



# THE VILLAGES GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY – Field Trip Information CALIFORNIA



## Marshall Gold Discovery

State Historic Park, 310 Back St, Coloma, CA  
530 622 3470 parks.ca.gov

### The World Rushed In

James W. Marshall discovered gold in 1848 on the South Fork of the American River. This event led to the greatest mass movement of people in the Western Hemisphere and was the spark that ignited the spectacular growth of the West during the ensuing decades. The gold discovery site, located in the still visible tailrace of Sutter's sawmill is one of the most significant historic sites in the nation.

James W. Marshall found shining flecks of gold in the tailrace of the sawmill he was building for himself and John Sutter. This discovery in 1848 changed the course of California's and the nation's history. See a replica of the original sawmill and over 20 historic buildings including mining, house, school, and store exhibits.

Visitors have the opportunity to try panning for gold in the American River. Overlooking the beautiful river canyon, where the gold discoverer rests today, see California's first historic monument, the statue of James Marshall pointing at his gold discovery site.

### Park Information

The best place to start your tour of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park is at the visitor center and museum. Interpretive exhibits and programs tell the story of the gold discovery and help make it come alive. Publications about the park can be found in the visitor center.

About 70% of Coloma is included in Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and subject to use fees. Since there are only about two hundred year-round residents in the town, the tree-lined streets of the park are memorably quiet and serene throughout much of the year.

The park features a number of buildings that have survived from the gold rush, as well as many other reminders of that tumultuous period. The Gold Discovery Museum features gold-rush-era exhibits including mining equipment, horse drawn vehicles, household implements and other memorabilia as well as a number of films about the gold discovery and early mining techniques.



### Gold Discovery Tours

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park is pleased to offer visitors guided walking tours! Our Gold Discovery Tour tells the story and visits the sites of the Coloma Valley before James Marshall's gold discovery. Hear about the events leading up to his incidental discovery, and the history of the California Gold Rush and town of Coloma.



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## Searles Lake Lapidary and Show

13337 Main St. Trona, CA [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

For more than seventy years, countless thousands of visitors have come to Trona, CA during the second weekend in October for the annual Gem-O-Rama. And each year more collectors converge for the 36 hours of frantic, non-stop activity to collect some of the best and most desirable evaporite mineral specimens in the world.



Searles Lake Pink Halite



Cluster from Mud

Since the first show, the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society has worked closely with the management and employees of the owner/operator on Searles Lake to provide one of the most exciting mineral collecting field trips available in the world. These field trips and your experiences would be impossible without their co-operation, dedication and vision.

### ANNUAL GEM-O-RAMA

Sponsored by the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society

Second Weekend each October: Saturday 7:30AM to 5PM - Sunday 7:30AM to 4PM

SLG&MS Lapidary and Show Building - 13337 Main St. (corner of Main & Trona Rd.) TRONA, CA

OUTSTANDING SHOW - FREE ADMISSION

FIELD TRIPS - you drive your own car (Fees are different for each trip, refer to website)

- DEALER SPECIAL - PINK HALITE - (4 1/2 hours on Friday afternoon)
- SEARLES DRY LAKE - (2 1/2 hour trips on Saturday, 4 1/2 hours on Sunday)
- Registration: 7:30-9:00 am and 1:30-2:30 pm - you must register during these times to go on field trips
- Mud Trip- Saturday Only - Departs ONLY at 9AM- Cluster & barrel hanksite, trona, borax
- Blow Hole - Saturday Only - Departs ONLY at 2:30PM- Hanksite, halite, borax, sulfohalite - dry surface
- Pink Halite - Sunday Only - Departs ONLY at 9AM- In brine, beneath hard salt
- Pinnacles National Natural Landmark - Self guided, information at show - FREE
- Searles Valley Minerals' Plants - Saturday only: 10:40, 11:25, 12:10, 12:55 and 1:40 - in bus - FREE

Field Trip Supplies

- Wear "sacrificial" (disposable) clothes when collecting (see pictures on website)
- Most field trip supplies can be purchased at the show (General Store inside show bldg)
- Supplies needed are different for each trip (see information on website's trip description pages)