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### ***Excursions galore ...***

## **RICH AND RARE ADVENTURES OFFERED DURING EL DORADO GOLD WEEK**

**Placerville, CA July 25, 2016** – Excursions throughout El Dorado County will be offered during the 2016 World Gold Panning Championship and El Dorado Gold Week, September 11-18. Rich in history, adventure, agricultural delights as well as outdoor activities, there is plenty to offer to all ages.

“There has never been a better time to visit El Dorado. We have an amazing range of events and special excursions offered to our guests, locals, and tourists,” explained Jody Franklin, Director of Tourism. “Competitors as well as spectators will travel from the world over to participate in this unique and unusual sporting event. We are really looking forward to sharing our beautiful region with everyone.”

Plan ahead and book a history-packed, informative and fun-filled professional guided bus tour to Lake Tahoe, gold and wine country, even San Francisco through [www.calgoldadventures.com](http://www.calgoldadventures.com).

Step back in time during the kick off at Divide Gold Rush Days in nearby historic Georgetown. The two-day event on September 10-11 is jam packed with music, historical legends, arts and crafts, and family fun activities. [www.dividegoldrushdays.com](http://www.dividegoldrushdays.com).

Put on a hard hat, walk deep into history and explore the Gold Bug Mine’s remarkable underground geology and thick veins of gold bearing quartz, guided by fun and knowledgeable tour guides. Experience rare access to the unique hard rock Priest Mine, hand dug at the peak of the Gold Rush by Cornish and Chilean miners, which still shows the scars of their picks.

Take guided tours of magnificent landscapes along the Pacific Crest Trail and the Tahoe Rim Trail that leads you into the extraordinary Desolation Wilderness on Saturday September 10, or enjoy a day hike into the Mokelumne on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This trek leads into the land of the 1800’s, where brave pioneers, covered wagons, and occasionally hostile Indians could be found.

El Dorado Western Railroad offers special excursions especially for Gold Week participants to which will take place on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Ride in vintage inspection cars on the historic Placerville branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad in Shingle Springs at the only remaining historic railroad depot in El Dorado County.

Spend a morning white water rafting on the American River followed by a visit to Crystal Basin Cellars in Camino for lunch and wine tasting.

Visit Coloma Gold Rush LIVE, a living history festival September 15-17, right near the site where gold was discovered by John Marshall in 1848. Laugh, boo, hiss, and cheer - kick back in time at the Olde Coloma Theatre, and is one of a very few original melodrama theaters in left the U.S.

Apple Hill is full of delights. One of the tours includes a “Do it Yourself Adventure” - a three-farm visit including jam and cider donut making lessons, nature trails, lunch and transportation.

A short swing will take you to the Wakamatsu Community Farm, the site of the first Japanese settlement in America and the gravesite of the first Japanese woman who died and was buried in America. View Okei-san’s 1871 gravesite, an original 1854 farmhouse, a turn-of-the-century Veerkamp barn, and take a peek inside the windows of a small historic dairy still working today.

Daily shuttles will be available to certain locations from the fairgrounds. For more information on excursions, [eldorado2016.com/gold-week](http://eldorado2016.com/gold-week)

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