



TRAVEL CLUB

Fun Things to Do / Places to See in California

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, flat landscape covered in a dense carpet of small, vibrant purple wildflowers. In the background, a range of eroded, light-colored hills with distinct horizontal geological layers stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky. The foreground is dominated by the textured field of flowers, which transitions into a greener, flatter area further back.

Spring wildflowers

Carrizo Plain, California



Carrizo Plain



Anza Borrego



Diamond Valley Lake



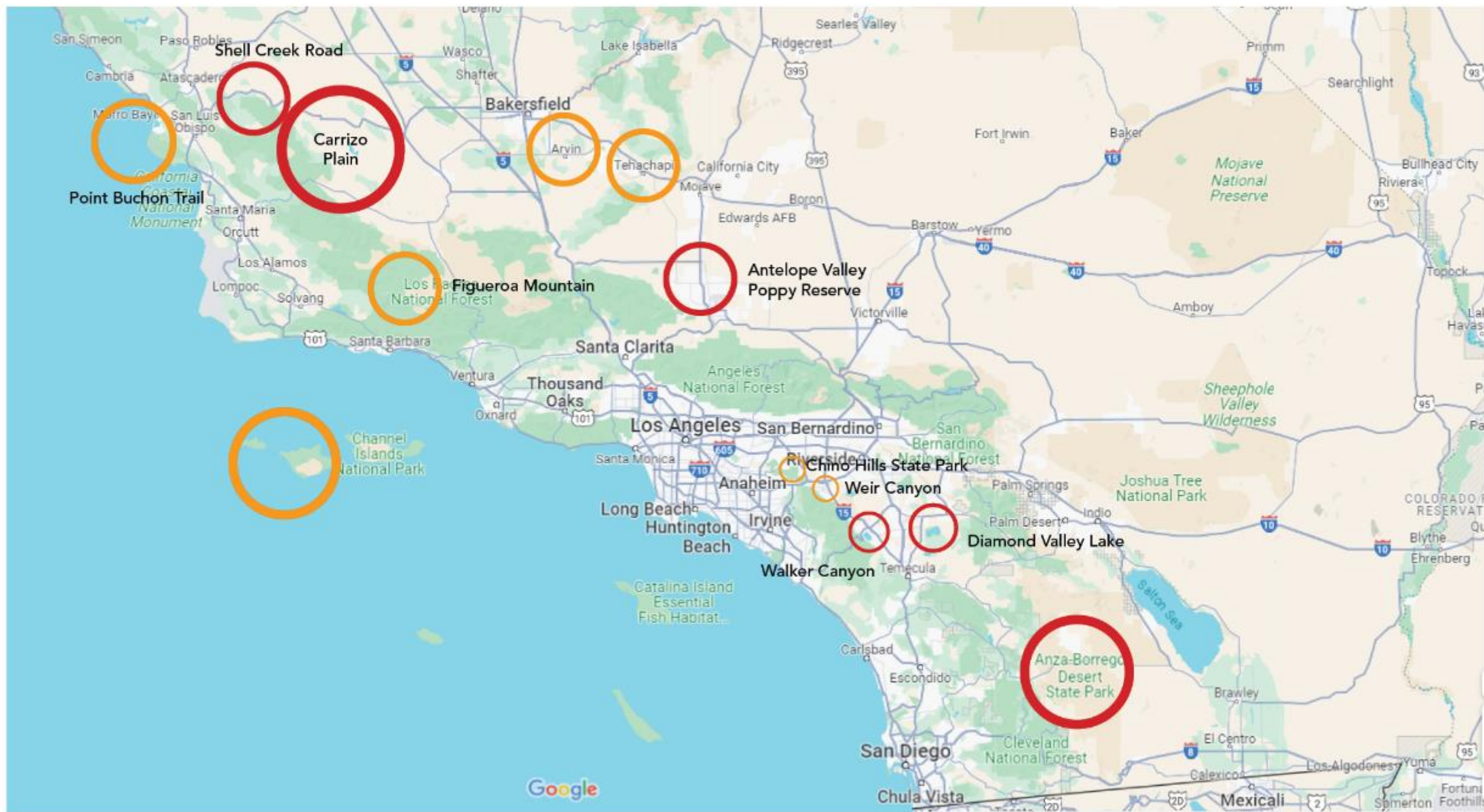
Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve

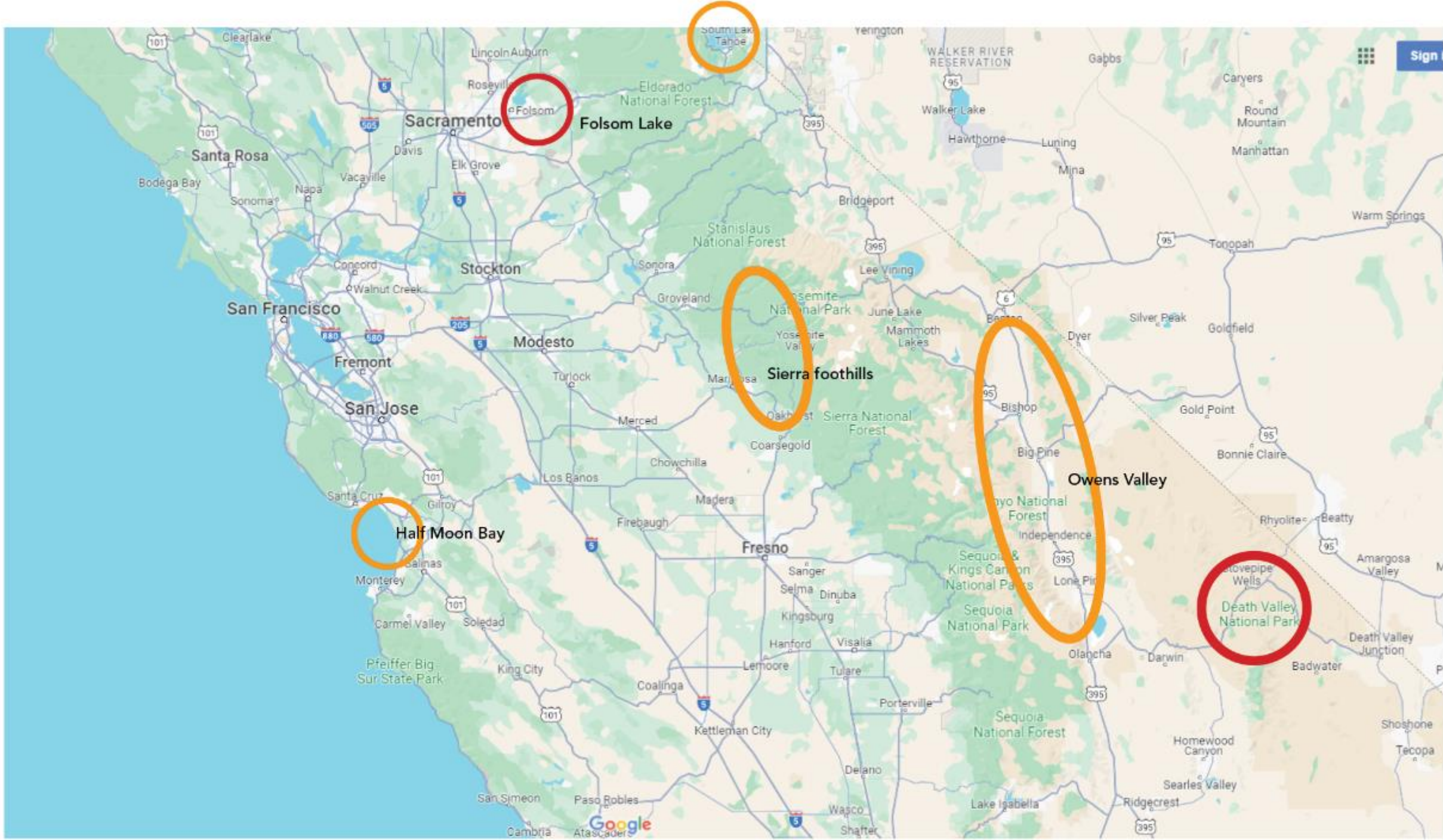
Wildflower hotspots

Superbloom factors: snow melt/rain, temperature, sunlight, wind
– typically every 5-10 years

Hot spots: mainly Feb-April:

- Carrizo Plain (Soda Lake Road, Elkhorn Road – remote!)
- Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve and surrounding area
- Anza Borrego (Henderson Road, Coyote Canyon, June Wash, Di Giorgio Road)
- Diamond Valley Lake (Hemet)
- Death Valley (superblooms 1998, 2005, 2016)
- Shell Creek Road (Santa Margarita)
- Figueroa Mountain (Santa Ynez)
- Tehachapi, Arvin
- Walker Canyon (Lake Elsinore, check if open)
- Chino Hills State Park
- Weir Canyon Regional Park (Anaheim Hills)
- Sierra foothills
- Point Buchon Trail (Morro Bay)
- Half Moon Bay (South Bay San Francisco)
- Folsom Lake (Beeks Bight)
- Channel Islands
- Other hot spots:
 - March-May: North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve, Oroville
 - May: Owens Valley irises
 - May-July: Lake Tahoe western shore lupins
 - May-Sept: Lassen Volcanic NP (Sulphur Works, Mill Creek Falls, and Butte Lake)

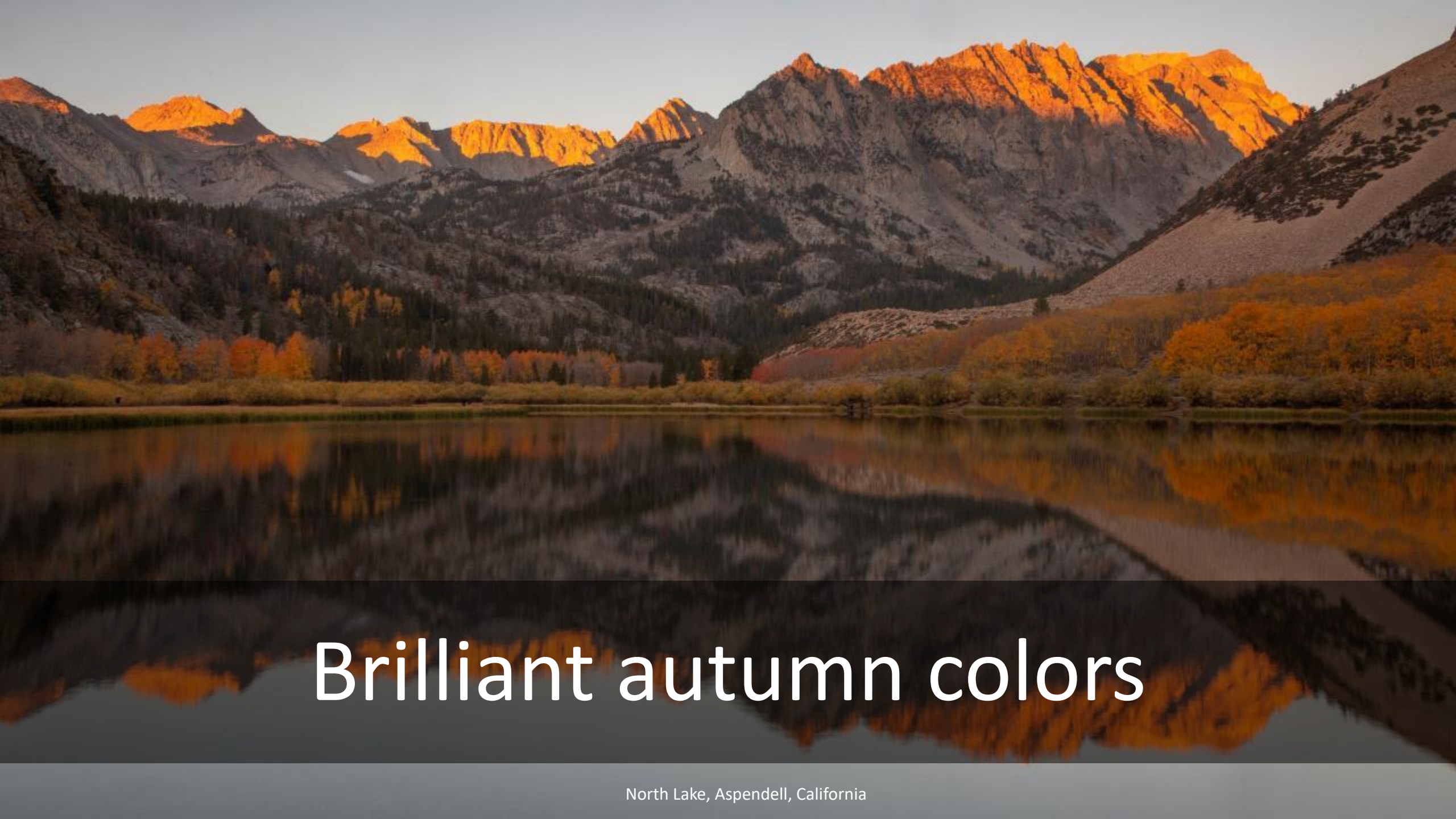




Wildflower hotspots

- Beware of rattlesnakes! Wear gaiters or rubber boots.
- Don't trample or pick wildflowers.
- For up-to-date reports, visit
 - Desert USA Wildflower Reports - desertusa.com
 - Wild Flower Hotline - theodorepayne.org
 - CA Native Plant Society map - cnps.org
 - Facebook Group: California Wildflower Tipline





Brilliant autumn colors

North Lake, Aspendell, California

Autumn leaf peeping

Factors: snow/rain, temperature, sunlight, wind

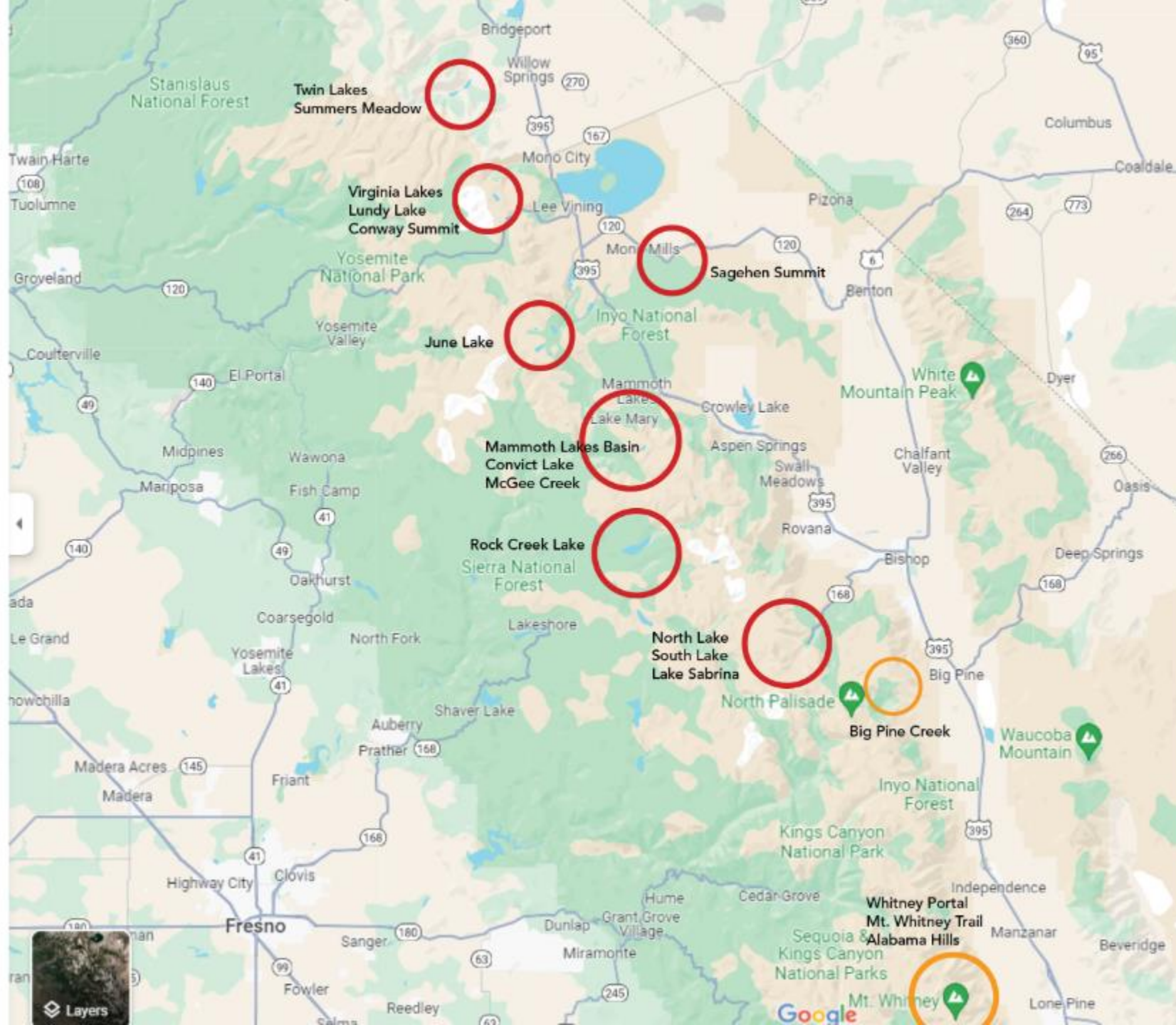
Fires and prescribed burns too

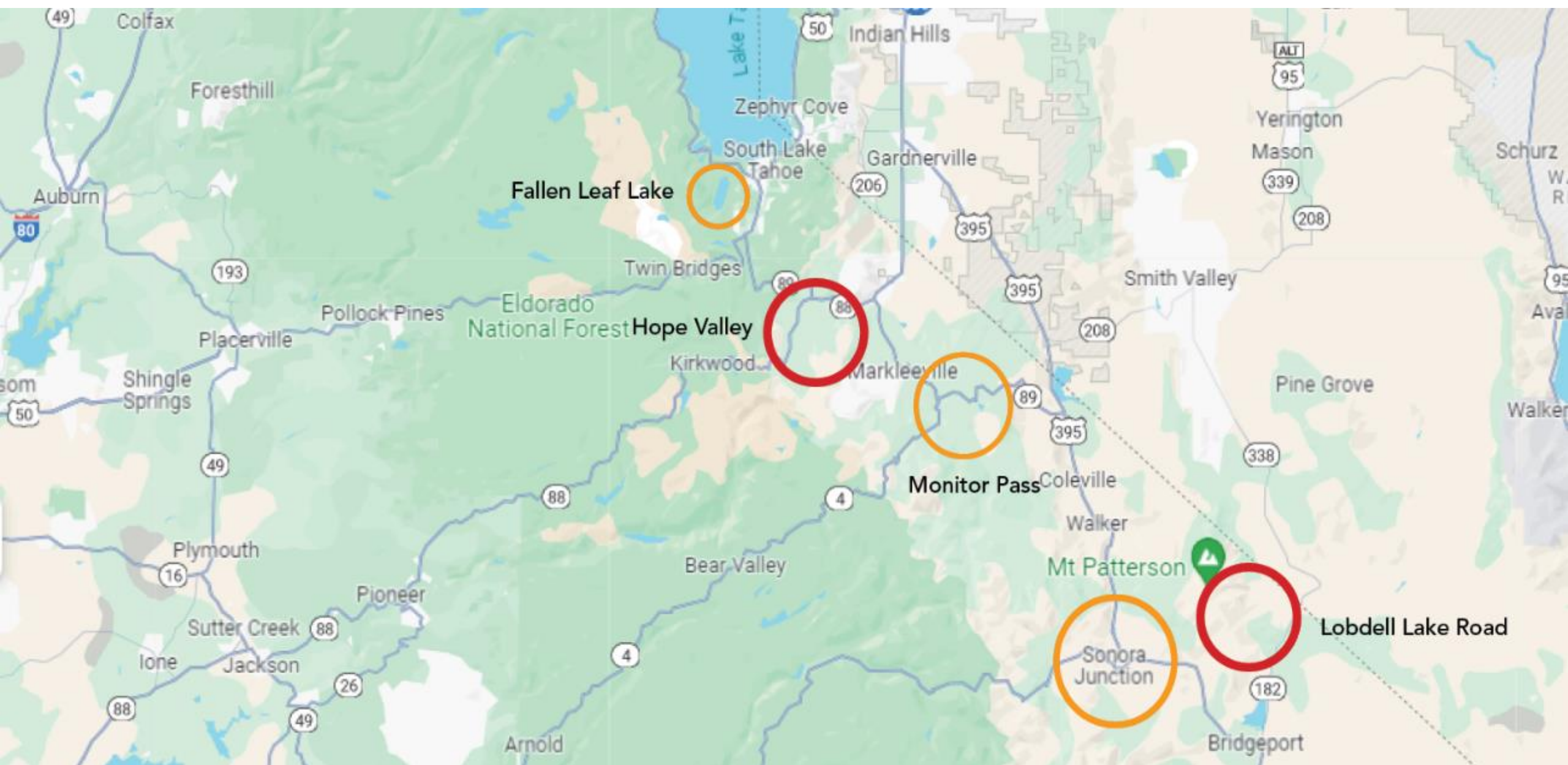
Hot spots? Mono & Inyo County, also Plumas, Siskiyou

- **Early October:** Virginia Lakes, Rock Creek Lake, Lobdell Lake Road (4WD), Aspendell area (North Lake, South Lake, Lake Sabrina, Cardinal Village), Conway Summit, Sagehen Summit
- **Mid October:** Tioga/Sonora/Monitor Passes, Mammoth Lakes Basin, June Lake loop, Convict Lake, McGee Creek Canyon, Owens Valley, Lundy Lake, Twin Lakes, Big Pine Creek, Whitney Portal, Mt. Whitney Trail, Hope Valley (Red Creek Cabin), Truckee/Sierraville
- **Late October:** Alabama Hills, Lake Tahoe & Fallen Leaf Lake, Quincy, Chester, Bishop town, Owens Valley, Arcata
- **Early November:** Yosemite (more on that), Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, Julian, Napa, Sonoma, Los Altos, Grass Valley, Nevada City, Chico, Antelope Valley, Davis



North Lake, Aspendell, California





Autumn leaf peeping

- Snowliage
- For up-to-date reports, visit californiafallcolor.com.
- Free fall color maps by county/town too
- Helpful books: *Photographing California* by Jeffrey Sullivan, *California's Fall Color* by G. Dan Mitchell
- Be flexible! Book multiple dates ahead of time w/ free cancellation.



North Lake, Aspendell, California



Yosemite in all four seasons

Firefall, ice lava and moonbows!

Half Dome from Glacier Point, July



Horsetail Fall, mid-February



Half Dome from Cook's Meadow, end of October



Cathedral Rocks, July

Yosemite National Park - Spring

- Waterfalls gushing! The classics + dozens and dozens of seasonal waterfalls
- Lots of fresh water in Fern Spring
- March & April best months for flowers in Merced River Canyon
 - April brings redbud bloom
 - End of April dogwood bloom
- March best light from Tunnel View
- During a full moon in April, May, June, see lunar rainbows (“moonbows”) from Cook’s Meadow and Lower Yosemite Falls bridge. Possibly May and June from Glacier Point.



Upper Yosemite Falls Moonbow, NOT MY PHOTO



How a moonbow looks
to the human eye



How a moonbow looks
to a camera



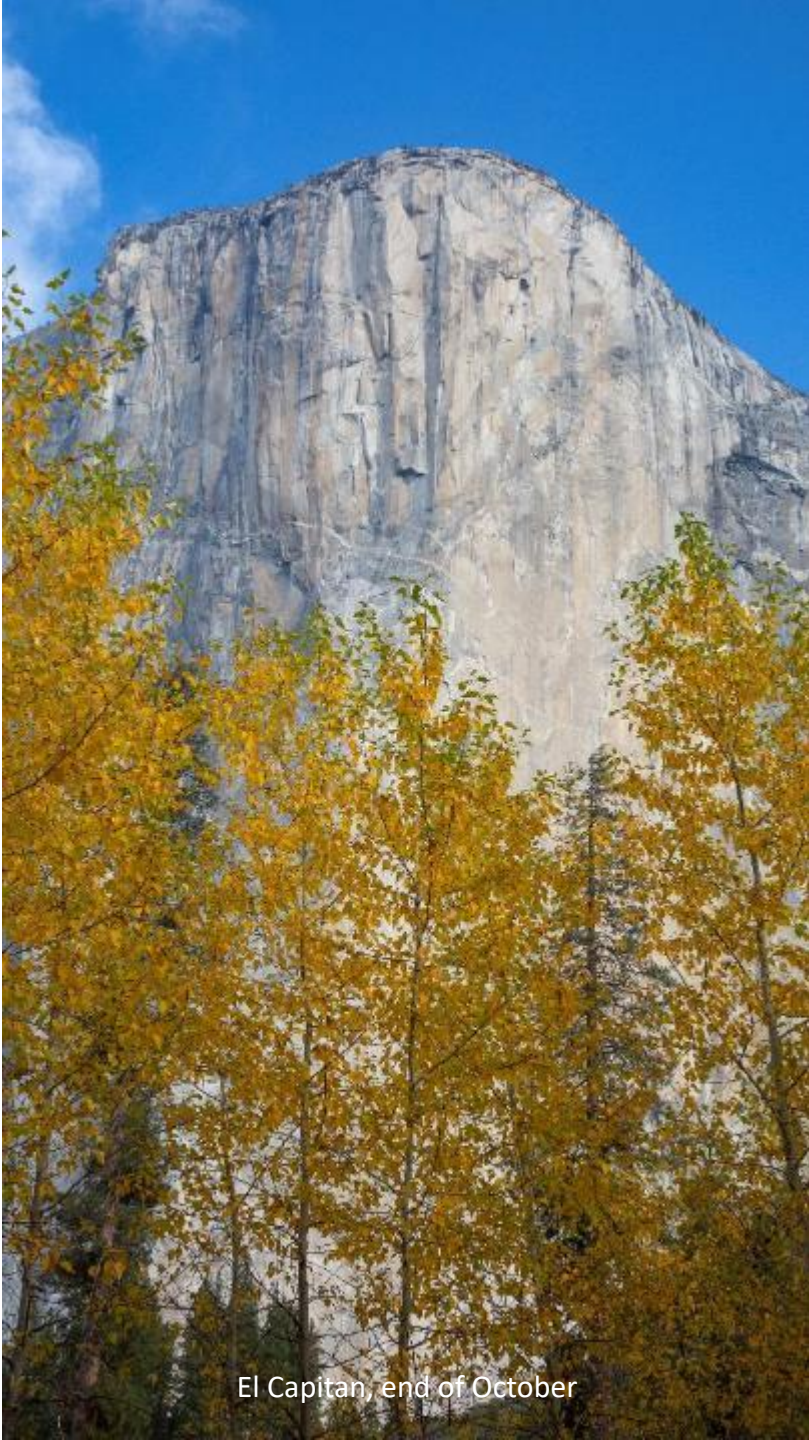
Fern Spring, July

Yosemite National Park - Summer

- Very, very busy time to visit, reservations required 24 hours a day or enter before 5am or after 4pm or stay in the park
- Waterfalls often seen until July, though Vernal & Nevada Falls year 'round
- Tioga Road & Glacier Point Road open in late May or June – even July!
- Afternoon thunderstorms, “clearing storms”
- Irises, azaleas and other flowers bloom in Cook’s Meadow and El Capitan Meadow in June and peak bloom at higher elevations along Tioga Road in July
- Potential for fires late summer and prescribed burns, air quality



Cook's Meadow, late October



El Capitan, end of October



El Capitan from Cathedral Beach, end of October



Cathedral Rocks, end of October

Yosemite National Park - Autumn

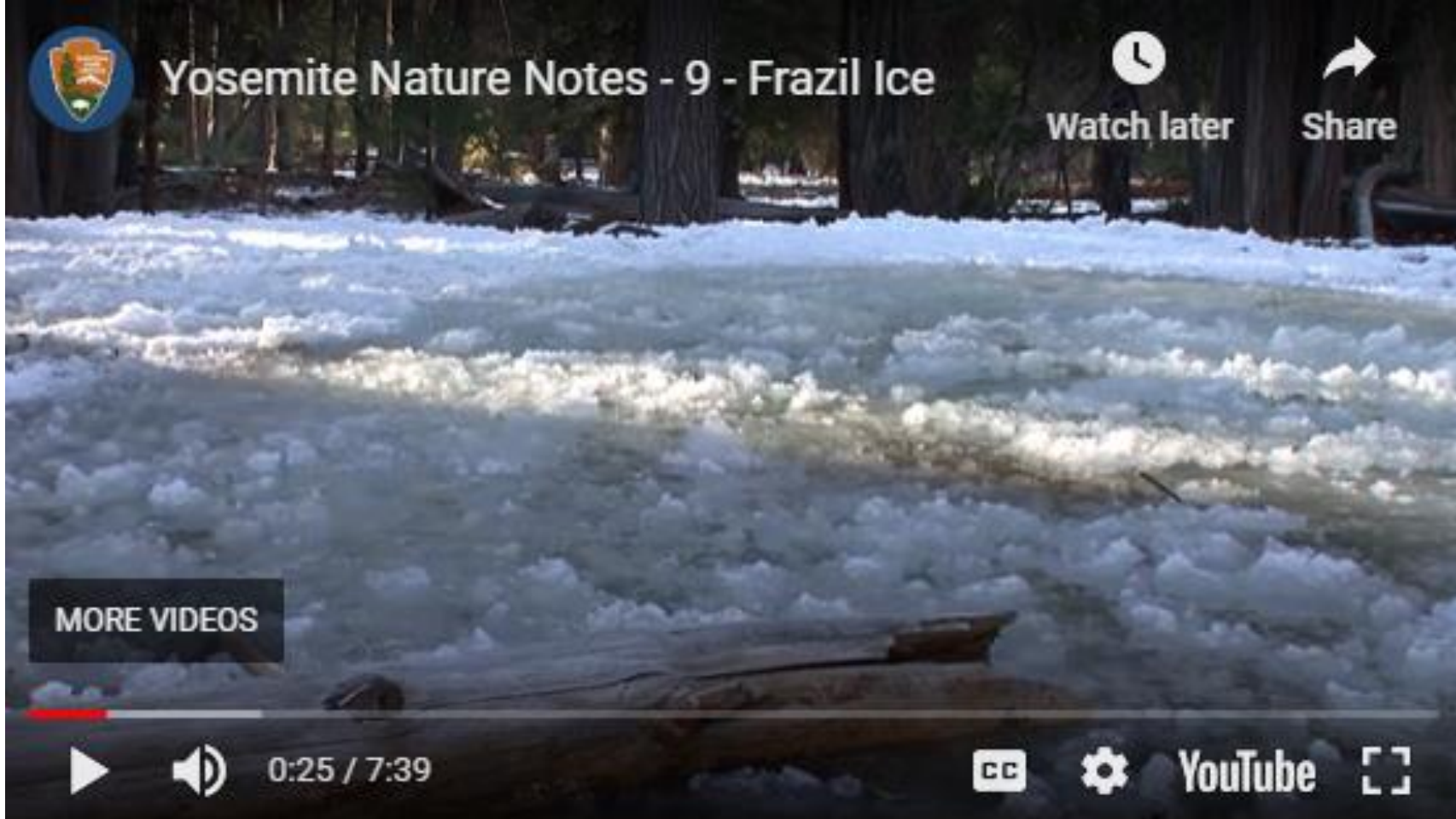
- Waterfalls may be completely dry, Merced River slow (reflections good), river rocks exposed
 - Sunrise at Cook's Meadow
 - Meadows will be golden
 - Dogwoods red at Pohono Bridge & Curry Village
 - Clusters of Cottonwood trees yellow on banks of Merced
 - First snowfall may occur as early as late
- October – snowliage!
- Cool mornings bring fog
 - October great time to photograph El Capitan from Taft Point
 - If there's a heavy rainstorm in October, same Horsetail Falls effect
 - Tioga Road & Glacier Point Road close in November til May/June/July
 - Potential for fires and prescribed burns, air quality



Horsetail Fall, mid-February

Yosemite National Park - Winter

- Waterfalls – maybe on a warm day
 - Not busy except mid-February for Horsetail Fall natural firefall
 - Best time to visit is right after a light snow (chains maybe be required)
 - Best light of the year on Half Dome, El Capitan and Yosemite Falls
 - Rainbow on Upper Yosemite Falls from Yosemite Village area and Swinging Bridge at first light
 - Great opportunities as a snowstorm clears
- esp Tunnel View, Valley View, Cathedral Beach and Three Brothers
- Horsetail Fall natural firefall around February 21 if western sky is clear, snowmelt, not too much wind
 - Snow cones and frazil ice (“ice lava” “slurpee”) late winter/early Spring before 9am at Yosemite Creek & Bridalveil Creek
 - Want to learn more? *A Photographer’s Guide to Yosemite* by Michael Frye



Yosemite's YouTube Channel

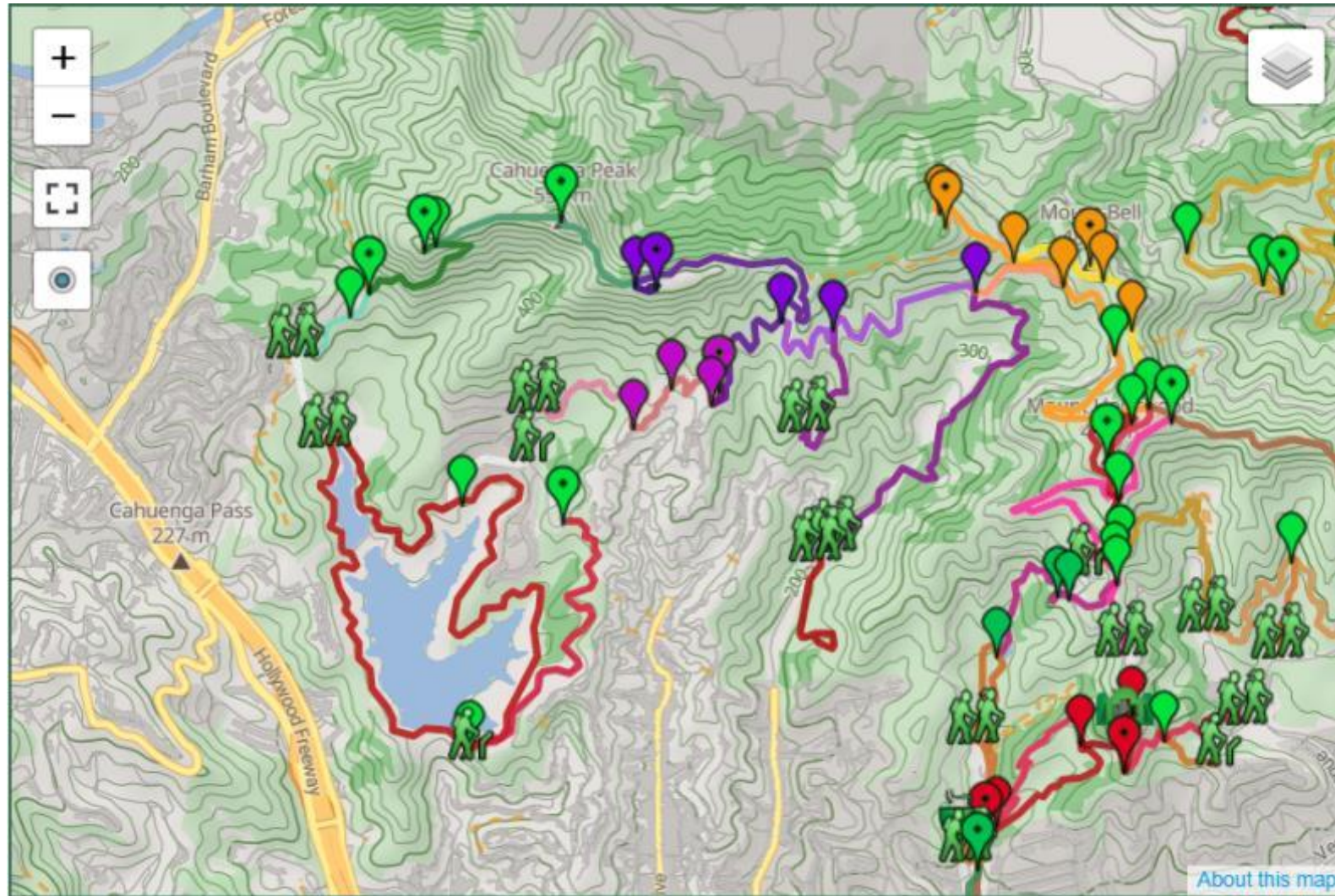


Hiking to the Hollywood Sign

Hiking Trail Sites

- <https://www.hollywoodsign.org/plan-visit>
- <https://www.hikespeak.com/trails/cahuenga-peak-wonder-view-trail/>
- Planning Options
- Parking
- Travel

Maps



Parking:

- 3041 Lake Hollywood Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90068 or the intersection of Lake Hollywood Dr. and Wonder View Dr.





The Wisdom Tree

Aileen Getty Ridge Trail



The Hollywood Sign





The Strand Bike Trail

<https://southerncaliforniabeaches.org/BikePath.php>

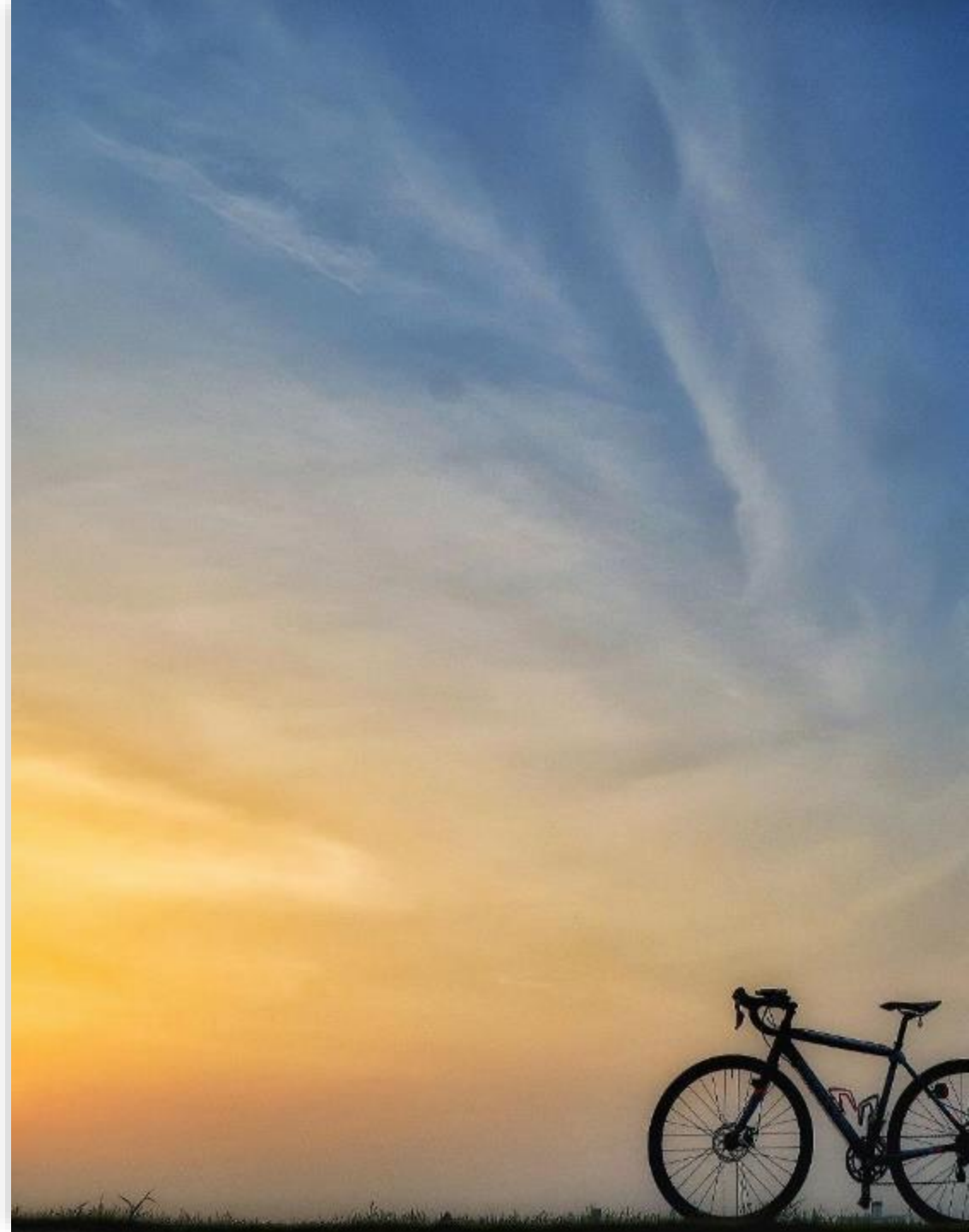
The Strand Bike Trail



- Will Rogers Beach
- Santa Monica Beach
- Venice Beach
- Marina Del Rey
- Dockweiler Beach
- El Segundo Beach
- Manhattan Beach
- Hermosa Beach
- Redondo Beach
- Torrance Beach

Bike Rentals

- Redondo Beach: <https://beachsidebikerental.com/>
- <https://www.beachebiking.com/electric-bike-rentals>
- Marina Del Rey: <https://marinabikerentals.com/>
- Hermosa Beach: <https://www.trickelectricbikes.com/products/aventon-pace-500-2-ebike-rental/aventon-pace-500-2-ebike-rental>
- <http://www.theoldbikeshop.com/>
- Manhattan Beach: <https://beachsidemb.com/>
- Marina Del Rey: <https://danielsbikerentals.com/>
- Venice Beach: <https://veniceboardwalkbikerental.com/>
- Santa Monica: <https://unlimitedbiking.com/rentals/santa-monica-bike-rentals/>



Items to Bring

- Bike locks
- Cash
- Sunblock
- Windbreaker
- Water
- Sunglasses
- Helmet (if you bring your own bike)





Solvang



Things To Do

[https://solvanguisa.com/
where-to-stay/](https://solvanguisa.com/where-to-stay/)

Museums

- Solvang Vintage Motorcycle Museum
- Museum of History and Art
- Hans Christian Andersen Museum
- Wilding Museum





BURGERS & SHAKES



OPEN

OPEN DAILY
11:30-8:00

CHOMP

Organic Snacks
Jicama
Kombucha
Plant
Local
Beet
Chocolate
Vegetarian

Local Tours

- The Haunt – Solvang Ghost Hunting Tour - \$55 per Adult
- Solvang Valley Small Group All Inclusive Wine Tour - \$190 per Adult
- Solvang Food and Photo Tour - \$155 Per Adult
- All-Inclusive Full-Day Wine Tasting Tour from Santa Ynez Valley - \$189 per Adult
- Solvang Trolley & Carriage Tours



Wineries

In Solvang:

- Sevtap Winery
- Alma Rosa Winery and Vineyards

Santa Ynez Valley Wineries:

- Brave and Maiden Estate
- Kalyra Winery
- Sunstone Winery



Things to Do Nearby

- The Chumash Casino
- Ostrichland
- Alisal Golf Course
- Cachuma Lake





Santa Ines Mission

Surrey Rentals

- You can rent a Surry by the hour
- Single - \$35
- Double - \$40
- Triple - \$50





Mountain visits

Lake Arrowhead, California

San Bernardino Mountains

- Crestline
- Twin Peaks
- Lake Arrowhead
- Cedar Glen
- Running Springs
- Arrowbear
- Big Bear City
- Big Bear Lake



Spring, Summer and Fall Activities

Lake Arrowhead, California

Hiking & Camping



Camping

- Campgrounds and Cabins from Lake Arrowhead to San Geronio
- Serrano Family Campground in the Big Bear Lake Recreation Area is conveniently located.
- Barton Flats Family Campground (San Geronio Recreation Area) is located near the popular San Geronio hike

Hiking Trails

- The Pinnacles Trail
- Heaps Peak Arboretum
- Exploration Trail (takes you to Children's Forest and Keller Peak)
- Heart Rock Trail
- Bluff Lake Trail
- For backpacking, part of the Pacific Crest Trail (which extends from Canada to Mexico) runs through the SB Mountains

Reminders

Don't forget...

- Map/GPS (download the trail map so it can be used offline)
- Sun Protection (hat, sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses, maybe even a long sleeved shirt)
- First aid (pre-packaged kits)
- Flashlight (including extra batteries)
- Snacks
- Water, water, WATER (1 liter of water per person hour is recommended)
- Do you need a permit or pass?
- National Recreation Pass
- Adventure Pass
- Wilderness Pass



The Pinnacles Trail, Lake Arrowhead, California

Other Activities

Things to do in Lake Arrowhead

- The Arrowhead Queen Lake Tour
 - \$32.95 for adults; \$29.95 for seniors; \$19.95 for children
- Sky Park
- Shops and Entertainment in Lake Arrowhead Village
 - Oktoberfest
 - Summer Concert series



Things to do in Crestline and Green Valley Lake

- Kayaking, Canoe or Aqua Bike Rental at Lake Gregory
- Fishing on Green Valley Lake or Lake Gregory
 - Fishing License: \$20.26 for the day; \$31.06 for two days



Other Activities

Things to Big Bear City & Big Bear Lake

- Alpine Slide
 - Mineshaft Coaster: \$20 adult / \$10 kids
 - Go-Karts
 - Mini Golf
 - Water Slides
- Golf
- Shop in Big Bear Lake Village
- Oktoberfest





Winter

Big Bear Lake, California

Snow Play, Skiing & Snow Boarding

Snow Valley (Running Springs)

- Adult One Day Lift ticket: \$79-\$109 (depending on day)
- \$20 per ticket, all ages for dedicated snow play area



Snow Summit (Big Bear Lake) & Bear Mountain (Big Bear Lake)

- Adult One Day Lift ticket: \$119-\$155 (depending on day)

Alpine Slide

- Adult One Day Snow Play: \$45; Child One Day Snow Play: \$30

Ski & Snow Board Runs



Winter Reminders

Don't forget...

- Don't play in turnouts
- Buy chains before you arrive at the bottom of the mountain
- Don't drive too fast
- Bring warm clothes (extras in your car in case you get stuck)
- A small shovel (in case you get stuck)
- Snacks & Water

