***** SUBJECT TO CHANGE *****

Always check the whiteboards at the Information Tents at
Orestimba Corral and Pacheco Ridge Road for last-minute updates or cancellations.

2026 Backcountry Weekend Activities Guide (*v1.6 updated 04/21/26*)

(Print this document: 8.5 x 11 Landscape; 2-sided; Flip on long edge)

Suggested Hike Guidelines:

- ***Please be at the Info Tent at the respective start point at least 10 minutes prior to the activity start time.***
- Bring a hat, sunblock, insect repellent, and hiking poles if you have them.
- Wear comfortable hiking shoes and clothes suitable for the temperature.
- Wear long pants and/or gaiters to help protect from Poison Oak and ticks.
- Carry at least 1 - 2 liters of water, some trail snacks, and maybe a sack lunch.
- Bring your binoculars for better viewing and a magnifying glass if you have one.
- Bring bird and wildflower ID cards or pamphlets.
- Prior to arrival in the park, consider downloading the following apps 1) *SEEK* by iNaturalist 2) *eBird* or *Merlin* by Cornell Lab

***** AREAS CLOSED TO BICYCLES *****

For Backcountry Weekend, bicycles are ***NOT*** allowed on *Orestimba Creek Trail* and are only allowed in the uphill direction on *Mustang Cutoff Trail*. Bicycles are ***NOT*** allowed on ***ANY ROADS AND TRAILS in the Orestimba Wilderness***, including the *Alquist Trail, Hartman Trail, Orestimba Creek Road* north of the Kingbird Pond trail head and *Long Ridge Road* west of the Jackrabbit Lake trail head.

Trail Activities Starting at Orestimba Corral **Destination and Route**	**Day / Time**	**Leaders / Sweeps**	**Round Trip Distance**	**Round Trip Accumulated Elevation Gain/Loss**	**Round Trip Estimated Walk Time**
Friday					
Will's Pond Walk Visit a small and easy to get to pond, that is fun for children. Fishing optional. This is an out and back along Orestimba Creek Road. On the way, we will look for wildflowers and wildlife, including woodpeckers, hawks, turkeys, and horned lizards. Perhaps we will hear an early rising owl on the way back. Children under the age of 16 do not need a fishing license.	 Friday 3 PM	LD / EP	1.4 mi.	Up to 150 feet Hiker Rating: Easy	< 2 hrs.

Trail Activities Starting at Orestimba Corral **Destination and Route**	**Day / Time**	**Leaders / Sweeps**	**Round Trip Distance**	**Round Trip Accumulated Elevation Gain/Loss**	**Round Trip Estimated Walk Time**
Friday (continued)					
Alquist Trail – Turkey Pond Trail Loop Stretch your legs on a leisurely and scenic hike with views and wildflowers. We will hike from Orestimba Corral, up the Alquist Trail, and down County Line Road to the Turkey Pond Trail. From there we'll stop at Turkey Pond for a snack break before making our way back to Orestimba Corral. Hiking poles are recommended (but optional) for the descent along the upper portion of Turkey Pond Trail. Bring water and a snack.	 Friday 3 PM	DC	4 mi	+/- 699 feet Hiker Rating: Moderate	+2 hrs.
UV walk along Orestimba Creek Road Approximately 30 minutes after sunset, we will meet at the Orestimba Corral Information booth. We'll walk across the creek and up the road in the direction of Will's Pond, looking for scorpions and other glow-in-the-dark delights. Additional details are available at the Naturalist tent. Bring a UV flashlight if you have one or a regular flashlight covered with red or purple cellophane; we will also have UV lights to share. Dress warmly and bring a regular flashlight.	 Friday 8:30 PM	KL / EP	1.5 mi	Up to 150 feet Hiker Rating: Easy	1-2 hrs.
Saturday					
Orestimba Creek Bird Watching Stroll An easy out-and-back hike along Orestimba Creek Trail. We will be walking slowly to watch for birds along the creek and trail, on the hillsides, and in the oak forest. Get help with identifying birds from Audubon Members. Bring binoculars if you have them.	 Saturday 9 AM	SM	1 - 2 mi	+/- 620 feet Hiker Rating: Moderate	2 hrs.
Walsh Peak Hike (Winslow's Trail) Come along on a socially paced, scenic and mostly ridge-top hike to Walsh Peak. We will start our hike at Orestimba Corral, heading up the Alquist trail to County Line Road. We will then continue south along County Line Road and take Winslow's Trail to Walsh Peak. After enjoying the views and lunch at the peak, we will continue down the last mile of Winslow's Trail – an intermittently steep, but scenic route -- to the lower trailhead, exiting on Kaiser-Aetna Road where we will then return to Orestimba Corral via the shuttle service. Bring lunch, hat, sunscreen, hiking poles (optional but recommended) and at least 2 liters of water.	 Saturday 9:15 AM	DF	6 miles (Shuttle)	+1376 feet / -1776 feet Hiker Rating: Challenging	5 -6 hrs.

Trail Activities Starting at Orestimba Corral **Destination and Route**	**Day / Time**	**Leaders / Sweeps**	**Round Trip Distance**	**Round Trip Accumulated Elevation Gain/Loss**	**Round Trip Estimated Walk Time**
Saturday (continued)					
Orestimba Creek Swimming Hole Hike This relatively easy hike heads out on Orestimba Creek Road and returns via Orestimba Creek Trail. We will visit a lovely swimming hole with an option to also visit beautiful Lupine Pond, otherwise identified as pond "O22" on the Henry Coe trail map. Expect some rock hopping as the creek crosses the road several times. There will be plenty of time to take photos, have lunch and linger. Bring lunch, at least 2 liters of water, and wear comfortable closed-toe footwear which you do not mind getting wet. Hiking poles could be helpful at creek crossings.	 Saturday 9:30 AM	EA / EP	8 mi	+/- 500 feet Hiker Rating: Moderate	4.5 hrs.
Wildflower walk along Orestimba Creek Trail There will be many opportunities to stop and enjoy whatever plants are flowering along this gently sloped trail. Easily turn back when tired. Many families with small kids do turn back. It's a feature! The pace will be easy as we stop often to answer questions and point out curiosities. Plan to spend about an hour hiking up Orestimba Creek Trail. Continues until lunchtime or as long as people stay around.	 Saturday 10:30 AM	GS / LB	1 – 4 miles Entire loop is 4 mi.	+/- 620 feet gradual elevation gain. Hiker Rating: Moderate	1- 3 hrs.
Saturday Evening					
MTB Sunset Ride Join Coe MTB Patrol volunteers on an out and back sunset ride to Mustang Peak where you will have the option for a short, but steep hike from the gate at the junction of County Line Road and Long Ridge Road to the top of Mustang Peak. Sunset will be at 7:48pm, and it will be dark around 8:20pm. We will likely see the sunset as we head up Country Line Road to Mustang Peak; faster e-bikers may be able to see the sunset from the peak itself, a lovely 360 view. As dusk is fading, we will then head back down Country Line Road to Kaiser Aetna Road and back to Orestimba Corral. Bike lights and helmets required.	 Roll Time 7:00 PM	WS / WD	9 mi	+/- ~1020 ft	1.5 – 2 hrs.

Trail Activities Starting at Orestimba Corral **Destination and Route**	**Day / Time**	**Leaders / Sweeps**	**Round Trip Distance**	**Round Trip Accumulated Elevation Gain/Loss**	**Round Trip Estimated Walk Time**
Saturday Evening (Continued)					
UV Walk Along Orestimba Creek Road After the campfire program, gather at the Orestimba Corral Information tent. We will head up the road in the direction of Will's Pond, looking for scorpions and other glow-in-the-dark delights. Additional details available at the Naturalist tent. Bring a UV flashlight if you have one or a regular flashlight covered with red or purple cellophane; we will also have UV lights to share. Dress warmly and bring a regular flashlight.	 Saturday 8:45 PM	KL	1.5 mi	Up to 150 ft Hiker Rating: Easy	1-2 hrs.
Sunday					
Orestimba Creek Discovery Hike Come check out the variety of wildflowers and other interesting features along the Orestimba Creek Trail! This is a relatively easy and leisurely out and back hike with the option to continue to Kingbird Pond (1.6 additional RT miles). Bring snacks and/or lunch to enjoy along the way. For those continuing to Kingbird Pond, the pond is a perfect spot to enjoy a picnic. Anyone wishing to do a shorter walk can turn around at any time along the Orestimba Creek Trail. This is a great activity for adults and children!	 Sunday 10:00 AM	GS / DF	3 - 6 mi.	+620 feet to +1000 feet Hiker Rating: Easy to Moderate	1.5 – 4 hrs.

Other Non-Hiking Activities at Orestimba Corral	**Day / Time**	**Leaders**
Friday		
Kids Activities @ Naturalist Tent Button Making, Coloring, Scavenger Hunts, Word Puzzles, and Signs games. Bring your nature related questions and creative side!	 Friday Noon – 5 PM	KL / Coe Volunteers
Nature sketching in the park @ Naturalist Tent Sketching nature is fun and easy! It helps you to relax and become more observant of nature. We will sketch on-site or do a short walk to find an interesting subject. A sketch made during a nature outing will become a special memory of your trip. No experience is needed; all ages are welcome. Basic art supplies (sketching paper/pads, pencils, brushes, watercolors) will be provided. Find your inner artist!	 Friday 4 PM	EA

Other Non-Hiking Activities at Orestimba Corral	Day / Time	Leaders
Saturday		
Kids Activities @ Naturalist Tent Button Making, Coloring, Scavenger Hunts, Word Puzzles, and Signs games. Bring your nature related questions and creative side!	Saturday 10AM – 5PM	KL / Coe Volunteers
Local Wildlife @ Naturalist Tent Meet a State Park Interpreter and learn about local wildlife in the area. There will be a table with pelts, skulls, tracks and scat identification. Bring your curiosity and questions and perhaps learn something new about this special park. Interesting for the entire family!	Saturday 1PM – 3:45PM	Julio Ortiz
Jr. Rangers Program @ Naturalist Tent Come listen to a Henry Coe Park Ranger talk about all sorts of fun facts about the park and perhaps go for an exploratory hike. Bring your curiosity and questions! Get your own Jr. Ranger Activities Guide and badge.	Saturday 2PM	Ranger John
Nature sketching in the park @ Naturalist Tent Sketching nature is fun and easy! It helps you to relax and become more observant of nature. We will sketch on-site or do a short walk to find an interesting subject. A sketch made during a nature outing will become a special memory of your trip. No experience is needed; all ages are welcome. Basic art supplies (sketching paper/pads, pencils, brushes, watercolors) will be provided. Find your inner artist!	 Saturday 4 PM	EA
Campfire Program: Owls, Superheroes of the Night Sky Gather around the campfire after dinner as people have been doing for hundreds of years. We will get things rolling with Coe Uniformed Volunteer Greg leading a sing-along starting at 7PM. At 7:30PM, State Park Interpreter Julio Ortiz will pique your interest and keep you entertained with an interesting and interactive presentation on owls. This program will appeal to everyone! Stick around afterwards for stargazing with Greg or join the UV hike in search of things that glow in the dark.	 Saturday 7:30 – 8:30 PM Sing-Along: 7:00 PM	Julio Ortiz UV: GS

See the next page for Trail Activities starting at the intersection of Pacheco Ridge Road & Kaiser Aetna Road

Trail Activities Starting at the Intersection of Pacheco Ridge Road & Kaiser Aetna Road **Destination and Route**	**Day / Time**	**Leaders / Sweeps**	**Round Trip Distance**	**Round Trip Accumulated Elevation Gain/Loss**	**Round Trip Estimated Walk Time**
Saturday Morning					
Tie Down Trail Hike A challenging hike with ~1200 feet of elevation gain and ~400 feet of loss over a 4.5+ mile hike. The hike may be shortened based on hikers' preference and experience. Highlights include a view of Pacheco Creek Valley, wildflower identification, and an option of hiking to the summit of Tie Down Peak. There is another optional .5-mile RT hike before or after to see the "Hole-in-the-Rock" pool and waterfall on Pacheco Creek.	 Saturday 10:30 AM	GS (PRA) / JT	~5 mi.	+1200 feet / -400 feet Hiker Rating: Challenging	~ 3.5 hrs.
Sunday Morning					
Pacheco Creek Discovery hike A family-friendly hike of about 2 miles round-trip with some up-and-down on the hills, but very little elevation gain – less than 200 feet. We will stop and eat lunch at a swimming hole at a sandy "beach" location so be sure that your kids have bathing suits! If desired, we can walk further up the creek. There are a couple of creek crossings, so be prepared to get your ankles wet (but not much deeper than that). Bring lunch, hats, water, sunblock, and insect spray.	 Sunday 10 AM	SM	2 mi. roundtrip	+/- 150 feet Hiker Rating: Easy	2.5 hrs.
Waterfalls Hike to Pacheco Falls or Raccoon Creek Falls Enjoy a challenging hike to spectacular Pacheco Falls with panoramic views along the way. Expect ~1700 feet cumulative elevation gain with a ½ mile cross country descent to the falls and back. If it is hot, we will consider a slightly shorter and less exposed hike to Raccoon Creek Falls (from Dutch's Trail). That hike is ~1200 feet cumulative elevation gain, with ¾ miles walking in the creek bed to the falls. ***NOTE:*** *It is suggested you tear down camp and pack your car prior to the hike to have enough time to exit the park on Sunday BEFORE 6:00pm.* ***Allow at least one hour driving time to reach Highway 101.***	 Sunday 8:45 AM	EA	~6.5 - 7 mi roundtrip	+ 1200 ft – 1700 ft Hiker Rating: Challenging	5-6 hrs.