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posted by Annette George

7 Sacred Sites in California

These landmarks are not just breathtakingly beautiful—they also carry spiritual significance for Native Americans

https://www.visitcalifornia.com/experience/7-sacred-sites-california/?kwp_0=2266596&kwp_4=6421060&kwp_1=2754621



MBRubin/Getty Images

While travelers from all over the world marvel at the grandeur of California's landscapes, for indigenous people the state's mountain peaks, waterfalls, and other natural landmarks have a deeper cultural and spiritual significance. Beyond their beauty, these features hold symbolic and mythical meanings and, to this day, serve as sites for ceremonies and rituals that help California's native peoples maintain an enduring connection with their ancestors.

Numerous locations throughout California hold spiritual significance. Many, however, are understandably kept secret or don't have established public access. So the places listed below were chosen both for their cultural prominence and because they're primarily on state, local, or national park land. As you visit these destinations for hikes or mountain bike rides, please treat them with respect. And if you do come upon a Native American ceremony, act as respectfully as you would behave in any other house of worship.

Old Woman Mountains Preserve (Mamápuikaiv)

At a meeting point of three American deserts—the Mojave, Great Basin, and Colorado—Mamápuikaiv is a landscape sacred to the Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute) and other California desert tribes. Now managed by the [Native American Land Conservancy](#) (with the support of the [Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians](#)) as the 2,560-acre [Old Woman Mountains Preserve](#), this area southwest of Needles is unique both for its natural and cultural history.

With pine, juniper, and wild grapevines, as well as wildlife including bighorn sheep and deer, it's anything but a barren desert wasteland. There are ancient trails and such cultural sites as the 800-year-old petroglyphs at Painted Rock. The location's cultural prominence is evident by its inclusion in the [Salt Song Trail](#) (*Asi Huviav*), a 142-cycle traditional song that describes the journey of two sisters between sacred spots scattered across Nuwuvi lands.

In a [Mojave Project article](#) about the Salt Song, artist and writer Kim Stringfellow quotes Kaibab Paiute elder Vivienne Jake, who said, "Salt Songs are a cultural and spiritual bond between the Nuwuvi people and the land, and represent a renewal and healing spiritual journey."

Morro Rock (Northern Chumash: Lisamu'; Salinan: Le'Samo)

Considered a high spiritual place for the [Northern Chumash](#) and [Salinan](#) peoples, 576-foot Morro Rock rises from the ocean at the entrance to [Morro Bay](#). Home to nesting peregrine falcons (a Salinan legend featuring a falcon is set here) and the last in a chain of nine volcanic formations

that begins near [San Luis Obispo](#), Morro Rock, despite its sacred role, has endured more than its share of abuse.

In the late 1800s and into the 1900s, as much as 40 percent of the majestic rock was dynamited, hacked, and quarried to build the breakwater at nearby Port San Luis and for other projects. But Morro Rock is becoming whole again.

During a repair project at the Port San Luis breakwater, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that it would need larger pieces of stone to meet modern design standards. That meant much of the stone originally taken from Morro Rock couldn't be reused. With that determination, [the Chumash began working with the Corps and other government agencies](#) to reunite the old breakwater material with Morro Rock itself.

In August 2022, 10,000 tons of boulders were barged to an underwater spot about 1,500 feet offshore from Morro Rock to create an artificial seamount and reef habitat for marine life. As Violet Sage Walker, chair of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, said, "The reunification of Lisamu' represents a healing of our people and our culture—a healing that is long overdue."

While the public can observe the Salinan conduct ritual climbs of Morro Rock at the summer and winter solstice (the Northern Chumash oppose the practice), access to the formation itself is strictly prohibited. But you can walk near the base, and there are spectacular views of Morro Rock from points in town and [Morro Strand State Beach](#) just to the north.

Mount Diablo (Tuyshtak)

At 3,849 feet, Mount Diablo near [Walnut Creek](#) is a modest mountain by California standards. But because of its isolated position, surrounded by lower hills in the Coast Range and close to the western edge of the [Central Valley](#), this peak that commands [Mount Diablo State Park](#) has views that extend 200 miles. And its summit is visible from spots throughout Northern California.

Despite a demonic sounding name bestowed by the Spanish, Mount Diablo had a very different symbolism for the many Native American tribes in the area that revered it. *Tuyshtak*, the [Ohlone](#) name for the peak, means "dawn of time." According to the park website, the Julpun believed the mountain was the birthplace of the world, while the Northern Miwok "saw it as supernatural being that brought light to a dark world."

According to tribal elders, Mount Diablo's summit was used both for Pomo and Wintun religious ceremonies, as well as by individuals who came to the mountain to pray. These days you can drive directly to the top of the peak, although it's far more satisfying to follow the 7-mile round trip Summit Trail, or a combination of different hiking routes to reach the summit.

Tolay Lake

One of [Sonoma County](#)'s largest freshwater lakes, Tolay Lake is a spiritual center for the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo tribes, whose ancestors were part of the Alaguali Nation. Located about eight miles from [Petaluma](#), the lake, which fills during the rainy season and is now part of 3,400-acre [Tolay Lake Regional Park](#), has historically been a significant ceremonial gathering

spot and healing place. When the shallow lake was drained in the 1870s, thousands of charmstones—small objects used for healing, fertility, and other purposes—were found along the bottom. Some of the charmstones were more than 4,000 years old.

On the park website, Greg Sarris, chairman of the [Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria](#), explained the lake’s cultural significance. “The lake and surrounding area was highly sacred and was considered one of three areas in all of Northern California where Indian doctors from different tribes convened for sacred ceremonies and the exchange of ritual objects and songs for the purpose of healing.” The park has an 11-mile trail network for hiking and mountain biking with spectacular views of San Pablo Bay and all the way to San Francisco. There’s also excellent wildlife viewing, especially for birds of prey. And in recent years, the Tolay Fall Festival has featured Alaguali cultural activities, while the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria have also hosted events at the parks.

Lassen Peak (Kohm Yah-Mah-Yee)

Long before the arrival of Europeans, the Achumawi, Atsugewi, Mountain Maidu, and Yahi/Yana peoples lived in the northeast California area now encompassed by [Lassen Volcanic National Park](#). The archaeological record reveals evidence of human activity here at least as far back as 7,500 years ago. During summer, the four tribes gathered foods at higher elevations before returning to their villages at lower elevations with the arrival of winter. The descendants of these original inhabitants still live nearby and consider the entire park a sacred place, particularly 10,457-foot Lassen Peak, which holds a special spiritual significance.

To learn more about the native cultures of the park, stop into the [Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center](#), located one mile from the park’s Southwest Entrance. In the Mountain Maidu language, the name *Kohn Yah-mah-nee* means “Snow Mountain,” and this was the [first national park](#) visitor center to receive a tribal name.

McArthur-Burney Falls

Anyone who has ever watched the delicate veils of water cascade down a 129-foot-tall moss-cloaked cliff face, then create rainbows over the cerulean pool at the base of McArthur-Burney Falls, would agree that this is a magical place. This transcendently beautiful spot is the centerpiece of [McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park](#) near the small town of Burney and about 64 miles northeast of [Redding](#).

The Ilmawi, the first people to see the waterfall, considered it sacred, as do their modern-day descendants in the [Pit River Tribe](#). According to a state parks document, “The falls were a source of good luck and power if one led a spiritually clean life,” and are still a site for pilgrimages and coming-of-age ceremonies.

Mount Shasta (Waka-nunee-Tuki-Wuki and Uhataahkoo)

Rising to 14,162 feet with a triangular, snowcapped summit visible from a vast area of Northern California, [Mount Shasta](#) plays a central role in the culture and religious traditions of the region’s indigenous peoples. The area’s tribes, including members of the [Karuk](#), [Pit River](#), Shasta, and [Wintu](#), still conduct traditional rituals at sacred places along the slopes and within the forests of this vast volcanic peak—the second tallest in the Cascade Range. According to the Sacred Sites

International Foundation, this mountain in the [Shasta-Trinity National Forest](#) is part of the creation stories of several tribes, while the Shasta Nation regards it as the birthplace of the Earth.

Because of their cultural significance, areas above the tree line have been designated as the Mount Shasta Cosmological District and, along with the mountain's Panther Meadows, are considered eligible for inclusion on the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

The public is not invited to the ceremonies that take place at [Mount Shasta](#). But you can explore on an extensive trail network, and there's a walk-in [campground](#) (Mount Shasta's highest) at Panther Meadows.

"To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time."
— Leonard Bernstein



Kailei Dixon

Senate Bill Calls for Investigation Into Indian Boarding Schools - Truthout

https://truthout.org/articles/senate-bill-calls-for-investigation-into-indian-boarding-schools/?mc_cid=c9e2b8aead&mc_eid=02e35d5ddd

Row erupts in Germany over restitution of Benin bronzes

<https://news.yahoo.com/row-erupts-germany-over-restitution-130440634.html>

Ten Ancient Stories and the Geological Events That May Have Inspired Them

If you dig deep enough, say scientists, you can find some truth to legends and creation stories <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ten-ancient-stories-and-geological-events-may-have-inspired-them-180950347/>

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Native Peoples of the East Bay - Campfire June 17 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

DUMBARTON QUARRY CAMPGROUND ON THE BAY - Ohlone Peoples knowledge, connection, and respect for the land enabled them to thrive at the First Peoples who are still here today. Explore a variety of natural resources and how they are used by Ohlone Peoples. 5+yrs. Parent participation is required. Parking fees apply where charged. This is a drop-in program; no registration is required. For information, call (510) 544-3220.

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**Can 3-D printing be a housing solution?:** Companies are experimenting with creating homes using the high-tech technique. Backers say it’s a disruptive technology that can slash the cost of homes. [Check out what they can look like.](#)

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Making a difference with seeds:

When a fire devastates an area, Hedgerow Farms comes in. The company specializes in gathering, growing and selling wild plants so that they can regrow in their native habitat after a blaze. [Read how it helps restore](#) the environment.

In burned-out groves of giant sequoias, crews plant seeds of hope. Will they survive?

Crews recently planted 30,000 giant sequoia seedlings in the western Sierra, as part of an ongoing effort to restore groves devastated by wildfire.

Read in Los Angeles Times: https://apple.news/AVgDX1vMcRuOnsrpF-KS__A

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**Gregg Deal (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe) took the stage as the 2023 AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo keynote speaker.**



Deal is a multi-disciplinary artist, activist, and “disruptor.” His work is informed by his Native identity and includes exhaustive critiques of American society, politics, popular culture and history. [Through paintings, murals, performance work, filmmaking, spoken word, and more, Deal invites the viewer to confront these issues both in the present and the past tense.](#)

Deal’s keynote is followed by a conversation with **Virgil Ortiz**, Artist and Indigenous Futurist; **C.J. Brafford**, Director of the Ute Indian Museum, (Lakota Oglala Sioux Indian Tribe); **John Lukavic**, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Native Arts, Denver Art Museum; and moderator, **Dawn DiPrince**, Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer, History Colorado to explore contemporary museum practice of representing the past, present, and future of Indigenous peoples.

Watch the full video or read a transcript below.

<https://www.aam-us.org/2023/06/02/aam2023-keynote-gregg-deal/>



### Lakota Spirit

"I am an old woman now. The buffaloes and black-tail deer are gone, and our Indian ways are almost gone. Sometimes I find it hard to believe that I ever lived them.

My little son grew up in the white man's school. He can read books, and he owns cattle and has a farm. He is a leader among our Hidatsa people, helping teach them to follow the white man's road.

He is kind to me. We no longer live in an earth lodge, but in a house with chimneys, and my son's wife cooks by a stove.

But for me, I cannot forget our old ways.

Often in summer I rise at daybreak and steal out to the corn fields, and as I hoe the corn I sing to it, as we did when I was young. No one cares for our corn songs now.

Sometimes in the evening I sit, looking out on the big Missouri. The sun sets, and dusk steals over the water. In the shadows I see again to see our Indian village, with smoke curling upward from the earth lodges, and in the river's roar I hear the yells of the warriors, and the laughter of little children of old.

It is but an old woman's dream. Then I see but shadows and hear only the roar of the river, and tears come into my eyes. Our Indian life, I know, is gone forever."

Waheenee - Hidatsa (North Dakota)

## Call for artists/craftspersons (sent as a special invitation to the Native community)

Hello,

Public Art design/ build studio in Indianapolis, [900 North](#), is seeking artists and craftspeople for potential collaborations. We're accepting portfolios for review. Work will be assessed based on quality, potential for scaling up of work to meet the demands of large-scale public commissions, and appropriateness of artist's practice as it fulfills the stipulations of upcoming calls/request for qualifications.

900 North exists to facilitate. From curation, to digital rendering, assistance in idea development, writing of all text required for project execution and composing of proposals, contractual negotiation, and lawyer stuff. Additionally, all fabrication is done in house without limitations on processes or materials, and we handle installation of finished project with input from the artist at all points.

We work with artists on a sliding scale depending on how much time and effort the artist is contracted to provide. Budgets are supplied by the commissioning institution and range from \$40,000-\$400,000. This means that the artist receives somewhere between 5-15% of total project budget. The artist has no financial responsibility in working with 900 North, the commissioning institution, or in creating their project. All of this is spelled out in contracts drawn up for each individual collaboration.

Artists need no prior experience working publicly or at scale. In other words, if you do beadwork or weave, work small-scale, in video, or performance we encourage you to reach out. We are also excited to work with craftspeople and artists that do work at scale, sculpturally, or in the public arena.

If you are interested in submitting, please send via email 10 images in jpg format, an image list with short descriptions of work, a brief bio, cv, and a professional reference to [mcalwayf@gmail.com](mailto:mcalwayf@gmail.com). Please cc [900NorthStudios@gmail.com](mailto:900NorthStudios@gmail.com). Please also indicate in the Subject line that this is a "Portfolio for Consideration".

Here is an example of a recent RFQ: [Norman, Oklahoma](#)

If you have any questions about any of the above, or assembling the requested materials, don't hesitate to contact me at [mcalway@gmail.com](mailto:mcalway@gmail.com)

Thanks so much and we look forward to seeing your work.

Mike Calway-Fagen

Curator and Artist Liaison at 900 North Studios



THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES & THE DUCK VALLEY  
POW-WOW COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE

# 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION POW-WOW

JUNE 30- JULY 2, 2023

*Camp Grounds in Owyhee, Nevada*

*Grand Entry*

FRIDAY 6/30 @ 7PM (MST)

SATURDAY 7/1 @ 1PM AND 7PM

SUNDAY 7/2 @ 12PM (MST)



HOST DRUM: THE HORSES

MC: HANK JOHNSON, RENO, NV

AD: JACK WILLIAMS, RENO, NV

HEAD MAN/WOMAN: TBA

**\$1000.00 GUARANTEED TO THE FIRST FIVE (5) DRUMS  
WITH A SIGNED AGREEMENT!! PLEASE EMAIL  
DUCKVALLEYPOWWOW@GMAIL.COM**

**TEEPEE RENTAL  
INFORMATION. PLEASE CALL**

**YVETTE THACKER AT  
208.207.4215**

**VENDOR INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT  
LEILANI THORPE AT  
208.696.9847**

**ROYALTY INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL  
SHOPAIROYALTY@GMAIL.COM**

GOLDEN AGE MEN/WOMEN (COMBINED) 65+

SENIOR MEN/WOMEN (COMBINED)

ALL ADULT CATEGORIES- 1ST-\$300, 2ND-\$250, 3RD-\$200

TEEN CATEGORIES- 1ST-\$200, 2ND-\$175, 3RD-\$150

JR CATEGORIES- 1ST-\$100, 2ND-\$75, 3RD-\$50

TINY TOTS 0-6 YRS WILL BE SPONSORED BY TRIBAL PROGRAMS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

THE DVPWC AND THE SHOSHONE-PAIUTE TRIBES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST AND STOLEN ITEMS  
OR THE LACK OF FUNDS. THIS IS A DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE CELEBRATION. PLEASE HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY

**NEVADA  
GOLD MINES**

4TH OF JULY WEEKEND.



## [NV Coalition Celebrates Efforts in Stewarding Conservation Bills](#)

June 12, 2023 - Alex Gonzalez, Public News Service (NV)

[Play Audio in Browser Window](#)

According to a 2020 study by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the average temperature in Las Vegas is increasing faster than any other city in the country, almost 5.76°F since 1970. (Stefan Wagner/Wikimedia Commons)

The Nevada Environmental Justice Coalition says a record number of bills related to environmental justice were filed in this year's legislative session. But only one was signed by Gov. Joe Lombardo.

Coordinator for the Nevada Environmental Justice Coalition Cinthia Moore said [Assembly Bill 131](#) will create the Urban Tree Forestry Program, allowing towns and cities to go after funding to plant more trees and help mitigate the effects of urban heat islands.

But many other conservation-related bills either didn't make it out of the legislature or were vetoed by the governor. Moore said even the defeats send a strong message.

"[SB 427 is the bill](#) that the NEJC brought forward, with Sen. Edgar Flores," said Moore. "Even though it died in the Assembly, it has made it possible for people to realize that doing something to protect our outdoor workers and those that are exposed to extreme weather conditions - it's important to protect them."

Moore said conversations are already taking place to revise the bill and bring it back next session.

She added that they have commitments from various labor groups and state Sen. Flores - D-Las Vegas - who are willing to work together and make the bill stronger.

[SB 169 was vetoed](#) by the governor. It would have required Clark and Washoe counties to include heat mitigation plans in their long-term development strategy.

Moore's group called the veto "disheartening" and said it raises questions about Lombardo's willingness to address climate change.

[And AB 312 would have](#) created an Environmental Justice Advisory Council, but also failed to advance. Moore said it wasn't all for nothing.

"The coalition has been successful at changing the narrative around climate policy," said Moore. "So, what we have been successful at is putting a face, and human stories, around the need to address climate change."

Moving forward, Moore said the coalition is asking the governor and state lawmakers to act with urgency to address environmental injustice and find solutions that will benefit all Nevadans.

## From NATHPO

### **New Guide Aims to Help Change Derogatory Place Names on Public Lands**

[“A Guide To Changing Racist and Offensive Place Names in the United States”](#) — co-sponsored by NATHPO and [The Wilderness Society](#) — provides a step-by-step tutorial on how to apply to name or rename offensive places through the U.S. The free guide also provides advice for engaging Tribes, local communities, and state naming authorities.

### **Before and After Disasters Guide**

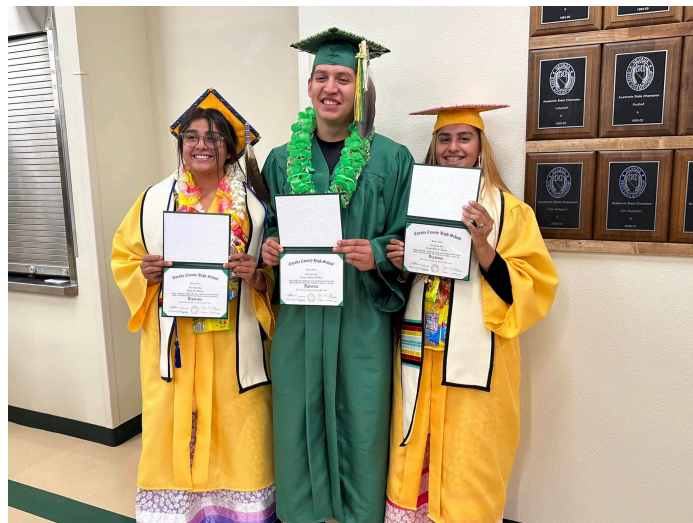
**Intended to illustrate ways the federal government may assist historic preservation offices following a presidentially declared disaster. It contains information on preparedness, response, recovery, and a checklist for each.**

### **Before and After Disasters: Guidance for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Leaders on Working with FEMA, NPS, and Other Federal Agencies**

[Yellowstone at 150: Can Indigenous Stewardship Save Our Parks?](#) which has launched across the Public Television network and is now also available on [The Laura Flanders Show YouTube Channel](#)

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The Montana Legislature's war on the environment is really an assault on every citizen – Daily Montanan

<https://dailymontanan.com/2023/06/11/the-montana-legislatures-war-on-the-environment-is-really-an-assault-on-every-citizen/>
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Celebrating the Eureka High School graduates!! Congratulations [Aleigh Hooper](#), [Lylah Hooper](#), and [Triston O'Daye](#)