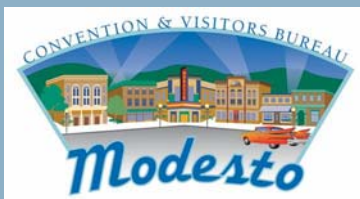


Special Events and Tour Ideas



Modesto



Modesto Convention and Visitors Bureau
1150 Ninth Street, Suite C
Modesto, California 95334
209-526-5588 www.visitmodesto.com

Special Events and Tour Ideas

CULINARY TOURS

COLUMBIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Columbia College, nestled in the hills of California's picturesque Mother Lode, is one of California's most beautiful community colleges. Manzanita was the first completed structure on campus and houses the program for Hospitality Management. Students get to practice their learning skills at the City Hotel in the historic town of Columbia. You will be treated to a tour of their Culinary School and enjoy some of the fruits of their labor. You may also want to take a self-guided walking tour of the campus where you might see some deer, squirrels, foxes, wild turkeys, rabbits and various birds along the way.

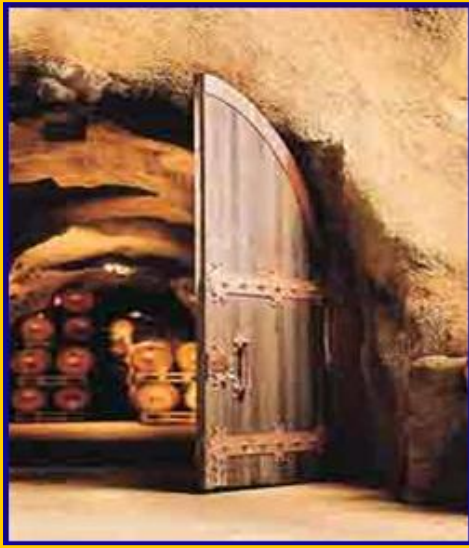


LOTUS GARDEN TOURS

Tour one of Modesto's best kept secret. The Lotus Gardens were founded on a 31-acre site in 1974 by Tyrone and Shu-Ching Chu. Their vision was to create a setting that celebrated Chinese culture and provided a perfect spot to relax and get together with friends. Through their hard work and dedication, the dream was realized. The garden prospered until Tyrone's untimely death in 1994 and was then gracefully maintained by Shu-Ching until her passing in 1999. Today the gardens are made up of over 125 different varieties of lotus plants and are under the care of their son, Kwei-Yu Chu. They continue to be maintained and developed with the original vision in mind.



Special Events and Tour Ideas



IRONSTONE VINEYARDS

Nestled against the Sierra Foothills, in the heart of California's Gold Country, is Ironstone Vineyards. Enjoy a tour of the winery and take a leisurely stroll around the beautiful grounds. This facility is used for weddings, top-notch entertainment, outdoor concerts, car shows, etc. At certain times of the year, Executive Chef James Lehman works his culinary skills for your enjoyment by offering a cooking class or you may be able to join winery President Stephen Kautz at his award winning Winemaker Dinner. Award winning winemaker, Steve Millier, and Executive Chef Lehman will pair each fantastic course with Ironstone's very own best crafted wines.



WHITE WATER RAFTING

For those water enthusiasts, enjoy the excitement and magic the Stanislaus River can bring. The Stanislaus River is one of America's best raft rental float rivers.

MOANING CAVERN

Located in the heart of California's historic Mother Lode, Moaning Cavern was first explored by gold miners in 1851. The prehistoric people named it Moaning Cavern because of the moaning sound emanating from the entrance. Enjoy a professionally guided tour, descending 100 feet to the floor of the main chamber by a spiral staircase. The main chamber is large enough to hold the entire Statue-of- Liberty and still have room to spare.



BULL FIGHTS

If you're up for some real adventure, take in a live bull fight in the town of Gustine, only a 45 minute drive from Modesto. Our version does not damage the bull, but is thrilling none the less. **OLE!**



Special Events and Tour Ideas



HOT AIR BALOON RIDE

Sail over Modesto in a Hot Air Balloon in one of Professor Muldoon's Hot Air Balloons and Flying Machines, based in Tracy, CA, which is a 40 minute drive from Modesto.

ANTIQUUE SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

Looking for an antique piece of furniture that is unique and will stand out in that special place in your home? Let's go Antiquing!! Modesto has many antique shops, most of which are downtown and within walking distance of each other.



The town of Folsom, which is located above Sacramento, has a section referred to as "Old Town Folsom" which boasts one long street of antique shops. At certain times of the year, a Peddler's Fair is held where you can stroll among the antiques and talk to the actual dealers. A drive of about 2 hours and 10 minutes from Modesto.



Now you have literally hit the "Mother Lode" of antique shops as you head up into the Mother Lode Gold Country to the restored Gold Rush-era towns of Jamestown, Sonora, Murphy's and Sutter Creek, all within a one hour drive from Modesto.

Special Events and Tours



TULARE FARM SHOW

This famous farm show takes place every February in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley—Tulare, California. 2008 makes the 40th year of the “World Ag Expo,” the world’s largest agriculture exposition with 2.5 million square feet of exhibit space, 1,500 exhibitors, and 100,000 attendees from over 50 countries. Drive time from Modesto is about 2 1/2 hours; however, since it is so popular, hotels in surrounding areas fill up quickly, and many attendees and vendors stay in Modesto.



GRAFFITI SUMMER EVENTS

“Where Were You in ‘62” The month of June is devoted to the sights and sounds of American Graffiti, the movie made famous by Modesto’s own George Lucas. The movie is shown at our beautifully restored State Theatre. The downtown area is alive with classic car shows and PT Cruisers. Every Friday and Saturday, you can find Elvis singing (Yes! He is alive and well in Modesto).



STANISLAUS COUNTY FAIR

Held in late July every year in the town of Turlock, which is about 15 minutes from Modesto. The fair started out in 1911 as a summer weekend and is now a successful 10-day event attended by over 250,000 people each year. Big name entertainment is featured nightly on two stages, along with a rodeo, destruction derby and nightly showing of livestock.



Special Events and Tours



X-FEST MODESTO

The Xclamation Festival, which takes place in July is unlike any other festival in the United States. Featuring up to 50 bands and performers on six separate stages, X-Fest boasts the largest outdoor disco that utilizes four city blocks. The event draws over 15,000 people and attracts the best and most popular touring acts in the country.

GALLO CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Gallo Center for the Arts brings the largest variety of entertainment ever seen in the Central Valley. From colorful single artists and troops, to the larger Broadway Touring Shows, it features them all in two state-of-the-art theaters. Also showcased are the wonderful Modesto Symphony Orchestra, Central West Ballet, and Townsend Opera Company. Check out the upcoming performances.



COCA COLA RELAYS

Held at Modesto Junior College track, the Coca-Cola Modesto Relays is the longest running International Track and Field Meet on the West Coast. It is the home of 33 world records in track and field. In 2005, Olympic Gold Medalist, Jeremy Wariner, ran faster than anyone else in the world in the 400 meters. Prior to the meet, take part in the Best BBQ in the World.

