

travel
itinerary
outdoors

DISCOVER ROADS LESS TRAVELED IN CALIFORNIA'S TRUE NORTH

A 10-day outdoor adventure exploring California's northernmost landscapes, from the **Mendocino** and **Humboldt County** coastlines to the eastern interior of the **Shasta Cascade** region

visit
California

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- Day 1: **Sacramento to Mendocino**
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 - Day 4: **Mendocino to Eureka**
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Grass Valley**

CALIFORNIA'S TRUE NORTH

Itinerary overview

Explore California's "last frontier" traveling through the pristine North Coast and Shasta Cascade regions. Road trip to the true north of California to experience towering ancient redwood forests, mystical mountains, rugged coastlines, sparkling lakes, robust rivers, quaint Victorian villages and Western-style towns. Be awestruck

by natural wonders such as Avenue of the Giants, Mt. Shasta and Lassen Volcanic National Park. Learn about California's roots, from the Indigenous Native Americans to the Gold Rush era and authentic cowboy culture. Everywhere you venture, nature is the true star attraction and ultimate playground.



● Day 1: Sacramento to Mendocino

- Depart Sacramento Airport for Mendocino via I-5 N and CA-20 W (186 mi/299 km).
- Explore the village of Mendocino on foot and meander along the trails of the **Mendocino Headlands State Park**.
- Overnight in **Mendocino**. Hotels that offer booking commissions include **Brewery Gulch Inn**, **Stanford Inn by the Sea**, **MacCallum House** and **The Harbor House Inn** (the latter is an award-winning hotel with a two-Michelin-starred restaurant in Elk, 16 mi/26 km south of Mendocino).

● Day 2: Mendocino and Point Arena

- Canoe in Big River with **Catch A Canoe** or join a guided sea cave kayaking adventure with **Kayak Mendocino**.
- Head down the coast via CA-1 S (34 mi/55 km) to see the iconic lighthouse and **Point Arena-Stornetta Lands**—the only land-based portion of the **California Coastal National Monument**.
- Talk a walk on **Bowling Ball Beach** (formally known as Schooner Gulch State Beach) before returning to your accommodations.
- Overnight in **Mendocino**.



● Day 3: Fort Bragg and Mendocino

- Spend the day in the **Fort Bragg** area, a 15-minute drive north.
- Take the 75-minute Pudding Creek Express **Skunk Train** for a scenic tour into the old growth redwood forest.
- Back in town, stroll around downtown Fort Bragg and have lunch.
- Walk **Glass Beach** at low tide to see the restored coastline known for its colorful seaglass.
- Wander through the **Mendocino Coastal Botanical Gardens** on the way back to your accommodations.
- Overnight in **Mendocino**.

● Day 4: Mendocino to Eureka

- Depart for **Eureka** via CA-1N and US-101N (143 mi/230 km).
- En route, drive through the 2,000-year-old **Chandelier Drive Thru Tree** in Leggett.
- Continue on, driving 31 miles/50 kilometers through **Avenue of the Giants** in **Humboldt Redwood State Park** (Drury Chaney Grove is a good spot to get out for a walk).
- On your way into Eureka, stop at **Redwood Sky Walk** at Sequoia Park Zoo to take an elevated walk in the woods.
- Browse around **Old Town Eureka**, admiring the Victorian architecture and murals.
- Overnight in **Eureka**.



● Day 5: Eureka to Redding

- Take a morning walk along the **Eureka Waterfront Trail** on the Arcata Bay.
- Hit the road for Redding via CA-299 E (146 mi/235 km).
- En route, stop at the charming **Bigfoot Museum** in Willow Creek and historic Gold Rush era towns like **Weaverville** and **Lewiston**.
- Before you reach the city, stop at **Whiskeytown National Recreation Area** to admire the crystal clear lake and hike to one of the four waterfalls; **Crystal Creek Falls** is the most accessible, just a half-mile hike from the road.
- In **Redding**, head to at Turtle Bay Exploration Park to walk the famed **Sundial Bridge** (one of the world's largest working sundials) that stretches across the Sacramento River.
- After getting checked into your hotel, spend the evening strolling around Market Street in **Downtown Redding**.
- Overnight in **Redding**.

● Day 6: Redding to Mt. Shasta

- Head north for **Lake Shasta** via I-5 (20 mi/32 km).
- Take a guided tour of the **Lake Shasta Caverns**, which includes a boat ride across the McCloud Arm of the lake.
- Continue north on I-5 to historic **Dunsmuir** (36 mi/58 km) to check out the quaint small town, have lunch and take the short hike to **Hedge Creek Falls**.
- Complete the day's drive to the city of **Mt. Shasta** (9 mi/14 km).
- Overnight **Mt. Shasta**.



● Day 7: Mt. Shasta

- Rise and shine to **hike** part of Mt. Shasta, revered by Native Americans as a sacred site and renowned as a powerful spiritual center (**Shasta Vortex Tours** leads guided hikes and snowshoe treks).
- After a day on the mountain, visit the town's metaphysical shops such as **The Crystal Room** and unwind over **dinner**.
- Overnight in **Mt. Shasta**.

● Day 8: Mt. Shasta to Lassen National Park

- Hit the road early for Lassen Volcanic National Park via CA-89 S (93 mi/145 km).
- Spend the day checking out the volcanoes, boiling mudpots and steaming fumaroles in **Lassen Volcanic National Park**—the only place you can see all four types of volcanoes all in one national park.
- Overnight in **Chester or Lake Almanor** (29 mi/46 km from the park).



● Day 9: Lake Almanor to Greenhorn Ranch

- After a morning on **Lake Almanor**, head towards **Quincy** via CA-89 S (45 mi/72 km).
- Stop to explore the historic town of Quincy and have lunch.
- Continue on to check into **Greenhorn Ranch**, a modernized dude ranch located a 15-20 minute drive from the heart of town. (Note: Greenhorn opens for six months seasonally, May through October; continue onto Grass Valley if traveling November–April).
- Bask in the cowboy life and take advantage of the Ranch’s activity line-up.
- Overnight at **Greenhorn Ranch**.

● Day 10: Greenhorn Ranch to Grass Valley

- After a morning living the ranch life, check out and head south to **Grass Valley** via CA-49 (97 mi/156 km).
- Check into the historic **Holbrooke Hotel**, home to the oldest operating saloon west of the Mississippi.
- Walk around the artsy former mining town browsing the shops and murals.
- Overnight at **Holbrooke Hotel** (SMF is 62 mi/100 km away).