

Chico's Bidwell Park and North Table Mountain

April 7-11, 2024

Sign-ups December 3-15, 2023

The original inhabitants of what is now Chico were the Mechoopda Maidu. The City of Chico was founded in 1860 by General John Bidwell, a member of one of the first wagon trains to reach California. The Bidwells donated the land which would become Chico State University. Luckily for us, Anne Bidwell donated 1,900 acres along Big Chico Creek that would become the city's Bidwell Park. One of the hikes will be along Big Chico Creek.



Chico is roughly 150 miles and three hours from the Bay Area.

Sunday: On the way up, we will drive to Black Butte Lake. Have our lunch at the picnic area and take a 3.3 mile, 600 ft vertical hike along the lake. Then we drive about 35 miles to our lodging located near downtown Chico.



Monday: We will all hike the Anne Bidwell trail and explore the heart of Bidwell Park.

Tuesday: We drive to North Table Mountain Ecological Preserve. Each person will need a permit. This is a unique environment that has fields of wildflowers. The soil is volcanic and not conducive to most grasses. This gives the flowers a heads up. We offer two hikes. We start together and hike to Phantom Falls. Mostly flat, but a couple short steep sections. One group will head back to the start (4 mi, 400 ft) and the other group will take a longer route to see Ravine Falls and Beatson Falls (7 mi, 800 ft).



Wednesday: The group splits up. The harder hike will start at 10-mile Trailhead on Deer Creek Hwy. It is a 6 mi, 1500 vertical hike. Those not going on the harder hike can hike Lower Bidwell Park and its beautiful riparian habitat (3 mi, 500 ft). Then, optionally, explore historic downtown Chico.



Thursday: We head home. There is an optional hard hike at UC Davis's Stebbens Cold Canyon Ecological Preserve near Winters (5 mi, 1500 ft). People who don't want to do the hard section, which is at the end, can do an out and back. Optionally you can explore the town of Winters and drive back on scenic Pleasants Valley Rd, or drive directly home from Chico.

Trip leaders are Edwin Osada, Lynne Vogensen, Yeao-Nan Hsieh and Jan Lecklikner. Sign up with Lynne Vogensen by email (preferred) at mslynn33@yahoo.com and only text or call 925-899-4030 if email is not available. Sign up only during the sign-up window of December 3-15, 2023. Any attempt to sign up outside of the window will not be valid.

Just a reminder that all CCHC members are invited to sign up for overnight trips. However, members who contribute to club activities will be given priority for selection. See CCHC Outings Information, Qualifying Criteria for Outings at <http://contracostahills.org>.