

State Parks Along California's North Coast Redwoods and History

California State Parks along the northern California coast offer visitors a chance to enjoy hikes through redwood forests - and relive history in historic sites.

Humboldt Redwoods State Park features a magnificent drive through the park, which is located 45 miles south of Eureka via U.S. 101. There is a scenic alternative to U.S. 101 called The Avenue of the Giants. The Avenue winds nearly 30 miles through the redwoods and small communities contained within the borders of the park. The park's visitor center is located on the Avenue, near the middle of the park. A little north of the visitor center on the Avenue is Founders Grove. Here there is a short and fully accessible trail to the Founders Tree. Visitors with wheelchairs, walkers, and other forms of assistance can easily manage this walk. A side trip on the Mattole Road, which leaves the Avenue near Founder's Grove, allows visitors to drive through the Rockefeller Forest, the largest contiguous ancient forest in the world.

The park, dedicated to the early leaders of the Save the Redwoods League, has over 100 miles of hiking and riding trails, and enough river frontage for opportunities to swim and fish.

For visitors who prefer not to camp, overnight accommodations are available in Garberville, Fortuna, and other nearby communities.

For more information, call the park at (707) 946-2409 or (707) 946-2015. To make camping reservations, call (800) 444-PARK (7275).

The Humboldt Redwoods State Park website has more information:
<http://www.humboldtredwoods.org/>

Also, a Humboldt County link is:
<http://www.visitormags.com/humboldt/>

Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, in the Van Duzen River Valley, is located 17 miles east of U.S. 101 on Highway 36. The park features two short trails. One is a walk through virgin redwoods groves with a spectacular view of the park's west side. The other trail is a self-guided nature walk.

During salmon season, the park provides great opportunities for fishing. In fall and winter, it has steelhead runs.

The park also has a visitor center and campsites.

For more information, call the park at (707) 777-3683 or (707) 946-2409. To make camping reservations, call (800) 444-PARK (7275).

Fort Humboldt State Historic Park, located at 3431 Fort Avenue in Eureka, is a former military post from the 1850s where soldiers kept the peace in the Humboldt County region.

Perched on a bluff overlooking the bay, the fort's story is told through re-created buildings including the fort hospital (which contains a museum with exhibits about Native Americans who lived in the area), the surgeon's quarters, and an authentic historic garden.

The park features exhibits on early logging and military life and has living history events periodically throughout the year. Live steam locomotives pull visitors over a short rail line one Saturday each summer month.

The park also has a self-guided nature trail.

For more information, call the park at (707) 445-6567 and (707) 488-2041.

Trinidad State Beach, 19 miles north of Eureka on U.S. 101, is adjacent to the City of Trinidad, has hiking trails and picnic areas. The trail down to the beach, which is nestled in a cove, is an excellent nature hike, passing through woods and across open bluffs. The park is operated out of Patrick's Point State Park.

For more information, call the park at (707) 677-3570 or (707) 488-2041.

Patrick's Point State Park, 25 miles north of Eureka on Highway 101, features a tree and meadow-covered headland and Agate Beach, named for the polished, semi-precious stones washed up by the ocean. Animal watchers can find deer along the bluffs and watch sea lions and seals on the rocks near Palmer's Point. Sometimes, visitors can spot gray whales as they pass the point. The park is one of the most popular camping venues on the North Coast; however, most campsites will be closed during the winter and spring of 2002-03 for refurbishing. There is a two-mile hiking trail along the bluffs in the park. The park also has a museum and a reconstructed Native American village depicting the rich cultural history in the area. The park is a Watchable Wildlife site.



For more information, call the park at (707) 677-3570 or (707) 488-2041.

Humboldt Lagoons State Park and Harry A. Merlo State Recreation Area, 31 miles north of Eureka on Highway 101, features a scenic lagoon in a wooded hillside with a large beach area. The park is a great place for shore fishing and picnicking.

For more information, call the park at (707) 488-2041.

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, 50 miles north of Eureka on Highway 101, is known for its groves of coast redwoods, some over 300 feet tall. . Contained within the park is the specially designated Murrelet State Wilderness, preserving habitat for the Marbled Murrelet, a federally protected bird. There are 70 miles of hiking trails in the park, including Revelation Trail, a hard surface nature trail specifically designed for visitors with limited vision. The park also provides 11 miles of specially engineered barrier-free hiking trails for visitors with limited mobility. Gold Bluffs beach offered dramatic coastal vistas and leads to the famous Fern Canyon Trail, winding through fern-covered 50-foot rock cliffs. California's largest land animal, the Roosevelt elk, roam freely throughout the park. . Both coastal and inland forest camping is available year-round. The park is a Watchable Wildlife site and is part of the Redwood National

and State Park complex which stretches from Orick, CA north to Crescent City and Hiouchi.

For more information, call the park at (707) 464-6106, extension 5301 or 5300.



Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park, located seven miles south of Crescent City on Highway 101, is in California's rain forest bordering Oregon. Giant redwoods are in dense groves in the park. Inland forest camping is available during the summer months only. The park is a Watchable Wildlife site and is part of the Redwood National and State Park complex which stretches from Orick, CA north to Crescent City and Hiouchi.

For more information, call (707) 464-6101, extension 5120 or 5064.



Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, 9 miles northeast of Crescent City via Highway 199. This 10,000 acre park preserves some of California's best redwood groves. At the heart of the park is the specially designated Redwood Heritage State Wilderness. Along the highway and from the many trail vistas, visitors find exceptional views of the Wild and Scenic Smith River. Trophy-sized steelhead and salmon can be caught during the winter season but the summer also provides excellent fishing opportunities. Camping is available year-round, with nature education programs offered for kids and adults during the summer months. The park is a Watchable Wildlife site and is part of the Redwood National and State Park complex which stretches from Orick, CA north to Crescent City and Hiouchi.



For more information, call (707) 464-6101, extension 5112 or 5113.

Tolowa Dunes State Park, five miles north of Crescent City via Kellogg or Pala Road, parallel to Highway 101, is a semi-developed area of dunes, coastal forest and wetlands. The park has primitive campsites as well as equestrian campsites. Fishing opportunities abound in the river, the ocean, or lakes. Other popular activities are hiking, horseback riding and boating. In late winter, flocks of

migrating geese use the park extensively as a stopover on the Pacific Flyway.
The park is a Watchable Wildlife site.



For more information, call (707) 464-6101, extension 5151 or 5101.

Pelican State Beach, 21 miles north of Crescent City on U.S. 101, features beautiful ocean views. The park, located just a few yards from the Oregon border, is a small beach also known for its offshore fishing.

For more information, call the park at (707) 464-6101, extension 5151, or (707) 458-3310.

For more information, visit California State Parks on line at:

www.parks.ca.gov

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