

LESSER-KNOWN REDWOOD SPOTS WITHOUT THE CROWDS

DISCOVER QUIETER GROVES, PEACEFUL TRAILS,
AND UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS BENEATH SOME
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S MOST REMARKABLE
REDWOOD FORESTS.

AT A GLANCE

BEST FOR

Travelers looking for peaceful
redwood experiences

DIFFICULTY

Easy to Moderate

ATMOSPHERE

Quiet • Scenic • Immersive

BEST TIME TO VISIT

Weekdays and early mornings

WHY EXPLORE BEYOND THE FAMOUS PARKS?

While Northern California's redwoods are famous for towering trees and iconic destinations, some of the most memorable experiences happen away from the crowds.

If you're looking for a slower, more intimate connection with the forest, these hidden gems offer breathtaking beauty without the busy trails.

Whether you're planning a peaceful day hike, photography trip, or weekend escape, these lesser-known destinations invite you to experience the redwoods at their quietest.



PRO TIPS



Visit early in the morning for the quietest experience.



Weekdays are noticeably less crowded than weekends.



Bring water and snacks as services are limited at several locations.



Expect little or no cell service in remote areas.



Photo: David Eppstein, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

MONTGOMERY WOODS STATE NATURAL RESERVE

One of the tallest old-growth redwood groves in the world, Montgomery Woods remains surprisingly peaceful compared to California's better-known parks.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Towering old-growth coast redwoods
- Quiet walking trails
- Ideal for photography and reflection



Photo: RedwoodHikes.com

SMITHE REDWOODS STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Nestled along the South Fork Eel River, this accessible grove is often overlooked despite its remarkable beauty.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dense riverside forest
- Easy access
- Peaceful atmosphere



Photo: RedwoodHikes.com

GRIZZLY CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

Located along Highway 36, this smaller state park offers magnificent riverside redwoods without the crowds.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Scenic river corridor
- Relaxed walking trails
- Excellent roadside stop



Photo: RedwoodHikes.com

SINKYONE WILDERNESS STATE PARK

For visitors willing to venture farther, Sinkyone combines rugged coastline with spectacular redwood forest.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Coastal redwoods
- Ocean views
- Wilderness experience



Photo: RedwoodHikes.com

STANDISH-HICKEY STATE RECREATION AREA

Often passed by on the drive north, Standish-Hickey is perfect for an easy afternoon among giant trees.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Redwood groves
- River access
- Picnic opportunities