



Foothill Explorations at Silver Spur

Field Trip Options

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These are field trips we recommend to enrich your Foothill Explorations experience.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park – Calaveras became a State Park in 1931 to preserve the North Grove of giant sequoias. This grove includes the "Discovery Tree", the first Sierra redwood noted by Augustus T. Dowd in 1852. This area has is considered the longest continuously operated tourist facility in California. In addition to the popular North Grove, the Park features South Grove, a five mile hiking trip through a spectacular grove of giant sequoias in their natural setting. For more information, visit www.parks.ca.gov. (50 miles from Silver Spur)

California Caverns – This location is California's first show cave, delighting visitors since 1850, features an enchanting trail with beautiful crystalline formation in historical and recently discovered pristine areas. School groups can experience an underground tour, gem mining, a self-guided nature trail, a unique visitor center, and even geode cracking. To learn more, visit www.caverntours.com. (50 miles from Silver Spur)

Historic Columbia – This town is a State Historic Park. Take an afternoon to walk into the rich history of the gold rush era. Columbia has the same streets and many of the buildings as it did more than 100 years ago. You can ride the stagecoach, pan for gold, or just enjoy all the interesting shops. Movies and TV footage have also been filmed here. Want to find out more? Go to www.columbiacalifornia.com. (12 miles from Silver Spur)

Mercer Caverns – Known as the "Showplace of the Sierras." In Mercer Caverns, you will see at very close range an enormous variety of beautiful and unusual natural crystalline formations. You will be dazzled by the superb artistry which nature, through the centuries, has lavished upon this magnificent subterranean wonderland. The caverns are open daily Memorial Day through September and weekends and holidays October through May 31. For an online tour, visit www.mercercaverns.com. (31 miles from Silver Spur)

Moaning Caverns – Moaning Cavern holds the largest vertical chamber in a public cavern that you can see in California. In fact, it's so big, it could hold the entire Statue of Liberty! These caverns were first explored by gold miners in 1851. Strange shapes and figures adorn the ceiling and walls, making this a treasure house of natural statuary. To learn more, visit www.caverntours.com. (20 miles from Silver Spur)

Railtown 1897 – The Sierra Railroad Roundhouse was built to connect the mines and lumber mills of Tuolumne County with the rest of the world. Today you can take a walk through a century of railroad history. Try the Roundhouse Tour that offers an educational and entertaining walk into America's past. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the Green. Be sure to call ahead for their schedule of events and rides on their real steam locomotive. Go to www.csrnf.org/railtown for more information. (12 miles from Silver Spur)

Sutter Gold Mine – Sutter Gold Mine is a modern hard rock mine located on historic Highway 49 just north of Sutter Creek, south of Amador City at the site of several historic mines. These include the Lincoln Mine from which Leland Stanford made his fortune enabling him to found Stanford University and to partner in financing the Central Pacific Railroad. Although originally developed for gold extraction in the late 1980s, the mine is now open exclusively for one hour underground tours deep into the heart of the Motherlode. More information is available at www.caverntours.com. (60 miles from Silver Spur)

Yosemite National Park – The Yosemite area has something for everyone. From pristine Yosemite Valley and the Giant Sequoias to the spectacular panoramas and mountain vistas at Glacier Point or Tuolumne Meadows; the Yosemite experience is alive with natural beauty and a strong sense of American history. The valley floor can be reached in a 2 hour drive. Spectacular scenery, hiking trails, and waterfalls are part of a memorable adventure. Plan your visit at www.yosemite.com. (75 miles from Silver Spur)