

WILD WEST TOUR OF VISALIA

'Oldest city between Los Angeles and French Camp'

Incorporated in 1852, Visalia has many historic sites to see and unusual stories to tell. From wild west outlaws like the Dalton gang escaping from the jail to secret tunnels that criss-cross under the streets of downtown, come discover these fun and historic sites.



HISTORIC SITES IN DOWNTOWN



HORSE RINGS

Can you find them? Look carefully along the original granite curbing around downtown to see the reminders of days when a horse was the mode of transportation.



VISALIA JAIL HOUSE

The original jail was built in 1890 and Visalia was proud of the beautiful addition to the city. However, more attention was paid to how it looked rather than how it worked. Train robber Gratton Dalton was jailed here-though not for long. He and 2 other inmates cut the cells' bars and broke out just a year after the jail was built. In 1916 it was torn down and new jail built, using the existing walls and basement. It still stands today and houses businesses including Jack and Charlie's restaurant in the basement.



VISALIA CEMETARY

Cemeteries are great historical sites and Visalia Cemetery is no exception. See grave sites from the mid-1850's for Mary Graves Clark, survivor of the ill-fated Donner Party or Edmond E Wysinger, a former slave born in 1816 whose quest to enroll his son in school went all the way to the Supreme Court.

MOONEY GROVE MUSEUM

The museum houses many interesting and historical items. Along with buildings from the 1800's like Surprise School House there are artifacts from the Pioneer era as well as these notable items:



VISALIA SADDLERY

Around the 1860's Mexican saddle makers developed the Visalia Saddle. They are known throughout the world even today. Find early examples on display.



NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETS

See one of the largest collections in California on display and other Native American artifacts.



Insiders tip: If you want to have a real 'cowboy' experience, have breakfast or lunch at Mama K's Diner. It's located at the Stockyards where cattle auctions happen every Wednesday. You can sit in the grandstand and watch as the cattle are bought and sold. Be careful though! While it is free to watch the auction, raise your hand at the wrong moment might make you the proud owner of a steer!

These are just a few examples of historic places in Visalia. Get a copy of our "Historic Walking Tour" brochure to learn more about these sites and more.