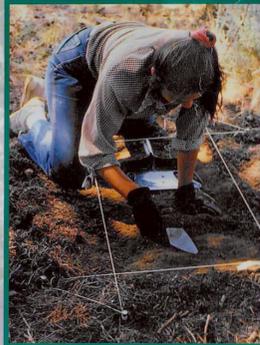


# TRACES of the PAST



"A country with no regard for its past will have little worth remembering in the future"  
— Abraham Lincoln

## California

OUR PAST BELONGS TO THE FUTURE  
AND YOU CAN HELP PRESERVE IT!

- Did you ever wonder:
  - Who lived in California long ago?
  - Where they lived?
  - How they lived?

Archaeologists and historians search daily for these answers, and they know who can help them: YOU — and others who agree that a good way to understand ourselves and our future is to learn from our past.

We inherited a wealth of knowledge from past peoples who lived in California — knowledge about them and their ways of life. This knowledge is gleaned from an extraordinary diversity of physical remains — from rock paintings to aspen art, from arrowheads to bottles, and from Native American villages to mining camps. These cultural resources are the windows through which we can look into the past and learn about those who came before us.

However, this fragile legacy is being destroyed every day. Some people casually pick up artifacts and take them home. Some collectors illegally dig for profit. Both cause extensive damage to our archaeological and historic sites. In a few thoughtless moments, the actions of a small number of people destroy the unique heritage that belongs to all of us — severing the opportunity to experience, understand, learn from, and appreciate our past. Your help is needed in saving these fragile and irreplaceable resources. It is easy to help — you only need to leave everything as you find it, and to treat your cultural heritage with respect.

- USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region  
630 Sansome Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 705-2874
- National Park Service, Western Region  
600 Harrison Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 744-3901
- Bureau of Land Management, California State Office  
2880 Cottage Way, Room E-2641  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 978-4754

## PRESERVING THE PAST

Preserving our nation's cultural heritage is one reason for cooperation among federal land management agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

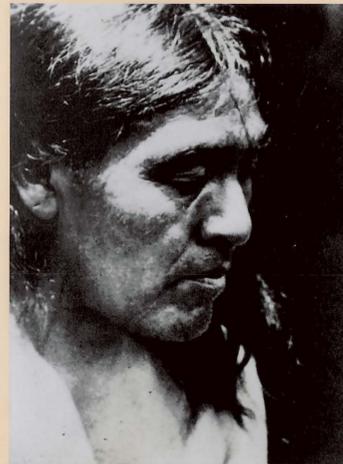
These agencies, assisted by many professionals (Native American tribal and traditional leaders, archaeologists, anthropologists, ethnographers, historians, architects, engineers, law enforcement specialists, and maintenance personnel), work together to protect, preserve, research, interpret, and manage cultural resources on public lands.

## CALIFORNIANS, PAST AND PRESENT

A DAILY DIARY

- Like we do today, early Native Americans lived in communities and represented different cultures. Many of the activities we perform today are not so very different from those practiced by past peoples. Their daily activities were basically similar to ours because they also worked to provide food, clothing, shelter, and amenities which would make life easier and more enjoyable. They:
  - raised families, and enjoyed social and recreational activities
  - harvested trout, salmon, steelhead, clams and many sea foods
  - gathered nuts (especially acorns), seeds, berries, and plant roots
  - hunted for large and small game
  - diverted water to fields for growing corn, beans, and squash
  - collected plants for medicinal uses, for making baskets and tools, for weaving, and for making shelters
  - chipped fine-grained stone into tools for cutting, butchering, and hunting
  - managed wildlife by limiting the numbers taken for food, and improved habitats by burning grass, brush or forest lands
  - traded raw materials (such as sea shells and salt) and finished products (such as shell beads or finely made arrow points)
  - practiced religious faith, which included reverence for living and nonliving things

The physical remnants of these activities still exist at sites throughout California. They offer testimony to places where Native Americans worked and played, talked and prayed, lived and died. This diverse and rich cultural heritage continues among current tribes throughout California.



## ISHI

A SOLE SURVIVOR

Ishi was the last surviving member of the Yahi Indians, from Mill Creek in northern California. He was the living legacy of a culture and tradition disrupted when Euro-Americans settled in California. He lived briefly among Euro-American society in the early 1900s, and provided a wealth of detail about his way of life. When Ishi died, the untold verbal and intangible records of his culture disappeared. However, cultural resources in the area where Ishi lived help unravel the story of his life and the history of generations before him.



## A STONE FOR ALL SEASONS

CONTINUITY FROM THE PAST

Since stone is enduring and easily obtained, it has been used for many purposes from the distant past through the present. It has served as tools, building materials, and sculptural material for artists.

Today we use some of the same stone tools that were developed by prehistoric cultures. Pharmacists and gourmet cooks still use the mortar and pestle. Do you know how past people used these tools? In bowl-shaped mortars and on flat rock metates, they ground acorns, seeds and pulpy foods into meal and flour. This was preparation for daily meals — and for survival. Native Americans spent much of autumn preparing and preserving food for the long winter ahead.

Obsidian was a valuable raw material for constructing knives, spear points and arrow points. Even today, obsidian is made into fine microblade scalpels, sharper than surgical steel, that doctors use in delicate surgery.

Prehistoric peoples used stone to build house foundations, hearths, and hunting blinds just as people in historic and modern times use stone to construct houses, fireplaces, and walls.

Bedrock mortars, hand grinding stones, flakes, and other artifacts characterize sites where Native Americans lived, gathered raw materials, quarried stone, and made tools. These objects and sites are often the only clues we have for deciphering the mystery of their lives.

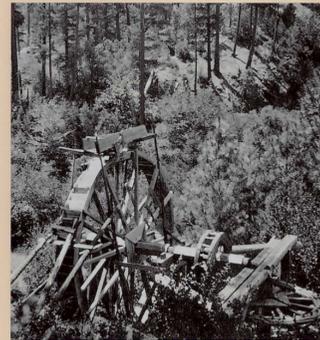
## RESOURCES

BUILDING CALIFORNIA FROM THE GROUND UP

Most people know the story of gold in California's history. But did you know that gold was discovered because of John Sutter's quest for lumber? In turn, the gold rush created a larger demand for lumber, and many sawmills were built throughout the Sierra Nevada mountains. The lumber from our forests and the minerals from our soil helped build California and the nation.

To accommodate demands for wood and water needed for homes and businesses throughout a growing California, workers constructed flumes and ditches. These overland wooden troughs and earthen ditches carried giant logs to sawmills for processing, and water to miners for operating their equipment and to farmers for irrigating their fields.

But gold, and other valuable minerals, spurred California toward statehood. Old mines, mining camps, ditches, and flumes abound in California's mountains. They offer testimony to the entrepreneurs who financed development, to the operators who ran the mines and smelters, and to the thousands of laborers who toiled long and hard in the earth. Many pioneers relied on other natural resources to survive and flourish in California: rich soil, abundant wildlife, a moderate climate, and a beautiful landscape. Today, we continue to depend on these natural resources to meet our modern needs.



## HOMESTEADS AND RANCHES

A FRONTIER LIFESTYLE

During your travels, can you find evidence of the home life of California pioneers? Look for a variety of examples: cabins, barns, camp wagons, farm tools, fences, bricks, trash dumps, and many others. The evidence is all around you. These remains can tell us of the everyday life and activities of common families — the kind of information that is not written in history books. Some seemingly insignificant remains actually hold the key to a much larger, richer story than meets the eye.

Our earliest European settlers, the Spanish, left an enduring legacy in California's distinctive Spanish architectural style and it's use of adobe and tile; and their early artifacts, such as Majolica ceramics, provide critical time markers and cultural information in their pioneering settlements. Historic aspen art marks the camps and grazing pastures frequented by Basque and Hispanic shepherds. The artistic Aspen tree carvings are diaries of remembrances, thoughts, and desires, expressed while passing the long and lonesome hours of herding. Consider also the hours of backbreaking work that Chinese laborers put into clearing acres of fields and building miles of stone fences that characterize the farms and ranches of the northern California foothills. The dreams of pioneers, ranch hands, and laborers are captured through these and many other windows on the past.



## TRANSPORTATION

TRAILS AND TRESTLES

California's Euro-American pioneers had to depend on slow and difficult forms of transportation. Settlers moving westward used overland routes on established emigrant trails, many of which were originally Native American trails. Others came by ship on long sea voyages. Transportation of people and goods to the Pacific coast took months.

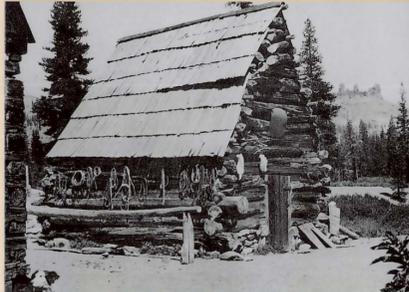
But railroads changed the scene. The transcontinental railroad cut weeks off transportation time and transformed California into an economic player in national and world markets. Eventually, more than 100 railroad systems transported goods and people throughout California.

Modern roads and highways are often constructed on or near old transportation routes, but remnants of many of these historic trails and railroads still exist. Interstate 80, U.S. Highway 50, and California 88 follow the corridors of the Donner, California, and Mormon emigrant trails.

## THE RECENT PAST

WORTH SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

Our heritage includes many buildings and sites constructed during California's recent past. They too are expressions of our ideals, culture, and history.



Examples include:

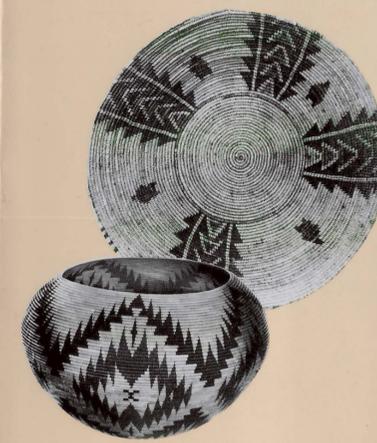
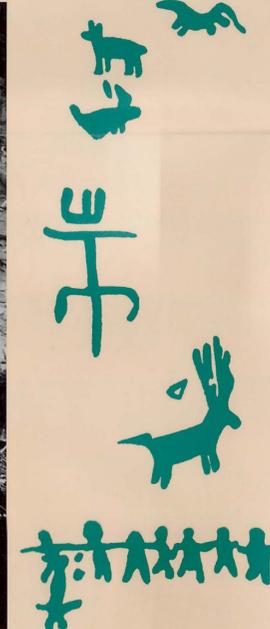
- Depression-era conservation and building projects: We enjoy many of our current trails and campgrounds thanks to the masterful construction work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and volunteers who assisted federal, state and local agencies during the lean years of the Depression. The CCC and WPA built distinctive buildings of log, stone, lumber and adobe in our national forests and parks. Look for these buildings at park headquarters, ranger stations, visitor centers, and fire lookouts.
- World War II facilities: You can tour classic, historic, headquarters buildings or bunkers at San Francisco's Presidio, visit Patton's camp and training grounds in the California Desert Conservation Area operated by the BLM, or reflect on the injustice of Japanese-American internment at the bleak remains of Manzanar, along US 395 north of Lone Pine.

## ROCK ART

A CLOSER LOOK

There are a few special places in the desert where you may see the land almost come alive with outlines of human or animal figures. These outlines are ancient images called intaglios. Native Americans created these figures by clearing the surface of the ground and outlining the designs in lighter-colored soils.

During your travels, you may come across other types of rock art. Past peoples placed carved designs called petroglyphs and painted designs called pictographs onto the faces of rocks, cliffs, and cave walls. These rock art panels express ideas and stories that we do not often understand; but their beauty can be enjoyed and appreciated by all. Rock art is very fragile and often has spiritual value to Native Americans. It should be treated with respect and care so that it will continue to intrigue future generations.



## BASKETRY

A CALIFORNIA ART FORM

Among all Native American basketry, that of the California Indians is renowned for its diversity, craftsmanship, and magnificence. For California Indians, basket making was more than just a part of daily life — it was and still is a serious and disciplined art.

Native American women carefully selected the best plants for weaving strength and pliability. Other plants, chosen for their colors, were used to create designs. Some exceptionally crafted baskets even had feathers or shells woven into their designs. The designs could portray religious concepts and tribal history in stylized motifs, or could reflect the personal artistic expressions of the basket makers. Basket shapes varied with their uses: carrying or storing goods and cooking food.

## ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND HISTORIANS

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST TO HELP THE FUTURE

Federal agencies, through the expertise of their archaeologists and historians, contribute to our ability to respond to the future. For instance, research can reveal when and how environmental changes occurred in California's past. By knowing how past societies responded and adjusted to changes, we can better prepare for similar challenges.

As an example, archaeological evidence of past Native American fire burning cycles — branded into tree growth rings — provides federal agencies with data to prepare scheduled burn plans that generate and perpetuate forests. The same information helps them curb wildfires in forests by planning prescribed burning to reduce the buildup of dry, potentially flammable underbrush. As in the past, this type of prescribed fire management enhances wildlife habitat, and it promotes the growth of plants that are still harvested for use in traditional Native American basket weaving and ceremonial activities.

Natural history studies can benefit from archaeological research. Agencies use archaeological evidence to help understand and prepare for environmental challenges such as droughts, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, soil depletion, water table and water supply changes, and resource shortages that currently confront all Californians.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CULTURAL RESOURCES?

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS ARE FREE

- Rangers, interpreters, other federal employees and volunteers throughout California present free programs related to cultural resources and invite you to:
- Hands-on demonstrations — Create your own ceramic pot or woven basket, pan for gold; ride a stagecoach or wagon; help restore a log cabin.
  - Living history programs — See the past come alive as a ranger/interpreter presents the theater of the gold rush era, the first settlers, or other memorable scenes from California's past.
  - Interpretive walks and campfire programs — Enjoy a guided walk to historic sites; discover the ways Native Americans used plants; watch a ranger/interpreter "show and tell" about the unique lifeways of bygone eras.
  - Visitors centers, historical museums, and exhibits — Visit a park or forest visitor center or local museums to learn more about California's gold rush, railroads, and native cultures. Most exhibits feature materials on Native Americans, history and archaeology.
  - Tribal museums and public campgrounds — Experience tribal communities, culture, and history directly from Native Americans.

## THEFT AND VANDALISM

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING THE PAST IS THE LAW

How many archaeological and historic sites still exist untouched by looters in California? Not many. A large portion of the state's sites has been damaged to some degree by deliberate looting, vandalism, or casual collecting.

Some people don't realize they are doing damage or breaking the law when they pick up something old and take it home as a souvenir. Even items that may seem like worthless junk — flakes, bottles, tin cans, nails, barbed wire, ceramic bits, and buttons — can all help to interpret the story of the past. In order to tell us the correct and complete story, these artifacts must remain in their original locations. If they are disturbed or removed, pieces of the story they tell may never be known.

- In 1906 Congress passed the Antiquities Act (16 USC 431-433), which prohibited actions that "appropriate, excavate, injure or destroy any object of antiquity." In recent years, other more stringent protective measures have been added:
  - Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 USC 470, 36 CFR 296, 43 CFR 7)
  - National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470, 36 CFR 800)
  - Theft and Destruction of Government Property (18 USC 641 and 1361)
  - Illegal Collecting and Camping (16 USC 1, 36 CFR 2)



Federal agencies, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, vigorously enforce these measures. Violators have been prosecuted with federal felony, misdemeanor, and civil penalties. Conviction can carry criminal penalties of up to two years in prison and/or \$250,000 in fines, as well as civil penalties such as vehicle confiscation or site restoration costs.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

PROTECT OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Report looting and vandalism. Notify a nearby ranger or other local authority. You may also telephone 1-800-448-6722 (National Parks and Conservation Association).
- Treat resources with respect; do not deface or damage rock art, historic structures, or archaeological features.
- Leave artifacts undisturbed in their places. Encourage other people to do the same. If you discover an artifact, leave it in place, note its location, then notify the nearest ranger or other federal official.
- Volunteer your time and talents to help preserve our past. You can volunteer with the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and other local, state, and federal agencies. Historical societies, interpretive associations, museums, and colleges also assist in preserving our heritage.

Places to visit —

- Kule Loklo recreated Coast Miwok site, Point Reyes National Seashore
- Indian Village and Museum, Yosemite National Park
- Blythe Intaglios, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District
- Petroglyph Point, Lava Beds National Monument
- Bodie Mining Town, Bodie State Historic Park
- Mammoth Mines, Inyo National Forest
- Tallac Historic Estates, Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
- Scotty's Castle, Death Valley National Monument

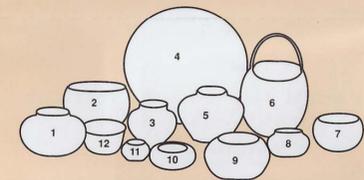
For more information about programs and places to visit, contact the agencies listed in this brochure.



# TRACES of the PAST

## THE ART OF BASKETRY WORTH SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

Designs on Native American baskets often depict people or wildlife; they are created with natural materials, including shells and feathers. Finely woven baskets have been found in archaeological sites hundreds of years old. Federal land managers work with archaeologists and historians to protect and preserve this cultural heritage. They cooperate to locate sites, study artifacts, and define lifestyles of people in California, past and present. Their results are shared with visitors through interpretation and museum displays.



*Lawie Museum of Anthropology collection  
University of California, Berkeley*

- 1 Kawaiisu bottleneck basket with human figures, Kelso Valley, Kern County
- 2 East Mono coiled basket with tree design, Mono County
- 3 Bottleneck basket with step design, Kern County
- 4 Chemehuevi basket
- 5 Kitanemuk (attributed) basket with rattlesnake design, Tejon, Kern County
- 6 Miwok basket with handle
- 7 East Mono coiled basket with modern floral design, Bishop, California
- 8 Bottleneck coiled basket with step design in 12 spiral bars, with red worsted wool trim
- 9 Pomo basket with feathers, beads, abalone shell bangles and quail crests, Mendocino County
- 10 Pomo coiled bowl-shaped basket
- 11 Pomo basket with woodpecker feathers, Ukiah, Mendocino County
- 12 Panamint-type coiled basket with squirrel design



It is the policy of the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service not to discriminate in employment or delivery of program services on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, marital status or disabling condition. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, or National Park Service related activity should write to either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, Washington, DC 20250.

