Mount Diablo State Park

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At the eastern fringe of the San Francisco Bay region, Mount Diablo, elevation 3,849 feet, stands alone on the edge of California's great Central Valley. At this point, the Coast Range consists only of low hills, none high enough to block the spectacular views from the upper slopes of the mountain.

Many visitors to Mount Diablo head straight for the summit to enjoy the famous view. You can look to the west, beyond the Golden Gate Bridge, to the Farallon Islands: southeast to the James Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton at 4.213 feet: south to Mount Loma Prieta in the Santa Cruz Mountains at 3,791 feet: north to Mount Saint Helena in the Coast Range at 4,344 feet; and still farther north to Mount Lassen in the Cascades at 10.466 feet. North

and east of Mount Diablo the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers meet to form the twisting waterways of the Delta. To the east beyond California's great Central Valley, the crest of the Sierra Nevada seems to float in space.

POINTS OF INTEREST Summit Visitor Center

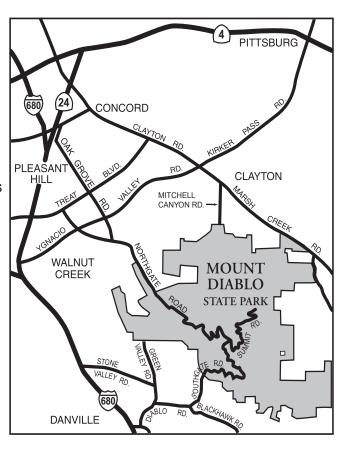
Built in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this building was constructed of sandstone quarried from Fossil Ridge, Rock City. Remnants of ancient fossils can be found on this building.

The Fire Interpretive Trail

Just below the summit, this trail showcases the natural recovery process that is underway following a 6,000-acre fire in 1977. Some spectacular vistas can be enjoyed along the way. The first half of this gentle 0.7-mile trail is accessible to visitors in wheelchairs.

Rock City

You will find unusually large sandstone formations and small caves here.



Macedo Ranch Staging Area

This excellent staging area for equestrians, bicyclists and hikers is located on the western side of the park.

Mitchell Canyon Staging Area and Visitor Center

This is the main access point to trails on the mountain's north side. From here you can hike to Deer Flat (3.7 miles) or all the way to the summit (6.8 miles). The visitor center is open on weekends from 8 a.m to 4 p.m. during the summer months, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during winter months.

Diablo Valley Overlook

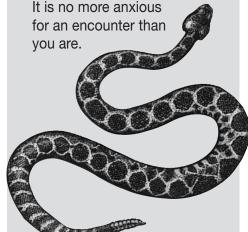
From here, 2,900 feet above sea level, you can see the Golden Gate Bridge.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

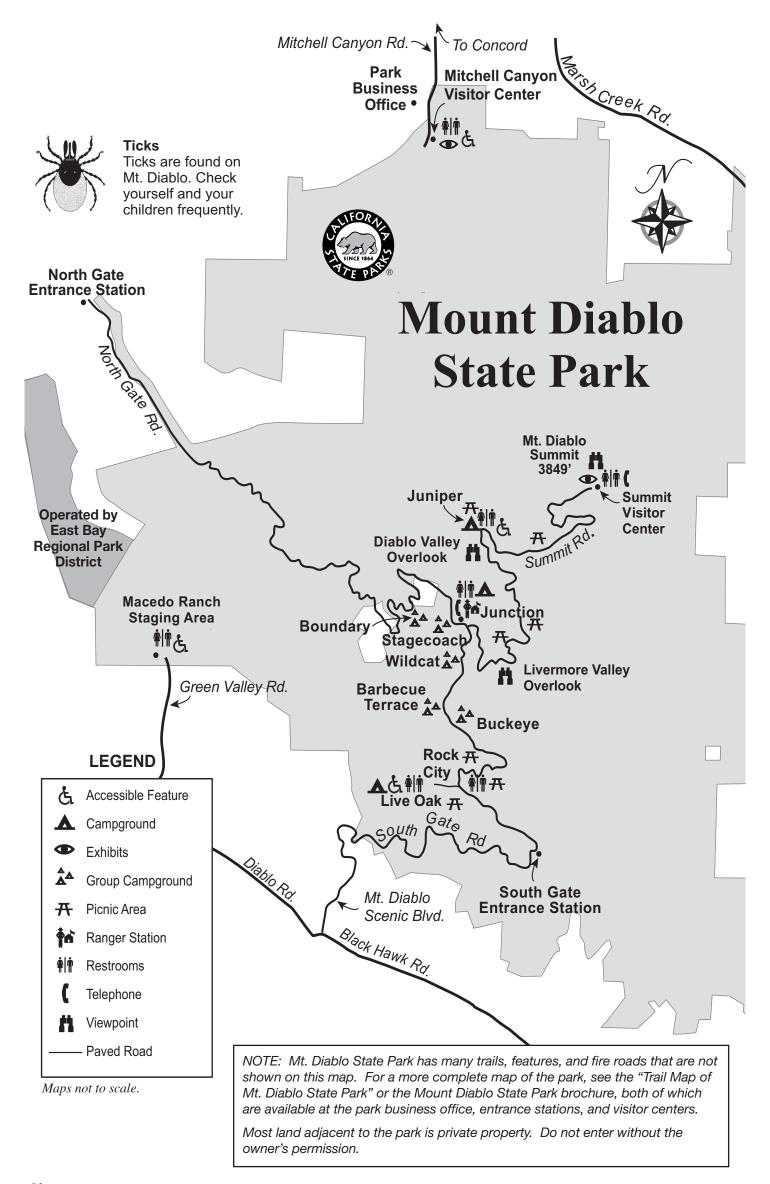
Park staff conduct guided hikes and other interpretive events. Publications of the park's cultural and natural history and a detailed topographic hiking map are for sale in the park office, at entrance stations and at the visitor centers.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Park hours are 8 a.m. to sunset daily. Gates close at sunset and are locked at night. To avoid being locked in, begin exiting the park before sunset.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the park.
- Dogs are allowed only in developed areas of the park.
 They must be kept on a leash during the day and in an enclosed vehicle or tent at night. Dogs are NOT permitted on trails or fire roads.
- Fires are a continuing hazard; weather conditions may restrict smoking or prohibit fires or even close the park during periods of extreme fire danger. See park staff for specific information. Fires are only allowed in the park's barbeques or in your portable camp stove. Bring your own fuel. Collection of firewood is prohibited in the park.
- Mountain bikes may be ridden on paved roads, maintained fire roads and authorized trails.
 Cyclists should see park staff for other rules and regulations concerning trail use.
- Plants and animals—even rattlesnakes—are protected by law. This is their home, and you are the visitor.
- To avoid rattlers, watch where you are hiking, and if you see one, give it a wide berth.
 It is no more anxious for an encounter than you are.



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Poison Oak

Poison oak can be identified by its leaves—they grow in groups of three and have gently lobed edges.