

NEARBY AND REGIONAL HIKES AND OUTINGS INCLUDING WEEKENDS IN JANUARY 2025 AND “Go Wildly Live Outdoors” San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 SELF-GUIDED and GUIDED Outings

Regional SELF-GUIDED Hiking and Birdwatching Open daily, year round

6:00am-10:00pm Self-guided Birding American Canyon Wetlands

Self-guided (unless we secure a Flyway Festival weekend birding guide — will let you know date and time) walk at American Canyon Wetlands, a restored marsh land along the Napa River. Many aeration ponds and treatment ponds make up the waters where the Napa River Bay Trail meanders around. Many waterfowl and shorebirds are within the marshes. Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye, Marbled Godwit, Willet, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Black-Crowned Night-Heron and American White Pelican are almost guaranteed. American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sora and Black Rail, are uncommon visitors to the area. Wintering Surf, White-Winged, & Black Scoters, Long-Tailed Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye have been seen in the past.

Directions: Park at parking lot at the corner of 2 Eucalyptus Drive and Wetlands Edge Rd. [Wetlands Edge Park in American Canyon](#) From Highway 29 coming from Vallejo: turn left on Rio Del Mar Drive, then hard right to Eucalyptus Drive to the end. From Napa: turn right on Rio Del Mar, make a sharp right on Eucalyptus Dr.; drive to the end.

7:00am-6:00pm Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Tolley Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles.

Directions: Entrance to Trail is located off of east bound Highway 37, just east of the Highway 121/37 intersection in Sonoma County.

7:00am – 6:00pm Self-guided walk on Sonoma Baylands Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Walk the levee trail along this wetland transition zone restoration of a 348 acre tidal marsh habitat constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1995. **Directions:** Turn south off Hwy 37 at Port Sonoma Marina, follow directional signs.



Photo: mallard pair, Mare Island James E. Lewis

7:00am – 6:00pm Self-guided walk, bike or paddle on Cullinan Ranch Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

The Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project has restored over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is now open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak. Thousands of ducks and geese raft-up on the tidal wetlands.

Directions: From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island

exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. From Marin and Sonoma Counties take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit to the stop sign. Then turn left onto the overpass towards Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is 3.4 miles from the Mare Island overpass.

7:00am-6:00pm Self-guided walk at Green Island Unit, CA Dept Fish and Wildlife Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area

Walk the trails in the restored 1,400 acre Napa salt ponds, primarily shorebirds, seasonally.

Directions: Directions: From northbound Highway 29 in American Canyon, turn onto Paoli Loop Road/Green Island Road. (From south turn onto Paoli Loop Road .08 miles north of Walmart and follow Paoli Loop under Hwy 29). At stop sign turn left onto Green Island Rd. Proceed straight for 0.9 miles. At 2nd stop sign turn right continuing on Green Island Rd. straight for one long block; continue as it turns left, then approximately 1.4 miles to end. Turn left into the park driveway at Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Green Island Unit sign. Follow the driveway around to the parking lot.

8:30:00am-10:30am

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7:00am – 6:00pm

Birding Huichica Wetlands and Hudeman Slough

Take a drive and then walk at Huichica Wetlands and nearby Hudeman Slough a couple of miles further West along Ramal Road. Both areas are part of the greater Napa-Sonoma Marsh Wildlife Area Complex overseen by the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife. Huichica Creek Wetlands and Hudeman Slough are hotspots for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. A description from a previous Napa Solano Audubon Society guided outing, says, “Many interesting birds have been reported in these wonderful birding areas. You are likely to find Sora & Virginia Rails, Northern Shoveler, Pintails, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Redheads, Western & Eared Grebes, Double-Crested Cormorants, American White Pelican, Dunlin, Western & Least Sandpipers, Black-Necked Stilt, and American Avocets. Raptors observed at these locations include: Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, White-Tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, and occasionally Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Ferruginous Hawks, and Short-Eared Owls. Bonaparte's Gull and Forster's Terns are regular winter visitors. A number of passerine species and Great Horned Owls frequent the marshes and Eucalyptus Groves. One year there was a Red-necked Grebe and several Red Phalaropes at Huichica.

Directions: [Huichica Wetlands](#). Heading North on Highway 29 from Vallejo, turn left and head West on Highway 12/Sonoma Highway for approximately 2.4 miles to Duhig Road (next to the Domain Carneros Winery just past the light at Old Sonoma Road). Turn left on Duhig Rd. and head South approximately 2 miles to Las Amigas Road. Turn left and head East approximately 1 1/4 miles to Buchli Station Road. Head South on Buchli Station Road approximately 1 mile to the very end past the winery then along a dirt extension to the parking lot just over the railroad tracks.

From Marin and Sonoma Counties: From Hwy 37, turn left at Sears Point Rd. onto Hwy 12/121/Arnold Dr. Continue east on Hwy 121 to Duhig Rd. Follow directions above. **From Napa:** turn right from Hwy 29 onto Hwy 12/121 towards Sonoma. Turn left on Duhig Rd. Follow directions above.



Photo: Common goldeneye male duck, Loma Vista Farm pond, Vallejo, Rita LeRoy

8:00am-Sunset

Self-guided 2.5 mile walk or bike ride on paved trail at Benicia State Recreation Area

Benicia State Recreation Area covers marsh, grassy hillsides and rocky beaches along the narrowest portion of the Carquinez Strait. Cyclists, runners, walkers, equestrians, and roller skaters enjoy the park's 2 1/2 miles of road and bike paths. Picnicking, bird watching and fishing are also attractions. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

The marshland area on Dillon's Point is a particularly favorite place for fishing. A \$6 parking fee is required.

Directions: The recreation area is 1.5 miles west of the outskirts of Benicia on I-780, take the Columbus Parkway exit.

Sunday, February 9, 2025, 9:00am-11:00am join a guided Birding and Exploring Walk in Benicia State Recreation Area with Marcia Grefsrud, Mare Island Heritage Trust field guide

Marcia has a lovely and friendly personality. She's fun and factual, interesting and engaging. Here's how she describes her guided outing at the only CA State Park in Solano County, “In February we should see egrets, herons, maybe osprey, cormorants, harriers, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kites, grebes, blue birds, robins, and lots of little brown birds. The downside is there is a gate fee of \$6/car.” NOTE: If you CAN pay, the \$6 parking/entry fee, that's great. If you just can't pay the \$6, check in with Marcia. The Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 is founded on FREE. We will ensure you can join in Marcia's walk.

9:00am – 5:00pm

Friday-Monday Self-guided hiking, biking, horseback riding, birdwatching Lynch Canyon Open Space Park [Lynch Canyon Solano Land Trust](#) Parking fee \$5 cash or check only per day

With habitats ranging from steep grasslands to the riparian corridor of Lynch Creek, you will see buckeyes, oaks and wetland meadows that provide shelter for deer, fox, bobcat, waterfowl, and many raptors. Native grasses and spring wildflowers are abundant. A small reservoir provides a home to muskrats, great blue herons and endangered California red-legged frogs.

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9:30am-1:30pm

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Nature Hike at Lynch Canyon led by Solano Land Trust Registration required
Details: [Lynch Canyon Solano Land Trust](#)

Hike will take you westward along Middle Valley Trail leading to Prairie Ridge. Expect about a 5-mile hike at a moderate, but even pace over uneven ground. Muddy spots will have cattle prints. There are steep climbs over several hills with the longest at Prairie Ridge. It's worth it to see the view of the northern San Francisco Bay. Meet: Parking lot: Parking is \$5 cash or check. Envelopes in the iron ranger near the main gate. *Please note, cancellation of the hike may occur due to County Fire Danger Warnings and closures of open spaces and parks. Once registered, an update could be sent to you. Hike level: Moderate to Moderately Strenuous

10:00am-2:00pm

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Lynch Canyon Open Space Park
Eagles, Hawks and Other Birds of Prey
Guided Hike

Guided by West County HawkWatch Team

Link to registration and details: [Flyway Festival Lynch Feb 8 10am Hike Solano Land Trust](#)

This Birds of Prey Hike is given in Honor of Larry Broderick. He had wanted to recognize longtime Solano Land Trust employee Ken Poerner, with this hike.

Because this is a scheduled outing of the 2025 San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, it is FREE. However, please note that West County Hawkwatch docents are accepting donations for Larry Broderick's family following his passing December 31, 2024. You may also donate directly on the GoFundMe page set up for Larry's wife, Sameth, and their 3 boys. [Larry Broderick GoFundMe](#)

The Sonoma Land Trust and many organizations have posted tributes to Larry. https://www.facebook.com/sonomalandtrust/videos/519894217099292/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-IO5_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing&mibextid=wwXlfr

Join West County Hawkwatch Guides for a Birds of Prey Migration Hike featuring resident, migrating and over-wintering birds of prey hosted by Solano Land Trust and Solano County Parks. Over-wintering hawks are the highlight of this day. Lynch Canyon already boasts a large population of raptors, but over-wintering birds added in makes for a peak level of Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, Harriers, Accipiters, Kites



Photo: Young red-shouldered hawk, Rita LeRoy

and even Osprey. Arrive by 9:45 am for parking and orientation. Larry brought over 25 years of experience researching, rescuing and rehabilitating raptors. His Team will offer raptor identification tips. Learn about where they go and what they do, and how to distinguish different species based on their looks, behaviors, and ways they fly. Golden and Bald Eagles, Rough-legged, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Ferruginous Hawks, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, and other more common raptor species. **Free: requested \$10 donation or what you can give online for Larry's family.** [Larry Broderick GoFundMe](#) **Parking \$5 cash or check per day.** Stay on trails. No dogs allowed. A working ranch—stay a safe distance from

cattle. Bring water, snacks, sunglasses, camera, hiking sticks, bug repellent, binoculars and bird books. Wear sturdy shoes. Dress for all types of weather. Hike off trail: steep and rugged 4 miles. Restroom at parking lot. A phone number for Adrian Phillip Johnson the Hike day is 925-858-7071. Pre-registration appreciated—not required. Register at [Flyway Festival Lynch Feb 8 10am Hike Solano Land Trust](#)

Directions: [3100 Lynch Road, just west of the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo, CA](#) **From San Francisco / I-80 East just east of Vallejo:** Take the American Canyon/Hiddenbrooke exit. Turn towards Hiddenbrooke Parkway. Just before entering the Hiddenbrooke, turn east (left) on McGary Road (frontage road parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road 1.6 miles to Lynch Road. Turn left, go under the I-80 underpass through gate at end of cul-de-sac to parking lot. **From Sacramento / I-80 West toward Vallejo beyond Fairfield:** Take the Red Top Road exit. Go south (left) under the underpass. In less than 0.1 mile, turn right on McGary Road (frontage road parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Lynch Road. go under the I-80 underpass, and through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac.

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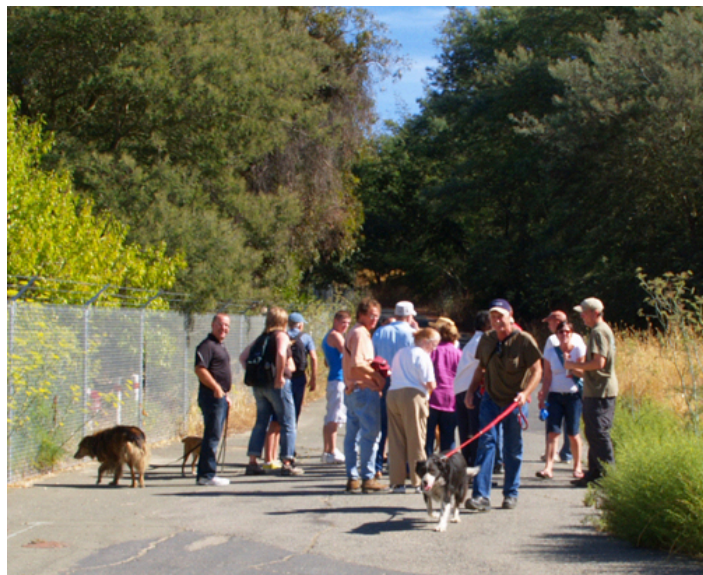


Photo: Marcia Grefsrud guiding a more summery bird watching hike at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, Bill George

9:00am-11:00am

Sunday, February 9, 2025
Bird watching and Mare Island History Boat Cruise
Aboard River Dolphin with Dolphin Charters



Photo: River Dolphin at dock, Vallejo Marina with historic Mare Island Naval Shipyard in background, Karen Grobner

A San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival First as we explore the Napa River and Mare Island Strait on a 2-hour timeless adventure with your guides Flyway Festival Co-founder and Director, and River Guide, Myrna Hayes and Dolphin Charters' Barbara Fitzgerald. How could this be a FIRST?, you ask. It's the truth. We have never had a boat trip as part of our live Flyway Festivals.

We did have a "virtual boat trip" in 2021 aboard River Dolphin given by Dolphin Charters with preeminent bird guide and naturalist, David Wimpfheimer. Look for a repost of that outings in our Virtual Facebook page listings for 2025.

Pre-registration is required. \$40 per person. Rain or shine! Only heavy rain cancels. To reserve one of the limited seats, call 1-510-527-9622. Questions? Call 707-656-7852. When you arrive at Guest Dock 'K' at the Vallejo Marina, prior to our 9:00am departure, you will receive safety and boarding instructions. *We'll be serving coffee and have hot water available for tea and hot cocoa. Bring your own breakfast food.*