



## A Weekend Visit to Beautiful

# Clear Lake

and the

Tallman Hotel

in Upper Lake

### Summary

Located just 2.5 hours north of the San Francisco Bay Area (and the same distance northwest of Sacramento), the rustic and beautiful Clear Lake area makes an ideal weekend destination. For a friendly rural ambiance, warm weather in the summers, ample outdoor activities and first rate accommodations at the Tallman Hotel, Lake County is hard to beat.

Using the map above, your adventure starts at the Golden Gate Bridge (A) on Friday and proceeds up Highway 101 two hours to the town of Ukiah (B) before continuing to the Tallman Hotel in Upper Lake (C). Saturday is spent exploring the many wonders and lovely wineries around the Lake (C and D). On Sunday, your circular return takes you back through the Napa Valley (E).

### Why Clear Lake?

Lake County is geographically large (bigger than Rhode Island) and geologically diverse with volcanic remains, thermal geysers and the largest natural lake entirely within California. One of the oldest lakes in North America, Clear Lake was a center of Native American habitation. Today, the population is only 65,000, and there are only seven stop lights in the whole county!

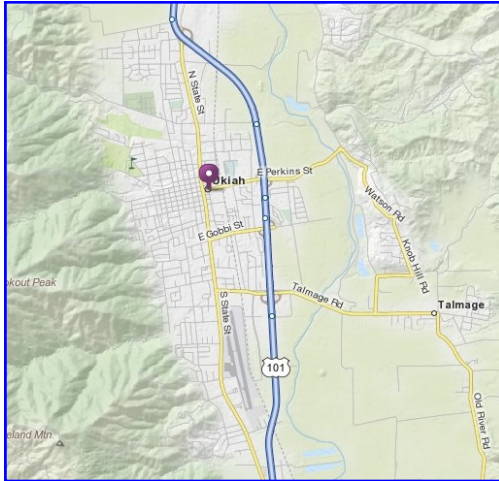
Before Prohibition, Lake County was one of the largest grape growing areas in California, but the vines were then replaced with walnuts and pears. Vineyards are now back in a big way, with nearly 9000 acres planted, 150 winegrape growers, 4 designated AVAs, and over 30 quality wineries. Lake County grapes are known as “Wines with Altitude” because of the perfect volcanic soils at elevations between 1400 feet at the lake level to over 3000 feet above sea level.

The outdoor life is what attracts many people to Lake County. These activities include kayaking, boating, fishing, hiking, biking and more. Visits to local wineries hearken back to earlier, less commercial times when the Napa and Sonoma Valleys were growing to prominence. And the hotels and restaurants (including our own) replicate this authenticity and warm hospitality.

You may want to plan your trip around one of the [many annual local events in the County](#): Wine & Chocolate in February, the Heron Festival in April, Wild West Days in June, the Lake County Fair on Labor Day weekend, the Pear Festival and Wine Auction in September, Konocti Challenge (bike ride) and Harvest Festival in October, the unique People’s Choice wine competition in November and more.

## FRIDAY

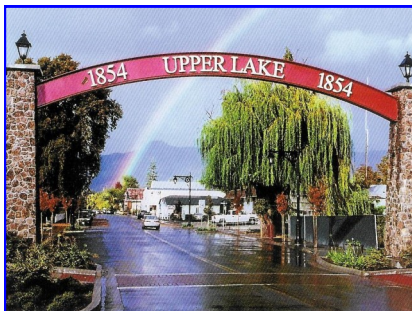
To start your journey from the Bay Area, take Hwy 101 north through the small town of Hopland, where you can visit the [Solar Living Institute](#), a leading green resources center. Fifteen miles further on is to the small town of Ukiah in Mendocino County (see map below).



In Ukiah, visit the champagne baths at [Vichy Springs Spa](#) (Jack London's favorite!) or [The City of Ten Thousand Buddha's](#) with its [vegetarian restaurant](#) (open 11:30 to 3:00). In town are the [Grace Hudson Museum's](#) permanent and touring exhibits as well as the adjacent craftsman style Sun House.

A fine lunch or dinner destination in Ukiah is [Patronas](#) on the main town square featuring fine local produce. A good Japanese Restaurant in town is [Oco Time](#) and the [Ukiah Brewing Company](#) pub on the main square often has live entertainment..

Upper Lake is less than 30 minutes east on Highway 20 from Ukiah. The [Tallman Hotel](#) will welcome you to your room or suite and help you plan your visit to Lake County.



Following your exploration of the Ukiah area, relax by the pool and hot tub, sit in the garden or pop in to the [Blue Wing Saloon Restaurant](#) to for a cocktail, fine Lake County wines or a draft beer plus a full menu of classic dishes, including fish, pasta, steaks and burgers. If you've booked one of our lower garden rooms, you can retire to your room, with its Japanese *ofuro* soaking tub on your private back patio (right).

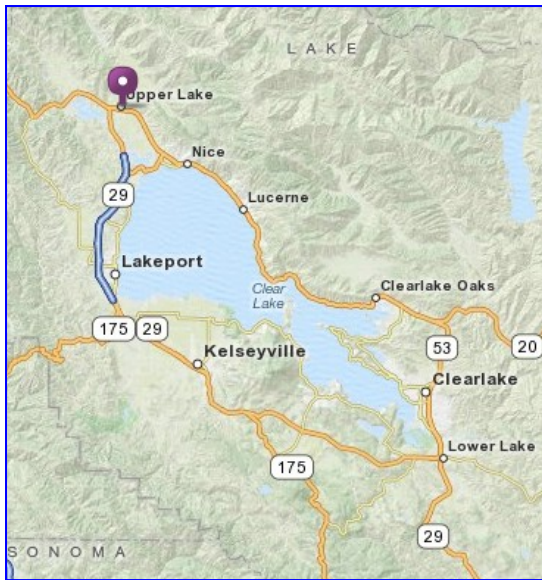


## SATURDAY

After a continental breakfast in the hotel dining room, you may want to enjoy some of the numerous outdoor activities on and around the lake. The [Lake County Land Trust](#) offers Saturday morning guided nature walks in its Rodman Slough Preserve near the Hotel. [Powerboat rentals](#) are available in Lakeport and purveyors can deliver kayaks at the entrance to [Rodman Slough](#) (between Nice and the Hwy. 29) for a wonderful two mile wildlife paddle.

Birding and nature trails are open at the [Clear Lake State Park](#) in Kelseyville and the panoramic views from the top of [Mt Konocti](#) (2800 feet above lake level) are now open to the public and offer ample rewards after a three mile hike from the trailhead. Hotel staff can provide details on all these and other activities, plus a delicious picnic lunch.





In the afternoon, relax with a visit to some of the better wineries and tasting rooms on the South and West sides of the Lake. [Steele Wines](#) is located on Hwy. 29 south of Lakeport and the tasting rooms for [Wildhurst](#) and [Rosa d'Oro](#) wines are located on the Main St. of the picturesque farming town of Kelseyville.

End the afternoon with a visit to the [Gregory Graham Winery](#) and [Vigilance Vineyards](#) (right) with it's spectacular views of the lower part of the lake.



For dinner, choose from the [Saw Shop Bistro](#) or [Zino's](#) Italian Restaurant in Kelseyville, [Molly Brennan's](#), [Park Place](#) or [Thai Bistro](#) in Lakeport or return to the [Blue Wing](#) for another evening of good food and drink a few feet from your room.

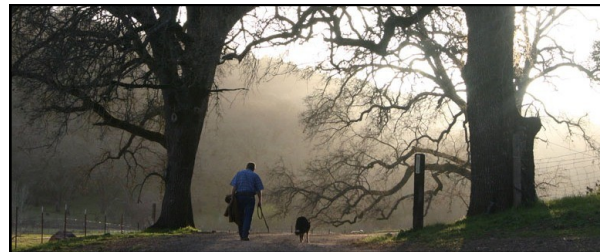
If you want to go out in the evening, check with the front desk for local music or other happenings. At the Blue Wing, there's live music at brunch every Sunday and great local Blues bands in the Restaurant each Monday evening. [Lake County Wine Studio](#), just across the street from the Blue Wing, features great local wines and offers various food, wine and music events on the weekends.

## SUNDAY



After a leisurely breakfast or Sunday Brunch at the Blue Wing, head back to the Bay Area along the North and East sides of the lake. Visit Jim Fetzer's stunning [Ceago Vinegarden](#) (left) on the lakefront between Nice and Lucerne for a tour and tasting.

Then continue on to the schoolhouse tasting room of [Shannon Ridge](#) in Clearlake Oaks and head up five miles or so from there to the spectacular [Brassfield Estate](#) in High Valley. For a real adventure off the beaten path, check out the [Six Sigma Ranch](#) and Vineyards south of Lower Lake (right).



Then continue along Hwy 29 through Middletown, over Mt. St. Helena and down the beautiful Napa Valley, either along the eastside Silverado Trail or the west side through Calistoga, St. Helena and the town of Napa.

Hopefully you'll have had a great weekend with us and will come back soon!!