

Humboldt County

The Humboldt County Courthouse in Eureka
Part 1 of 5: Hoopa, Blue Lake, Redwood National
Park, Orick, Trinidad, Arcata, McKinleyville.



Humboldt County

Humboldt County Data

Population: 126,518 (Rank: 33)

Land Area (square miles): 3,572 (Rank: 14)

Created in 1853, the county name comes from Humboldt Bay. The bay was discovered by sea otter hunters in 1806 but it was not rediscovered until 1849. Douglas Ottinger and Hans Buhne entered the bay and named it after the German explorer and naturalist Baron Alexander von Humboldt.

The entire county is in the coast range. There are two important characteristics of this area. One is the extensive amount of redwood forests and the other is the rivers that flow to the ocean. The Eel River follows a northward path through the county and flows into the ocean just south of Humboldt Bay. This river carries lots of water. The Van Duzen River connects with the Eel just before it reaches the ocean. The Mad River flows into the ocean north of Eureka.

The moisture in the area is provided by Pacific storms that drop most of the water in the coastal ranges.

The area produces 20% of the timber in California and its manufacturing base is producing lumber and other wood products. What little agriculture there is, is devoted to milk production and cattle raising. In contrast to other counties where much of the land is protected in national forests, most of the timberland in Humboldt is privately owned. Loggers gained possession of the land prior to the creation of national forests.

Highway 101 is the only route one can take through the county. Highways 36 and 299 connect the county with

the Central Valley.

Along the eastern side of the county is the Six Rivers National Forest. Along Highway 101 is the Avenue of the Giants. This is a 33-mile trip through redwood groves including Humboldt State Park. In the northeast part of the county are two of the largest Indian reservations in the state. There is the Hoopa reservation with a population of 2,230 Indians and the Yurok reservation that runs along both sides of the Klamath River for 20 miles from the Hoopa Reservation to the Pacific Ocean. About 500 Yuroks live there along with about 500 whites who acquired property on the reservation.

Highway 1 runs along an isolated portion of the coast from Ferndale to Founders Grove on 101. It is along this coast that one reaches the Lost Coast. It is in this area along the Mattole River that oil was first discovered in California. One of the communities is called Petrolia.

Introduction

California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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Hoopa

Looking down into the Hoopa Reservation and the Trinity River.
(March 2004)



Hoopa

Hoopa is a town inside the Hoopa Indian Reservation. There are about 3,000 people. The Hoopa Valley post office opened in 1861. (March 2004)



Hoopa

The Hoopa's are considered to be very progressive. There is shopping center and a casino in the town. Plus there is a school complex and several tribal offices. (March 2004)



Hoopa

(March 2004)



Hoopa

(March 2004)



Hoopa

(March 2004)



Hoopa

(March 2004)



Hoopa

(March 2004)



Willow Creek

When the post office opened in 1878 it was called China Flat. Most of the residents were Chinese workers. The name was changed in 1915. Today the big feature is "Big Foot" who in the minds of some wanders the forests in this area. (March 2004)



Blue Lake

Blue Lake has a population of about 1,200. It still has a lumber mill.
(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

The town is most famous for its school of mime and clowns which is located in this building. (March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Blue Lake

(March 2004)



Redwood National Park

(April 2002)



Redwood National Park



Redwood National Park



Redwood National Park



Redwood National Park





Orick

Orick got its first post office in 1887. This is the Redwood Park headquarters. (August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



Orick

(August 2003)



McKinleyville

(August 2008)



McKinleyville

(August 2003)



WORLD'S
LARGEST
TOTEM POLE
Height 160 ft.
Weight
Pole 57,000 lbs.
Base 214,000 lbs.
Wood - redwood
Pacific Lumber Co.
Age 500 yrs

Ernest Purson

Trinidad



Trinidad

Trinidad began as a city in 1870. It is one of the smallest cities in the state with a population of 367. Down in the harbor is a restaurant run by the Yuroks. (August 2003)



Trinidad

(August 2003)



Trinidad



Trinidad

(August 2003)



Trinidad

(August 2003)



Trinidad

(August 2003)



Trinidad

(August 2003)



Trinidad

(August 2003)



Trinidad

(August 2003)







HUMBOLDT
STATE
UNIVERSITY

Arcata

(April 2002)



Arcata

(April 2002)



Arcata

Arcata dates back to 1850. It became a city in 1858. It is the location of Humboldt State which was established in 1913. The city has 17,000 people, the college 8,000. (March 2004)



Arcata

(March 2004)



Arcata

(March 2004)



Arcata

(March 2004)



Arcata

(March 2004)



Arcata

(August 2008)

