



North Coast & Redwoods

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Café Beaujolais (p230)
- ➔ Brick & Fire (p256)
- ➔ Café Aquatica (p221)
- ➔ Mario's Lost Coast Cafe (p253)
- ➔ Table 128 (p240)

Best Places to Stay

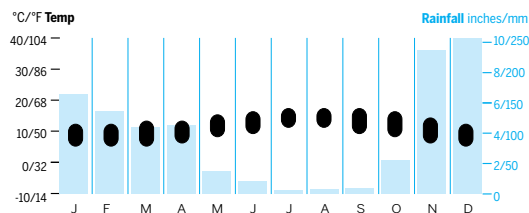
- ➔ Mar Vista Cottages (p224)
- ➔ Philo Apple Farm (p240)
- ➔ Benbow Inn (p247)
- ➔ Alegria (p229)
- ➔ Gold Bluffs Beach (p265)

Why Go?

There's a stretch of the coast with no road access called the 'Lost Coast,' but even the rest of the region, reached by a circuitous two-lane blacktop, feels far from the world's radar. The North Coast is no Beach Boys' song; there are no bikinis and few surfboards. The jagged edge of the continent is wild, scenic and even slightly foreboding, where spectral fog and an outsider spirit have fostered the world's tallest trees, most potent weed and a string of idiosyncratic two-stoplight towns. Explore hidden coves with a blanket and a bottle of local wine, scan the horizon for migrating whales and retreat at night to fire-warmed Victorians. As you travel further north, find valleys of redwood, wide rivers and mossy, overgrown forests. Befitting this dramatic clash of land and water are its unlikely mélange of residents: timber barons and tree huggers, pot farmers and political radicals of every stripe.

When to Go

Eureka



Jun–Jul The driest season in the Redwoods is spectacular for day hikes and big views.

Aug–Oct Warm weather and clear (or clearer) skies are the best for hiking the Lost Coast.

Dec–Apr Whales migrate off the coast. In early spring look for mothers and calves.

North Coast & Redwoods Highlights

- 1 Explore the gargantuan forests and dramatic coast of **Redwood National & State Parks** (p263).
- 2 Feel small amongst the standing and fallen giants in **Humboldt Redwoods State Park** (p250).
- 3 Hike the lush, remote and wild **Lost Coast** (p248).
- 4 Find a hidden cove on the **Sonoma Coast** (p220).
- 5 Get pampered at the B&Bs of **Mendocino** (p226).
- 6 Drink the sampler at McKinleyville's **Six Rivers Brewery** (p260), NorCal's best brewpub.
- 7 Climb to the top of **Point Arena Lighthouse** (p224) for views over the jagged coast.
- 8 Tour the laid-back vineyards of the **Anderson Valley** (p239).
- 9 Indulge in some all-American roadside kitsch along Hwy 101 like **Trees of Mystery** (p269).
- 10 Feel like you've been transported to the wholesome 1950s in the dairy town of **Ferndale** (p252).

