



Sparkling water. Cool forests. Wildlife. Gold! For many years these treasures enticed people to the area. In 1965 to preserve this place of beauty Congress authorized 42,000 acres as Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Stop for a minute and look around. Are the treasures still here? We invite you to explore—discover your own treasures at Whiskeytown.

Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Baldy. ©DAIRWIN DAROUGH

The Treasures of Whiskeytown

Whiskeytown Lake is nestled among the hills and valleys of California's Klamath Mountains. Geologic forces created steep and rugged terrain that is regularly sculpted by seasonal rain. Abundant winter precipitation, long dry summers, and frequent wildfires created diverse habitats, from old-growth forests to oak woodlands and chaparral. Over 1,100 plant and animal species live here, many with colorful names: gray pine and blue oak, black bear and rainbow trout, purple finch and yellow warbler.

American Indians found their own treasures here—acorns, fish, deer, and other plants and animals—that sustained their way of life for thousands of years. The discovery of gold nearby in 1848,

only months after its discovery farther south at Sutter's Mill, was the treasure that brought fortune hunters here. Today we value this area for its water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and the power-generating facilities of the Central Valley Project. Will these treasures last? That depends on how hard we all work to protect the park. President John Kennedy, here in 1963 to dedicate Whiskeytown Dam, said that when "we set aside recreational areas, we can be sure they will be used." But, he asked, "What kind of a country will [future Americans] find? How much recreation will be possible for them? I think if we make the right decisions now, they will be grateful to us. . . ." Why not join in? Help us preserve Whiskeytown for you and for future generations.



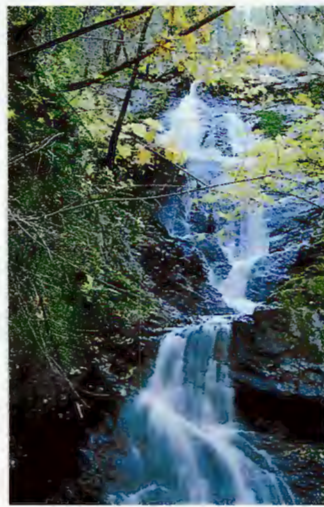
Brandy Creek.



An exciting ride on Shasta Baldy.



Bears are agile tree climbers.



Boulder Creek Falls.



Enjoying the lake.

Enjoying Your Park

Most people come to Whiskeytown for the cool water in its reservoir. But there is more here than the lake. You can visit historic water ditches and the Camden House to discover stories of the Gold Rush era. You can walk to waterfalls, stroll through old-growth forests, and hike or drive a four-wheel-drive vehicle to the 6,199-foot summit of Shasta Baldy. Explore your park—its lake, historic areas, and mountain landscape.

On the Lake Whiskeytown Lake features a 36-mile shoreline and a surface area of 3,200 acres. The reservoir remains full in summer and provides exceptional water recreation in a beautiful mountain setting.

Activities Boating, canoeing, fishing, kayaking, sailing, scuba diving, swimming, wading, water skiing, windsurfing.

On the Land About 39,000 acres surround the lake. Mountain trails through shaded corridors and year-round creeks offer a refreshing break from the summer's heat.

Activities Birdwatching, camping, gold panning, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, nature study, photography, picnicking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing.

Wintu



Wintu elders share traditions with their children.

For centuries Wintu Indians enjoyed a prosperous life based on the food and materials found in their environment. They gathered acorns, hunted elk and deer, and fished for trout and salmon. Skilled at crafts, Wintu fashioned tools from obsidian and wove baskets so tightly they could cook liquids in them. Leaders asked for no power beyond the persuasiveness of their wisdom and counsel. Although the Gold Rush era nearly destroyed the Wintu, their heritage lives today.

Gold Rush and Early Settlers



Tower House Hotel and guests, 1912.

For most '49ers the big strike was always in the next shovel full. Few were really lucky. Fewer still were able to combine hard work and luck into success—but there were exceptions.

Charles Camden and Levi Tower became friends and partners in San Francisco in the spring of 1850. Eager for success they set sail, searching for the mouth of the Trinity River. After finding their way overland to Whiskeytown's northern diggings, Camden combined luck with hard work,



Panning for gold is popular here. Try it!

investing his profits into a bigger mining operation, sawmill, water ditches, and, eventually, toll roads and bridges. Tower found his fortune in providing food and shelter for others, investing his profits into what became his thriving 21-room Tower House luxury hotel, gardens, and orchards. Today only Camden House remains, a place to learn about the California Gold Rush and to remember the entrepreneurial efforts of Camden and Tower to find a fortune and to provide services to travelers.

Central Valley Project



Whiskeytown's glory hole is an overflow spillway.

In 1935 the Central Valley Project was initiated to move water from abundant sources in northern California to drier areas farther south. At Whiskeytown this included blasting a 10½-mile-long, 17½-foot-diameter tunnel through solid granite to divert water from the Trinity River into the Sacramento River system. Benefits include lake-based recreation, flood control, hydroelectric power, and a dependable water supply. Today we face the challenges of improving the watershed and caring for native fish.

A World-Class Watershed?



Largemouth bass (left) and rainbow trout (right) flourish in the nutrient-rich waters of Whiskeytown Lake.

The Earth soaks up the heavy rains of winter like a sponge. Fed by springs, year-round creeks cascade over waterfalls, spill into pools rich with fish and other aquatic life, and finally flow into Whiskeytown Lake. This is the norm—when our watershed is healthy—with only the heaviest storms causing occasional mudslides or sediment runoff. But at Whiskeytown, all is not as it should be. Past logging and mining reduced vegetation, altered drainage courses, caused soil loss, and damaged the watershed's sponge-like

qualities. Today mudslides and torrents of rain carrying sediment occur more frequently, further reducing water quality and fish habitat. Can nature fix itself? Maybe, if we are willing to wait decades or centuries. But can we wait? We need clean water now. The National Park Service places a high priority on restoring this watershed, for the needs of people, plants, and fish and other wildlife. With your help and with public support, Whiskeytown's watershed can once again achieve world-class status.

Exploring Whiskeytown

Visitor Center The visitor center, open daily, has information, publications, maps, a bookstore, and exhibits. Call the visitor center at 530-246-1225 or park headquarters at 530-242-3400 during business hours.

Interpretive Activities Rangers give walks, talks, and evening programs at the Oak Bottom Amphitheater in summer. Check activity schedules on bulletin boards, ask at the visitor center, or visit our website: www.nps.gov/whis.

Water Sports The lake offers kayaking, swimming, boating, waterskiing, scuba diving, sailing, and canoeing. Federal and state boating regulations apply. Ask for *Regulations and California Boating Tips*. Observe all restricted boating areas. Note: Personal watercrafts (PWC), like jet skis, are prohibited on Whiskeytown Lake. Launch ramps are at Whiskey Creek, Oak Bottom, and Brandy Creek areas. Brandy Creek and Oak Bottom have

snack bars (summer only). Oak Bottom has two small stores; the marina has boat rentals. Scuba diving requires certification and proper equipment. Lifeguards are on duty at Brandy Creek beach, as scheduled, in summer.

Hiking, Mountain Biking, Horseback Riding The land surrounding Whiskeytown Lake provides opportunities for these activities. Mountain biking and horseback riding are allowed on most trails. Ask at the visitor center about trail use.

Fishing Fishing is permitted from a boat or the shore. Species include rainbow and brown trout; largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass; and kokanee salmon. A California fishing license is required. Ask about park-specific restrictions.

Gold Panning Register for gold panning at the visitor center (\$1.00 fee). Only recreational gold panning is allowed. Ask for details.

Camping Oak Bottom tent campground has fire grates and central restrooms. Oak Bottom RV campground includes a central restroom, dump station, and water but no hookups. Hot showers (fee) are at Oak Bottom beach restrooms. Brandy Creek has RV camping for self-contained units only—a dump station and water are provided; no hookups or restrooms. A 14-day limit applies for camping from May 15 to September 15; a 30-day limit applies the rest of the year.

Primitive/Backcountry Camping Whiskeytown has primitive campgrounds; permit required (fee). These campgrounds have fire rings, tables, food storage lockers, and restrooms. Backpack camping is available with a Backcountry Use Permit (no fee). Ask for camping regulations when you get your permit.

Backcountry Exploration The backcountry has many miles of trails and unpaved dirt and gravel

roads. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended on all dirt and gravel roads. Motorized vehicles must be street legal and are prohibited off-road. Use caution and common sense when using these roads. If you have vehicle trouble, stay on the road when going for help. Contact the visitor center for winter closures, current road conditions, and information about these trails.

Fees Buy daily, weekly, and annual passes and gold panning and primitive camping permits at the visitor center. All National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes are accepted at Whiskeytown. Display passes on your dashboard.

Regulations and Safety See safety tips in the park newspaper. Know the regulations—your safety is your responsibility! • Fires are allowed only in fire grates. Fire use may be restricted if fire danger is extreme. • Pets must be leashed at all times. Pets are not allowed on beaches at Oak

Bottom, Brandy Creek, and East Beach. • Never swim alone. Watch children closely in and near water. • Do not feed park animals. • Store food in bear-proof lockers or out of sight in a secured vehicle. • Do not damage or remove any natural or cultural resources—all are protected by federal law. Emergencies: call 911.

More Information
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095
530-242-3400
www.nps.gov/whis

Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit www.nps.gov.

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Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area is in northern California. Shasta and Trinity units are administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Whiskeytown Unit is administered by the National Park Service.

