



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Tunnel Vision: The Other Side of the Caldecott

Walnut Creek, Danville, 2 Days

Table of contents:

- Guide Description 2
- Itinerary Overview 3
- Daily Itineraries 4
- My List 7

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: There is life on the other side of the Caldecott -- nature, great restaurants, and a Nobel Prize-winning playwright's home.

Itinerary Overview

Day 1 - Walnut Creek

DAY NOTE: There is life on the other side of the Caldecott Tunnel! Spend a day at Mount Diablo State Park. Wend your way to the summit (3,849 feet), where a museum made of sandstone sits, and then stop at Rock City, a location filled with caves ready for exploration. Take in dinner at Lark Creek restaurant, before a relaxing evening at your hotel.



Mount Diablo State Park

Hike on 3,000+ foot summits



Lark Creek Walnut Creek

Farm-fresh American fare



Walnut Creek Marriott

Stylish lodging in Walnut Creek

Day 2 - Danville

DAY NOTE: After all that hiking, take it easy with a leisurely tour of the Tao House. Eugene O'Neil's hillside retreat is only accessible via National Park Service vans that require reservations.



Tao House

Eugene O'Neil's California retreat

Day 1 - Walnut Creek



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: There is life on the other side of the Caldecott Tunnel! Spend a day at Mount Diablo State Park. Wend your way to the summit (3,849 feet), where a museum made of sandstone sits, and then stop at Rock City, a location filled with caves ready for exploration. Take in dinner at Lark Creek restaurant, before a relaxing evening at your hotel.

contact:
tel: (925) 837-2525 / (925) 838-9225
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

location:
Corner of Oak Grove and Northgate roads
Walnut Creek CA 94518

hours:
8a-sunset M-Sa, Summit Museum: 10a-4p

1 Mount Diablo State Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
The East Bay's premier park and natural landmark.

DESCRIPTION: This is a beautiful wilderness area with dozens of hiking trails that reach over 3,000 feet in elevation. Needless to say, the park offers unsurpassable views of the San Francisco Bay Area as far away as Yosemite. The park's Summit Museum and Visitor Center features a variety of exhibits and literature on the park and its history. © NileGuide



contact:
tel: (925) 256-1234
http://www.larkcreek.com/walnut_creek/index.html

location:
1360 Locust Street
Walnut Creek CA 94596

2 Lark Creek Walnut Creek

DESCRIPTION: For 15 years this restaurant of the Lark Creek Restaurant Group have featured American wines exclusively to compliment Chef Bradley Ogden's seasonal farm-fresh American fare. Come in and savor a bottle of fine wine from our vast collection of over 200 labels.



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 925 934-2000
fax: +1 925 934 6374
<http://www.marriott.com/courtyard/travel.mi>

location:

2355 N Main St
Walnut Creek CA 94596

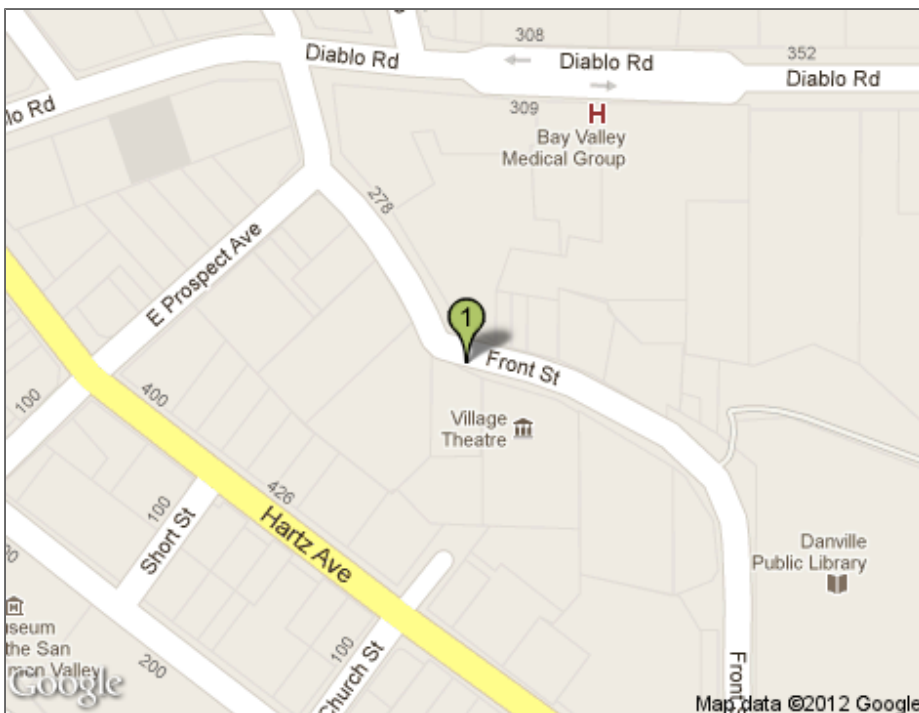
3 Walnut Creek Marriott

DESCRIPTION: This six-story hotel is in central Walnut Creek, with convenient access to I-680 and the Bay Area; Oakland is 16 miles away. High-speed Internet access, multi-line phones with voice mail, and pay movies are provided in stylish guestrooms. The Main Street Grill, located in the atrium-style lobby, showcases California cuisine and provides room service.



Hotels.com

Day 2 - Danville



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: After all that hiking, take it easy with a leisurely tour of the Tao House. Eugene O'Neil's hillside retreat is only accessible via National Park Service vans that require reservations.

contact:

tel: (925) 820-1818 / (923)

838-0249

<http://www.eugeneoneill.org/>

location:

PO Box 402, Eugene O'Neil
Foundation
Danville CA 94526

hours:

10a, 12:30p W-Su

1 Tao House

DESCRIPTION: Eugene O'Neil wrote his most tortured plays, *The Iceman Cometh* and *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, while living in this house that, fittingly, has a view of Mount Diablo. Tao House itself is an odd amalgam of a mission-style house with an Asian-style black-glazed tile roof. O'Neil built the house with his Nobel Prize money and in honor of Taoism, the religion he practiced. Exhibits within trace the story of his life. Access is via a van ride from Danville's city parking lot. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: (925) 820-7200

<http://www.bridgesdanville.com>

location:

44 Church St.

Danville CA 94526

1 Bridges Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: In its 15-year history, Bridges has won many awards, but we are most proud of getting voted "Best Fine Dining Restaurant" in the East Bay consecutively for 2003 and 2004 from readers of Diablo Magazine. Whether you are dining on our vine-covered patio enjoying the sounds from our natural granite fountain, or indoors where the ambiance is sophisticated, yet relaxing, you will discover for yourself why we have been a favorite dining destination for many. Our executive chef Kevin Gin, most recently from OnoMazé in Walnut Creek, will awe you with his interpretation of California cooking with European and Asian influences. The staff's professional eye to detail and commitment to quality and service will just add to your dining experience. Bridges is the ideal meeting place for social or business gathering.



Bridges Restaurant