

General Information

Only four hours north of San Francisco, the Garberville area is the perfect base for your cycling adventure to the surrounding Redwoods. You can find lodging, restaurants, shops, and a full entertainment calendar along the Avenue of the Giants or farther north in Ferndale and Eureka.

Cycling day trips can take you to the spectacular redwood groves along the Avenue of the Giants, the Lost Coast, the coastal community of Shelter Cove, and the secluded King Range National Conservation Area. Uncrowded parklands, wildflowers and abundant wildlife provide plenty of great outdoor recreational opportunities.

Total # of Rides Listed: 5

Family Rides: 0

Road Rides: 5

MTB Trails: 0

Bike Path Rides: 0

 Loop Rides: 1

 Out & Back Rides: 4



When to Visit

The best time to visit Humboldt County and the surrounding Redwoods is between May and October

Climate and Weather

The climate is moderate, with summertime temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Winters are wet and mild with occasional snow or frost (but snow is actually rare). The elevation in Garberville is 479 feet, and even lower along the Avenue of the Giants, while some of the surrounding coastal peaks such as King's Peak rise to 4,087 feet. The air is crystal clear and along the coast and in open spaces (outside of the Redwoods) you will most likely encounter prevailing northwestern winds.

How to Get There

California is served by a vast array of airports that include international airports and dozens of others serving the United States. The international airports of Northern California include Oakland International Airport, San Francisco International Airport, San Jose International Airport and the Sacramento International Airport.

If you are traveling by air from out of state, you will likely arrive at the San Francisco International Airport. From there, you have the option to take regional flight to Eureka's Airport and drive from there south on HWY 101, or rent a car in San Francisco and drive north on HWY 101.

From San Francisco (3:50 Hrs): Drive north on US Highway 101 from San Francisco through Santa Rosa to Humboldt State Redwood Park. Look for the small resort town of Garberville where you will find accommodations.

Traveling from the north (Oregon border) take Highway 101 south. You will travel through the towns of Eureka and Fortuna before you reach the north end of Humboldt State Redwood Park. From there, it is only about 30 minutes drive to Garberville.

Approximate driving times:

From San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge - 3 hours 50 minutes

From Sacramento – 5 hours 10 minutes

From Santa Rosa - 2 hours 35 minutes

From Eureka - 65 minutes

From Ferndale - 45 minutes

Accommodations

Accommodations ranging from camping grounds to luxurious B&Bs are available along the Avenue Of The Giants and Hwy 101 from Garberville to Pepperwood. Farther north you will find plenty of accommodations in Ferndale, Eureka and its vicinity.

The Roads

The surfaces of roads in the region are generally good, although the roads can get narrow in places. You may encounter some rough pavement sections, especially along the lost coast highway and on Mattole Road, care should be taken on these roads.

What You Need To Know

It is estimated that old growth redwood forest once covered 2 million acres (810,000 ha) of coastal northern California. Today, only 4%, or 85,000 acres (34,000 ha), remain.

Coastal redwoods live an average of 600 years and a few are documented to be 2,000 years old, making them some of the longest-living organisms on earth. They are highly resistant to disease, due to a thick protective bark and high tannin content. Redwoods prefer sheltered slopes, slightly inland and near water sources such as rivers and streams, and are the fastest growing tree in the world. Most of these giant trees can be found at the Humboldt Redwoods State Park which begins 228 miles north of San Francisco and lies along US 101, mostly along its west side.

To best appreciate the beauty of the native redwoods you should ride the Avenue of the Giants, a narrow, much less traveled route that parallels US 101. It was built around 1880 as a stagecoach route, and has been popular with tourists ever since. The whole avenue is about 32 miles long, starting at Phillippsville and rejoining the highway 101 at Jordan Road near Stafford in the north. The central section of the avenue undulates along the Eel river through the park and encounters the most impressive and largest trees in the world.

Although over the years a fair amount of the original redwoods was cut for timber there are still about one third of the trees that are old-growth forest on average 500 years old. Many of the tree groves are named, and often you will find a footpath at the roadside inviting you to follow it in. The redwoods are sustained by the summer fogs and heavy rainfall that exceeds 50 inches each year.

Road Rides (1-5 of 5)

Road Rides

[Humboldt County: The Avenue of the Giants](#)

29 mi/46.5 km (*Out & Back* Total: 58 mi/93 km)



[Humboldt County: Mattole Road & Rockefeller Forest](#)

15 mi/24 km (*Out & Back* Total: 30 mi/48 km)



[Humboldt County: Lost Coast Highway - Ocean House](#)

17 mi/27 km (*Out & Back* Total: 34 mi/54 km)



[Humboldt County: Lost Coast Highway - Lighthouse Road](#)

18.5 mi/30 km (*Out & Back* Total: 37 mi/60 km)



[Del Norte County: Redwoods Drive \(Newton B Drury Scenic Pkwy\)](#)

29 mi/46 km (*Loop*)

