

Three Day Best of the Redwood Coast Itinerary

A four hour drive north of San Francisco along scenic Hwy 101, and visitors will find themselves surrounded by towering, ancient redwoods, pristine coastline, and historic towns with unique charm. [Map](#)

Day 1: Tour the Avenue of the Giants and Drive Through a Redwood Tree.

Drive north on scenic Hwy 101 to Humboldt County and stop at the drive-through tree. It may sound unbelievable that a whole car could drive through a Redwood but that's just a taste of the amazing Redwood trees you'll find on this trip. The [Shrine Drive-Thru Tree](#) in Myers Flat (take the Myers Flat Exit on Hwy 101) is where you will have the unique opportunity to drive your car through one of these towering giants.



Continuing on your journey, follow signs to the [Avenue of the Giants](#), a beautiful scenic byway to Hwy 101 where you're surrounded by towering Redwoods on either side of you. (Don't worry, this byway runs parallel to Hwy 101 and you won't have to turn back around to get back to the highway). The Avenue of the Giants takes you as close to the Redwoods as you can get while still in your car, and with the many pullouts along the Avenue you can easily pull over, off the road, get out of your car and be up close and personal with these colossal giants. The setting created by the trees makes for great photo lighting even on the sunniest of days.

Also along the Avenue of the Giants is [Humboldt Redwoods State Park](#), the largest remaining stand of virgin redwoods in the world. The [visitor center](#) in Weott is staffed year round with knowledgeable volunteers who can answer your questions, give you great hiking suggestions and point you toward the restrooms just outside the door. The center also has interactive displays, wildlife exhibits, souvenirs, books and maps of the park and the area.

If you're looking for more adventure and want to really get into what seems like the never ending expanse of Redwoods then take one of the numerous [trailheads](#) that venture through the groves.

Do not miss the [Founders Grove ½ mile trail](#). This incredible Redwood grove, located off of the Avenue of the Giants, is home to some of the tallest trees in the world. Walk along and see the magnificent fallen Dyerville Giant, which is 362 ft. tall, 17 ft. in diameter, has a 52 ft. circumference and is possibly 2,000 years old.



Take a break and go for a swim. The Avenue of the Giants winds along the beautiful Eel River and there are numerous swimming holes where you can get your feet wet. During the summer months the Eel River has warm water set back among the Redwoods. Bring a lunch and go for a swim as you look around at some of the most beautiful scenery in the country.

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Day 2: Heritage Tour

An early morning breakfast at the [Samoa Cookhouse](#), a "lumber camp" style restaurant with hearty portions, will get your day off to a wonderful start. After breakfast, drive north on this coastal peninsula thru the town of Manila and into Arcata. The Historical Sites Society of Arcata has created an online [tour](#) of the area's architecture.

Head south to Eureka and visit [historic Old Town Eureka](#). The now shops and cafes were once the heart of the commercial district and date back to the 1860s. Be sure to get a look at the [Carson Mansion](#), the former home of Lumber Barron William Carson, a frequently photographed Victorian mansion. Drive or walk this tour of Eureka's Victorians.

Cruise Humboldt Bay aboard the [Madaket](#), the last survivor of seven original ferries that transported mill workers and their families around Humboldt Bay, as the captain tells tales old and new. This is a not to be missed 75 minute narrated cruise.



Then take a late afternoon/early evening drive further south (25 mins.) to the [Victorian Village of Ferndale](#). Virtually unchanged since the 1800s, Ferndale, Calif. (pop. 1,382) is a living history museum of Victorians. Ferndale was founded in 1852 and today the whole town is on the

Day 3: Trinidad and Redwood National Park

As you drive north on Hwy 101 visit the beautiful seaside town of [Trinidad](#). The Memorial Lighthouse at the end of Main Street offers a fabulous view of the harbor. The rocks that scatter this part of the coastline are part of California's Coastal National Monument.



Back out to Hwy 101 going north; keep your eyes peeled for [Roosevelt elk herds](#) that roam this area. A favorite haunt are the fields off Hwy 101 across from Dry Lagoon. Look for the little red schoolhouse.

Detour to [Lady Bird Johnson Grove](#). This walk among ancient redwoods and Douglas fir gives you an intimate look at a magnificent ridge-top redwood forest, with its complement of under story plants. Take the easy one-mile loop trail to experience this famous grove named for the former first lady.



The [Newton B. Drury Parkway](#) will take you deeper into Redwood National Park. Here you can hike along one of the many [trails](#) that branch out from the Visitors' Center.