

# California State Parks in Sonoma County

## Annadel State Park

The park offers miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and trail riding. Lake Illsanjo offers wildflowers from early spring until early summer and excellent fishing for black bass and bluegill.

Location — East of Santa Rosa and south of Highway 12 on Channel Drive via Montgomery Drive.

## Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve

The serene, majestic beauty of this 805 acre Grove is a living reminder of the magnificent redwood forest that covered much of this area before logging operations began during the 19th century.

Location — North of Guerneville at the end of Armstrong Road.

## Austin Creek State Recreation Area

The recreation area is adjacent to Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve and is accessed through the same entrance. With approximately 6,000 acres of open woodlands, rolling hills, and meadows, it offers a strong contrast to the dense, primeval redwood forest below.

## Fort Ross State Historic Park

Fort Ross was established in 1812 by Russians as an outpost for sea otter hunters and a trading base. It was the southernmost outpost of a Russian presence until sea otters became scarce in 1841. None of the original fort structures remain, however several buildings have been reconstructed: the first Russian Orthodox chapel south of Alaska, the stockade, and three other buildings,

## Fort Ross State Historic Park (cont)

including the Commander's House, which contains exhibits of the Russian-American Fur Company and the Russian occupation. Location — 12 miles north of Jenner on Highway One.

## Jack London State Historic Park

The park is a memorial to writer and adventurer Jack London, who made his home at the site from 1905 until his death in 1916.

Location — On London Ranch Road west of Glen Ellen.

## Kruse Rhododendron State Reserve

This pristine reserve contains 317 acres of second-growth redwood, Douglas fir, grand firs, tanoaks, and a plethora of rhododendrons. Each May these spectacular flowers burst into bloom and color the deep green of the forest with brilliant pink blossoms. There are five miles of hiking trails through the quiet forest with a short loop trail that leads through clusters of rhododendrons.

Location — The reserve is south of Salt Point State Park off Highway One.

## Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park was the main residence of Rancho Petaluma, the 66,000-acre agricultural empire where General Vallejo ran his cattle, hide and tallow business, raised sheep, bred horses and grew numerous crops. The adobe contains authentic furniture and exhibits depicting early rancho life.

Location — The park is at the east edge of Petaluma, off Adobe Road.