



Through the Redwoods to Bohemia

Guerneville to Occidental

Overview

Wake your legs with a gentle descent alongside the Russian River before heading up a single-lane route through the towering redwood groves. We believe this is one of the most beautiful roads in Northern California and you will climb gently up to the small town of Cazadero, known as “The Heart of the Redwoods.” Stop in at Raymond’s Bakery for a coffee and some great pastries baked on the premises by Mark (son of the eponymous Raymond).

The gentle option from Cazadero is to enjoy a long, gradual descent down to Duncans Mills. This makes for a relaxing cruise through the redwoods. You may choose to stop off at the small town of Duncans Mills. This tiny town (“population 20”) boasts another bakery, a general store, a café, a restaurant, an art gallery, a rodeo and a railway museum.



There used to be a narrow gauge railroad that brought sightseers from San Francisco to Duncans Mills to marvel at the redwoods. From Duncans Mills it is less than five miles to Jenner if you would like a side trip to the coast. If the Rivers End restaurant is open (and you have the energy for a 10-mile side trip to the coast), Jenner is a great place to have lunch.

After Duncans Mills, you head east on the quiet Moscow Rd as it winds its way alongside the laid-back communities that line the south bank of the Russian River.

You then enjoy a long, but well graded, climb up the Bohemian Highway. After seven miles of climbing alongside the Dutch Bill Creek, you reach the quaint town of Occidental. Occidental sits at a saddle point at the head of Dutch Bill Creek where it nestles in the shade of towering redwoods. This small town has a surprising range of small shops, boutiques, galleries and eateries. The church is also a nice example of the white paneled buildings you find all over this area.



The cycling today is, for the most part, on rolling terrain. However, the climb up the Bohemian Highway, though a shallow grade, is a long haul. It is possible to shorten the