

Eureka History and Culture Itinerary

Start your morning with breakfast at the [Samoa Cookhouse](#), the *last surviving cookhouse of the west*. All meals are still served "lumber camp" style. Your food is brought to the table in large bowls and platters, allowing you to help yourself and pass it around. They always offer seconds, so no one walks away from the table hungry.



After eating in one of the traditional dining rooms, you are welcome to browse their complimentary museum full of relics and photographs from the old logging and Cookhouse days. The walls are lined with an extensive pictorial review of this history.

Right next door to the Samoa Cookhouse is the [Humboldt Bay Maritime Museum](#). View exhibits that include artifacts related to ships and lighthouses. Come and explore the vast maritime history of California's north coast, from shipwrecks to shipbuilding.

Next, take in [Eureka's Historic Old Town](#). Nowhere is Eureka's Victorian heritage more evident than in Old Town, a meticulously preserved and restored district of unique shops, restaurants, galleries and museums. The Old Town/Downtown district includes theaters, pubs, antique shops, local coffee houses and local wine and beer bars.



To see even more Victorian homes take a [driving tour](#) through some of Eureka's oldest streets. This tour will give you a glimpse of houses and commercial buildings that span 1880s to 1920s. Begin by heading south on H St., (one way street).

Hillsdale Street and the surrounding neighborhoods capture some of Eureka's best preserved Victorian homes. Boasting styles of Queen Anne and Eastlake, Hillsdale Street is truly a historical site you don't want to miss.



Stop back in Old Town Eureka for lunch at any of the wonderful restaurants, many of them in historic, turn of the century buildings.

Next, step aboard The [Madaket](#) for a tour of Humboldt Bay. The Madaket is the last survivor of seven original ferries that transported mill workers and families around Humboldt Bay. Built in 1910 and refurbished in 1989, she continues to be the oldest vessel in continuous service in the United States, boasts the smallest licensed bar in the state and is a California historic vessel.

The Madaket offers an 8.5 mile one-hour cruise that travels along the Eureka Waterfront. Narration includes all points of interest, including the discoveries of Humboldt Bay, timber industry, wildlife, shipping, maritime history, Indian history and more. This is a great way to learn about the Humboldt Bay area!



Next you can choose from a number of historically important Eureka establishments that will take you back in time.

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The [Clarke Historical Museum](#), located in the heart of Old Town Eureka, on the corner of Third and E Streets, is the only museum in Humboldt County dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the entire area.

Frequently changing exhibits tell the story of the many people, activities and events that made Humboldt County --the gold rush, the lumber industry, ship building and fishing, farmers and businesses, and the everyday lives of people from the earliest times to the recent past.

The Native American wing displays a world recognized collection of northern California Native American basketry, stone tools and regalia. Visitors come from all over to see, study and enjoy this collection.

The [Blue Ox Millworks & Historic Park](#) is where Victorian craftsmanship techniques of the 1800s are utilized to produce authentic custom quality products for homes around the world. Their customers include two governors' mansions, national parks, historic cathedrals and even the President of the United States Bill Clinton.



Visitors will see antique woodworking machinery from the late 1800s and the early 1900s, used in the production of custom millwork. Visitors will also enjoy seeing the world's largest functioning collection of human powered equipment from Barnes Manufacturing, a blacksmith & machine shop where ornamental iron work and hardware is made.

Visitors can take a self-guided tour or call in advance and have one of the crew show you around.

The [Fort Humboldt State Historic Park](#), established in 1853, was only occupied by the Army for 13 years but among the fort's early garrison was Captain Ulysses S. Grant --- later to become Civil War general and 18th president of the United States.



Visit the hospital building with exhibits that explain fort operation & history. Allow additional time to walk through outdoor exhibits & historic logging equipment including steam donkeys, locomotives etc. and logging museum. Fort Humboldt includes historic reconstruction of buildings, a grassy bluff with picnic tables, outdoor logging machinery displays, logging & fort museum and a bookstore and restrooms.

For dinner check out a part of culture Eureka is very proud of, The [Lost Coast Brewery](#), which is one of six Humboldt County microbreweries. Lost Coast Brewery has many award winning brews for people to sample as well as a wonderful pub style menu including locally caught Dungeness crab when in season.



End the night with a [Haunted History Ghost Tour](#) and learn about Eureka's bawdy past and its haunted present. As you tour the streets of Old Town learn what happened in Opera Alley, and what is underneath 2nd Street. Find out about Captain Buhne's tragic loss, and what is upstairs in Ruby's Room. Tours last around an hour and a half. We guarantee you will never forget "Eureka's other side of history."