

## 2 CHILENO VALLEY

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This relatively flat 47-mile ride starts at Helen Putnam Regional Park, just outside Petaluma, and goes through rolling, oak-covered hills on remote, lightly traveled roads where contented cows graze. Residents of rural Petaluma count on the dairy and poultry businesses for their livelihood. On Hicks Valley Road is the one-room Lincoln School, in service since 1872; attendance varies from 9 to 20 children. In the spring, Chileno Valley turns orange and yellow with California poppies and other wildflowers. Marshall-Petaluma Road, while not as well known as Chileno Valley Road, has some of the finest riding in the North Bay. This narrow two-lane country road heading through the coastal range sees almost no traffic. It offers hilltop views of Tomales Bay and winds through Verde Canyon alongside gently flowing creeks hidden by willows and the yellow-flowered Scotch broom. Many of the dairy farmers came from Switzerland generations ago and stayed. Don't miss downtown Petaluma, known for its Victorian buildings and where Francis Ford Coppola has filmed at least two movies. Closest freeway and city: Highway 101, Petaluma.

**MILEAGE LOG** > Start next to the restrooms at the yellow iron gate on the paved recreation path in Helen Putnam Regional Park. **0.8** Top of hill. **1.1** Left onto Oxford Ct. where path ends. **1.2** Right onto Windsor Dr. at stop sign. **1.7** Right onto D St. at stop sign. Becomes Pt. Reyes-Petaluma Rd. Begin climb. **2.5** Summit. **6.1** Start climb. **7.4** Summit. **8.6** Right onto Hicks Valley Rd. at green sign. **9.5** Start climb. **10.2** Summit. **11.3** Left onto Marshall-Petaluma Rd. at T intersection. **17.7** Start climb. **19.4** Summit. Begin steep descent. **22.2** Right onto Hwy. 1 at stop sign. **27.6** Portable restroom at Keyes Creek fishing access. **29.0** Right onto Tomales-Petaluma Rd. **34.2** Right onto Chileno Valley Rd. **35.2** Start climb. **35.9** Top of climb. **43.7** Left at stop sign and T intersection, staying on Chileno Valley Rd. **46.7** End ride at Helen Putnam Regional Park.

# Chileno Valley

600  
400  
200 ft.

5 mi. 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45

