



North Coast & Redwoods

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Saw Shop Bistro (p254)
- ➔ Brick & Fire (p265)
- ➔ Saucy Ukiah (p258)
- ➔ Taka's Japanese Grill (p249)
- ➔ Fishetarian Fish Market (p234)

Best Places to Sleep

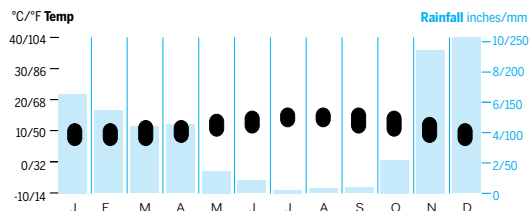
- ➔ Alegria (p245)
- ➔ Philo Apple Farm Guest Cottages (p257)
- ➔ Bay Hill Mansion (p234)
- ➔ Elk Cove Inn & Spa (p242)
- ➔ Didjeridoo Dreamtime Inn (p244)

Why Go?

This is not the legendary California of the Beach Boys' song – there are no palm-flanked beaches and very 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. Expect cooler, damper weather too. Befitting this dramatic clash of land and water are its unlikely mélange of residents: timber barons and tree huggers, pot farmers and radicals of every political persuasion.

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 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 Hiking along meandering trails of **Redwood National Park** (p279), flanked by virgin redwood forests that will give you a crick in your neck.

2 Climbing to the top of historic **Point Arena Lighthouse** (p240) for sweeping views over the extraordinary coastline.

3 Admiring the dazzle of plants and flowers at the coast-side **Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens** (p248).

4 Sipping the samplers at brewpub **Six Rivers Brewery** (p275) near Arcata; one of the best in Northern California.

5 Indulging in some all-American roadside kitsch along Hwy 101 at **Trees of Mystery** (p282).

6 Discovering the life of early settlers via the excellent **Mendocino County Museum** (p261) in Willits.

7 Enjoying the wonderful retro experience of a drive-in movie at the classic **Lakeport Auto Movies** (p255) in Clearlake.