



Northern Mountains

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Quincy	563
Mt Shasta	565
McCloud.....	573
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Weaverville	578

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Red Onion Grill (p562)
- ➔ Café Maddalena (p573)
- ➔ Cafe at Indian Creek (p579)
- ➔ Pangaea Cafe & Pub (p564)
- ➔ Etna Brewing Company (p582)

Best Places to Sleep

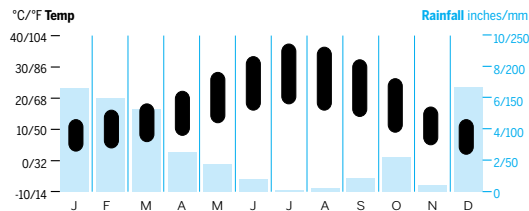
- ➔ McCloud River Mercantile Hotel (p574)
- ➔ Holiday Harbor Resort (p556)
- ➔ Quincy Courtyard Suites (p564)
- ➔ Shasta MountInn (p569)
- ➔ Feather River Canyon Campgrounds (p564)

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 tiny but friendly, 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

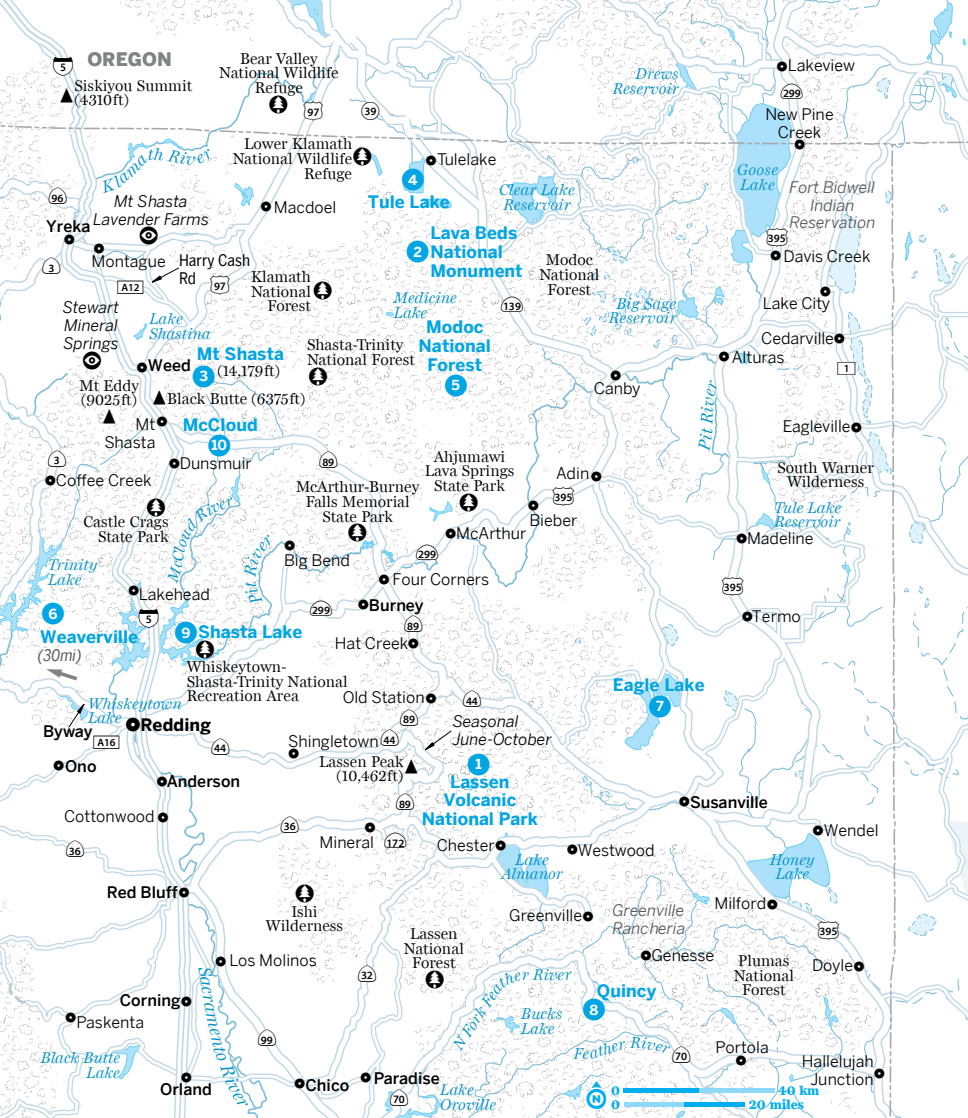
Lassen Volcanic National Park



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** (p556).
- 2 Exploring deep caves and examining ancient petroglyphs at **Lava Beds National Monument** (p575).
- 3 Hiking and skiing **Mt Shasta** (p566), NorCal's most majestic mountain.
- 4 Looking overhead at the bird superhighway at **Tule Lake** (p576).
- 5 Getting lost in **Modoc National Forest** (p577), California's most remote national forest.
- 6 Enjoying the small-town charm of **Weaverville** (p578)

and wading in the trout-filled water nearby.

- 7 Camping along the shores of remote **Eagle Lake** (p563).
- 8 Chilling out in the mountain town of **Quincy** (p563).
- 9 Floating with a dozen pals on a **Shasta Lake** (p555) houseboat.