



A Day in Butte County

Lake Oroville: The best way to experience Butte County is by getting outside—start with a few of our favorite spots and then come back to discover more! Start your trip with a visit to the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, where you can enjoy year-round recreation. Water enthusiasts will love jet-skiing, houseboating, and even camping on floating campgrounds (the only in the state!). There's also miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails for those who prefer to stay on dry ground. The Forebay, Afterbay, Brad Freeman Trail, and of course Oroville Dam are great spots around the lake to explore.



Photo Credit: Explore Butte County



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Paradise Lake: Head up to Paradise Ridge for a more mellow and serene experience at the picture-perfect Paradise Lake. Nestled among the pines in Magalia, Paradise Lake is a relaxing spot perfect for fishing, kayaking, or hiking. Enjoy beautiful fall colors and keep an eye out any time of year for a variety of wildlife (just leave the dog at home, as they're not allowed at the lake). And before leaving town, make sure to stop at Joy Lyn's Candies for a locally made sweet treat.

Sierra Nevada Brewery: After your outdoor adventures, head to Chico for lunch at the original Sierra Nevada Brewery. Arguably the birthplace of American craft brewing, no trip to Butte County is complete without a stop at this local landmark. Tour the state-of-the-art brewery, taste specialty brews, or simply enjoy a delicious meal at the expansive Taproom. Whether you're a hop head or a once-in-a-while beer drinker, there's something for everyone at Sierra Nevada.



Photo Credit: Explore Butte County



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Downtown Chico: After lunch, it's just a quick drive to Downtown Chico, the urban hub of Butte County. Here you'll find an abundance of dining and shopping options as well as unique attractions and fun events, like Thursday Night Market in the spring and summer. Within easy walking distance of Downtown are Chico State University, Bidwell Park, and Bidwell Mansion, along with a variety of smaller art studios, museums, and performance spaces. Spend a few hours exploring, get another bite to eat, and then head out to your last stop.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area: Finish your day with a sunset stroll through Gray Lodge Wildlife Area in Gridley. Its location along the Pacific Flyway make it a haven for wildlife, especially a variety of migratory birds. While wildlife viewing is available year-round, it's spectacular from November through February as thousands of birds touch down during their annual migration. Enjoy views of the Sutter Buttes (the "world's smallest mountain range"), use the high-powered telescopes on the observation deck to get up-close views, and stay until dusk to experience the magnificent "fly-off" when thousands of birds fill the sky.



Photo Credit: Explore Butte County