

Side Quests

Gas, bathrooms, dead zones and detours

The unglamorous document. Where to pee, where to fuel, where your phone stops working, and what is worth a detour if the day runs long.

The dead zone. Once you turn off US-101 onto Dry Creek Road you have roughly twelve miles of rural canyon in a federal recreation area, and cell coverage there is spotty to nonexistent. **Settle everything before that turn** — arrival order, the meeting spot at the marina, what happens if a car is late. A text sent from the canyon may simply never arrive.

Last reliable everything

Dry Creek General Store ★ LAST STOP

3495 Dry Creek Rd, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Fri–Sat 7 AM–5:30 PM

The last bathroom, the last coffee, the last retail and realistically the last dependable bar of signal before the marina. About a third of the way up Dry Creek Road.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Chevron — north Healdsburg GAS

1496 Healdsburg Ave, Healdsburg, CA 95448

The northern edge of town, closest to the 101 on-ramp. Fuel up here rather than discovering the gauge on Skaggs Springs Road.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Chevron — south Healdsburg GAS

111 Healdsburg Ave, Healdsburg, CA 95448

The other end of town, convenient if you are coming from the plaza.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Worth a detour

Hamburger Ranch & Bar-B-Que

31195 N Redwood Hwy, Cloverdale, CA 95425

Daily 9 AM–8 PM, closed Tue

Huge patio, slow-smoked meat, proper old roadside character. It is north of the lake turnoff, so this is a genuine detour going home — but it is the right one if anyone is routing through Cloverdale.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Harold's Dante Hotel & Bar EST. 1888

133 Railroad Ave, Cloverdale, CA 95425

Hours *unverified*

Built in 1888 of local redwood and essentially unchanged since. Cloverdale's longest-operating business. North, so a detour — but a real one.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Battery Spencer SKIP IF TIGHT

Conzelman Rd, Sausalito, CA 94965

The definitive Golden Gate photograph, off the Alexander Avenue exit — the last one before the bridge. The catch is that the turnout fills on Saturdays and multiple cars will circle. Easily thirty minutes with no guarantee.

[Apple Maps](#) · [Google Maps](#)

Vista Point does not work southbound. The big lot at the north tower is only reachable when driving *north* across the bridge. Heading home you cannot get into it without crossing and doubling back. Do not put it in the plan.

Two things the marina will not let you do

- **Nothing towed behind the boat.** The marina's own policy: no slides, no barbecues, and nothing towed — so no tubing, no wakeboarding, no skiing. Worth saying out loud before someone packs a towable.
- **No swimming off the dock or the launch ramp**, and no fishing from the docks. Swim from the boat, out on the water.

Bridge tolls, in one place

Bridge	Direction charged	Cost
Richmond–San Rafael	Westbound only — you pay going <i>up</i>	\$8.50
Golden Gate	Southbound only — you pay coming <i>home</i>	\$10.25 FasTrak / \$10.50 pay-by-plate / \$11.25 invoice

All electronic, no cash, no booths. Without FasTrak, settle within 48 hours at bayareafastrak.org rather than waiting for the mailed invoice at the higher rate.

Sources

- [Lake Sonoma Marina — policies & rules](#)

- [Golden Gate Bridge — tolls & payment](#)
- [511.org — Bay Area bridge tolling](#)
- [Battery Spencer directions](#)
- [Vista Point is northbound-only](#)