

Sonora / Jamestown Info Package

July 24, 25, 26, 27,

2009

Zip	City	State	Area Code	County	Latitude	Longitude
95370	Sonora	CA	209	Tuolumne	38.0 N	120.3 W



welcome to
SONORA DAYS INN

160 S. Washington Street
Sonora, California 95370
1-209-532-2400



Welcome to the Sonora Days Inn! This historic California hotel offers well-appointed guestrooms and modern conveniences in a Victorian era hotel setting.

Sonora Days Inn Guestrooms. We have 63 guestrooms in the Main Building and the Annex. Choose from King, Queen, or Double Bed rooms. All rooms are appointed with turn down service, cable T.V. including HBO, blackout drapes and complimentary toiletries. Many rooms have mini refrigerators, microwaves, hair dryers, iron and ironing boards and coffee and tea.

Complimentary Touches. A complimentary continental breakfast is served daily, and you'll find free newspapers in our daybreak room for your convenience. Also, free wireless high-speed Internet access is available as well as a guest computer in our lobby. Ask our friendly front desk staff to help you plan your stay. We would be happy to assist you in planning a kid friendly, fun filled stay! Or for the business traveler we would be happy to assist you in coordinating meetings, meals and how find your way around our beautiful community.

The Heart of Gold Country. There are so many things to see and do in and around Sonora, California. Considered a gateway to Yosemite National Park, Sonora Days Inn is

also close to amazing vineyards, world-class golfing, stunning caverns, hiking, water sports and horseback riding! A short drive from historic Columbia State Park, Railtown State Park in historic Jamestown, the Jumping Frog Jubilee in Angels Camp and Murphy's; Queen of the Sierras! Sonora Days Inn, Ideally located on the historic main street of Sonora, our guests may enjoy a walking tour of antique shops, museums, clothing and book stores, numerous restaurants and for libations, a choice of 3 bars. Visit the Sonora Opera Hall just steps from Sonora Days Inn.

Fabulous Dining. Savor the convenience of our exceptional restaurant. Camacho's specializes in tasty Southwestern fare that pleases even the most finicky eater. Open Tuesdays through Saturday and closed most holidays and some special events this family owned and ran restaurant serves an excellent Lunch and Dinner. Enjoy a glass of wine or ice cold beer with your meal, or take back to your room for a quiet relaxing end of your day.

We are currently holding **25** Rooms for booking.

These rooms will go fast so don't delay booking.

3- Night Room Rates have already been established and are as follows;	
King Bed	\$ 70.65 / night plus tax = \$76.30 x 3= \$228.90
Double Queen Bed	\$ 84.15 / night plus tax = \$90.88 x 3= \$272.64

**PLEASE PHONE THE HOTEL FOR RESEVATIONS
1-209-532-2400**

Tell them you are with "Biggs HOG Chapter"

Then make your reservation using your Credit Card

IMPORTANT: *Upon Booking, please email me the following information:*

Name/s	Cell Phone	Home Phone	Email

We need to keep track of whose going so that we can get information out. Information will be forward to you about the ride and things to do as know so that you can plan your adventure.

Room Share Coordinator:

If you would like to go on this trip but are going solo and would possibly like to share a room / cost with another person in the club, just make that known to me and I will tell you of others wishing to share a room. You then make plans between you two.

Any questions, concerns or if you have any trouble booking; Please email or call me at one of the contacts below.

Contact: Bill Eldridge

Cell: 760-535-4316

Email: billeldridge@cox.net

PLEASE READ THE FINE PRINT:

In order to receive discount, Credit card guarantee needed at the time of booking. Each individual may cancel by 3-day prior to arrival without charges. Rate is based on per night for accommodations in traditional room w/coffee & deluxe continual breakfast. Room block will be held for individual booking until 6/23/09. If not reserved by this date, room block will be released & reservation requests thereafter will be processed on case-by-case basis & based on time of booking discount, if any.

** This Ride ends officially upon arrival at the **Sonora Days Inn**
July 24, 2009*

Overview of Trip:

Friday, July 24, 2009

- The ride to Sonora. This will be about **463** miles.

Saturday, July 25, 2009

- Suggested ride to some destination
- Saturday evening group dinner.

Sunday, July 26, 2009

- Free Day, You choose your riding partners and your destination.
- 3 destinations of high interest will be provided as a guide.

Monday, July 27, 2009

- The Ride Home
- Breaking into smaller groups, departing at different times based on people's needs.

Come out and spend a weekend with us, you'll never make better friends.

Long Distance Trips for 2009

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1: Santa Maria, CA | Memories |
| 2: Cottonwood / Sedona AZ | Memories |
| 3: Sonora / Jamestown, CA | Jul. 24, 25, 26, 27 |
| 4: Mammoth / Carson City, NV | Sep. 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21 |
| 5: Laughlin, NV, 2 nd . Annual | Nov. 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 |



The next few pages are filled with some history of towns and points of interest in the part of the Sierra Nevada Mountains we will be riding in. There are too many to list in this packet so please take a little time to visit this web page <http://www.malakoff.com/goldcountry/campmap.htm> for more interesting towns and places to visit. Thanks to Jim L. for the link.

Sonora “Queen of the Southern Mines”

Settled in 1848, this “Gold Rush” community still holds onto its historic Charm. With the area’s largest Historic Downtown District, shopping is an enjoyable experience of strolling through unique and charming shops and restaurants nestled into buildings of the 1800’s. Visitors are sure to find a one-of-a-kind souvenir to remember your stay here.

Along with historic buildings the City is home to three [museums](#). These museums give visitors an insight into the way of life in California’s mining towns. The California State Park’s of Columbia and Railtown 1897, just a short drive from Sonora, are also a must see to get the full “Mother Lode” experience.

The Historic Downtown is also home to the Central Sierra Arts Council and several art studios featuring the brilliant work of local artists. Being known as the regional center for arts and entertainment visitors can enjoy live theater and year-round events and festivals.

Every season brings a natural beauty to Sonora. To enjoy this natural beauty, hike the newly developed [Dragoon Gulch Trail](#). The Trail is an easy walk from City lodging and will allow visitors to experience the beautiful oak woodlands

surrounding the City. Visitors can also partake in the numerous winter and summer outdoor activities located just outside the City and in the nearby Stanislaus National Forest. These include skiing, hiking, boating, swimming and horseback riding.

Jamestown Gateway to the Mother Lode

The year was 1848. Through noble forests roamed a relatively peaceful group of Native Americans know as the Central Sierra Miwok. The Miwok gathered acorns, harvested various wild plants and hunted wild game. The area abounded with herds of deer and antelope, flocks of wild fowl, and streams alive with fish covered by towering pines, and cedars 300 feet high and often 12 to 18 feet thick, and groves of oak. The land, although wild, was far from being just a wilderness. The country, with its snow-covered summits in the distance, was one of the most picturesque in the world.

On a cold January morning in 1848, James Marshall discovered gold in the tailrace at Sutter's Mill (now called Coloma). Miners from all over the world began a stampede which changed the country forever.

In June of this same year, a mining company formed by Benjamin F. Wood of Clatsop Plains in Oregon, founded the first claim in Tuolumne County. The camp was known as Woods' Diggings and later as Woods' Crossing. It is now Jamestown and Main Street is located about a mile north where Woods Creek crosses under Highway 108 and where Mr. Wood found the first gold in Tuolumne County.



The richness of the diggings on Woods Creek became legendary. The creek was so rich that it was reported that Woods & Company extracted \$200 to \$300 (40 to 60 ounces) daily by simply prying nuggets from their resting spots with hunting knives. Comparing the \$8 to \$12 an ounce in 1848 to the price of gold today (about \$300), imagine the excitement of finding that same 40 ounces today which would be worth \$16,000.

One historian, Peter Justesen, wrote that in 1848, two miners of Woods' Crossing decided to purchase a bottle of brandy from town, located a quarter mile from their camp (probably Jamestown). The partner who went to fetch the brandy was advised to look along the road as he would be sure to find enough gold enroute to pay for the bottle. This, he was able to do!

Another miner, according to local legend, desired to purchase a pistol from a fellow prospector. The owner agreed to sell the weapon for \$200. The purchaser, armed only with a knife, pried this sum from the gold-rich crevices in Woods Creek in short order.



The winter of 1848 was a fierce one. The camp along Woods Creek was moved to higher ground because of flooding to the approximate area where the south end of Main Street is located. Many miners suffered and perished from land scurvy due to the lack of fresh vegetables and fruits and pulmonary diseases as a result of exposure to the elements. During this harsh winter, many tales floated around San Francisco about the abundance of gold at *Wood's Crossing*. When spring came, hundreds of miners flocked to the area which soon became known as the Gateway to the Mother Lode. One of those who arrived was Colonel George James. He brought a wagon full of supplies and treated everyone to champagne. The people were duly impressed with the Colonel and immediately named the town in his honor (often referred to as *Jimtown*).

Colonel James had practiced as a lawyer in San Francisco, and because of this, the people appointed him to serve as Alcalde (chief judicial officer) of Jamestown. James also operated a hotel and store and gained considerable fame after serving as the defense attorney during the first murder trial in Tuolumne Country in the spring of 1849.

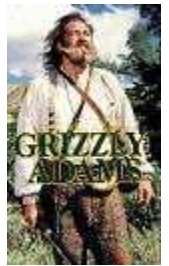


It all started when a gambler by the name of Atkins shot into the saloon, killing an Irishman named Boyd. The Irish and other foreign miners were all for hanging Atkins on the spot, but James set up a guard to protect him until an official from out of town, James Frazier, could arrive the next morning to hear a jury trial. Atkins was found guilty of murder was fined \$500 and given 24 hours to leave town. He paid his fine and took off for

Northern California where he was later elected sheriff of Siskiyou County.

One morning, the town awoke to find that James had made a hasty exit during the night. Among his many activities, he had been paying script against investments in his mining projects. The scripts far exceeded any proceeds the project would produce. Many in the town were in dire financial straits. The miners were angry enough to change the town's name to American Camp; however, the post office had been established by the government so the name remained Jamestown.

In the early 1850's, John Capon Adams (referred to later as James Capen Adams in many accounts of his adventures) owned a trading post and tavern on the east bank of Woods' Creek. He was born in Massachusetts in 1812. Adams was a reckless speculator and careless in his business affairs. He was also a gambler. Penniless and embittered against mankind, whom he blamed for his financial problems, Adams deserted his wife and children to start life anew as a hunter and wild animal trapper in the Sierra Nevada. He became obsessed with hunting grizzly bears which led to him being known as *Grizzly Adams*. He died in 1860 while on tour with P.T. Barnum. Later his life as a hunter and alleged victim of injustice became the subject of several books and furnished the plot for a popular television series.



The glory days of large nuggets, big strikes, and easy placer mining were short lived. Even though many miners moved on, Jamestown managed to hang on. Other establishments that sold liquor, food and "Ladies of the Night" held the town together during the years after the gold rush.

On November 10, 1897, Jamestown boomed again when the Sierra Railroad arrived. The town became the lifeline between Tuolumne County and the outside world. Today, *Railtown 1897* is a living museum as a 26-acre California State Historic Park. The original depot and a hotel were destroyed by



fire, but another depot was rebuilt. The atmosphere at *Railtown 1897* complete with its roundhouse lends a certain familiarity to its many visitors. It should because Engine No. 3, Engine No. 2, and Engine No. 28 have appeared in more than 300 movies including *High Noon*, *The Virginian*, *Petticoat Junction*, *Bonanza*, *Little House on the Prairie* and *Back to the Future III*. Owned and operated by the *California State Railroad Museum*, part of the *California Department of Parks and Recreation*, Railtown's historic and famous steam engines take visitors on weekend excursions from May through Labor Day and on special events throughout the year.

Many of the historical structures of Jamestown have undergone reconstruction due to fires in 1855, 1966, and 1978. Yet, the quaint streets lined with curio and antique shops, award-winning restaurants, hotels with its resident ghosts, and saloons with that "old west" atmosphere make *Historic Jamestown* the ideal place to introduce the family to the heritage, charm, and authenticity of this historical Sierra Nevada foothill town...*Jamestown, California - Gateway to the Mother Lode!*

Angels Camp

Was it Henry or George Angel after whom Angels Camp was named in 1848? Authorities disagree, but odds are with Henry, the town's first store keeper.

Boasting a population of 2,700 in 1972 (with the annexation of Altaville thus making Main Street 4 miles long) in 1849, nearly 4,000 miners camped in the one mile area from Angels Creek to Utica Park.

The cry of "gold" brought the miners but within a few years, local areas were worked out of surface gold and Placer Mining had all but ceased when, as tradition states, Bennegar Rasberry's muzzle loader jammed. He fired the rifle into the ground where the ramrod split a stone to reveal the glittering gold inside and Quartz Mining began in Angels Camp.

The main quartz vein extended from southern Altaville to Angels Creek and all along Main Street were the mines: The Sultana, the Angels, the Lightner, the Utica, and the Stickle.

Ore was pushed by hand cars over tracks from the mines to the mills where the "crash" of over 200 stamps was produced each day during the mining peak for the 1880's and 90's. It has been said that when the last stamp mill ceased operating, the town was so quiet that people could not sleep.

The estimated gross recovery of gold from the 5 mines from 1886 to 1910 was \$19,985,747...and Angels Creek ran chalky white from the mill wastes.

Angels began as a tent town with many flimsy wooden structures and in 1855; the first fire took its toll by destroying almost everything from Angels Camp to St. Patrick's Church

In rebuilding, many structures were built of rock with iron doors and roofs insulated with dirt and sand. Most of these building are standing today. The rest were again destroyed and rebuilt with only a handful of the original in evidence.

Mining continued until the last, the Gold Cliff shaft of the Utica Mining Company, closed in 1942. With the need for metal during World War II, most of the mining machinery was sold for scrap and now only a few concrete foundations and mill works remain of the Gold Rush Days in Angels Camp.

