

Adin, Canby, Lookout - Auto Tour Loop

Modoc National Forest

Big Valley Ranger District



The Pit River Runs Through It

This tour begins in the town of Adin, 40 miles southeast of Alturas on SR 299. It takes you up and over Adin Mountain to Canby, north on SR 139 to County Road 91, south to Lookout, back to SR 299, and Adin. Much of the tour is on highways lined by mixed conifer forests and meadows abounding with wildlife.

Adin was named after one of its early settlers, Adin McDowell, in 1869, and contains an assortment of historic buildings and sites. The Adin Community Church, built in 1888, dominates Main Street and it's still the main religious center in town. **Adin Supply was built in 1899** as a general store is still operated as a general supply store today.

In addition there are two historic cemeteries, an Indian site near the old primary school in Adin on CR 88, and the old pioneer cemetery located on CR 89.

Ash Creek, which runs through town, provides one of few remaining natural swimming holes enjoyed by many generations of Big Valley residents and travelers. The ol' swimming hole also serves as a baptismal site.

Adin has a restaurant, grocery store, a service station, a motel, a wonderful community park, and a mobile home park that has overnight hook-ups. The Big Valley Ranger District Office is located in Adin and provides visitor information services.

After touring Adin and meeting with its friendly residents, the tour heads northeast on SR 299 where at 7.5 miles you'll come to **Lower Rush Creek Campground**. The campground has 10 sites, tables, toilets, and barbecues. This campground is not recommended for large trailers or motor homes.

Upper Rush Creek Campground is 1.5 miles up the Forest Service road from Lower Rush Creek Campground. It contains 13 campsites with toilets, and fire rings. Beautiful tall pine, fir, and cedar trees surround it. The campground is not recommended for vehicles pulling trailers or for large motor homes.

To get a good look at the scenery, a side trip up Forest Service Road 40N22 takes you to the **Manzanita Lookout**. Visitors are welcome from June to October, 9a.m. to 6p.m. The lookout sits at 7,036 feet, and offers spectacular views of Alturas, the Warner Mountains, Devil's Garden, Black's Mountain, Mt. Lassen, Mt. Shasta, and Hayden Hill.

Heading east on SR 299, you'll come to CR 85 that turns left into **Stone Coal Valley**. It is a nice side trip on this tour that offers a drive overlooking farmlands and ranches along the **Pit River**. The area is private land and has no river access, but it's a nice drive on a dirt road through country barely touched by civilization.

The tour continues on to **Canby**, a farming and logging town named after General E. Canby, who was killed by Captain Jack at the start of the Modoc Indian War. Canby was negotiating peace with the Modoc Indians, when the Modoc Leader, Captain Jack, pulled a gun and killed him. The murder took place near the Lava Beds National Monument.

The Canby Hotel was built in 1903 by Francis Caldwell and was used primarily as the Caldwell's home. However, since it contained 14 bedrooms, Caldwell rented the rooms to drummers and other passengers of stage and freight wagons during their stopovers. The Canby Hotel continues to operate.

The entire business section of Canby turns into a winter wonderland each Christmas as the local community constructs life-size scenes of the Christmas celebration depicting the life of Christ. The community also displays a life-size scene of the first Thanksgiving. Canby is also home to the U.S. Forest Service's Modoc Hot Shot Crew.

Canby has a restaurant/bar, service station/mini-market, county park, an elementary school, and a health clinic.

Located 5.2 miles east of Canby on Centerville Road is a marble marker indicating the site of the **Evans and Bailey Fight**. J. Bailey and S. Evans were driving a herd of cattle from Oregon to Virginia City, Nevada in 1861, when they were attacked by Indians. Both men were killed and several others wounded at the site.

From Canby the tour heads north on SR 139. North of Canby 6 miles is **Howard's Gulch Campground**, a nice place for camping, picnicking, and hiking. There are 12 campsites, tables, wheel chair accessible toilets, drinking water, fire rings, and barbecues. The campground is paved and an interpretive trail is adjacent to the campground.

Continuing 8 miles north on SR 139 you'll come to Beeler Reservoir, a wildlife viewing, fishing, and dry camp area. The reservoir is not recommended for vehicles over 20 feet long.

Just past **Beeler Reservoir**, the tour makes a left turn onto CR 91 headed to the **town of Lookout**.

The **Happy Camp Lookout** is 15 miles west of Canby off CR 91 on CR 85. Visitors are welcome at the lookout from 10a.m. to 6p.m. from June to October. The elevation is 6,000 feet and offers a great view of Big Valley, Devil's Garden, Alturas, Canby, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Lassen, and parts of Oregon. The lookout is not recommended for trailers or motor homes.

Going south CR 91 enters the **small town of Lookout**, founded in 1860. The town took its name

from a nearby hill where it's said the Pit River Indians kept a lookout posted to warn against raids by the Modoc Indians. Leventon Blacksmith Shop, built in 1888, is still standing along with the Community Church, erected around the turn of the century. The infamous Lookout Lynching took place near town - the actual site is now on private property. Four miles east of Lookout is the Pit River Indian Reservation, the Lookout Rancheria. Along this stretch of road you'll see old barns and homes. One of these, about 2 miles out of Lookout, belongs to Homer Roberts, and was built at the turn of the century. Stories by old-timers in the area relate that prisoners built this barn as a means of being outdoors.

Heading south from Lookout you come back to SR 299 at **Bieber**. Along the way you passed the west boundary of the **Ash Creek Wildlife Area**, owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game. The refuge is home to several species of waterfowl and is a great place to observe nature, for photography and hiking. It also contains some interesting old barns full of owls. The refuge has seasonal restrooms, parking areas, roads, and interpretive walking trails.

Wildlife Viewing Opportunities: The loop displays the diversity of the Big Valley area from the Ash Creek wetlands to the meanders of the Pit River to the sagebrush foothills below Fox Mountain. The Headquarters of the Ash Creek Wildlife Refuge has a visitor's center with interpretive signs and other help. The driving route passes observation points where people can spend some time watching. Once off the Refuge, except for Lower Roberts Reservoir, people should plan to view from the road and respect private property.

Big Valley offers exceptional winter viewing of raptors, particularly bald eagles, rough-legged hawks and red-tailed hawks which may be seen in large numbers. Mule deer and pronghorn winter along the foothills. In the spring, waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds stop on their annual migration north. The richness of the wetlands supports diverse species of songbirds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and fish.

For More Information: Visit our Web Site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc/> or call, visit or write

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