



Fort Bragg

With its ancient redwood forests, steep bluffs, historic towns and of course, the Pacific Ocean, Fort Bragg is custom made for city-weary visitors.

Fort Bragg is the largest city on the Mendocino coast and the original home of the Pomo Indians, a tribe of hunter-gatherers. They lived in the valleys and harvested from the sea. They were well established by the time European explorers began scouting the area in their galleons, in the mid 1500s. By the late 1850s, the Mendocino Indian Reservation had been established near the Noyo River and operated until 1866. The Pomo Indians then relocated to the Round Valley area, where many Native Americans still live today.

Downtown Fort Bragg's architecture dates back to the early 1900's and was rebuilt after the terrible 1906 earthquake which destroyed San Francisco. The charm of this era continues to be preserved by this genuine coastal community.

Fort Bragg is dotted with choices of distinctive lodging, great restaurants and a well known brewery. Natural clothing and unique gifts can be found in the nearby shops. Museums, including the Historic Train Depot and the Guest House Museum, are open to the public and centrally located.

Fort Bragg also features a variety of galleries that include works by local students and graduates of the famous College of the Redwoods' Fine Woodworking School. The area also has a repertory theater and hosts the annual Gay '90s musical melodrama every summer.

Beneath the Noyo Bridge on Highway 1, Noyo Harbor is a real working sea coast port, the largest between San Francisco and Eureka.

A safe harbor during stormy seas, Noyo Harbor is a popular location for fresh fish and seafood restaurants. The Noyo Harbor also provides charters for sport fishing and whale watching as well as a marina and boat launching facilities. In recent years, Noyo has become the site of a successful sea urchin industry.

North of Noyo Harbor, MacKerricher State Park has 10 miles of beach, beginning north of town, past the Pudding Creek trestle along Highway 1, just south of the small town of Cleone. Nearby, Glass Beach is a treasure trove of colored sea glass.

The Farmers Market in Fort Bragg is run each Wednesday afternoon from May to October and offers spectacular flowers, fruits and vegetables in front of City Hall.

Located on a 300 acre preserve at the Casper Headlands, the point Cabrillo Lighthouse has served the shipping trade from as early as 1908. Visitors may walk along a 1/2 mile trail from the Point Cabrillo Drive entrance, a loop off Highway 1 and just south of Fort Bragg. Perched on a point with an historic farmhouse in a once thriving community, it is now a protected preserve. The restoration of the lighthouse will be completed in 1999 and then reopened to the public, celebrating the replacement of its original fresnel lens.

Fort Bragg's rich history and Victorian charm accommodates travelers with the very best in vacation destinations on the North Coast.



Point Cabrillo Lighthouse, Casper Headlands