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**State of Play**

**Northern California Slideshow**

**[Hed]** Photo Op: Share-Worthy Northern California Spots

[Dektro] Imagine a place where towering trees meet rugged coastline, and small friendly towns greet visitors with open arms (holding cups of artisanal coffee and mason jars of craft beer). Northern California, with its massive scale and otherworldly beauty, gives off an almost mystical vibe—the yin to Southern California’s yang. Here are four must-see spots for any family looking to capture some of Northern California’s charms.

**Burney Falls**

This 129-foot-tall waterfall is one of the most jaw-dropping sights in North America. Located about 60 miles northeast of Redding, Burney Falls makes a delightful day trip. Take a hike around the falls to reach the optimum viewpoint, the overlook at McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park, and you’ll see why President Teddy Roosevelt referred to the falls as the “eighth wonder of the world.”

**Shasta Lake**

The largest lake in California, Shasta, is awash in watery family fun. With a whopping 370 miles of shoreline, it makes it easy to find an activity that involves your favorite watersport—from jet skiing to boating to just plain ol’ swimming. And one not-to-miss landmark is the Shasta Dam; at 602 feet high, it’s the second largest of its kind in the country and the perfect spot for a group photo. If you’re staying overnight, dine right on the water on a dinner cruise.

**Mendocino**

Three hours north of San Francisco is the coastal cool town of Mendocino. Kids will love exploring Glass Beach, located about 10 miles north of the town of Mendocino, where deposits of colorful sea glass rest along the coves. One theory for the washed up treasure is that the sea glass is “mermaid tears,” shed every time a sailor is lost at sea. Just be sure not to take any of the glass with you—it’s best left on the beach for other visitors. On the way back to town, visit the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens to snap some pictures of its expansive collection of blooms, including its famous rhododendrons. Thirty miles south of town, check out the B Bryan Preserve, where you capture snaps of exotic animals like antelopes, kudus, zebras, and giraffes.

**Eureka**

After a drive north through towering redwood forests, you’ll most definitely know when you’ve stumbled upon this Victorian-architecture-laden town along the coast. Eureka, 280 miles north of San Francisco, is not only worth a visit in and of itself—stroll along the seaside boardwalk and on the streets of old town, stopping at the intriguing Clarke Historical Museum. About an hour from Eureka on Highway 299 go hunting for Bigfoot at the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum. You’ll find footprint casts, Bigfoot pictures, and a collection of other odds and ends.