

Tuolumne County

The Tuolumne County Courthouse in Sonora.
Part 1 of 2: Sonora, Jamestown, Columbia, Chinese
Camp, Moccasin Creek.



Tuolumne County

Tuolumne County Data

Population: 54,501 (Rank: 42)

Land Area (square miles): 2,235 (Rank: 23)

Tuolumne County is perhaps the most scenic of the gold rush counties. It stretches to the crest of the Sierras and includes the northern part of Yosemite Park. Two rivers, the Tuolumne and the Stanislaus, flow through the county from the Sierras to the valley.

The Tuolumne River high in the Sierras forms a grand canyon similar to Yosemite. The canyon is partially filled by Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which is San Francisco's source of water. John Muir fought the construction of the dam and lost. Muir thought that the valley was just as beautiful as Yosemite. Lower on the river is Don Pedro reservoir, which is operated by the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts.

On the Stanislaus River is the New Melones Reservoir operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. Below New Melones is Lake Tulloch.

While all the highways across the Sierra are scenic, Highways 108 and 120 are among the most incredible. Highway 108 crests the Sierra at Sonora Pass, the second highest of the Sierra passes, and then twists down the eastern side following the Walker River. Highway 120 crosses through Yosemite Park. There is a fee to drive the road that crosses through Tuolumne Meadows that is a jumping off point for back country trails through Yosemite. Along the way one encounters Olmstead Point Vista, which provides a view of Yosemite Valley from the east. The park's east

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.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

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

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entrance is at Tioga Pass, the highest of Sierra passes at 10,000 feet. The road as it descends into the Great Basin provides spectacular views of Mono Lake and surrounding cinder cones.

Cities: Sonora. Towns: Chinese Camp, Columbia, Jamestown, Tuolumne.

Tuolumne County



Sonora

(January 2002)



Sonora

Sonora was founded by Mexican miners from the Mexican state of Sonora. It has a population of about 5,000. (January 2002)



Sonora

(January 2002)



Sonora

(January 2002)



Jamestown

The rail museum next to Jamestown is a state park.
(January 2002)



Jamestown

Jamestown is a Gold Rush town. Today it has a population of 3,433. (January 2002)



Jamestown

(January 2002)



Rail Museum – Jamestown

(January 2002)



Rail Museum – Jamestown

(January 2002)



Columbia State Historic Park

This was a gold rush town that began in 1850. In 1945 the state turned the town into a park. (January 2004)



Columbia State Historic Park

(January 2004)



Columbia State Historic Park

(January 2004)



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(January 2004)



Columbia State Historic Park

(January 2004)



Columbia State Historic Park

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

This old gold mining town dates from 1849. It acquired a post office in 1854. It was famed for its large Chinese population. Today only 126 people live here. (January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Chinese Camp

(January 2004)



Moccasin Creek

(October 2000)



Moccasin Creek

Moccasin Creek is owned by the San Francisco Public Utility. It is part of the water system that brings water from Hetch Hetchy Dam to San Francisco. (October 2000)

