illustrating the scale of the trees. The forest floor is covered in green ferns, and sunlight filters through the dense canopy of green needles.

24 INCREDIBLE COAST REDWOOD PARKS

HIKING, CAMPING, FISHING, BOATING, BIKING, AND MORE!

24 INCREDIBLE COAST REDWOOD PARKS

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ENTER A MAGICAL REALM OF ANCIENT GIANTS

The redwood forests are one of the most important natural treasures in the world. Home to rare beauty and biodiversity found nowhere else, these forests are also the world's most effective carbon sink. The parks in this guide stand in the coast redwood range, a narrow band stretching 450 miles from southern Oregon to the Big Sur coast. This range is home to the tallest trees on Earth, some reaching higher than a 35-story building. Some of these giants were alive during the time of the Roman Empire.

We almost lost the coast redwood forest after the 1849 Gold Rush and the explosive demand for timber. Only 5 percent of the ancient forest remains today. **Save the Redwoods League, founded in 1918, brought the forest back from the brink of extinction by buying and protecting ancient coast redwood groves (and giant sequoia groves in the Sierra Nevada).** These purchases helped to create 66 parks and reserves, including nearly all those in this brochure, for future generations to experience. Some of these parks are a short ride from urban areas. Others are wild, rugged and remote.

No matter what you like to do outside, an unforgettable experience awaits you, your friends and family in California's redwood parks. Nothing compares to standing in the cathedral-like groves, next to trees whose beauty and size is almost beyond belief, witnessing golden light filtering through the canopies, and seeing fairy-tale blankets of redwood sorrel and trillium on the forest floor.

These experiences can be yours. In addition, the parks offer a wide range of outdoor activities, from hiking, bicycling, fishing and wildlife viewing to camping, swimming and kayaking. This guide will help you plan your visit to the redwood forest, with tips on where and when to go, what to bring, and where to stay.

And when you go, expect a magical time.

[Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org)



Photo by Jon Parmentier.

LEGEND OF ICONS



ANCIENT REDWOODS



HIKING



FISHING



BICYCLING



WILDLIFE VIEWING



CAMPING



DOGS



ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO

CHOOSING A SEASON

From a visitor's perspective, Redwood Country can be divided into two seasons: dry and wet. In the dry season roughly from May through October, there is little if any rain; heavy coastal fog can often envelop the redwoods, however, making for cold conditions. At other times, temperatures can range from balmy to hot. Pack accordingly, taking clothes that will suit the shifting conditions. Campgrounds usually are open during this time, but because this also is the busier season for the redwood forest, competition can be high for campsites and parking spaces, especially in the most popular parks such as Big Basin.

Fall, winter and early spring are cooler and wetter, and the parks are less crowded. Many days are sunny and beautiful even in midwinter, so the "off season" is still a wonderful time to visit the redwoods. Make sure you have the appropriate equipment, however: good raingear, waterproof footwear, and if you're camping, a sound tent. And know that mobile phone reception may be spotty or unavailable in remote parks.

CHOOSING A PARK

The coast redwood forest offers countless opportunities for exploration at local, state and federal parks and reserves. In this guide, we profile 24 parks through the coast redwood range that provide a wide variety of activity options.

For more details on these parks and more than 80 others, go to Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org. This new mobile-friendly tool will help you customize an itinerary for your visit to the redwood forest.



Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org



Photo by Mike Shoy.

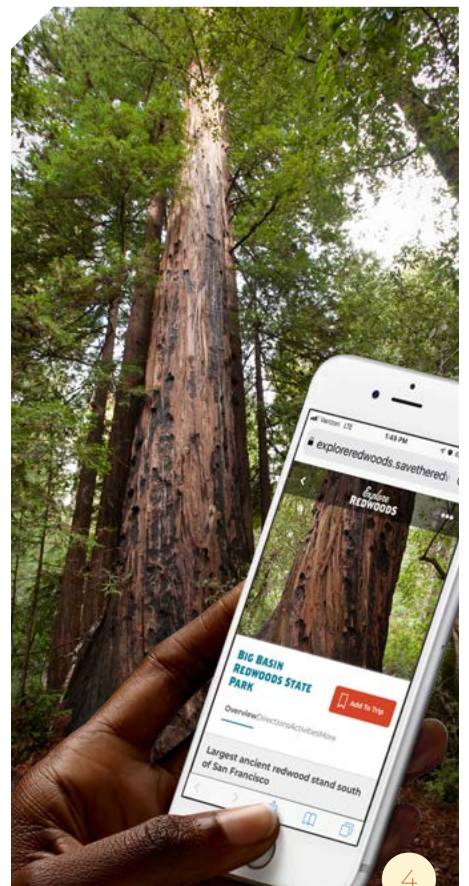


Photo by Peter Buranzone.

WHERE TO STAY

Campers can easily reserve tent or RV sites at redwood parks. For the following state parks, go to ReserveCalifornia.com or call 800-444-PARK (7275). Reserve well in advance for popular parks, particularly during the summer and on holiday weekends.

Visitors who find camping a bit too rustic can rent cabins or stay in motels or lodges. The advantages of such lodging – warm beds, hot water, television and Wi-Fi – are obvious. But such amenities can also distract from the immersive, transformative experience the redwood forest affords. When you're camping, you can burrow into your sleeping bag while the breeze whispers through the canopy hundreds of feet above you, lulling you to sleep. At that point, you aren't just visiting the redwood forest; you are part of it.

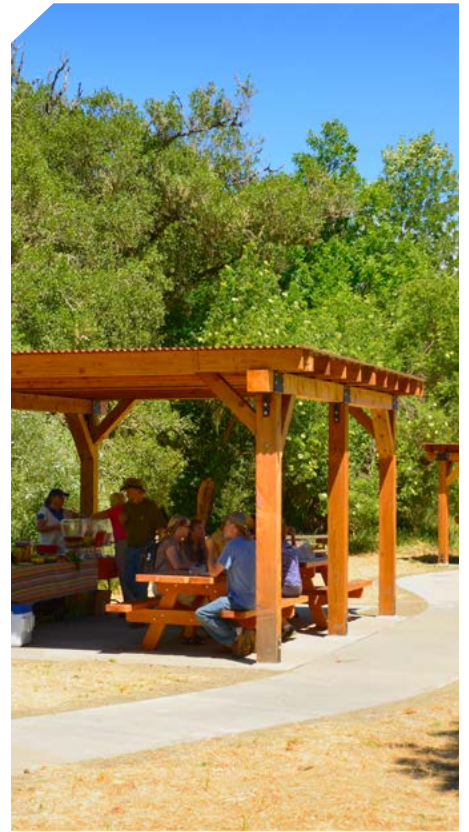


Photo by Mike Shoyts.

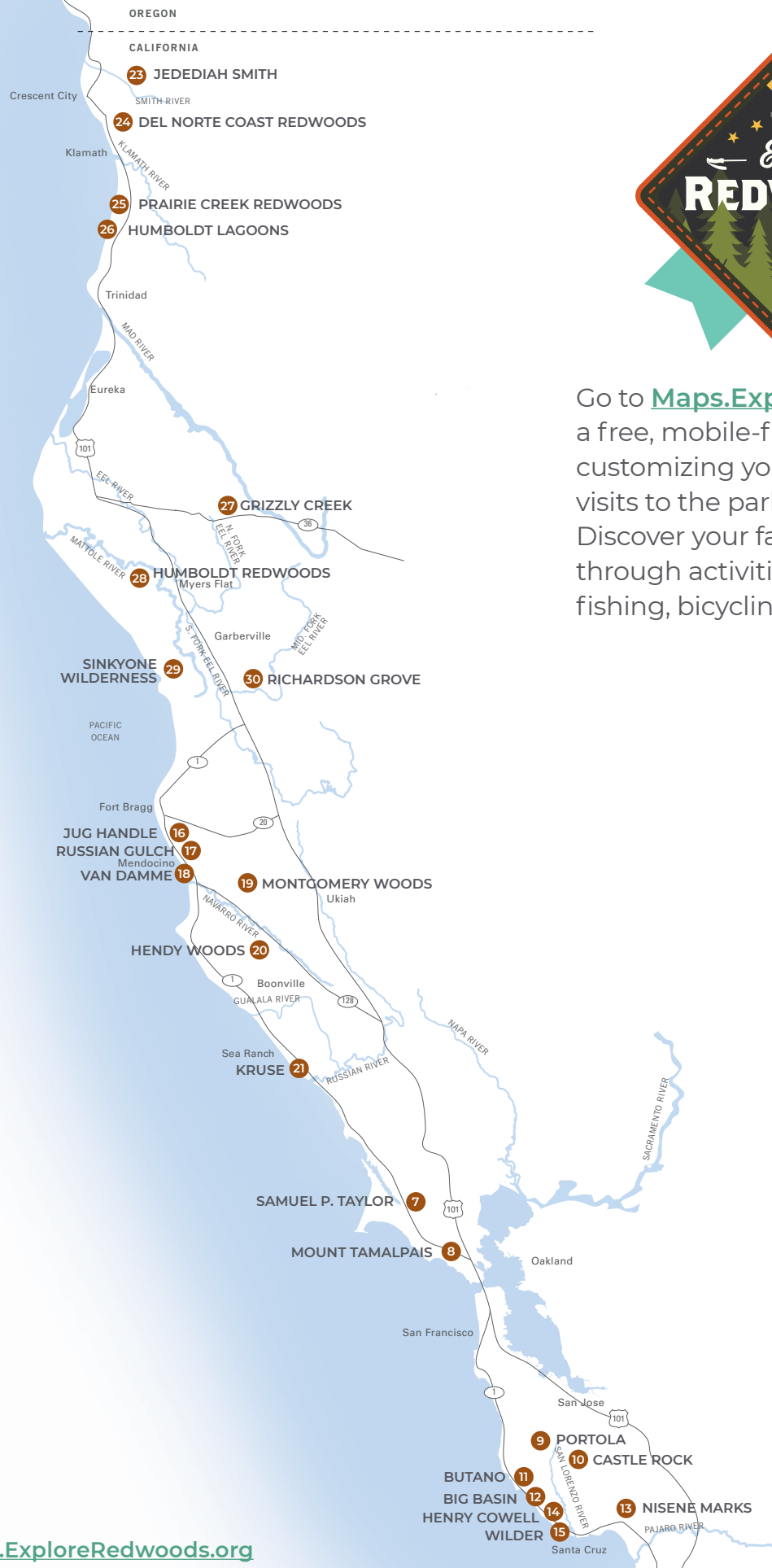
JOIN US

With your help, Save the Redwoods League can build on our century of success and create the ancient forests of tomorrow for generations to come. A new chapter for redwoods begins today. By standing for the redwoods, you stand for the future.

Please join us! Visit SaveTheRedwoods.org/give and become a member with a tax-deductible contribution today. Learn more at SaveTheRedwoods.org



Photo by Paolo Vescia.



Go to Maps.ExploreRedwoods.org, a free, mobile-friendly tool for customizing your itineraries for your visits to the parks in this brochure. Discover your favorite redwood parks through activities such as hiking, fishing, bicycling and more!

MAP AREA



CALIFORNIA

0 20 miles

TAP THE BROWN CIRCLE TO JUMP TO THE CORRESPONDING PAGE

9 = PAGE 9

SAMUEL P. TAYLOR STATE PARK

HIKE, BIKE
AND CAMP
AMONG
GIANTS



Within 1-2 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Just less than an hour's drive north of San Francisco, Samuel P. Taylor State Park is a 2,882-acre redwood forest haven along beautiful Lagunitas Creek. This is one of the premier camping and hiking destinations in the Bay Area, providing a wilderness-like experience so close to San Francisco. The park is also near Point Reyes National Seashore, allowing an extended exploration of some of some of the most spectacular public lands in California.

Photos by Paolo Vescia.



THINGS TO DO

HIKE among majestic old-growth redwoods along Lagunitas Creek and the Pioneer Trail, a loop of about 2 miles. The creek is the living heart of the park, and it's possible to see imperiled coho salmon and steelhead trout spawning in winter and spring (fishing is not allowed). **SPECTACULAR VIEWS** of the Bay Area await hikers who reach the top of Barnabe Peak.

RIDE BIKES and **HORSES** on some of the park's trails. **WALK YOUR DOG** on the partially paved, **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE** Cross Marin Trail that skirts Lagunitas Creek. The 1.5-mile **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE** South Creek Trail also winds along the creek, traversing forest floors carpeted with ferns, redwood sorrel, and the flowers giant trillium and fetid adder's tongue. **BIRDERS** can watch for the park's kestrels, red-tailed hawks, swallows, owls and woodpeckers, among many others.

Most of the park's **CAMPSITES** and **PICNIC AREAS** lie beneath the redwoods, though some at the Devil's Gulch and Madrone campgrounds are located in oak and bay laurel woodlands. **CABINS** also are available. The demand is high for campsites and cabins year-round, so make reservations well in advance.

Photos by Paolo Vescia.



Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

MOUNT TAMALPAIS STATE PARK

POPULAR
ESCAPE NEAR
SAN FRANCISCO



Within 1 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Mount Tamalpais stands just north of San Francisco's Golden Gate, affording spectacular views and serving as an invaluable haven for Bay Area outdoor buffs. Mount Tamalpais State Park offers more than 60 miles of hiking trails and connects to an additional 200 miles of trails on neighboring public lands. A variety of biomes cover the flanks of the mountain, including lush redwood forests, oak woodlands, chaparral fields and serpentine-associated brush lands that support rare endemic plants.

THINGS TO DO

HIKE and **PICNIC** in all seasons. The viewing platform at the summit offers **SPECTACULAR VIEWS** of the Marin County hills, the East Bay, the Farallon Islands, and on particularly clear winter and spring days, the snow-capped Sierra Nevada. The paved 0.75-mile Verna Dunshee Trail also affords stunning views and picnicking.

Several beautiful **WATERFALLS** flow on the park's creeks during winter, and the **SPRING WILDFLOWERS** can be spectacular. **MOUNTAIN BIKE** on the panoramic Coast View and Dias Ridge multiuse trails and on the park's fire roads. Ride your **ROAD BIKE** to Tam's 2,571-summit. See **PLAYS** and join **ASTRONOMY** programs at the Mountain Theater. Settle in at lodging that includes **CABINS, CAMPING**, and group **HORSE CAMPS**.

Because it's near major cities of the Bay Area, the park can become crowded on weekends and holidays. Weekdays usually provide a more leisurely experience. At any season, reserve campsites and cabins well in advance.



Photo by Jim Newsome,
Flickr Creative Commons.



Photo by Sathish J, Flickr Creative Commons.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.guide.exploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

PORTOLA REDWOODS STATE PARK

HOME OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY
PETERS CREEK
GROVE



Within 1 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Close to bustling Silicon Valley is Portola Redwoods State Park, providing 2,800 acres of natural splendor. Located off Alpine Road southwest of Highway 35, the park drops from a ridgetop into a deeply shaded redwood forest that offers a wide range of recreational and scenic options. Among the attractions is **SPECTACULAR PETERS CREEK GROVE**, a stand of giant ancient redwoods.

THINGS TO DO

Portola Redwoods State Park is the ideal destination for a quick getaway from the urban pressures of the San Francisco Bay Area. Eighteen miles of **HIKING** trails trace the serene riparian woodlands of the park's creeks and wind through the lush redwood forests. During the winter, impressive **WATERFALLS** gush on Fall and Pescadero creeks. The 0.75-mile Sequoia Nature Trail loop provides information on the natural history of the area; another quick hike, the Old Tree Trail, leads to a majestic old-growth redwood. If you have a full day, tackle the 11.9-mile round-trip trek to the giant redwoods of Peters Creek Grove, described by outdoor writers as one of the region's most awe-inspiring redwood forests.

EQUESTRIANS and **CYCLISTS** are welcome on Old Haul service road, a scenic, 10-mile route through the redwoods and out of the park to Memorial County Park.

The lush habitat offers **BIRDING** opportunities. The accessible **VISITOR CENTER** offers insight into the park's natural history, and **PICNIC** areas are nearby. Enjoy **CAMPING** at the 55-site family campground, four group campsites and a trail camp for **BACKPACKERS**.



Photo by Paolo Vescia.



Photo by Paolo Vescia.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK



Within 1 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

MOUNTAINS,
ROCK-CLIMBING
AND PANORAMIC
VIEWS

A favorite of local rock climbers, Castle Rock State Park is known for sandstone formations that afford sweeping vistas of young redwood forest. But this 5,100-acre park on the high ridges of the Santa Cruz Mountains is more than its namesake rock. You'll find a variety of recreational opportunities. Located on Highway 35 about 2.5 miles southeast of the Highway 9 junction, the park contains 34 miles of trails, including portions of the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, a rugged, 33-mile route that connects the park to Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

THINGS TO DO

ROCK CLIMBING, of course, is Castle Rock's most renowned pursuit, but the park is also one of the best venues for **HIKING** in the Santa Cruz-San Francisco Peninsula area. Along with the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, many shorter trails are worth hiking. The 5.6-mile Saratoga Gap and Ridge Trail Loop leads to Goat Rock, the dramatic Castle Rock Falls, the Russell Point Overlook, and the Castle Rock Trail Camp. The Ridge Trail sometimes affords glimpses of the park's resident peregrine falcons, and the Saratoga Toll Road, an historical logging road and stagecoach route, is now a shady route that features scenic viewpoints.

HORSEBACK RIDING is permitted on designated equestrian trails, and **BICYCLISTS** are allowed on the Skyline Trail. The park has two **TRAIL CAMPS**: Castle Rock and Waterman Gap. Castle Rock has 20 sites that are available on a first-come, first-served basis, while Waterman Gap has six primitive sites available by reservation.



Photo by Franki T,
Flickr Creative Commons.

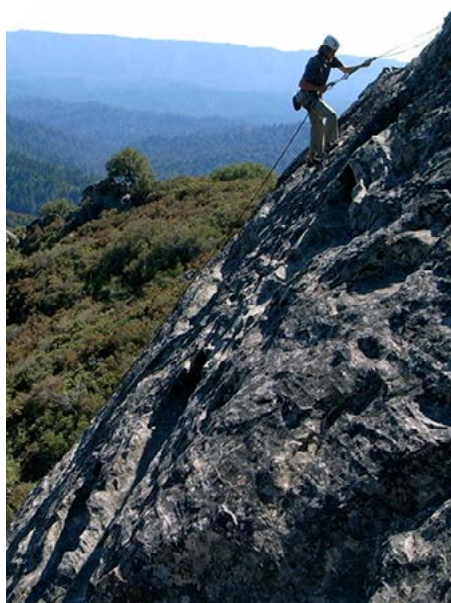


Photo by Naotake Murayama, Flickr Creative Commons.

BUTANO STATE PARK

QUIET, LUSH
GETAWAY
NEAR
THE COAST



Within 1-2 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Butano State Park is situated in a deep, redwood-cloaked canyon in the Santa Cruz Mountains about 6 miles from the coast near the town of Pescadero. This 4,000-acre park is a natural jewel, and well worth exploration. It offers solitude, camping and a variety of hikes through a beautiful second- and third-growth redwood forest. The park is particularly noteworthy for its signs of seismic activity and other natural forces; for example, an oddly bent redwood tree is evidence of an earthquake long ago. Also worth seeing is the Candelabra Tree, a redwood with five huge branches jutting parallel to the main trunk.



Photos by Julie Martin.

THINGS TO DO

Butano offers **HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING** and **CAMPING** in one of the loveliest redwood forests in the San Francisco Bay Area. There are 40 miles of trails, 21 drive-in campsites, 18 walk-in campsites, and a backcountry trail camp. Prime **PICNICKING** sites are abundant, and the park is a wonderful destination for **BIRDERS**. During the summer, you can enjoy guided nature walks and campfire programs.

Options for hiking are numerous, but some favorite routes include the Little Butano Creek Trail, a 3-mile, easy walk through lush redwoods, ferns and sorrel; the Jackson Flats Loop, which traverses redwood forest and wetlands and affords beautiful ridge-top views; and the 9.5-mile Canyon Loop that tracks through the deep forest, providing scenic overlooks.

Mountain bikers can loop through much of the park on Butano and Olmo fire roads.



Photos by Julie Martin.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK

COLOSSAL
ANCIENT
REDWOODS
AND
WATERFALLS



Within 1-2 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Established in 1902, Big Basin is California's oldest state park. Located in the Santa Cruz Mountains, its 18,000 acres protect a variety of wild land habitats, including the largest continuous stand of ancient coast redwoods south of San Francisco. Big Basin is home to truly giant redwoods, some of them as tall as a 30-story skyscraper and as wide as a two-lane street. Each season offers different attractions: Winters are cool, mild and often wet. Waterfalls gush, and the forest floor is heavy with luxuriant mosses. In summer, the mature forest offers relief from the heat. Fall is the most hospitable season, without winter storms or extreme heat.



Photo by Max Forster.

THINGS TO DO

Big Basin has it all: **HIKING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, WILDLIFE VIEWING, HORSEBACK RIDING,** and **CAMPING** ranging from primitive backcountry campsites to cabins. A natural history **MUSEUM** and a **VISITOR CENTER** provide **EXHIBITS** and information on the park, and numerous events are held throughout the year, along with regular activities such as nature walks.

More than 80 miles of trails in Big Basin traverse the park's major habitats. Wildlife is abundant, and includes black-tailed deer, bobcats, mountain lions, gray foxes, coyotes and scores of bird species.

No visitor should leave without enjoying the **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE** half-mile Redwood Loop Trail, across the parking lot from the visitor center. This trail features some of the park's largest trees, including the Mother and Father of the Forest. More challenging hikes reveal the park's breathtaking **WATERFALLS**. The moderate Sequoia Trail passes spectacular Sempervirens Falls. A strenuous hike on the Berry Creek Falls Trail passes many of the largest redwoods, Berry Creek, and its four falls.



Photo by Paolo Vescia.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreredwoods.org/guide)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reservecalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

THE FOREST OF NISENE MARKS STATE PARK

ADVENTURE
IN DENSE,
RUGGED,
YOUNGER
FOREST



Within 1-2 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Located in Aptos off Soquel Drive, this 10,000-acre park is a testament to the resilience of the redwood forest. Almost all the old-growth trees in this forest were cut in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Donated to the state in the 1960s by the Marks family of Salinas, the property today is covered in dense second-growth conifers, a showcase for a redwood forest in recovery.

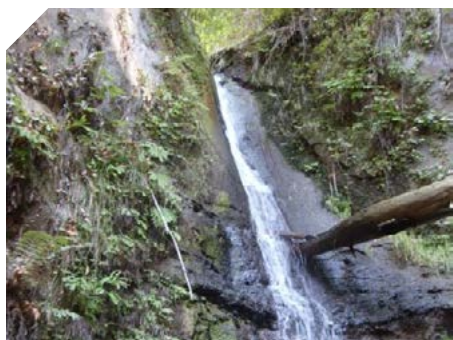


Photo by j maughn,
Flickr Creative Commons.

THINGS TO DO

Visitors can **PICNIC, HIKE, JOG** or **BIKE** on 30 miles of trails that traverse steep slopes. The Aptos Creek Trail leads to the **EPICENTER OF THE 1989 LOMA PRIETA EARTHQUAKE**. A 9-mile hike or bike up Aptos Creek Fire Road to Sand Point reveals **PANORAMIC VIEWS** of the forested mountains. Closer to the entrance at the south end of the park, the Old Growth Loop showcases a small grove that survived the logging boom. If you come during the rainy season, try one of the long but rewarding hikes to Nisene Marks' beautiful falls. Lovely **MAPLE FALLS** flows at the end of Bridge Creek Trail.

The Forest of Nisene Marks also is a superb **BIRDING** venue, particularly during the spring and fall migrations. Ride your mountain bike on the Aptos Creek Fire Road and four single-track trails below its steel bridge. You can continue on the road to the park's northern border into 2,700-acre Soquel Demonstration State Forest; skilled **MOUNTAIN BIKERS** can ride the challenging loops by entering on Ridge Trail at the end of Aptos Creek Fire Road.

With a reservation, you can bike or backpack about six miles from the West Ridge trailhead to the park's **TRAIL CAMP**.



Photo by Phil Hollenback, Flickr Creative Commons.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.explore-redwoods.org/guide)
For more information on trail camping, or to reserve a site, call 831-763-7063.

HENRY COWELL REDWOODS STATE PARK

EASILY
ACCESSIBLE
WONDERLAND
OF ANCIENT
GIANTS



Within 1-2 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Just a short drive north of Santa Cruz near the town of Felton, Henry Cowell Redwoods has something for almost every stripe of outdoor enthusiast. The park is famous for its 40-acre grove of towering old-growth redwood trees, many easily accessible on the flat Redwood Grove Loop Trail. These giants inspired some of California's earliest redwood preservation efforts. The 113-site **CAMPGROUND** makes this one of the more reliable state parks for securing a spot. The 4,650-acre park includes the Fall Creek Unit, a lovely, fern-lined canyon where you'll find remnants of a successful lime-processing industry; it makes for fascinating exploration.



Photo by Ray Krebs,
Flickr Creative Commons.

THINGS TO DO

Hike on 30 miles of trails. The Santa Cruz Sandhills, a region of ancient marine deposits, is home to a suite of rare, and in some cases endemic, animals and plants. **HIKE** from the campground through the ponderosa pines and chaparral of the Sandhills down to the Redwood Grove Loop trail and back—about 5 miles roundtrip. Take some time to loll along the San Lorenzo River. At the halfway point, head to the **VISITOR CENTER** to **LEARN** about wildlife, plants, logging, and other park lore. **PICNIC** in shady picnic areas among the redwood trees.

MOUNTAIN BIKE on the challenging and scenic Rincon Fire Road. **SWIM** in the Garden of Eden swimming hole in the San Lorenzo River. **RIDE HORSES** among the giants. **TAKE A RIDE** on historical steam locomotives on the neighboring Roaring Camp Railroad. Visit roaringcamp.com or call 831-335-4484 for more information.



Photo by Victoria Reeder.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org
Reserve a campsite at ReserveCalifornia.com or call 800-444-7275.

WILDER RANCH STATE PARK

HISTORY,
FOREST AND
SEASHORE
CONVERGE



Within 1-2 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Just north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1, this 7,000-acre property stretches from the crest of Ben Lomond Mountain to the sea, and was once the primary ranch supplying the Santa Cruz Mission with food. Later, it was a dairy owned by the Wilder family, ranchers who were deeply vested in the cutting-edge agricultural innovations of their day. Several of the ranch's buildings have been preserved and restored, including a mission-era adobe. The ranch encompasses a variety of habitats, including upland redwood forests, tide pools, fern-fringed caves and coastal bluffs.

THINGS TO DO

TOURS and **DEMONSTRATIONS** teach visitors about the region's **HISTORY**, including Old Fashioned Independence Day, which includes a parade, games, crafts and history demonstrations; Garden Planting and Wool Day, usually held in April; the Heritage Harvest Festival in October; and Holidays on the Ranch, in December.

Along with the historical and cultural attractions, Wilder Ranch's 35 miles of trails make the park a favorite destination with outdoor enthusiasts who **HIKE, BIKE** and **RIDE HORSES**. The park's only campsites are for equestrians, first-come, first-served year-round.

The ranch supports lush forests of large second-growth redwoods along the Old Cabin, Enchanted Loop, Woodcutters, Long Meadow, and Twin Oaks trails. Wilder is rich in **WILDLIFE**: On the beautiful coastline, you can spot sea otters, harbor seals and seabirds. Bus service to the ranch is available from Santa Cruz.



JUG HANDLE STATE RESERVE



Within 3-4 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

BEACH,
BLUFFS, WILDLIFE
AND A PYGMY
FOREST

Halfway between the coastal towns of Fort Bragg and Mendocino is Jug Handle State Reserve, a 769-acre parcel of spectacular vistas and rich natural diversity – a wonderland for **WILDLIFE WATCHERS** and **PLANT FANS**. The reserve includes terraces formed by wave, glacial and tectonic activity. Each terrace is 100,000 years older than the one below it. Few places on Earth provide such a visible record of the changes wrought by time on geography, soils and vegetation.



THINGS TO DO

Jug Handle is open only for day use, and it's easy to spend an entire day here, **HIKING** the terraces on the 2.5-mile Ecological Staircase Trail. The first terrace, the lowest, is wetland and scrub. You may spot black-tailed deer and meadowlarks there. The second terrace is characterized by stately forests of bishop pine and grand fir. Here, spring brings showy pink **RHODODENDRON BLOOMS**. Look for woodpeckers and yellow-bellied sapsuckers. The third terrace features Bolander pine, tall redwoods and a rare pygmy forest, including stunted redwoods. Here you may see black-tailed jackrabbits and bobcats.

On the rocky coast, watch for resting sea lions. Look farther out for the heart-shaped blows of migrating gray whales from mid-December to early April. Overhead, look for kestrels and ospreys. Explore the dramatic **SANDY BEACH** reachable by the steps just north of the picnic area.

Jug Handle is an excellent place for a **PICNIC**, particularly during the late summer and fall, when sunny days are most common.



RUSSIAN GULCH STATE PARK

LAND AND SEA
RECREATION IN
A SPECTACULAR
SPOT



Within 3-4 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

The coastal village of Mendocino is celebrated for its panoramic views, cozy lodgings, and fine restaurants. But visitors should take time from wining and dining to explore Russian Gulch State Park, 2 miles north. The park combines a forested canyon with spectacular headlands, pristine beaches, a waterfall – and a churning pool in a collapsed sea cave. Its namesake gulch supports lovely stands of redwoods, and the headlands are spangled with wildflowers during spring and early summer. In winter, the bluffs provide expansive vistas of the storm-driven Pacific Ocean.



Photo by Art Poskanzer,
Flickr Creative Commons.

THINGS TO DO

Considering its small size, Russian Gulch is noteworthy for the diverse recreational opportunities it offers: **HIKING, BICYCLING, HORSEBACK RIDING, BEACHCOMBING, FISHING, DIVING** and **KAYAKING**. The park's 15 miles of trails lead along the headlands and through the forests. You can reach a lovely 36-foot waterfall on the Fern Canyon Trail, while the Headlands Trail affords multiple overlooks of the ocean and coastline, culminating in the **DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL**, a collapsed cave that surges with whitewater from incoming waves.

Take some time to walk the beach, explore tide pools along the rocky outcroppings, or fish from shore. The beach is also an excellent **KAYAK** launch site during calm days. Russian Gulch is also a favorite venue for abalone fishing.

Bicyclists are allowed on designated trails and roads, including 2 miles of the Fern Canyon Trail and 2.8 miles of the North Boundary Trail. The park has 26 standard campsites and one group site. Reservations are strongly recommended in the summer.



Photo by Sanjoy Ghosh, Flickr Creative Commons.

VAN DAMME STATE PARK



**ABALONE
FISHING, PYGMY
FOREST,
DRAMATIC
SCENERY**

Within 3-4 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

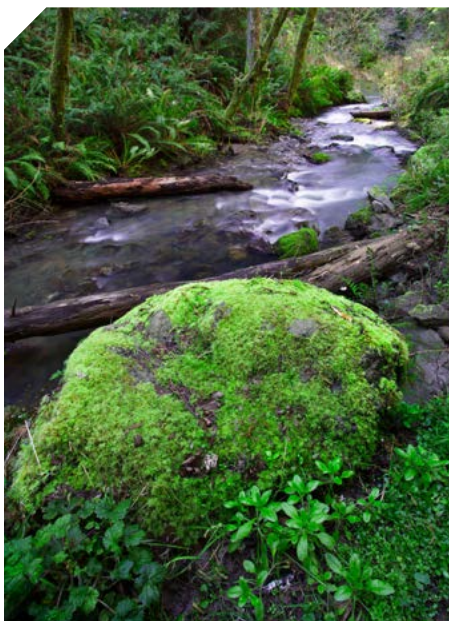
Van Damme State Park is like nearby Russian Gulch State Park. It offers a lush redwood forest, dramatic headlands that front the surging Pacific Ocean, and a scenic, pristine beach. Van Damme also features a protected cove that affords a variety of marine recreational activities, and a pygmy forest consisting of trees stunted by wind and lean soils. The park is close to Fort Bragg and Mendocino, towns known for excellent restaurants, upscale lodging, and historical attractions. Visit the park as a primary destination or as part of a bed and breakfast weekend.

THINGS TO DO

Van Damme offers almost anything the coastal outdoor recreationalist could want: **HIKING, BICYCLING, SEA KAYAKING, BIRDING, CAMPING** and **ABALONE FISHING**. The park has trails that can be combined in varying ways, from a quarter-mile, **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE TRAIL** through the dwarf cypress and pines of the pygmy forest to a redwood-lined, 9.1-mile route including Fern Canyon.

The cove at Van Damme is a perfect launch site for **KAYAKS**. Abalone fishing is also a favorite activity at Van Damme, and the intertidal zone is an excellent venue for people who enjoy **TIDE-POOL VIEWING**. This is a great park for **BIRDING**, and coho salmon and steelhead trout can sometimes be spotted during their spawning runs in winter and spring.

Van Damme has 69 campsites, most arrayed along the Little River. Sites fill up fast in the summer and on weekends (particularly during abalone season), so reservations are advised.



MONTGOMERY WOODS STATE NATURAL RESERVE

REMOTE
REALM OF
SPECTACULAR
ANCIENT
GIANTS



Within 3-4 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve was once thought to shelter the tallest tree in the world. Loftier redwoods have since been discovered in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, but Montgomery's 367-foot giant remains one of the natural wonders of the world. Indeed, this remote, quiet reserve 13 miles northwest of Ukiah contains many magnificent giants. The reserve is one of the most picturesque redwood forests.



THINGS TO DO

Montgomery Woods is strictly a day-use area offering a 2-mile **HIKING** trail, including a steep 0.3-mile start and finish, and a 200-foot elevation gain.

The reserve is perfect place to explore a compact area, strolling by some truly magnificent trees, abundant, lush ferns, emerald carpets of redwood sorrel and enchanting Montgomery Creek.

Mammals such as black bears, mountain lions, and bobcats are shy and seldom spotted, but you may see songbirds and raptors. Also look for **AMPHIBIANS**: foothill yellow-legged frogs and rough-skinned, coast-range California and red-bellied newts.

Enjoy a break at the shady, **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE PICNIC** area.



Photo by Ken Van Der Wende.

HENDY WOODS STATE PARK



Within 3-4 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

**WHEELCHAIR -
ACCESSIBLE
ANCIENT TREES
IN WINE
COUNTRY**

Wine tasting in Mendocino County's Anderson Valley? Save time to visit 845-acre Hendy Woods State Park near Philo, where you can hike through two groves of ancient redwoods, enjoy the multiple delights of the beautiful Navarro River, and camp under the stars. Hendy Woods is generally warmer than many of the coastal redwood parks, so it's a good place to visit when fog has socked in the coast and most other parks are chilly and drizzly.



Photo by Mike Shoy.



Photo by Mike Shoy.

THINGS TO DO

Though relatively small, Hendy Woods has 5 miles of **HIKING** trails, including routes through Big Hendy and Little Hendy Groves. Some of the trees in these stands are 300 feet tall and 1,000 years old. Hermit Hut Trail leads to the spot where the "Hendy Hermit," a Russian immigrant, once lived. A trailside exhibit tells his story. The **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE** half-mile All-Access Trail and 0.6-mile Discovery Trail offer breathtaking routes through groves of massive redwoods. The Discovery Trail is part of the Big Hendy Loop, a flat 1.6-mile path through the mind-blowing forest.

The Navarro River attracts **SWIMMERS** and **WADERS**. In the **WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE** day-use area opened in 2015, you can enjoy a comfortable **PICNIC** under two shelters, complete with barbecues and interpretive signs explaining the park's natural, cultural, and recreational points of interest.

Four cabins and 92 **CAMPsites** are available year-round for public use. A small volunteer-staffed visitor center stocks supplies and souvenirs, and special **CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS** are sometimes held in the groves.

KRUSE RHODODENDRON STATE NATURAL RESERVE

A MUST-SEE
FLORAL DISPLAY
IN MAY



Within 3-4 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

As its name implies, you come to the 300-acre Kruse reserve for the flowers. Each May, the reserve is abloom in **PINK RHODODENDRONS**. But Kruse, located on Highway 1 about 20 miles north of Jenner, is also significant as a showcase for forest succession. A fierce wildfire decades ago set the scene for today's floral displays by removing most of the large trees. Rhododendrons then grew in, constituting an intermediate stage as the forest slowly moved back to a climax growth of conifers. Other understory vegetation – California huckleberry, Pacific wax myrtle and ferns – likewise thrive under the remaining Douglas firs and second-growth redwoods.

Photo by Mike Shoy.



THINGS TO DO

Kruse is a small reserve, and it's strictly for day use; there are no campsites, restroom facilities or trash receptacles. Two miles of **HIKING** trails traverse the reserve, providing both a pleasant hike and extended appreciation of the blooms.

After taking in the scenic beauty of Kruse, visitors can continue enjoying the natural wonders in adjacent **SALT POINT STATE PARK**. Just as Kruse shelters a profusion of flora, Salt Point offers bountiful coastal features: panoramic views, kelp-dotted coves, six miles of rugged coastline, and an underwater park. **HIKERS** can venture out on 20 miles of trails. The rocky coastline provides many excellent ocean **FISHING** opportunities.

Salt Point's Gerstle Cove Marine Reserve is a popular **DIVING** destination; above the water's surface, visitors can see where sandstone was carved from the cliffs to build the streets of San Francisco. The Salt Point Trail is wheelchair-accessible for half of a mile along the bluffs, and Gerstle Cove day-use area has an accessible parking and picnic area and restroom. **CAMPERS** can reserve sites at ReserveCalifornia.com.



REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS

Redwood National and State Parks protect 45 percent of the world's remaining old-growth redwoods and half of the tallest trees. The forests in these parks are the greatest on Earth. Including **REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK** and the following **JEDEDIAH SMITH, DEL NORTE COAST** and **PRAIRIE CREEK** redwoods state parks, they are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and International Biosphere Reserve, reflecting worldwide awareness that the parks' resources are irreplaceable. Together, these parks provide habitat for a rich array of wildlife, from banana slugs and black bears, to sea anemones and gray whales.

JEDEDIAH SMITH REDWOODS STATE PARK

LUSH, PRIMEVAL
WILDERNESS
ALONG THE
SMITH RIVER



Within 5-6 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Named after the first Euro-American to explore the interior of Northern California, Jedediah Smith is the northernmost California redwood state park. Just south of the Oregon border and east of Crescent City, Jed Smith protects 7 percent of all ancient redwoods left in the world.

Photo by Jon Parmentier.



THINGS TO DO

Jedediah Smith has 20 miles of trails that literally take hikers back millions of years, when vast forests of ancient redwoods covered much of western North America. The 0.6-mile Stout Grove Loop **HIKING** trail is home to gigantic, unforgettable redwoods. The 5.6-mile Boy Scout Trail showcases what redwoods writer David Baselt. calls among the world's best redwoods scenery.

Photo by David Baselt.



Jed Smith stands along the magnificent Smith River, the longest free-flowing stream in California and one of the most pristine. The Smith's waters sustain robust runs of steelhead trout and salmon, and the river is revered by western sport **ANGLERS**. The Smith is also celebrated among **PADDLERS**. In summer, the gin-clear water of the Smith is ideal for **SWIMMING** and **SNORKELING**.

BICYCLES are permitted on all roadways and the Little Bald Hills Trail, and horses also are allowed on the Little Bald Hills Trail. The park has nearly 90 **CAMPSITES** where you can immerse yourself in one of the world's most beautiful and wild places.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.ReserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK

HIKING AND
MOUNTAIN
BIKING AMID
RUGGED
SPLENDOR



Within 5-6 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Del Norte Coast Redwood park is home to a true temperate rainforest, sustaining some of the tallest trees in the world. Near Crescent City, the park protects 8 miles of coastline and high bluffs, providing panoramic views of rocky headlands and the tumultuous Pacific Ocean. Del Norte also contains the Mill Creek Addition, the site of cutting-edge forest restoration programs by Save the Redwoods League and Redwood National and State Parks.



THINGS TO DO

The 3-mile Wilson Beach trail is lined with 30-foot tall **RHODODENDRONS** in May and early June. Wilson Beach on False Klamath Cove is great for **PICNICS, STROLLS** and **TIDE-POOLING**.

On the park's trails, wildlife enthusiasts may spot **ROOSEVELT ELK, BOBCATS**, or **BLACK BEARS**.

The steep and strenuous California Coastal Trail traverses the park, providing a **RENOWNED MOUNTAIN BIKING** experience along coastal bluffs and through groves of giant redwoods. Old logging roads in the Mill Creek Day Use Area also are worth exploring via mountain bike. Open on weekends, the roads also welcome **HIKERS** and **LEASHED DOGS**.

FISHING is allowed in the park tributaries of the Smith River. **CAMPING** is available at the Mill Creek Campground, which has 145 sites, and is open from May through September. Backcountry camping is allowed by permit along the Coastal Trail.



Photo by David Baselt.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

PREHISTORIC
LAND OF
GIGANTIC TREES,
ICONIC
WILDLIFE



Within 5-6 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Many of Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park's giants are just steps from parking areas, making hushed and primeval majesty within easy reach. The park, 50 miles north of Eureka, is also renowned for its wildlife, particularly its large herd of Roosevelt elk, which are often spotted placidly feeding in meadows along US Highway 101. Miles of open coastline are also included in the park, sheltering a vast array of marine mammals, birds, fish and invertebrates. With so many scenic and recreational options, Prairie Creek warrants more than quick visit.

Photo by Max Forster.



THINGS TO DO

Prairie Creek contains 75 miles of **HIKING** trails, so hiking is a primary pursuit at the park. First-time visitors should investigate the Prairie Creek Trail, an hour-long hike that starts just east of the visitor center and wends through groves of behemoth redwoods.

Fern Canyon, a 0.7-mile walk that features **WATERFALLS**, **SAND DUNES** and **GRAZING ELK**, appears in the film **JURASSIC PARK**. You can learn from a number of **SELF-GUIDED INTERPRETIVE WALKS**, and **MULTI-DAY TREKS** are possible.

MOUNTAIN BIKERS enjoy the 19-mile Ossagon Trail through ancient redwood forest, prairie and along the beach. The park also is known for its **SCENIC DRIVES**, including Drury Parkway, Davison Road, and the Cal-Barrel Road.

Prairie Creek is an excellent **CAMPING** destination, with more than 60 sites available at the Elk Prairie campground and 26 tent or RV sites available at the Gold Bluffs Beach Campground. One walk-in environmental campsite is available by permit near Gold Bluffs Beach.



HUMBOLDT LAGOONS STATE PARK



Within 5-6 hour drive of the San Francisco Bay Area

A WEALTH
OF WLDLIFE
WATCHING

Located 40 miles north of Eureka on US Highway 101, Humboldt Lagoons State Park is part of the largest lagoon system in the United States. Three lagoons are bordered by sand dunes, redwood forests, prairie and coastal scrub. This park positively **TEEMS WITH WILDLIFE**, from black bears and herds of Roosevelt elk, to bald eagles, peregrine falcons and imperiled western snowy plovers, to whales, dolphins and sea lions, it's a wonderland for animal lovers.



Photo by Bill Chitty, Flickr Creative Commons.

THINGS TO DO

A wide variety of **HIKING** options includes the California Coastal Trail. (Portions of this trail traverse sand dunes that are sometimes breached by ocean waves, so it's best to avoid this route during the rainy season or during particularly high tides.) Two-mile hikes include Dry Lagoon Beach and the Stone Lagoon Coastal Trail. In May and June, the half-mile Stagecoach Hill/Azelea Nature Trail blazes with the pink, red and white blooms of **FLOWERING AZALEA** bushes.

Big, Stone, and Freshwater Lagoons are perfect for **KAYAKING** and **FISHING**. Swimming and kayaking are not recommended on the ocean side of the lagoons. Huge swells and strong currents make ocean entry highly dangerous. Kayaks may be rented and guided trips can be arranged at the Stone Lagoon Visitor Center.

The visitor center itself warrants some time. It features a cozy central room that contains fascinating **INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS** on the cultural and natural history of the North Coast, and a deck overlooks the lagoon, providing a perfect place for **PICNICS**.

Stone Lagoon has a boat-in and hike-in **CAMPGROUND** with six year-round primitive sites.



Photo by phoca2004, Flickr Creative Commons.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

GRIZZLY CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

COMPACT
STAR OF
STAR WARS



Within 5-6 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

At Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, it's all about the trees. Located on the Van Duzen River on Highway 36 about 15 miles west of US Highway 101, this park is small. It's less than 1 square mile, with 5 miles of hiking trails – but its trees are among the biggest on Earth. Breathtaking Cheatham Grove appears in *RETURN OF THE JEDI*. Star Wars fans still visit. Despite its compact size, Grizzly Creek offers a wide range of recreational options.

Photo by JM, Flickr Creative Commons.



THINGS TO DO

Grizzly Peak's **HIKING** trails provide easy access to both the cathedral-like groves of big trees and the Van Duzen River. The Van Duzen is an excellent **SWIMMING** and **PICNICKING** destination in the summer. In winter and early spring, the river swells with the rains and becomes a lively Class III whitewater run for experienced **KAYAKERS** and **RAFTERS**. **ANGLERS** fish the river from late fall to early winter for salmon and steelhead.

Though many of the area's wildlife species are shy and seldom seen, you can study them in the park's visitor center, which has an extensive **TAXIDERMY DISPLAY**. A series of interpretive programs, including **NATURE WALKS AND CAMPFIRE TALKS**, are held at the visitor's center through the summer.

BIRDERS may see, among many species, pileated woodpeckers, northern spotted owls and, flying high, marbled murrelets, highly imperiled seabirds that are a living emblem of old-growth coniferous forests.

Grizzly Creek has 30 family **CAMPsites**; reservations are recommended between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Photo by Jon Parmentier.



Learn more about this park and plan your trip at Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org
Reserve a campsite at ReserveCalifornia.com or call 800-444-7275.

HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK

WORLD'S LARGEST
CONTIGUOUS
EXPANSE OF
ANCIENT
REDWOODS



Within 5-6 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Save the Redwoods League established Humboldt Redwoods State Park in 1921, expanding it over the decades to almost twice the size of San Francisco. Now it includes 17,000 acres of ancient forest, the largest contiguous expanse of old-growth redwoods on Earth. The park stands as a testament to the determination of America's early conservationists. From its gigantic redwoods and iconic wildlife to the scenic Eel River, the park offers a redwoods experience of a lifetime.



Photo by Scrubhiker (USCdyer),
Flickr Creative Commons.

THINGS TO DO

Visitors can see many of park's old-growth groves by car along the 32-mile-long **AVENUE OF THE GIANTS**. Must-see **HIKING** stops along the way include Founders Grove, with the fallen 362-foot Dyerville Giant; half-mile Gould Grove Nature Loop Trail at the park's visitor center; and the mind-blowing Rockefeller Forest.

The park offers more than 100 miles of **HIKING, HORSE** and **BIKING TRAILS**. Hiking options are abundant, ranging from brief nature walks to extended and strenuous treks. Cyclists may use paved roads and multiuse trails; equestrians may use designated trails.

Thirty miles of the South Fork Eel River run through the park, offering opportunities for **SWIMMING; KAYAKING** and **RAFTING** winter through early summer; and catch-and-release **FISHING** in fall and winter.

The park has more than 250 developed campsites at Albee Creek, Burlington and Hidden Springs **CAMPGROUNDS**, as well as trail, horse and group camps. Check out the visitor center for its educational exhibits, theater and bookstore.



Photo by Kirt Edblom, Flickr Creative Commons.

Learn more about this park and plan your trip at [Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org](https://www.exploreRedwoods.org)
Reserve a campsite at [ReserveCalifornia.com](https://www.reserveCalifornia.com) or call 800-444-7275.

SINKYONE WILDERNESS STATE PARK

HIKE,
BACKPACK,
GET AWAY
FROM IT ALL



Within 5-6 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Located on California's famed Lost Coast, a roadless 60-mile stretch about 36 miles southwest of Garberville, Sinkyone was named for the region's indigenous people.

The Lost Coast is a stunning conjunction of forest with coastal prairie, rocky headlands and empty, pristine beaches. Wildlife is abundant, from the sea lions, harbor seals, and gray whales of the coast, to the Roosevelt elk, black bears and mountain lions of the wooded interior.

THINGS TO DO

At Sinkyone, it's mostly about **HIKING** and **BACKPACKING**. The Lost Coast Trail skirts the entire 20-mile length of the Sinkyone coastline, taking hikers across ridge tops, through coastal prairies spangled with wildflowers, along beaches, and past rocky coves, sea stacks and stands of **OLD-GROWTH REDWOODS**. Just over 2 miles of the trail's southern end extends through Shady Dell, land owned by Save the Redwoods League which showcases ancient candelabra-shaped redwoods (pictured). Watch for majestic **WHALES** and **ELK** from the trail.

Both Needle Rock and Usal Beach (the north and south ends of the park) are good places for day-hiking on the Lost Coast Trail through the park.

FISHING and **ABALONE DIVING** are popular in the cold Pacific, so wetsuits or drysuits are a necessity.

BICYCLES are allowed on park roads, but not on single-track trails. The 5.4-mile ride from the Needle Rock Visitor Center to Orchard Creek and back winds past grasslands and forests, offering lovely coast views.

PRIMITIVE CAMPSITES are near each park entrance and at 3- to 5-mile intervals along the Lost Coast Trail. Reservations are not required.

Photo by Paola Vescia.



Photo by Victoria Reeder.



RICHARDSON GROVE STATE PARK

ENTHRALLING
ANCIENT GIANTS
WITHIN EASY
REACH



Within 5-6 hour drive of
the San Francisco Bay Area

Right on U.S. Highway 101 near Garberville, Richardson Grove is the historical gateway to the giant redwoods of California's north coast. This 1,800-acre easy-access park combines a variety of recreational options with the opportunity for viewing massive ancient redwoods along the South Fork of the Eel River, a national "wild and scenic" river.

Photos by Mike Shoy.



THINGS TO DO

Richardson Grove has 9 miles of **HIKING** trails, including interpretive trails. The South Fork of the Eel River bisects the park and is popular for **SWIMMING** and **WADING** in the summer. During the winter, the South Fork of the Eel is a good destination for catch-and-release steelhead and salmon **FISHING**.

Many of the park's biggest redwoods are along the river. Some of these giants are more than 300 feet tall. The park has several atypical trees along the Grove Nature Trail, including the Chandelier Tree, which has multiple trunks branching several feet above the ground. Near the visitor center, check out the Bat Tree, inhabited by a colony of brown bats. Visitors can also learn from a tree-ring study.

BIRDERS may spot bald eagles, great blue herons, osprey, belted kingfishers, and acorn and pileated woodpeckers.

Richardson Grove staffers run an education program in the summer, providing **CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS** and **GUIDED NATURE WALKS**. The visitor center offers interpretive exhibits. **CAMPING** is popular in three family campgrounds with one site for hikers and bicyclists and a group camp.

Photos by Mike Shoy.



Learn more about this park and plan your trip at Guide.ExploreRedwoods.org
Reserve a campsite at ReserveCalifornia.com or call 800-444-7275.

HELP PROTECT REDWOODS FOREVER

Your contributions help Save the Redwoods League safeguard special places, allowing us to purchase redwood land, restore logged forests, study how to best protect them, and teach children and adults about these magical expressions of life. With your help, we know that the 2,000- and 3,000-year-old giants will inspire the imagination of countless generations to come. Stand for the future.

DONATE TODAY



Save The Redwoods

L E A G U E

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FOR
THE **FUTURE**

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