

OTHER THINGS TO DO/PLACES TO VISIT

SACRAMENTO

Background - A lot of history has influenced Sacramento during its short but interesting existence including the Gold Rush, growing into a major supply center, and the first transcontinental railroad.

Sacramento's current-day history began in 1839 when, what was to become California, was still under the control of Mexico. In that year, John Augustus Sutter landed on the banks of the Sacramento River after receiving a 48,000-acre land grant from the governor of Mexico. He eventually built an adobe trading post there now known as Sutter's Fort.

Seven years later in 1846, settlers revolted against the Mexican authorities and declared California to be a republic. The same year marked the outbreak of the Mexican-American War. In 1848, California was ceded to the United States as part of the treaty which ended that war.

In September 1847, Sutter assigned James Marshall, a carpenter working for him, the job of building a sawmill 45 miles away on the nearby South Fork of the American River. On the morning of January 24, 1848, while inspecting the sawmill tailrace, Marshall spotted some shining flakes in the water. He scooped them up and, after testing them with his fingernail and pounding them with a rock, he placed them in the crown of his hat and hurried back to announce his find to the others: "Boys," he said. "By god, I believe I have found a gold mine."

After Marshall told Sutter about his find, Sutter wanted to keep the discovery secret because he feared a gold rush would mean an end to his plans for an agricultural empire. But the discovery of gold leaked out and the race was on.

The discovery of gold capped off the greatest human migration in history. Thousands of hopeful pioneers traveled on the Oregon Trail towards California in search of a better life. News of the discovery brought some 300,000 people to California. Sacramento, which saw its population boom from 1,000 to 40,000 in just two years, became the principle supply center during the Gold Rush. Sacramento was not only a major distribution point and commercial and agricultural center, but the terminus for wagon trains, stagecoaches, riverboats, and the Pony Express in 1860-61.

Today, Sacramento, the capitol of California, has a population of 407,000 and has its share of government buildings and lobbyists, as well as tree-lined streets with Victorian homes. It also has a large number of museums, state parks, and attractions. Here are some attractions that you might want to visit.

Sutter's Fort State Historical Park - As mentioned, the city of Sacramento can be traced back to the fort built by John Sutter in 1839. But once the Gold Rush started, Sutter's properties were overrun by squatters. Today, only the fort remains. [Sutter's Fort](#) is now a state park and has been restored to its former condition based on an 1847 map published in Darmstadt, Germany. It is open daily for tours. While the Fort museum houses only a few artifacts from Sutter (who left the Fort during the early period of the Gold Rush), by the 1890s the Fort had become a repository for early California history. As such, it now displays many items from the Gold Rush and from the overland travelers who traveled to California, including the ill-fated Donner Party. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for youth (6 to 17). It is open 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily.

The park is located in midtown Sacramento between K and L Streets and 26th and 28th Streets about a mile from the Convention Center. It can easily be reached via a [Sacramento Regional Transit Line 30 bus](#).

California State Indian Museum - The [California State Indian Museum](#) is located directly adjacent to Sutter's Fort and displays exhibits illustrating the cultures of the state's first inhabitants. California's prehistoric population, one of the largest and most diverse in the Western hemisphere, was made up of

over 150 distinct tribal groups who spoke at least sixty-four different languages. The museum offers a glimpse into California's history and illustrates Native American culture, arts and the lifestyles of the state's earliest inhabitants. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for youth (6 to 17). It is open 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily.

Old Sacramento - Old Sacramento, a 28-acre riverfront district of more than 100 buildings from the 1850s-1870s, is the city's tourism hub. It offers a wide variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment options complete with wooden sidewalks and clip-clopping horse-and-buggies. Unfortunately, there are also T-shirt shops and such, but these are overshadowed by the restored buildings and several museums.

This historic enclave is home to several museums in addition to the California State Railroad Museum. The [Sacramento History Museum](#) is on I Street and is housed in a reproduction of the 1854 City Hall and Waterworks building. The original building was completed in the spring of 1854 and housed the City Waterworks, the Mayor, Council, Marshall, Police, and many other City functions. That structure was demolished in 1913. The museum in the new reproduction building opened to the public in 1985. The Museum's mission is to explore, interpret, and display the region's history from the days before the Gold Rush to the present. The museum thus offers the perfect starting point for exploring Old Sacramento and for understanding how the area developed and grew into the vibrant community it is today. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for youth (6-17). The museum is directly west (toward the river) from the California State Railroad Museum. The Sacramento History Museum is open daily from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM with last admission sold at 4:30 PM.

In 1850, the new city of Sacramento experienced its first devastating flood from the Sacramento and American Rivers, and in 1852 the city was again wiped out by high water. In response, a mammoth project was proposed in 1853 to raise the city above the flood level. The ambitious and expensive proposal was not fully accepted until another devastating flood swept through the city in 1862. Within a few years, thousands of cubic yards of earth were brought in on wagons and the daring scheme to raise the street level began. The original street level can be seen throughout Old Sacramento under the boardwalks and in basements. The [Old Sac Underground](#) tour is an hour-long guided walking tour to explore excavated foundations and the enclosed pathways under Old Sacramento. Tours are available Thursdays through Sundays, 10:30 AM-3:00 PM. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for youth (6-17). Tours begin at and tickets can be purchased at the Sacramento History Museum.

Between the California State Railroad Museum and the Sacramento History Museum is the [Huntington, Hopkins & Company Hardware store](#). In 1855, Collis P. Huntington and Mark Hopkins formed a partnership and opened a hardware store. The original Huntington, Hopkins & Company Hardware store was located on K Street and was demolished to allow for the construction of the I-5 freeway. A reproduction of the original building was constructed on the current site in 1970. The building has been modeled after the 1861-1877 exterior appearance of the store. The Huntington, Hopkins & Company hardware store is where the Big Four (Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Charles Crocker, and Mark Hopkins) met and masterminded the construction of the western portion of the transcontinental railroad. The Hardware Store recreates a small town hardware business of the 19th century. The Huntington, Hopkins & Company Hardware Store is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM. The store is often - but not always - also open Monday through Wednesdays during the same hours.

The [Wells Fargo Museum](#) in Old Sacramento is housed in the restored B.F. Hastings Building at the corner of Second Street and J Street. From the large gold safe to the agent's cubbyhole desk, exhibits show how Wells Fargo rode the river of gold flowing through Sacramento, kept the famed Pony Express going, and helped the early days of the state government. The museum is free. Across the street from the museum is a bronze statue of a Pony Express which commemorates the venture that saw mail

delivered by horseback relay from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, a distance of 1,966 miles for 6½ half brief months in 1860.

There are parking garages for Old Sacramento both from westbound Capital Mall (turn right at Front Street) and under the I-5 freeway (accessed via westbound I Street). A [Sacramento Regional Transit](#) Line 62 bus can be boarded on L Street near the Hyatt Convention hotel which will take you to the intersection of L Street and K Street next to the K Street Mall, where there is a pedestrian walkway under the freeway to Old Sacramento.

Crocker Art Museum - Judge Edwin Crocker was the brother of Charles Crocker, one of the Big Four involved in the transcontinental railroad. In 1868, Judge Crocker purchased the property and existing buildings on the corner of Third and O Streets in Sacramento. He then commissioned a local architect to redesign and renovate the home into a grander, Italianate mansion. In addition, Crocker asked him to design an elaborate gallery building that would sit adjacent to the mansion and display the family's growing art collection. The resulting gallery building included a bowling alley, skating rink, and billiards room on the ground floor; a natural history museum and a library on the first floor; and gallery space on the second floor. The restored Victorian houses the [Crocker Art Museum](#), the oldest public art museum in the West, which has grown and expanded since 1873. The original European painting and master drawing collections were soon augmented with 19th-century California paintings, sculptures, Asian art, and more recently, contemporary art and photography. The museum is located at 216 O Street. Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors, and \$5.00 for youth (7-17). The museum is open Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Thursday from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and Friday through Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

California State Capitol Museum - After a massive restoration completed in 1982, the [California State Capitol Museum](#) building once again reflects the beauty and grandeur of the 1900s. The magnificent dome, marble mosaic floors, crystal chandeliers, and monumental staircases are the highlights. Located throughout both the historic State Capitol's west wing and the East Annex, the Capitol Art Program maintains three collected works of paintings. The combined collection includes hundreds of paintings, murals, statues, and antique furniture chosen to portray the various phases of California's history and depict significant eras of the State Capitol. There is no admission charge. Public tours are conducted daily, on the hour, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. (The museum is open weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on weekends.) Keep in mind that the State Capitol Museum, building, and grounds are part of a working government facility and under the jurisdiction of the California Highway Patrol. As such, security measures are in place to protect state officials, employees, and visitors alike. Visitors entering the Capitol building will be subject to security-control measures and checks which include passing through a metal detector, X-ray, visual examination of all packages, and presentation of positive identification. There are also [restrictions](#) on items which can be carried into the buildings. The California State Capitol Museum is located at 10th and L Streets across the street from the Hyatt Convention hotel.

Governor's Mansion State Historic Park - Built in 1877, the 15-room [Governor's Victorian Mansion](#) was home to 13 California governors until 1967 when Ronald Reagan was elected. The 14-foot ceilings, Oriental rugs, Italian marble fireplaces, chandeliers, and French mirrors are all reflections of the tastes of California's governors and first ladies. Entry to the Mansion is by guided tour only. Guides conduct tours on the hour, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The mansion is 4 blocks from the Convention Center at the intersection of 16th and H streets. There is on-street metered parking in the neighborhood. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for youth (6-17).

