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, docent-led tours, and short courses for teachers are offered.

Laurence Hall of Science
1 Centennial Drive
Berkeley, CA 94720
(510) 642-5132
www.the.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) 223-8396

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.

CONTRA COSTA

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve
5175 Somersville Road
Antioch, CA 94509
(925) 757-2620
www.conparks.ca.gov/parks/black.htm

From the mid-1880s 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 carts, and ancient geologic features.

EL DORADO

Gold Bug Mine & Hangtown's Gold Bug Park
540 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.marshallhistoricpark.org

Recreated site of Marshall’s gold discovery. Includes mill, cabin, church and store.
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/naturalsciences/

More than 500 fossils from the Maloney Fossil Collection, butterflies, shells, sponges and corals, crabs, and live native animals including a tidal pool tank and a living observation bee hive are displayed. The museum's focus is on education and 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
(415) 332-3870 (recorded message)
(415) 332-3871 (office)
www.sfm.usaco.army.mil/baymodel/

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 1992
Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 742-7425
www.parks.ca.gov/cultural/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 Frick Nugget, is on display.
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/emigdp.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 Opin vein, until the mine’s closure in 1966, an estimated 5,800,000 ounces of gold was extracted from 367 underground mines. The park is undergoing gradual restoration.

Malakoff Diggins State Park
(530) 265-2740
www.parks.ca.gov/north/goldrush/making/malhdp.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 Museum
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.