

DRAFT MODOC COUNTY ACCESSIBLE ADVENTURE POSSIBILITIES LIST

**THIS IS A DRAFT WORKING LIST OF POSSIBILITIES, NOT GUARANTEED TO BE ACCESSIBLE BY WHEELCHAIRS. Basically, it's a rough working list of places I'd like to go to and see just how 'accessible' they actually might be. So, if you use this list, keep in mind the location may turn out to be obstacle-filled and unsuitable.*

Modoc County is probably one of the most under-visited yet spectacularly scenic places in California. The word 'remote' is very apt. For slow wheelers, it means some extra planning for a successful visit. I would encourage everyone to do their homework. This geographic area will have accessibility limitations.

Because this is a remote part of California, there will be a lot of seldom seen locations. It's perfect for the adventurous photographer. But be cautious and careful. Always leave word with someone as to your travel plans along with check-in times. Cell service is spotty. This would be a good area for a satellite tracker use for possible emergencies. Also, medical help is NOT nearby. In Modoc County, nobody is really 'nearby' – which is actually quite wonderful!

A person CAN do a day trip from Redding, Susanville or Klamath Falls to Alturas and Cedarville. It's definitely a region worth putting on your bucket list if you have the time to explore. Just a few of the features of Modoc County are the South Warner Mountain Wilderness, Surprise Valley, Devil's Garden Plateau (with wild horses), ghost towns, Fandango Pass, , the Lava Beds National Monument (western Modoc County), the historic Tule Lake Internment/Segregation Center. There are even obsidian mines on public lands open to the public (get a permit and maps at the USFS office in Alturas) and there is the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge, too.

Accessible Accomodations in Alturas: Trailside Inn: <http://tsideinn.com/> 3343 North Main, Alturas.530-233-4111 King rooms about \$140. Handicap accessible rooms available.

Or the **Rim Rock Hotel**, at the edge of town. <http://www.rimrockmotelalturas.com/Home.html> at \$90 for king bedroom: They prefer personal customer service when making a reservation. Call 530-233-5455

<http://modocoutdoorrecreationandtourism.org/discover-modoc/things-to-do/modoc-county-places-to-visit-things-to-do/>

In Alturas, the Modoc Historical Museum is wheelchair accessible (\$2/per person fee).

<https://www.sierranevadageotourism.org/content/modoc-county-historical-museum/sie57F87E730265CB68A>

The US Modoc Wildlife Refuge is just east of town, with accessible trails.

Modoc National Wildlife Refuge: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/modoc/> Part of the Pacific Flyway, this 7,021 acre refuge is southeast of the town of Alturas. The main office building burned down in 2016 (I think) and I don't know if it has been rebuilt. But the Refuge is still there, so go and have fun sightseeing.

Just east of the federal refuge is a state wildlife refuge with some accessible features:

CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife: Pine Creek Wildlife Area: Activities: trout fishing, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, and hunting Hunting: Type C Wildlife Area. Deer, pronghorn, rabbit, quail, and dove may be present. Facilities: **Wheelchair access restrooms and fishing platform.**

The approximately 2,000-acre Pine Creek Wildlife Area includes a 25-acre reservoir. The habitat supports wild trout and is also stocked with hatchery-raised trout. This area is critical deer and antelope winter range, and provides opportunities for viewing bald and golden eagles, Swainson's hawk, prairie falcon, grouse, and sandhill crane. Many songbirds use this area for nesting seasonally.

For more information, call the Northern Region Redding office at (530) 225-2300.

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/Pine-Creek-WA>

Map: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=87793&inline>

I don't have a long list of 'accessible adventure' possibilities (yet), but don't let that stop you from visiting. Most of the activities will be time consuming – like the scenic drives.

This really is an excellent county for scenic drives, particularly good for landscape photographers, birders and wildlife sightings. I have not personally driven much of the back country – but it's on my bucket list.

USFS Auto Tours list: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/modoc/maps-pubs>

Modoc Line Trail: (Rails to Trails) The Modoc Line runs 86 miles between Wendel in the south and McArthur Siding in the north (just south of Alturas). The most scenic sections are between Likely and Madeline and Snowstorm Canyon. The trail is largely on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and follows the route of the historic Modoc Line. Travel at your own risk. There is a maximum speed limit of 25 mph for motorized vehicles. Equestrians, hikers, bikes and motorized vehicles have the right of way in that order. No firearms may be fired within the corridor.

<https://lassenlandandtrailstrust.org/modoc-line-rail-trail>

Modoc National Forest [<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/modoc/home>] has a nice map that illustrates which roads are suitable for passenger cars and which ones need more vehicular muscle. Modoc National Forest Maps: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/maps-pubs/?cid=stelprdb5324551>

There are also obsidian mines on USFS lands in Modoc County. If you stop at the USFS office in Alturas you can pick up a free permit, maps and directions to where you can legally dig or gather obsidian for personal use.

[<https://www.sierranevadageotourism.org/content/obsidian-mines/sieFAEB194D18124A5AF>]

I would suggest stopping at the USFS office in Alturas for area maps and camping advice (Modoc National Forest, 225 West 8th St.) At least one USFS campground, Blue Lake indicates a paved trail and says "assistance will be required for persons in wheelchairs. There is a fishing platform just off the paved trail." So, there may be some accessible camping and fishing locations useable by some folks.

Modoc Back Country Discover Trail (actually a scenic drive) which is different than the Rails to Trails

Modoc Line Trail: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5319748>

The Modoc National Forest segment of the Back Country Discovery Trails is about 200 miles long with another 42 miles of alternate (more challenging) trails. Most of the Modoc Back Country Discovery Trails system is single lane and unpaved. If you attempt this drive, remember that backcountry driving is exceedingly slow and many people underestimate the lengthy amount of time needed. You should carry camping gear, food, water, and emergency gear.

Feature points list: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd535411.pdf

Modoc Back Country Discovery Trail road map (goes with the points list) that shows which roads are suitable for passenger vehicles and which need high clearance (SUV-type) vehicles. Again, these are very

slow roads – but very scenic and great for photography:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5319347.pdf

USFS Modoc: Blue Lake Campground: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/modoc/recarea/?recid=71258>

This is one of those difficult locations that is in Lassen County but seems to be accessed through Modoc County. Day use is free. Camping is fee. There is fishing pier, and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. In Likely, CA at intersection of US Rt. 395 and Jess Valley Rd./County Rt. 64, take Jess Valley Rd. east 9.3 miles to a "Y" intersection. Bear right onto County Rt. 258 and go 6.4 miles to campground sign. Turn right after sign onto Forest Rt. 64 and go 1.5 miles to campground. NOTE: Last 0.8 miles are single lane.

USFS Modoc: Mill Creek Falls Campground:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/modoc/recarea/?recid=71266> Accessible tent and trailer camping. Restrooms are accessible with assistance.

Bureau of Land Management [BLM] Alturas Field Office 708 West 12th Street Alturas, CA 96101 Phone: (530) 233-4666. *Ignore the BLM web site. Ever since they revised the BLM web site in 2017, I can't find anything that used to be there in terms of useful information. Instead, stop by the BLM office, email or call them for maps and information. BLM manages a LOT of land in Modoc County. PHONE: 530-233-4666 EMAIL: BLM_CA_Web_AP@blm.gov