



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUMS

These are selected northern California museums (listed by county) that feature earth science, science and technology, mining, oil & gas exploration. Many are natural history museums that include local paleontology and mineral exhibits. Because hours of operation may change, it's advisable to call the museum before visiting.

ALAMEDA

**University of California
Museum of Paleontology
1101 Valley Life Sciences
Building
Berkeley, CA 94720-4780
(510) 642-1821
www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/**

UCMP has the largest paleontology collection of any university museum in the world. This collection includes fossils and modern organisms representing prokaryotes to vertebrates from all continents. The museum serves the university community in research projects and provides support for instruction at Berkeley and other US campuses. The museum has programs for K-12 teachers and students. Well-developed online resources, docentled tours, and short courses for teachers are offered.

**Lawrence Hall of Science
1 Centennial Drive
Berkeley, CA 94720
(510) 642-5132
www.lhs.berkeley.edu/**

Dynamic interactive exhibits that cover a variety of sciences are displayed. They are specially designed with grade-school children in mind. The museum offers school programs, teacher resources, special events and more.

**Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(888) 625-6873
www.museumca.org**

A wide variety of exhibits reflects the museum's interdisciplinary programs of art, history, natural sciences and education in California.

AMADOR

**Amador County Museum
225 Church Street
Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 223-6386**

Exhibits include local mining artifacts depicting Gold Rush history in the county. A model mine exhibit features mechanized models showing how hard rock miners worked the gold mines.

BUTTE

**502 Pearson Road
P.O. Box 940
Paradise, CA 95969
(530) 872-8722
[www.paradisedirect.com/
goldnugget/](http://www.paradisedirect.com/goldnugget/)**

The Gold Nugget Museum is a history museum of the Paradise Ridge in the Sierra-Cascade foothills, about 90 miles north of Sacramento. While the museum covers the full range of human history on the Ridge, its focus is on the Gold Rush years. The largest (54 pounds), almost pure gold nugget ever found in California was discovered here in 1859.

CALAVERAS

**Angels Camp Museum
753 South Main Street
Angels Camp, CA 95222
(209) 736-2963**

The Angels Camp Museum is right on Highway 49 in Angels Camp. The museum holds an impressive display of artifacts from the early days of gold mining at Angels Camp and the surrounding areas, including carriages, photos and mining equipment.

CONTRA COSTA

**Black Diamond Mines Regional
Preserve
5175 Somersville Road
Antioch, CA 94506
(925) 757-2620
www.ebparks.org/parks/black.htm**

From the mid-1920s to the mid-1940s, the Hazel-Atlas Mine produced silica sand to make jars, bottles, and other glass items. Now, visitors can take a 400-foot walk back in time to see the workings, the office of the shifter (mine boss), ore chutes, and ancient geologic features.

EL DORADO

**Gold Bug Mine & Hangtown's
Gold Bug Park
549 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 642-5232**

The park is owned by the City of Placerville and includes a museum, stamp mill building and the Gold Bug Mine. On display are mining artifacts used by original miners.

**Marshall Gold Discovery State
Historic Park
P.O. Box 265
310 Back Street
Coloma, CA 95613
(530)622-3470
[www.windjammer.net/coloma/
parks.ca.gov/north/goldrush/
mqdsnp/mqdsnp.htm](http://www.windjammer.net/coloma/parks.ca.gov/north/goldrush/mqdsnp/mqdsnp.htm)**

Recreated site of Marshall's gold discovery. Includes mill, cabins, church and store.

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FRESNO

R.C. Baker Memorial Museum
297 W. Elm Street
Coalinga, CA 93210
(209) 935-1914

History museum includes oil-drilling and mining artifacts.

Discovery Center
1944 North Winery
Fresno, CA 93703
(559) 251-5533
www.gemworld.com/discoverycenter

Natural history collection including mineralogy and paleontology displays.

HUMBOLDT

Chapman's Gem and Mineral Museum
P.O. Box 852
Fortuna, CA 95540
(707) 725-4732

The museum has extensive petrified wood and crystal collections. Displays also include fossils, minerals, gems, and American Indian artifacts.

**Humboldt State University
Natural History Museum**
1315 G Street
Arcata, CA 95521-8299
(707) 826-4479
www.humboldt.edu/~natmus/

More than 500 fossils from the Maloney Fossil Collection, butterflies, shells, sponges and corals, crabs, and live native animals including a tidepool tank and a living observation beehive are displayed. The museum's focus is on education-al outreach to the community. In this spirit, it offers a variety of programs designed for community members and visiting students.

MARIN

**San Francisco Bay Model
Visitor Center**
2100 Bridgeway
Sausalito, CA 94965
(425) 332-3870
(recorded message)
(415) 332-3871 (office)
www.spn.usace.army.mil/bmvc/

The San Francisco Bay Model is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' research facility. The model is a unique scientific tool for exploring water movement patterns in the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary. It was built in 1956 to test a series of barrier and water quality proposals. This tidal hydraulic model has since been expanded to include the delta and is used to test the effects of oil spills, salt-water intrusion and pollutant dispersion. The visitor center offers educational and cultural programs.

MARIPOSA

California State Mining and Mineral Museum
P.O. Box 1192
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 742-7625
www.parks.ca.gov/central/sanjoaquin/730707.htm

The museum houses over 1,300 mineral specimens. The collection was created in 1880 and is the official California mineral collection. One of the largest gold crystals in the world, the Fricot Nugget, is on display.



Empire
Mine State
Historic Park
Grass Valley,
California

Photo by Max Flanery.



MONO

Bodie State Historic Park
P.O. Box 515
Bridgeport, CA 93517
(619) 647-6445

www.parks.ca.gov/north/sierra/bodi/bshp324.htm

The park is a museum and a relic mining town. Today it looks much the same as it did over 50 years ago when the last residents left. A brochure available at the park and by mail contains a self-guided tour and history of Bodie.

MONTEREY

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History
165 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 648-3116

www.pgmuseum.org/

The museum exhibits plant and animal life, geology, paleontology and mineralogy. An enclosed booth devoted to fluorescent minerals and an interactive weather station are also displayed.

NEVADA

Empire Mine State Historic Park
10791 East Empire Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(916) 273-8522

www.parks.ca.gov/north/goldrush/em383/emshp.htm

The Empire Mine State Historic Park is the oldest, richest, hard rock gold mine in California. From 1850 when George Roberts discovered gold in a quartz outcropping, which became the Ophir vein, until the mine's closure in 1956, an estimated 5,800,000 ounces of gold was extracted from 367 underground mines. The park is undergoing gradual restoration.

Malakoff Diggings State Park
(530) 265-2740

www.parks.ca.gov/north/goldrush/mdshp/mdshp.htm

This historic park is the site of California's largest hydraulic mine. Visitors can see huge cliffs carved by

mighty streams of water, the result of the gold mining technique of washing away entire mountains to find the precious metal. This method was ended because of legal battles between mine owners and downstream farmers. The park also contains a 7,847-foot bedrock tunnel that served as a drain. The visitor center has exhibits on life in the old mining town of North Bloomfield.

PLACER

Placer County Museums
101 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 889-6500

www.placer.ca.gov/museum/

The Placer County Department of Museums system is composed of six museums that focus on various aspects of the rich heritage of Placer County's gold rush mining.

Sierra College Natural History Museum

5000 Rocklin Road
Rocklin, CA 95677
(916) 781-0475

www.sierra.cc.ca.us/museum/

Natural history and paleontology of western North America; Sierra Nevada geology, physical geography, biogeography, flora and fauna; and Transect studies from the Great Valley to the Great Basin are the major components of this museum. Docent-led tours are offered for students.

SACRAMENTO

Golden State Museum
1020 O Street, Room 130
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-7715

www.ss.ca.gov/museum/intro.htm

Exhibits are drawn from the State Archives' vast collection. Included are the state's water resources, geology on maps, and Gold Rush artifacts. The museum offers group tours and teacher resources.

SAN FRANCISCO

California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 221-5100

www.calacademy.org/

Visitors can take a deep-sea dive without getting wet, explore the stars in the middle of the day, or ride an earthquake in the academy's newest exhibit EARTHQUAKE! A multimedia theater lets visitors experience simulated earthquakes and tells them how to prepare for them. Plate tectonics, dinosaurs, gem and minerals, asteroids and anthropological artifacts can be experienced in engaging and informative displays. The academy offers courses/lectures for adults and children, group tours, and resources for teachers and students.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. COLLECTIONS

Public exhibits, some with significant fossil or mineral collections, can also be seen at many of the visitor centers in state parks, national parks and national forests in California. For information, contact the following headquarters:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6995

www.parks.ca.gov/

The California State Office of the National Park Service
600 Harrison Street
Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 427-1300

www.nps.gov/

U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 562-8737

www.r5.fs.fed.us

