

ALMOND BLOSSOM TOUR FOR NORTH MERCED COUNTY
UC Cooperative Extension

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

The tour begins at the Hwy 99 Bradbury Road overpass south of Turlock, just north of Delhi:

Turn right at go west on Bradbury

Turn left and go south on Link past Turlock Country Club

Turn right and go west on August

If you would like to taste cheese and picnic at the Hilmar Cheese Company, turn right on Lander/Hwy 156 and turn left into the parking areas.

After leaving the cheese company, turn right and go west on August Road

Turn left and go south on Columbus

Turn left and go east on Williams

Turn right and go south on Lander/Hwy 165

Just after you cross the Merced River (which originates in Yosemite) turn left and go east on River Road (there will be Haganan Park and play grounds on the left). You will past several varieties of winegrapes and the largest single winery in the World – E&J Gallo (not open to the public)

About 21/2 miles east of the winery turn right and go south on Washington

Turn left and go east on Westside Blvd

Turn right and go south on Lincoln

Turn left and go east on Atwater-Jordon

Turn right and go south on Applegate

Turn left and go east on White Crane around a high density peach orchard

Turn left on Swan one block

Turn right and go east on Mulberry

Turn left and go north on Buhach over the freeway

Follow the signs north to the Castle Air Museum where they have a Café, picnic tables and restrooms. You can also visit the Challenger Center inside the main Castle gates.

From Castle turn right and go N-W on Santa Fe

Turn right and go north on Shaffer

Turn left and go N-W on Oakdale across the Merced River

Turn left and go west on Turlock Rd one block

Turn left and go south on Lee

Turn right and go west on Bradbury one block

Turn left and go south on Alves one block

Turn right and go west on El Capitan one block

Turn right and go N-W on Santa Fe to the hamlet of Ballico

Turn left at the stop sign and go south on Ballico Ave one block

Turn right and go west on Bradbury to Hwy 99 where the tour ends

Things to do in North Merced County:

⇒Camping and fishing at McConnell State Recreation Area on the banks of the Merced River (take Ballico or Pepper Roads south till they end – look for signs) 209/826-1196

⇒Camping and fishing at George Hatfield State Recreation Area S-W of Hilmar 209/632-1852
State parks website: www.parks.ca.gov

⇒Tour Hilmar Cheese Company

⇒Fishing and picnicking at Haganan Park