



## NATURE AND RECREATION IN CAPAY VALLEY

**Hiking** (Learn more at [www.yolohiker.org](http://www.yolohiker.org)): **County Road 53 (Forest Road) to Pierce Canyon Falls** – Park in Guinda and hike a mile or so up Forest Road past the Corner Store and Guinda Grange to a locked gate. Beyond the gate is private land but the road is public. Do not park by the gate and stay on the road! **Frog Pond Trail and Blue Ridge Trail** both wind upward through wooded canyons starting from the far side of Low Water Bridge (CR 40) in Cache Creek Regional park, about 3 miles beyond Rumsey.

**River rafting, inner tubing, kayaking:** **Cache Canyon River Trips** offers one- and two-day rafting/kayaking trips each summer that depart from Rumsey. Details at [www.cachecanyon.com](http://www.cachecanyon.com). **Individuals** can use public put-ins/take-outs at the county parks and the Rumsey Bridge, just off Hwy 16. Upper stretches of the river are mainly class II with at least one class III rapid. A class I run starts at Rumsey Bridge and continues to Will Baker Park in Guinda. **Details** of the whitewater stretch can be found at <http://www.cacreeks.com/cache.htm>



Bald Eagles near Rumsey Bridge / Chadeayne Roush

**Wildlife Viewings:** **Audubon bird watchers** come to the Historic Rumsey Bridge every winter to view migrating waterfowl and magnificent birds of prey such as the Bald Eagle.



photo caption / credit here

**River access, picnicking, camping:** **Esparto Community Park** has picnic tables, barbecue, playground and restrooms. **Vernon A. Nichols County Park** on Road 57 in Guinda has picnic tables, barbecue, swimming access, playground, fishing, portable toilets, a baseball field, and features the Will Baker Garden. **Camp Haswell**, with the remnants of the stone Boy Scout Cabin, picnic area and haul-out for kayakers and rafters, is 2.2 miles past Rumsey on Hwy. 16 **Cache Creek Regional Park** offers river access over several miles starting three miles north of Rumsey, with three different turn-offs to swimming and picnic tables. The park offers camping in a riverside park with playground, store and beach. Reserve online as camping sites fill up fast.



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## COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

**What is a CSA?** A farmer offers “shares” (“membership” or “subscription”) to the public, promising a share of the harvest in exchange for pre-payment by the month or by the season. Typically the share is a box of vegetables and fruit, but may include other products. Consumers buy a share and receive a box of fresh seasonal produce each week. You pick it up in your neighborhood, at your workplace, or on your own front porch. Many CSA farmers supplement the shares with produce, meat, eggs, and other products purchased from other Capay Valley farms, or offer additional local products as optional “add-ons” to the regular delivery.

Look for the “CSA” symbol by a farm’s listing for Capay Valley Farms that operate CSA programs.

Walnut Orchard near Brooks / Camilla Barry



## CAPAY VALLEY FARM SHOP

**From our valley** to your table! Capay Valley Farm Shop (CVFS) offers an opportunity for families and institutions to buy 100% local, seasonal food direct from a network of 40 small family farms and ranches. CVFS farmers proudly offer a wide diversity of the highest quality foods including tree-ripe fruits, heirloom vegetables, olive oil, nuts, pastured eggs, and meats, conveniently delivered year-round to offices, hospitals, restaurants and markets around the Bay and Sacramento.

To learn more about Capay Valley Farm-shares, Meat-shares and other options, see [CapayValleyFarmShop.com](http://CapayValleyFarmShop.com) or call 530.383.9022. Look for the “CVFS” symbol by a farm’s listing for Capay Valley farms that sell through the Farm Shop.

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## AUTHENTIC. INSPIRING. PURE. CAPAY VALLEY.



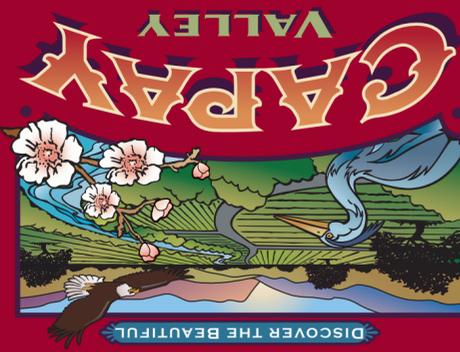
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**Capay Valley** is a remarkable stretch of fertile land and rolling hills, home to a host of small and mid-size farms, natural wonders, and outstanding events. You can tour working farms—even pick your own crop at some—enjoy farm-to-fork dinners in the stunning countryside, go white-water rafting or hike in the verdant hills. While rich in history, Capay Valley also has a modern pulse, with wine-tasting, golf, and festivals to suit your fancy.

**Capay Valley Grown** is an emblem of the bountiful and diverse agriculture of a special place. As Cache Creek flows out of its canyon, through our valley and on toward the Sacramento River, it passes through a watershed full of wild animals, birds, native trees, shrubs, vines, and wildflowers. It also runs by and helps support a dazzling array of livestock, poultry, fields of vegetables and flowers, grain crops, orchards and vineyards. And a few weeds and pests, too.

This rich kaleidoscope of Nature’s gifts and human endeavor is tended by a diverse bunch of people who care strongly about the land on which they live and the quality of the products they offer to those who eat the food, drink the wine, use the fibers, and enjoy the flowers.

Every farm listed here offers something special in its own right. Most are not open to the public on a regular basis—you are well advised to check the websites or call ahead before you make definite plans to visit. But do make your plans; there is no place quite like Capay Valley anywhere on Earth.



## CAPAY VALLEY FARM TRAIL MAP

Created by



a project of Capay Valley Vision

Capay Valley Grown is a partnership of farmers and ranchers committed to responsible long-term resource stewardship while growing fresh and tasty foods in a vibrant community.

### SPONSORS

The following organizations have provided generous support to this project:



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**Yolo County Board of Supervisors**

[www.yolocounty.org](http://www.yolocounty.org)  
625 Court Street  
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**YOCHA DEHE**  
WINTUN NATION



**Pacific Ace Hardware**

[www.pacificacehardware.com](http://www.pacificacehardware.com)  
16851 Yolo Avenue, Esparto, CA 95627  
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This project is funded in part by the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.



**Visitor information:**

**Esparto Chamber of Commerce 530-787-3242**

## A VIBRANT PEOPLE, VITAL LAND

**The Capay Valley** includes a vibrant mix of cultures, endeavors and people. For thousands of years, the people of California’s Wintun Tribes made their homes in the Valley. The villages and trade routes they created are the towns and roads of today. In recent times, European, African, Hispanic and Asian peoples also became integral members of the community.

**Yocha Dehe** (pronounced “YO-cha DEE-hee”) means “home by the spring water” in the Tribe’s native Patwin language. As the historical inhabitants of California’s Capay Valley, the Tribe’s homeland is at the heart of their culture and heritage. For centuries, their ancestors hunted, tended the land, traded and prospered in the watershed of Cache Creek.

**Today the Yocha Dehe** is focused on self-governance, cultural renewal, land management and the growth of their community. Powered by hard work and determination, Yocha Dehe tribal citizens developed

a successful management strategy and a world-class casino resort. The independence gained from gaming revenue has allowed the Tribe to reacquire some of its traditional lands, invest in greater community health, wellness and education, and provide generous philanthropic funding for surrounding communities and groups in need.

**Yocha Dehe** designed and built the Séka Hills Olive Mill in Capay Valley. Its proximity to local orchards enables olives to be milled quickly after harvest, preserving the freshness required in the finest oils. The Tribe owns and manages one of the most diverse farm and ranch operations in Yolo County, with a dozen crops, 300 head of cattle and 250 acres certified organic. More than 1,200 acres are in permanent conservation easements to preserve wildlife habitat and a healthy environment. Yocha Dehe maintains a commitment to the environment through their continued efforts to preserve and protect it for future generations.

## SETTLERS, RAILROADS AND AGRICULTURE

**Even before the gold rush**, the fertile land and plentiful water of Cache Creek drew interest in trapping, settling and farming from new immigrants to California. In 1846, the Mexican government granted the 40,000 acre Rancho Canada de Capay to three Berryessa brothers. Livestock production was the principal economic activity of the rancheros.

**In 1858**, land speculators purchased 13,760 acres of the Berryessa grant, subdivided the land, and planted grain, grapes, and fruit trees northwest of the present community of Capay, establishing the county’s first winery in 1860. Five investors incorporated the Vaca Valley & Clear Lake Railroad in 1877, planning to extend the Central Pacific Railroad line north from Winters to Cache Creek and on through the Capay Valley to Clear Lake.

**The line was completed** to the new town of Madison in 1877, making Madison a center for grain shipping. Track extended through the new towns of Esperanza

(now Esparto) and Guinda, ending at Rumsey in 1888. Fruit packing sheds began to operate in Guinda and Rumsey, making daily seasonal deliveries to trains. Plans to extend the railroad through the Rumsey canyon were abandoned. The line to Rumsey closed in 1934, but agriculture continues to be the major business of the Capay Valley.

**Capay Valley’s history** created a thriving diverse community. Some Guinda and Hungry Hollow farmers are descendants of African-American settlers who established small ranches and farms. Thousands of immigrants from Mexico and Latin America contributed essential skills and hard work to local farms and ranches; many have settled in Capay Valley communities. While Capay Valley people come from different cultures, they continue the insightful commitment to land stewardship started thousands of years ago by the forefathers of the Yocha Dehe Tribe.

**Learn more history at [www.greatercapayvalley.org](http://www.greatercapayvalley.org)**

## SEASONAL DRIVING TOURS IN THE CAPAY VALLEY

**A winter drive** may be rainy and cool, but you will be treated to the sweet song of the Western Meadowlark as Golden Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks soar overhead, hunting for Cottontails and Jackrabbits in the fields. Enjoy the white and pink almond blossoms during Black History Day the second Saturday and the Almond Festival the last Sunday of February.

**On a spring drive**, be on the lookout for Hawks, Curlews and Ibis, and listen for the Mockingbirds in the trees and Western Meadowlarks’ sweet song across the fields and meadows. Farmers will be tending to almond crops, harvesting hayfields, and planting tomatoes. By March the Redbud will turn the valley a brilliant magenta, followed by a myriad of wildflowers. To get a closer look at the flowers and gardens in the Capay Valley, join in the annual Mother’s Day Garden Tour.

**A summer drive** will be filled with the squawk of Brewer’s black birds and Red-winged black birds. You may see the magical display of Starlings with their

synchronized swarm-dance over the fields. Farmers are busy harvesting melons, tomatoes, beans, stone fruit, and sunflowers. Walnuts and almond are maturing on their trees, and many of the cattle overwintered in the Capay Valley have moved north to chew the sweet Oregon grass for the summer. Live music fills the weekend nights at historic saloons in Capay and Guinda and outdoor concerts at the casino in Brooks. Celebrate the tomato harvest at Capay Organic’s Capay Tomato Festival.

**On a fall drive**, you can see Mountain Bluebirds, winged sapphires dotting the barbed-wire fence-lines, while out in the fields and on the creek will be Big Blue Heron and smaller White Egrets looking for amphibian or reptile snacks. With fall settling in, farmers are busy harvesting walnuts and almonds, winter squash, pumpkins, persimmons, and pomegranates, and leafy greens are in the fields. Overhead will be the long cry of Canada Geese in V-formation. Come for the annual Hoes Down Harvest Festival on the first Saturday in October for old fashioned family fun!



## HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST

• **In Esparto**, the current version of the “second high school in Yolo County,” features an art-deco auditorium built by the WPA in 1939.

• **At the end of Yolo Avenue**—main street Esparto—the 1888 Esparto depot is being restored.



• **On Highway 16 entering Capay**, a memorial plaque and bell from the Capay School in front of its empty lot.

• **Canon School**, on the left at CR 78 near the town of Brooks, was built in 1884.

• **The Guinda Store** has been in continuous use as a store since it was built in 1891.

• **Behind the Guinda Store**, left up Forrest Avenue, is the Western Yolo Grange Hall built in 1909, originally as a community hall.

• **In Rumsey**, notice the original depot sign on the front of the restored Rumsey Hall on your right, built in 1903.

• **Just past the Rumsey Hall** a right turn takes you to the rare and beautiful concrete, arched bridge, originally built in 1930 with additions in 1949.

## ANNUAL EVENTS

Check [www.capayvalleygrown.net](http://www.capayvalleygrown.net) for dates and details

### JANUARY

Seed Exchange Guinda Grange, Mid-January

### FEBRUARY

Black History Day Guinda Grange, 2nd Sat. in February  
Almond Queen Dinner Guinda Grange, Early February  
Almond Festival Entire Capay Valley, Late February

### MARCH

Contra Dancing Guinda Grange, Early March  
Sheep to Shawl Guinda Grange, Late March

### APRIL/MAY

Cinco de Mayo Festival, Capay Organics/  
Farm Fresh to You  
Mother’s Day Country Gardens Tour, 2nd Sunday in May

### JUNE/JULY

Lavendar Festival Cache Creek Lavendar Farm, Mid June  
Tomato Festival, Capay Organics/Farm Fresh To You Mid-July

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Capay Crush Festival Capay Organics/Farm Fresh To You, September

### OCTOBER

Hoes Down Full Belly Farm, First weekend of October  
Taste of Capay Benefit Dinner, location varies  
Late October

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Contra Dancing Guinda Grange, Early November  
Christmas Play Guinda Grange Mid-December

photo caption / credit here

