

Horse Camping and Day Use Sites – Central and Northern California

A Disclaimer! The information contained in this document is considered accurate and reliable as of the date of print. I make no claims to its absolute accuracy. I advise any potential user to contact the camp or day use site directly for up-to-date detail, or the regional contact if there is no direct line, for information available at that time. Further, while I have attempted to include most relevant data, I do not assume I have included it all. Research of this type is endless; dependent on continuous and reliable feedback from the various sources and end users alike. Truly, it never ends, especially in these times of park closures, etc.

| Name | Location | Phone | Remarks |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Marin County | | | |
| Point Reyes National Seashore | Marin County Coast | 415/464/5100 | www.nps.gov/pore 77,000 acres. Day rides out of Bear Valley or Five Brooks trailheads, both on Hwy. 1 near Olema, west of San Rafael. Ample parking, water troughs, visitor center, tie rails, near restaurants. |
| Stewart Horse Camp | Point Reyes National Seashore | 415/663-1362 | Major Horse Camp. Rest rooms, showers, community area, bbq, water. 77,000 acres. 140 miles of trails. Adjoins GGNRA/North, Mt. Tam Watershed. Restaurants nearby. Located on Hwy. 1 south of Olema, Marin County Coast. |
| Frank Valley Horse Camp | Mount Tamalpais State Park | 415/388-2070 | Located on Hwy. 1 north of Golden Gate near Muir Beach. Ride miles and miles on Mt. Tamalpais S. P. and GGNRA. Water, picnic tables, BBQ, 12 pipe corrals and trailer parking. Open May-October. |
| Devils Gulch Horse Camp | Samuel P. Taylor State Park | 415/488-9897 | In Marin County, 15 miles west of 101, half way between San Rafael and Point Reyes. Rest rooms. Showers in nearby section. Lots of trails plus access to Point Reyes and GGNRA. Reservations through ReserveAmerica |

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|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| GGNRA/North – Marin County | North of the Golden Gate Bridge | 415/331-3926 | 101 to the Sausalito–Alexander Valley turnoff (from south or north), downhill on Bridgeway to the sign to GGNRA. Go through the one-way tunnel. Turn left on Bunker Rd 1/2 mile or so to meadow right just before Presidio Stables on left. Trailhead leads to all GGNRA, Marin headlands, Mt. Tam and Muir Beach. No services but water at Presidio Stables. Great trails. |
| Samuel P. Taylor Park | Marin County west of San Rafael | 415/488-9897 | www.parks.ca.gov Day use aside from Devils Gulch (above) connecting to Point Reyes, GGNRA/North, the Marin Watershed, restaurants. Tie rails and picnic table at parking area. Ride among the redwoods. |
| China Camp State Park | San Rafael | 415/456-0766 | Overnight camping. 12 miles of trails. Lots of mountain bikes |
| North Bay/Sonoma County | | | |
| Armstrong Redwoods State Nature Reserve | Santa Rosa | 707/869-2958 | Day use. Magnificent Redwoods, huge, tall and old. Shared trails. Some climbs. |
| Sugarloaf Ridge State Park | Kenwood | 707/833-5712 | Near Santa Rosa. Day use. Huge views from 2700' mountain top. Observatory. |
| Annadel State Park | Santa Rosa | 707/539-3911 | Day use. Mixed use. Some climbs and some rocky areas. |
| Lake Sonoma | Santa Rosa | 707/431-4533 Reservations: 877/444-6777 | Take Dry Creek Road west, north of Santa Rosa. Large horse camp at Lone Rock. Huge covered community area. Miles and miles of trails. Most facilities. Open May – October |

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| South Bay to San Luis | | | |
| GGNRA/South - San Mateo Co./Rancho Corral de Tierra | Hwy. 1 coast near Montara | c/o GGNRA: 415/561-4700 | www.nps.gov/goga/rcdt.htm Due for acquisition early 2011. Over 4,000 acres. Two trailheads exist on Hwy. 1. See website. Co-managed with the Peninsula Open Space District - www.openspace.org |
| Big Basin Redwoods State Park | San Mateo County | Mountain Parks Foundation 831/335-3174 | Miles of trails; connects to Jack Brook Horse Camp and Sam MacDonald County Park. |
| Jack Brook Horse Camp | Sam MacDonald County Park | 650/879-0238 | Great horse camp near La Honda with nice facilities. Power and water. Every ride ends in a climb up to the camp however. Great place to ride among redwoods and conifers, views from Butano Ridge. |
| Huddart Park | Woodside | 650/851-1210 | www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/parks 900 acre day use park adjacent to the Phleger Estate (below). Nice trails, views. Some seasonal closures. |
| Phleger Estate | Woodside | 415/561-4700 | www.nps.gov/goga/phes.htm Day ride site adjacent and accessible from Huddart Park |
| Half Moon Bay | Hwy 1 Coast West of San Mateo | - | Parking areas near Cameron's Pub @ 1410 S. Cabrillo Hwy (Hwy 1). Park 3 trailers west of pub. Hitching posts. Trailhead at end of Wave Crest Rd. Ride the bluffs and beach. Bring water. |
| Castlerock State Park | Los Gatos | 408/867-2952 | Day use. 32 miles of trails. www/parks.ca.gov/castlerock |

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| Mid-Peninsula Open Space District | Skyline Ridge near Hwy. 35 and Alpine Road | 650/691-0485 650/691-1200 | www.openspace.org Inquiries: info@openspace.org Day use. 2,100 acres. Varying terrain. Trailer parking. |
| Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park | Santa Cruz County | 831/438-2396 | Adjoins Big Basin State Park. Day use only. Call for details, parking, etc. |
| Almaden/Quicksilver | South San Jose | 408/268-3883 | www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks 23 mile trail system. Day use. Bring water. |
| Calero County Park | San Jose | 408/268-3883 | www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks 18 mile trail system. Overnight boarding |
| Grant Ranch County Park | San Jose area | 408/355-2201 | On Mount Hamilton. Narrow road up to site. Huge views. Wildflowers. Great horse camp. 9,500 acres. |
| Mount Madonna County Park | Hwy. 152, 10 mi. west of Gilroy | 408/355-2201 | www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks 14 mile trail system |
| Harvey Bear/Coyote Lake County Park | East of Gilroy | 408/842-7800 | 600 acre county park with 23 miles of trails |
| Pacheco Pass/Dinosaur - Pacheco State Park | 20 miles east of Gilroy | 209/826-6283 | http://www.parks.ca.gov Day use. Bring water. 28 miles of trails. 2600 acres. |

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| Henry Coe State Park | Gilroy | 408/779-2728 | www.coepark.org 87,000 acre park. Varying terrain. 8 horse camps w/two corrals or more, each, located 8-17 miles in from Visitors Center. Bring water for human consumption. |
| Wilder Ranch | North of Santa Cruz | 831/426-0505 | Day use. Corrals. 34 miles of trails |
| Garland Ranch | Carmel Valley, 8 mi. e. of Hwy 1 | 831/372-3196 | www.mprpd.org 3,500 acre day use park. 200' to 2,000' elevation. Nice trails and views of Carmel Valley. |
| Fort Ord | Monterey | 831/394-8314 | Main access of Highway 68, the Salinas/Monterey highway at the Creekside trailhead. Others as per the map. 90 miles of trails in the combined BLM and Army base lands totaling over 7,500 acres. Mixed terrain with single track trails, gravel roads and some challenging areas. Shared use including hikers, bikers, dogs and horse-drawn carriages. |
| V6 Ranch | Parkfield, CA | 805/463-2493 | Private 20,000 acre working cattle ranch. Camp. Rent horses available. 50 miles of trails. Restrooms, showers, water, lake. |
| Montana del Oro State Park | Central Coast near Morro Bay | 805/528-0513 805/772-7434 | Contact the San Luis Obispo Visitors Center for additional information. Camp split into two sections. Most facilities are available. Ride the beach dunes. Dusty. |

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| East Bay Area | | | |
| East Bay Regional Park District, Tel: 888/327-2757 for all parks within the EBRPD + http://www.ebparks.org/parks | | | |
| Anthony Chabot Park- Bort Meadows Camp | Oakland Hills | See above | Large horse camp with facilities and community area. Miles of trails through this park and the many adjoining regional parks. |
| La Trampas | San Ramon | See above. Also 510/544-3276 | Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1. Bring your own water. |
| Del Valle | Livermore | See above | Group and individual sites. Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1. |
| Joaquin Miller Park - Redwood Camp Area | Oakland Hills | 510/531-5449 | Operator: Metropolitan Horsemen's Assn. Sequoia areas is actual horse camp. Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1. |
| Briones | Oakland Hills | See above | Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1. |
| Tilden | Oakland Hills | See above | Group camp phone, 888 number above, press 2, 1. This is an urban park in a rural setting. Busy, busy. |
| North Coast & Northern Calif. | | | |
| Humboldt Redwoods State Park | Weott, CA. 40 miles south of Eureka | Park HQ: 707/946-2409 Visitors Center: 707/946-2263 | A wonderful place to camp and ride. Several horse camps including one large community camp with galley/community area. Restrooms, coin-op showers, twenty+ corrals in 2's and 4's. Bears. Ride among old growth redwoods and lots of streams. |

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| Jackson Demonstration State Forest | Fort Bragg | 707/964-5674 | 50,000 acres. Two camp sites but no hose bibs/ Bring water. May be best for day rides. Lots of trails. Lodging in Ft. Bragg and boarding at Lari Shea's Ricochet Ranch. Seasonal logging. Check with ranger. Great views from ridges Also: www.jacksonforest.com |
| Redwood National Forest | Orick (south of Crescent City) | 707/464-6101 | www.nps.gov/redw Multiple camps including Prairie Creek. Beach access. Call for detail re: horse camping. |
| Klamath National Forest | Yreka | 530/842-6131 | www.fs.usda.gov 1.7 Million acres. 34 campgrounds w/2 group camps. Beautiful area. |
| Carter Meadows | Weaverville | USParks.com | Marble Mountain Wilderness, near Weaverville. Carter Meadows Group Horse Camp, Fort Jones, CA 96032, located off Interstate 5 northwest of Weed, CA, 5800' in Trinity Alps. |
| Marble Mountain Wilderness | 60 mi. northeast of Eureka | 530/468-5351 (Scott River) | Also 530/493-2243 (Happy Camp). Call for camping information. 400' to 8300'. 89 lakes. 32 miles of Pacific Crest Trail |
| Modoc National Forest - Soup Springs Camp | Alturas | 530/233-5811 | www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc/recreation/camping/index.shtml 6,800'. So. Warner Area. Thousands of acres. 20 miles east/northeast of Likely (19 miles south of Alturas on 395). Horse trailer area. Pepperdine and Paterson camps have 22' truck/RV limit. Picnic tables, fire pits/grills, vault toilets, potable water. |

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| Lassen National Forest | East of Redding | 530/258-2141 | Caribou and Ishi Wilderness areas. 41,000 acres. Rolling hills, gentle, volcanic, 6,900' and up. |
| Whiskeytown NRA (Shasta-Trinity NRA) | 8 miles west of Redding | 530/242-3400 | www.nps.gov/whis/index.htm Gateway to 200,000 acres. Vault toilets, tables, water, fire pits/grills. Hot in summer. |
| Lake Washoe | South of Reno | 775/849-2011 | Huge camp. Horse camp accommodates 200. All facilities. www.parks.nv.gov |
| Euer Valley - Euer Horse Camp | 14 miles n.w. of Truckee | 916/817-8792 Nov.-May, 530/550-9011 | www.euervalley.com 6700'. 7 horse camps accommodating 6 to 32 horses each. Total: 100 horses. Water. Views. Climbs. Some cabins. Fire rings. Open June-October |
| Plasse's at Silver Lake | South of Hwy. 88 | 209-258-8814 | Near Kirkwood. Group camping. Restaurant. General store. Miles of trails. All facilities. Views. Lots of granite. Open 6/25 each year. Carson Pass area. |
| Caples Lake Resort | Kirkwood | 209/258-8888 | www.capleslakeresort.com 30 mi. south of Tahoe. Corrals located nearby. Shared trails. No pets. |
| Stoneyford | West of Maxwell | 530/934-3316 | Fouts Springs and Letts Lake Camps. Limited facilities. Miles of riding area. |

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| Folsom Lake SRA | Folsom | 916/988-0205 | www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=500 Located 25 miles east of Sacramento. Use limited as of January 2011. Call or current information. |
| Lake Oroville/Loafer Creek | Oroville | 520/538-2219 | 15 sites. 2 horses per site. Showers, flush toilets, wash rack, no day use. Superintendent: 530/538-2200. Reservations through ReserveAmerica.com |
| Little Lazier Meadows Horse Camp | Highway 89 near Jackson Meadows Reservoir | 530/265-4531 | 6000' base. Go to above address as follows: same start, then .org/html/sierra_horse_camps.html |
| Tuolumne Meadows + Wawona + Bridleveil Camps | East of Yosemite | Horse camp reservations: 877/444-6777 | http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/campground.htm Open June-September. 8,600'. 4 horse sites. Max: 6 horses - 6 people per site. Max: 27' trailer length. Wawona: 2 horse camp sites. Bridleveil: 3 horse camp sites. |
| Auburn SRA | Auburn | 530/885-4527 | www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=502 100 miles of trails total including park of the Western States (Tevis) 100 mile trail. 40 miles of trails along two forks of the American River. Major trailer parking at Cool Fire Station trailhead. Reservations: 1/800/444-PARK |
| Loney Meadows Horse Camp | E. of Nevada City near Bowman Lake | 530/994-3528 | www.recreation.gov 5500' base with trails to 7500'. Camp areas. Miles of riding. For more detail, go to www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/Loney_Meadow.pdf |

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| Skillman Flats Horse Camp | Outside Nevada City on Hwy. 20 | 1/888/444-6777 | 4000'. Very nice horse camp. Lots of trails. Dusty in summer. Big community area. |
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| Dru Barner Horse Camp | Near Georgetown, CA (El Dorado N.F.) | 530/333-1652 | www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/recreation Also, El Dorado Equestrian Trails Foundation-phone # to left. A really fine horse camp. Great riding area. Wonderful facilities. |
| | | | |
| Wrights Lake | El Dorado N.F. | 1/877/444/6777 | www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/recreation 29 mi. east of Placerville, then north. 7000' Near Desolation Valley. Water, 15 horse camp sites. vault toilets, picnic tables, fire pit/grills, corrals, near Pacific Coast Trail. |
| | | | |
| Tells Creek | 40 mi. n. e. of Placerville | 530/647-5415 | www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/documents/rogs/rog_cg_equestrian.pdf 6,300' Primitive camp. Bring palatable water. Creek nearby. Vault toilets |
| | | | |
| Loon Lake | Hwy. 50 n. e. of Placerville | 530/644-6048 530/293-0827 | www.reserveamerica.com 6,500'. El Dorado N.F. 9 camps of 6 people each, 40' maximum. 1 group camp for 25 people, 35' maximum back-in. Firewood available. |
| | | | |
| Kennedy Meadows Resort and Pack Station | 57 miles east of Sonora on SR-108 | 209/965-3911 Winter: 965/3900 | In/adjacent to two wilderness areas and Pacific Coast Trail. Hundreds of miles of trails. Guided day and pack trips. Call for camp details. |

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| Emigrant Wilderness | Hwy. 108 above Sonora | 209/532-3671 209/965-3434 | Clark Horse Camp, Stanislaus N. F. 6,800' six fairly small horse camps. Beautiful area in high Sierra. |
| Lake Comanche - Turkey Hill Camp | Ione | 866-763-5121 | Day use. Nice trails Primarily fishing/camping area. www.camancherecreation.com |
| San Luis Reservoir SRA | Merced County | 209/726-1197 | Primarily a boating site. Hwy, 152 - 7 miles east of I-5. Windy. |
| Millerton Lake SRA | East of Fresno | 559/822-2332 | Primarily a boating site. 20 miles northeast. of Fresno |
| Kelty Meadows, Sierra National Forest | East of Fresno on highway 41 | 559/297-0706 | www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/camping/index.shtml 5,400'. 11 sites. Vault toilets, picnic tables, fire pits/grills, bring your water. |
| Texas Flat, Sierra National Forest - | East of Fresno on highway 41 | 559/297-0706 | www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra/recreation/camping/index.shtml 5,400'. 4 sites. 20' maximum but horse trailers allowed. Call for details about water. Website is confusing. No corrals. Reserve through www.reserveusa.com Limits in rig length. |
| Sequoia-Kings Canyon N.F. Three Rivers area | 80 mi. n.e. of Fresno | 559/565-3341 | 7600' Five horse camp sites. Vault toilets only. |
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Notes:

Thank you to all who have worked with me and provided information, data and connections often not readily available.

Reservations: Many parks, including California State Parks and the East Bay Regional Park District, require reservations through Reserve America. Go to www.reserveamerica.com and follow the links. Reserve America's website also provides phone numbers if you require assistance. Other parks allow reservations by phone and if not with Reserve America, the websites provide a link. If all else fails, Google or Bing the park name. You will find a link.

Fees: Most parks and camps charge fees, especially for group activities. Be sure to ask about day use and camp (extended stay) fees and required permits, if any. Permits are normally required for group camps.

Reminders: Other reminders and inquiries that need attention when planning a trip:

- trail closures
- trail restrictions
- maximum capacity
- rest room and shower facilities
- potable water
- corrals
- are trails shared
- community bbq and/or kitchen/galley area available?
- power

.....because there is no way to provide all the detail here.

Timing: Plan ahead. Allow plenty of time as most reservations must be made months ahead of time.

Camp Fires: In most parks where camp fires are allowed, you must bring your own firewood. Some parks sell firewood but it is rather expensive. Inquire before lighting up!

Camp Hosts: Many parks have camp hosts. Ask if your park has a camp host. Get the name(s) and introduce yourself.

Websites: Visit the websites for more information and details.

California State Parks: www.parks.ca.gov
National Park Service: www.nps.gov
U. S. Forestry Service: www.fs.fed.us
East Bay Regional Parks: www.ebparks.org/parks

This list will always be work in progress and by no means complete. Send your advice regarding other parks that should be included and additional information addressing any park allowing horses.

Sandy Greenblat
Publisher, Marin Equestrian Trail Guide
San Rafael CA
sandygreenblat@comcast.net
415/307-3351

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