



Lake County Visitor Center

6110 E. Highway 20

Lucerne, CA 95458

1-800-525-3743

www.lakecounty.com

Fascinating facts and fun things to do

This convenient wallet card has been provided courtesy of the Lake County Marketing Program to give you a bit of interesting information that you can share with visitors. Thank you for being an ambassador for visitors to Lake County.

CLEAR LAKE

* The **largest** natural freshwater lake within the borders of California and possibly the **oldest** lake in North America (nearly 2.5 million years old).

* Since it is a “**eutrophic**” lake (high in nutrient content), Clear Lake supports large populations of fish (bass, crappie, bluegill, carp, catfish) and wildlife.

* Known as the **Bass Capital of the West** for many years; recently ranked as the No. 2 bass fishing destination in the world by ESPN.

* Records – largemouth bass: 17.52 lbs.; catfish: 33.25 lbs.

MT. KONOCTI

* A dormant multiple volcano with an elevation of 4,300 feet above sea level.

* Prominent geographic landmark with five peaks provides a stunning backdrop to expansive Clear Lake. Sacred to local Native American Indian tribes.

* Preservation efforts are underway to designate much of the mountain open space with significant public access.

CLEANEST AIR AND LOTS OF SUNSHINE

* Lake County is certified as having the cleanest air in California for almost 20 years.

* Lake County holds the # 3 in the U.S. spot on the American Lung Association's list of counties with the cleanest air (2007).

* Average of 265 days of sunshine each year; fog is rare.

GEYSERS, HOT SPRINGS, & GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

* Volcanic past still evident in geothermal activity and hot springs.

* Around the turn of the last century, Lake County was a popular vacation spot for visitors to “take the waters” of the area's natural mineral springs. Tectonic activity in the 1906 earthquake sent many of the springs underground or caused them to stop completely. Today, **Harbin Hot Springs**, near Middletown, is one of several that are still active.

* **Lake County diamonds** are semi-precious stones created by volcanic action; they have a hardness rating of 7-8 (compared to 10 for a true diamond). The stones can often be seen after rains and are available for sale at most local rock shops.

* **The Geysers**, located on Cobb Mountain, is home to the world's largest geothermal energy resource with 350 steam wells generating 750 megawatts of clean, renewable base load electricity.

TWO STATE PARKS

* **Clear Lake State Park** in Kelseyville and **Anderson Marsh State Historic Park** in Lower Lake are both located on the shores of Clear Lake.



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WILDFLOWERS & WILDLIFE

* Colorful spring blooms include redbud, poppies, lupine, wild mustard, blackberry, plus pear blossoms in the orchards.

* **Tule elk** are native to California & Lake County and often can be seen in Cache Creek Basin Recreational Area in eastern Lake County.

* Lake County is home to more than 300 species of birds and located along the Pacific Flyway. Keep an eye out for American white pelicans, woodpeckers, grebes, hawks, even an occasional bald eagle.

* Audubon California has designated the Clear Lake area an important bird area because of the diversity of birds and valuable bird habitat.

* **Rodman Slough**, in the northwest area of Clear Lake, is home to one of the largest Great Blue Heron rookeries in Northern California.

LOCAL PRODUCE & AWARD-WINNING WINES

* **Lake County Bartlett Pears** have been popular since the 1880s. Known as the **Pear Capital of the World**, Kelseyville celebrates the pear harvest each year with the **Kelseyville Pear Festival**, held the last Saturday of September.

* Volcanic soils and a Mediterranean climate contribute to the growing of ultra-premium winegrapes. Popular varietals include sauvignon blanc, cabernet sauvignon, and zinfandel.

* Lake County is home to more than 30 wineries – from small boutique tasting rooms to famous-label wineries. More than 200 wines are branded with a Lake County appellation.

* Farmers' market held at Steele Wines, Saturday morning from May to October.

RICH HISTORY

* Native American heritage dates back **12,000 years**. The Pomo people were hunting, fishing, and collecting plant foods around the lake, using tules (tall grass-like plants found along the lake shore) to make houses, boats, cooking utensils, and more. Today, Pomo baskets are widely admired and collected. These baskets may be purchased at the Harbor Village Artist Cottages in Lucerne.

* Courthouse Museum in Lakeport; Schoolhouse Museum in Lower Lake.

FUN THINGS TO DO IN LAKE COUNTY

Antiquing, art shows/galleries, auto races, bicycling, biplane tours, bird watching, boating, camping, concerts, disc golf, dining, fall corn mazes & pumpkin patches, farm stands/markets, festivals/events, fishing, flying, gaming, glider rides, golfing, hang gliding, hiking, horseback riding, hot springs, hunting, kayaking, kite flying, museums, nature trails, picnicking, quilting, racing, rock hounding, sailing, scenic drives, shopping, spas, star gazing, swimming, wakeboarding/waterskiing, whitewater rafting, wildflower trails, wine tasting & more.

rev 11/09

A SAMPLING OF EVENTS

February - [Wine & Chocolate](#)

March - [Festival of Tulips](#)

April - [Heron Festival & Wildflower Brunch](#) and [Trout Derby](#)

May - [Catfish Derby](#)

June - [Wild West Days](#) and [Middletown Days](#)

July - [Independence Day Fireworks](#) and [Lake County Wine Adventure](#)

August - [Taste of Lakeport](#)

September - [Old Time Bluegrass Festival](#)

October - [Kelseyville Pear Festival](#) and [Steele Wines Harvest Festival](#)

November - [Dickens' Christmas Market](#)

December - [Holiday Tree Lightings & Parades](#)

MORE EVENTS AT: www.lakecounty.com

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