



REDWOOD
FOREST FOUNDATION

FREE ITINERARY GUIDE

YOUR 2-DAY REDWOOD WEEKEND. DONE FOR YOU.

Planning a trip to Northern California's redwood forests can feel overwhelming. With so many parks, trails, and coastal stops to choose from, it can be hard to decide what to do..

This simple 2-day itinerary takes the guesswork out of it, giving you a balanced weekend of scenic drives, short hikes, and time to slow down and take in some of the most iconic redwood landscapes.

Whether it's your first visit or a quick weekend escape, this guide helps you make the most of your time.

REGION

**MENDOCINO
COAST**

PACE

**RELAXED,
NOT RUSHED**

BEST FOR

**ALL EXPERIENCE
LEVELS**

BEST TIME

**YEAR-ROUND
(SPRING-FALL IDEAL)**

SAMPLE ITINERARY

DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE REDWOODS



MORNING

DRIVE HIGHWAY 1 NORTH

The route from San Francisco to the Mendocino Coast takes about 3.5 hours with stops. Pull over when you feel like it. The viewpoints along Highway 1 earn their reputation.



MIDDAY

LUNCH IN THE TOWN OF MENDOCINO

The village sits on a headland above the Pacific. Grab lunch, walk the coastal bluffs for twenty minutes, and get back on the road before the afternoon crowd arrives.



EARLY AFTERNOON

FORT BRAGG + RFF WELCOME CENTER

Stop by the RFF Welcome Center to get oriented before heading into the forest: 50,000 acres of coast redwood under active conservation, with current trail conditions and restoration context. Then cross the street for a scoop at Cowlick's Ice Cream before the afternoon hike.



LATE AFTERNOON

FIRST REDWOOD EXPERIENCE: RUSSIAN GULCH STATE PARK

Short, accessible trails through second-growth and old-growth redwood forest. A good introduction to the canopy before Day 2 takes you deeper. The light through the trees in late afternoon is worth scheduling around.

DAY 2: DEEPER REDWOOD IMMERSION



EARLY MORNING

MONTGOMERY WOODS STATE NATURAL RESERVE

One of the tallest old-growth redwood groves in the region, and one of the least visited. Go before 9 AM and you will likely have the trail to yourself. The trees here have been standing since before the California missions were built.



MIDDAY

PICNIC LUNCH: PICK UP IN MENDOCINO

Stop at Harvest Market at Mendosa's on the way inland. Sandwiches, local produce, good coffee. Eat at a scenic pull-off on the drive or along the trail. No need to plan it more carefully than this.



LATE AFTERNOON

SCENIC RETURN SOUTH, THEN HEAD HOME

Take your time on the drive back. Stop at a beach or viewpoint if something catches you. Highway 1 south in the afternoon light looks different than it did coming north. Begin the return drive feeling like you actually rested. That is the point.

STOP BY OUR WELCOME CENTER

247 N Main St Ste C, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

BEFORE YOU GO

PRO TIPS



Start both days early.

Trails are quieter before 9 AM and the light is better in the groves.



Wear shoes with grip.

Redwood trails are often rooted, damp, and uneven year-round.



Dress in layers.

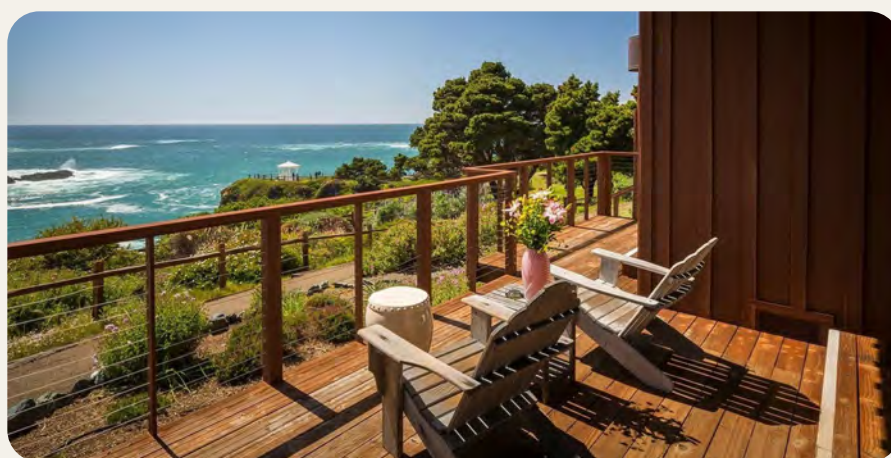
Coastal weather shifts during the day and the forest runs 10 degrees cooler.



Cell service drops past Fort Bragg.

Download offline maps before you leave home.

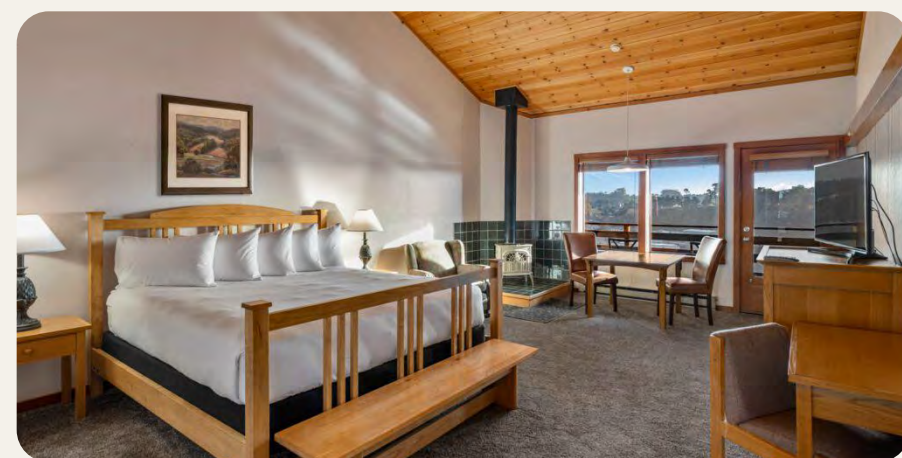
WHERE TO STAY



BEST FOR A FULL RESET

Heritage House Resort & Spa

Oceanfront cottages above a private cove. Quiet and removed from the road. Worth the price if the reset is the point of the trip.



BEST VALUE, CENTRAL LOCATION

Harbor Lite Lodge

Well-located in Fort Bragg, comfortable, close to the harbor. A solid base for both days.

WHERE TO EAT



Noyo Harbor Inn Restaurant & Tavern

Elevated coastal dining above the harbor. Good for the first-night dinner after a long drive north.



Princess Seafood Restaurant

Order at the counter. Fresh, local, no fuss. One of the more reliable seafood spots in the area.

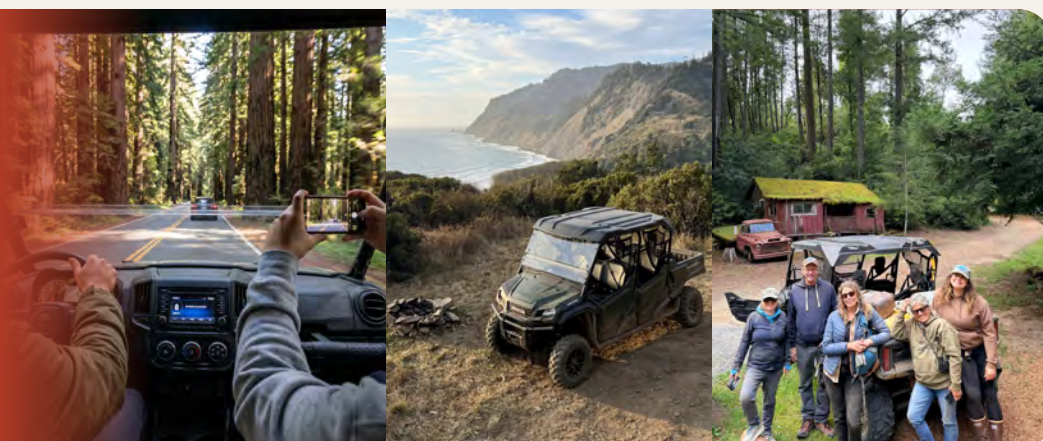


Cowlick's Ice Cream

Small-batch, homemade. Across from the RFF Welcome Center. A short-list item on any Fort Bragg stop.

GUIDED ATV TOUR INSIDE REDWOOD FOREST

RFF offers guided ATV tours through active restoration zones and working forest areas not accessible on foot. You're riding through 50,000 acres most people never see. Wildlife camera stations, ancient trees, deer, black bears, wild mushrooms in season.



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