

ALMOND BLOSSOM TOUR FOR EAST MERCED COUNTY

Peak almond bloom is February 25-28, plus or minus 10 days depending on weather.

Coming from the south you can start at Buchanan Hollow Nut Company 6510 Minturn Road, Le Grand, 95333 <http://www.bhnc.com/> (gift shop & restrooms)

From the north start near the corner of Hwy 140 east and Tower Road – at the Merced Fruit Barn www.mercedfruitbarn.com (gift shop & restrooms)

This narration starts at Tower Road:

Start by going south one block on Tower Road

Turn left and go east on Childs

Turn right and go south on Arboleda (means “row of trees”)

Turn left and go east on Mariposa (means “butterfly”)

Turn right and go south on Athlone Road

Turn left and go east on Le Grand Road

Turn right and go south on Plainsburg

Just past Bright’s nursery turn left and go east on Buchanan Hollow.

Turn left and go north on Minturn

(Second starting place-Buchanan Hollow Nut Co is just south on Minturn)

Continue going north on Minturn Road

Turn right and go east on Le Grand and through the small town by the same name
(There will be a small pizza place on the left)

Take a hard left and go N-W on Santa Fe $\frac{3}{4}$ mile

Turn left and go east on Savana which turns right and then left again

Turn right and go north on Burchell one block

Turn left and go west on Mariposa

Turn right and go north on Plainsburg all the way to Planada

(at this point you could turn right and go all the way to Mariposa and Yosemite)

Cross Hwy 140 and continue north on Plainsburg Road to Bear Creek Drive

Note the 100 year old fig orchard on the S-E corner of Bear Creek and Plainsburg.

Turn left and go west on Bear Creek Drive (zig zag across Arboleda)

Turn left and go south on Orchard Road

The tour ends when you reach Hwy 140

(If you started at Buchanan Hollow Nut Company, cross Hwy 140 and turn left on Childs Ave and resume the route at the top of the page.)

Things to do in East Merced County:

⇒ The Vista Ranch 7326 East Hwy 140, Merced, 95340, 209/722-8200
<http://vistacellars.com> Wine tasting, restrooms, demonstration gardens

⇒ Merced Fruit Barn: Food, gifts, animals for kids, restrooms www.mercedfruitbarn.com

⇒ Bright's Nursery has a large farm equipment museum and gives free tours by appointment: 209/389-4511

⇒ Yosemite Lake (picnic, play areas, sail boating & swimming) N-E of Merced, adjacent to UC Merced: go north on Arboleda, turn left and go east on Yosemite Avenue, turn right and go north on Lake Road.

⇒ Take a walk around the new UC Merced Campus (parking by permit)
www.ucmerced.edu

Try our Hwy 140 Audio Tour that takes you from Merced to Mariposa.
<https://www.valleylandalliance.org/audio>

Created by UC Cooperative Extension <http://cemerced.ucanr.edu/>
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