© Coloma Gold Tours

Full-Day Field Trip Itinerary

Standard program hours are 9:00 AM–4:00 PM. Alternate arrival or departure times may be arranged in advance.

Learning objectives appear in italics. Please tell us about any additional topics you would like covered.

8:45 AM – For bus groups, chaperones driving separately arrive and check in.

9:00 AM – Students arrive at the North Beach Parking Lot, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park:

329 Coloma Rd, Coloma, CA 95613
Every participant must have a completed paper or digital waiver. Teachers confirm completion and share relevant medical or behavioral concerns with the director.

Students are welcomed with games and activities.

9:30 AM - Station rotations begin. Activities may occur in a different order as groups rotate among stations.

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.
  Peter and Nancy Gooch came to Coloma while enslaved, gained their freedom in California, and later helped free their son, Andrew Monroe, whose family became respected Coloma farmers.

- **Mining Museum:** Students experience photos, models, and tools and techniques ranging from simple to complex 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

10:45 AM - Snack break (15 minutes)

1:00 PM - Lunch (30-45 minutes)

Monument 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.

- **Marshall's Cabin:** A peek into the simple life of James Marshall
  Students see Marshall's skillfully built cabin and handmade furniture carved from Manzanita, Cedar, and other materials they will encounter 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: Sam Brannan, Pearley Monroe, John Sutter)
  What do we actually leave behind when we leave this earth?

3:30 PM – Everyone meets at the North Beach Parking Lot for final review and checkout
4:00 PM – Departure
This teacher-facing itinerary is a general outline; guides tailor activities to each group's interests and needs. Teachers may distribute it to participants if useful, but distribution is optional.
Questions?
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