

Park

Mining Technology Storyline

County

[Bodie State Historic Park \(SHP\)](#)

The high desert town of Bodie is an authentic gold mining ghost town with a classic boom-and-bust story. Its heyday was in the late 1870's and early 1880's after the placer deposits in the Sierra foothills were exhausted. Expansive mining landscape, Standard Mining Co. and Stamp Mill, hard-rock mining technology, smelter.

Mono

[California State Mining and Mineral Museum](#)

Fine collection of mineral, gem and ore specimens; "Fricot" crystalline gold nugget, tunnel exhibit of mining technology, working model of a stamp mill.

Mariposa

[Columbia SHP](#)

Largest collection of Gold Rush-era brick buildings, Columbia represents a living Gold Rush town. See equipment, mining landscape, museum exhibits on the businesses and cultures of this era. Variety of hands-on school programs. See also entry for PORTS Program below

Tuolumne

[PORTS Program -- Columbia SHP](#)

PORTS Program -- Gold Rush Unit of Study, includes live videoconference. (see especially Lesson #2, *Gold Mining*, and #3, *A Merchant Economy*)

Statewide

[Empire Mine SHP](#)

Largest, oldest and richest hardrock gold mine in California. Skilled miners from Cornwall, England, where hardrock tin & copper mining had been carried on for a thousand years, brought latest advances in technology, including the efficient "Cornish pump" used to keep shafts from flooding. See equipment, mine buildings, the owner's home, and the entrance to 367 miles of abandoned and flooded mine shafts. A scale model of the huge mine, once a closely-guarded corporate secret, is displayed, along with mining exhibits, ore and mineral samples.

Nevada

[Limekiln SP](#)

Four stone and iron furnaces remain at this Big Sur park to tell the story of lime production (to be used in concrete) during the late 19th century. Also in evidence is the clearcut redwood forest used to fuel the ovens in their heyday.

Monterey

[Malakoff Diggins SHP](#)

Here placer mining gave way to the world's largest hydraulic mining site; downstream sedimentation fight led to the Sawyer Decision, first environmental law in California. See stunning eroded landscape, huge mining pit, equipment, hardrock drain tunnel, life of miners, and environmental impacts. North Bloomfield Gravel Mining Co., Last Chance, and Derbec Mines.

Nevada

[Mt. Diablo SP](#)

Col. Leander Ransom, Deputy Surveyor General for California, and his men erected a flagpole at the summit of Mt. Diablo in 1851, and began to extend the base and meridian lines that we use to this day. Lime and sandstone have been quarried here; a discovery of copper ore with traces of gold caused excitement in the 1860's. The summit visitor center, built in the 1930s by the CCC with native stone, displays ore specimens.

Contra Costa

[Plumas-Eureka SP](#)

At the northern end of the Sierra's famous "Mother Lode" the park includes the Mohawk Stamp Mill, Bushman five-stamp mill, stables, mine office, Moriarity House (historic miner's residence) and the blacksmith shop which all depict life in gold rush-era California. Mining equipment and tools on display; hike to mouth of Eureka Adit (Tunnel). After surface gold deposits diminished, British hardrock mining expertise kept the mines here profitable until the early 1900's.

Plumas