

# ITINERARY

***\*Lesson objectives are offset in italics—please let us know if there are any additional topics or activities that you would like covered***

## **9:00 Arrival to the bus parking lot at North Beach:**

Teachers and chaperones: check-in with the director to review the schedule, waivers, and relevant medical information (allergies, special accommodations)

Students: naturalists welcome students with games and activities

**9:30 Tour begins:** The following activities (including the nature hike) will occur at different times for each group in order to avoid crowding and optimize the experience.

## **Valley Floor (approximately 3 hours)**

- **Nisenan Village:** Grandmother Rock relic and history of the tribe native to the Coloma Valley  
***Students imagine Nisenan lifestyle and consider the impact of modern lifestyle on natural resources***
- **Sutter's Sawmill:** Where it all began! James Marshall's discovery destroys Sutter's dream of building a farming empire and drastically changes the course of California history.  
***Analysis of John Sutter and James Marshall's original intentions and the events leading to the gold rush of 1849***
- **Blacksmith shop:** Living history with a spark of social justice: students experience a functioning blacksmith shop and learn the rags to riches story of its original owner.  
***The Monroe family arrived to Coloma as slaves and prospered as freedmen through determination and love for each other***
- **Mining Museum:** Students experience photos, models, and simple to complex tools and techniques used in placer, hydraulic, and hard rock mining.  
***The evolution of mining methods***
- **Wah-hop Store and Bank:** A glimpse into the roadblocks and achievements of marginalized Chinese settlers during the gold rush.  
***The importance of community when facing adversity***

- **American River:** Water is life!  
*The water cycle and the delicate ecology of the river*
- **Coloma Museum:** Students explore hands-on, comprehensive exhibits and watch a short film exploring the incredible story of stagecoach driver Charley Parkhurst.  
*20 minute opportunity for an optional chaperone/ teacher break*
- **Gold Panning Lesson:** Flood, Tsunami, Earthquake!  
*Students learn how density and gravity work together to sort and sift their gold pans*

**10:45 Snack Break (15 minutes)**

**1:00pm Lunch (30-45 minutes)**

**Monroe Ridge Nature Hike (Approximately 2 hours)**

- **Silent Hike:** The sound of silence!  
Students are spaced apart (with adults strategically inserted for safety) to experience a silent, independent walk in nature.
- **Nature Share:** My turn to be the lead naturalist!  
Students study specific flora in small groups. Each individual has the opportunity to then teach other groups and chaperones with several opportunities for repetition and Q&A.
- **Marshalls Cabin:** A peek into the simple life of James Marshall  
Students see Marshall's skillfully built cabin and hand-made furniture carved from Manzanita, Cedar, and other resources they will experience on their nature hike.
- **Marshall Monument:** The funeral that attracted 3,000 attendees!  
James may have died penniless but he was rich in friendship! Naturalists compare and contrast the life story of James Marshall with his contemporaries (one or more of the following: Samuel Brannon, Pearly Monroe, John Sutter)  
*What do we actually leave behind when we leave this earth?*

**3:30 All meet at North Beach parking lot for final review and check out**

**4:00 Departure**

This plan is a general outline of what you can expect from a typical tour. Our naturalists are flexible and tend to tailor the program based on the points of interest and engagement of their group. Feel free to call or email with any specific questions, comments or concerns:

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