

Excursions around Marin County

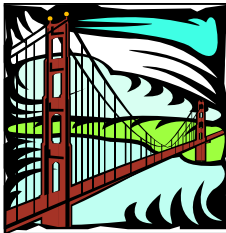
If you must leave San Rafael, there is plenty to do and see in scenic, spectacular Marin. Just minutes away from San Francisco, the East Bay, and the Peninsula, Marin offers a warm climate, the Bay, the Pacific Ocean coastline and a variety of wilderness. Marin is full of riches, including some of the most spectacular scenery in California.

San Rafael, at the center of Marin, is an excellent base from which to see these attractions, and Marin County is a prime starting point for touring the California wine country in Sonoma and Napa valleys.

IN THE BAY

The Golden Gate Bridge

This symbol of the Bay Area was completed in 1937. The one-and-a-half-mile span, painted rust orange with two 746-foot high towers, was built as a single suspension bridge to withstand earthquakes and strong winds.



Angel Island State Park, Tiburon

Angel Island State Park is a 740-acre mountainous island in the Bay with a variety of land and marine animals, birds and plant life, and some of the best views of the Bay Area. What you won't find are cars. Recreational opportunities are plenty, and history buffs will enjoy learning about the island's past at a museum. Call (415) 435-1915.

SOUTHERN MARIN

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Sausalito

This spectacular 15-mile coastline park was formerly a key part of the US coastal defense system. Stunning views of San Francisco and the Bay. From Highway 101, take Alexander Ave. and follow signs to Fort Baker. (415) 561-4700.

Bay Area Discovery Museum

Several buildings with hands-on exhibits for children of all ages. 557 McReynolds Road, Sausalito. (415) 339-3900.

Marine Mammal Center

Dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured or sick marine mammals stranded along the coast. Pools of seals, sea lions, elephant seals, sea otters, and other animals. Docents lead tours. Free. Fort Cronkhite. (415) 289-7325.

Point Bonita Lighthouse

Historic lighthouse built in 1877. Rodeo Beach on Bunker Road faces Pacific Ocean and is ideal for fishing and rock collecting. Migrating birds stop by from June through December. Youth hostel in Fort Barry. (415) 331-2777.

Bay Model Visitor Center

Working hydraulic model of San Francisco Bay and Delta region. Weekly tours and exhibits, audio tours in several languages. 2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito. (415) 289-3007.

National Audubon Society/ Richardson Bay Audubon Center

Bird and wildlife sanctuary on 11 acres facing San Francisco. Self guided trail, Victorian house and wetlands. 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon. (415) 388-2524.

China Cabin

Once the luxurious Victorian saloon on the SS China, this vessel has been converted into a maritime museum. Tiburon. (415) 435-1853.

CENTRAL MARIN

Mt. Tamalpais State Park

Marin's landmark, 2,600 feet high. Redwood canyons, grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands found throughout the 6,300-acre park. Overnight camping. Bay Area and regional views. Mill Valley. (415) 388-2070.

Muir Woods National Monument

Old-growth stand of coastal redwoods. Marked paths, Braille trail for the blind, wheelchair access. Main trail is paved. Off Highway 1 near Mill Valley. (415) 388-7059.

San Francisco Theological Seminary

Historic Presbyterian graduate school. Two Victorian stone castles and spectacular terrace on Seminary Hill. Corner of Bolinas and Kensington, San Anselmo. (415) 451-2800.

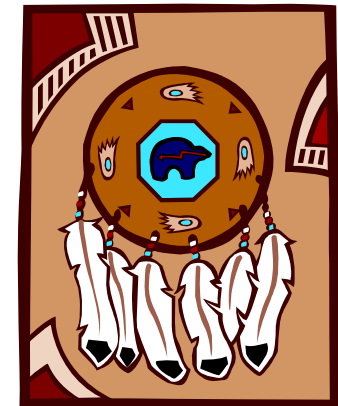
Northern Marin

Marin French Cheese Company

Local company manufactures soft cheeses. Guided tours offered every day. Lawn features picnic tables and a duck pond. 7500 Red Hill Rd., Petaluma, 94952. (800) 292-6001 xt.12
www.marinfrenchcheese.com

Marin Museum of the American Indian

Exhibits of Miwok and Pomo Indian cultures. Museum's 35-acre park has hiking trails, picnic areas, and playing fields. 2200 Novato Boulevard, Novato. (415) 897-4064.



For more information about tourism and seasonal activities in Marin County, please contact the following Chambers of Commerce:

Corte Madera Chamber of Commerce
129 Town Center, Corte Madera 94925.
(415) 924-0441.
www.cortemadera.org

Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1111, Fairfax 94978.
(415) 456-5574.
www.fairfaxcoc.com

Larkspur Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 998, CA 94977
(415) 686-2062.
www.larkspurchamber.org

Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce
85 Throcmorton, Mill Valley 94941
(415) 388-9700.
www.millvalley.org

Novato Chamber of Commerce
807 DeLong, Novato 94947
(415) 897-1164.
www.novato.org

San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 2844, San Anselmo 94960
(415) 454-2510.
www.sananselmochamber.org

San Rafael Chamber of Commerce
817 Mission Ave., San Rafael 94901
(415) 454-4163
www.sanrafaelchamber.com

Tiburon Chamber of Commerce
96B Main Street, Tiburon 94965
(415) 435-5633
www.tiburonchamber.org

WEST MARIN
Miles of open space and horse trails make Marin an equestrian's haven.

Point Reyes National Seashore, Pt. Reyes Station
Point Reyes National is an island peninsula sitting atop the San Andreas Fault. A naturalist's haven, the park features hiking trails, a visitor center with animal, plant, and artifact exhibits, and seasonal whale watching. Nearby is Kule Loklo, a replica Miwok Indian village featuring cultural demonstrations. Other highlights include nearby Drake's Beach.
(415) 464-5100.

Samuel P. Taylor State Park
Classic redwood park with a variety of landscapes on 2,600 acres. Hiking along several trails. Camping facilities can be reserved by calling (800)444-7275. Sir Francis Drake Blvd. , West Marin.

Tomales Bay State Park
East side of Pt. Reyes Peninsula
Prized for warm beaches, calm waters, and natural wildlife.

Picnicking, swimming, nature hiking, clamming, and boating are popular. Opposite the water is the Bishop Pine Forest.
(415) 669-1140.



Half-Shell Heaven
Tomales Bay is home to several oyster growers, three of which are worth a visit. Tomales Bay Oyster Company is the state's oldest aquaculture facility and is open for all retail business seven days a week. Picnic grounds. 15479 State Route 1, Pt. Reyes.
(415) 663-1242.

Hog Island Oyster Co., 20215 State Route 1, Marshall. Open to the public weekends.
(415) 663-9218.

Drakes Oyster Co.,
17171 Sir Francis Drake,
Pt. Reyes Station.
Open to the public.
(415) 669-1149.



STINSON BEACH
Stinson Beach Park offers a rugged view of the Pacific and one of the best beaches in the north state. (415) 868-1922.

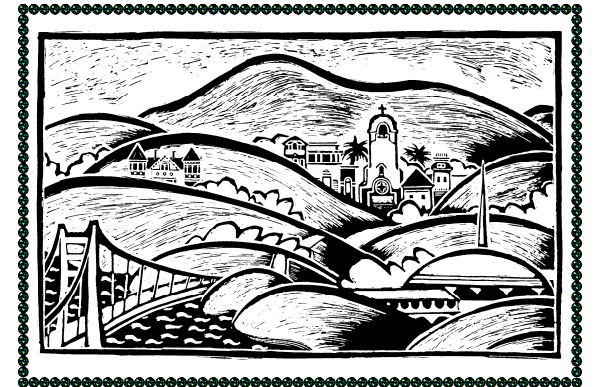
OTHER WEST MARIN HIGHLIGHTS

Slide Ranch.
A coastline farmstead, is a classroom lesson on how people survived in simpler times. Farm work is the curriculum.
2025 Shoreline Highway, Muir Beach.
(415) 381-6155.

Audubon Canyon Ranch is a nonprofit that manages a system of wildlife sanctuaries and nature education centers. Three miles north of Stinson Beach.
(415) 868-9244.

July 2008

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An Outdoor Guide of Activities for Southern, Central, Northern and West Marin Areas

Published
by:



www.visitMmarin.org
(415) 925-2060