



Northern Mountains

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Red Onion Grill (p284)
- ➔ Trinity Café (p293)
- ➔ Café Maddalena (p296)
- ➔ La Grange Café (p303)
- ➔ Pangaea Café & Pub (p287)

Best Places to Stay

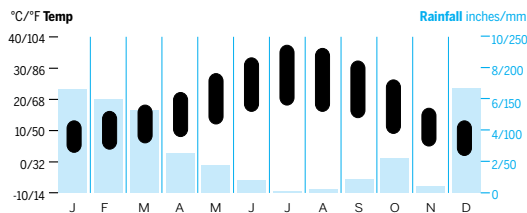
- ➔ McCloud River Mercantile Hotel (p298)
- ➔ Houseboat on Shasta Lake (p278)
- ➔ Quincy Courtyard Suites (p286)
- ➔ Weaverville Hotel (p302)
- ➔ Feather River Canyon Campgrounds (p286)

Why Go?

'Hidden California' gets bandied around fairly casually, but here you have an entire corner of the state that does seem forgotten. The coast and foggy redwood groves are far away, so prepare yourself for something completely different: vast expanses of wilderness – some 24,000 protected acres – divided by rivers and streams, dotted with cobalt lakes, horse ranches and alpine peaks; further east is a stretch of shrubby, high desert cut with amber gorges, caves and dramatic light that is a photographer's dream. Much of it doesn't look the way people envision California – the topography more resembles the older mountains of the Rockies than the relatively young granite Yosemite. The towns are hospitable but tiny, with few comforts; come to get lost in vast remoteness. Even the two principal attractions, Mt Shasta and Lassen Volcanic National Park, remain uncrowded (and sometimes snow-covered) at the peak of the summer.

When to Go

Lassen Volcanic National Park



Jul–Sep Warm weather and snow-free passes are ideal for back-country camping.

Oct–Nov & Apr–May Shoulder seasons; scattered showers and snow at the high elevations.

Nov–Jan Skiing Mt Shasta is the main draw. Prices drop outside ski areas.



Northern Mountains Highlights

- 1** Gaping at geothermal spectacles in **Lassen Volcanic National Park** (p279).
- 2** Exploring the many caves of **Lava Beds National Monument** (p299).
- 3** Hiking and skiing **Mt Shasta** (p288).
- 4** Looking overhead at the bird superhighway at **Tule Lake** (p300).
- 5** Getting lost in **Modoc National Forest** (p300).
- 6** Hiding out in **Weaverville** and wading in the trout-filled water nearby (p302).
- 7** Camping along the shores of **Eagle Lake** (p285).
- 8** Chilling out in the mountain town of **Quincy** (p285).
- 9** Floating with a dozen pals on a **Shasta Lake houseboat** (p278).
- 10** Kicking up your heels at **McCloud's famous dance hall** (p298).