

MARIPOSA COUNTY STORY IDEAS

MARIPOSA, MOTHER OF COUNTIES

Yes, the Wild West still exists in California... especially in Mariposa County. Ranching, small towns, historic structures and fewer than 15,000 residents keep the old West alive across this huge chunk of California real estate. Once the largest of California's counties, Mariposa gave birth to all or portions of eleven counties from its original boundaries. Today, Mariposa remains so unpopulated that it doesn't have a single stoplight. Local historians Leroy Radonovich and Scott Pinkerton can provide insights to one of California's most colorful and unexplored places.

GIANTS OF THE SIERRA

In a region known for dizzyingly tall waterfalls, massive trees and gigantic granite monoliths, the people of Mariposa County have matched their mountains. Ansel Adams, John Muir, John C. Frémont, and Jessie Benton Frémont are among figures past and present who have changed their world through their art, thoughts and actions. The Mariposa Museum and History Center is a good starting point to explore these compelling human-interest stories.

BOWER CAVE

Explore fascinating and mystical Bower Cave, California's next State Park.

ADVENTURES WITHOUT TRAILS

Trek across a landscape unmarked by trails. With topographic map and compass in hand, your orienteering will take you to isolated fishing spots, beautiful vistas, and places of great solitude that few others can claim.

DRIVING STAGECOACH ROUTES

Motor along historic stage and wagon roads of California's gold rush. Not much has changed along these historic routes in the past 150 years. Begin at the Mariposa Museum where you can board a restored Cannon Ball stage, then follow interpretive guides available at the museum for your trip to the past.

COLLEGE- EDUCATED FISH

It's said the native trout of the Merced River got their degrees at Stanford. If so, it stands to reason that it must take a Ph.D. in fly fishing to hook them. For the angler who believes he/she can outsmart any fish, there's no more challenging or rewarding river than the Merced. This Wild and Scenic stretch of water is alive with wily fish, but not people. Though SR 140 travels directly beside the river, few fishermen stop to test their lines. Perhaps they're afraid of being taught a lesson by the Merced's educated fish. Join a Yosemite Guide on a fly-fishing expedition and learn from the masters... the Merced's trout, of course.