

# Drakesbad Guest Ranch: Mt. Lassen's haven for hikers, horses, hot springs and hellholes.



Ensconced within an evergreen mountain valley in the shadow of snow-capped Mt. Lassen, [Drakesbad Guest Ranch](#), a five-hour drive from the Bay Area, offers an oasis for adventurers who enjoy time travel along with their hiking and riding trails.

**You can leave the electronic gadgetry at home.** It not only won't work here but, I promise, within minutes of arrival, all thoughts of artificial devices will feel the bite of the Mental Delete button.

**Just one soak in the resort's natural hot spring pool** under a blanket of low hung stars and layers of city stress peel away effortlessly. I

swear, John Muir's ghost must stop by Drakesbad periodically to take in the rustic cabins with their homespun quilts and kerosene lamps. No keys needed here.

Guests spend their days hiking to intriguingly named hot spots like Boiling Springs Lake, Devil's Kitchen and Bumpas Hell.. A more

**Though it's been more than 80 years since Lassen Peak's last major eruption** spewed ash as high as seven miles into the atmosphere, volcanic phenomena remain highly active. Amidst the park's tall trees, deer sightings, a beaver built dam, muskrats and chipmunks bring the presence of wildlife awareness alive. Seemingly unaware of human intrusion, we spotted several smaller critters willing to share the wide trails and lush meadows peaceably

**The rustic resort** was built as a private getaway by Edward Drake in the late 1800s and then purchased by the National Park Service in the 1950s. It must be said though that Innkeepers, Co-managers, and Hosts Extraordinaire Ed and Billie Fiebiger are the angels who oversee this haven of hospitality. Lodging at **Drakesbad** comes with three home-style meals a day. Menus are hearty, wholesome and downright delicious.

**Going out for a day of horseback riding?** Billie will see to it that a boxed lunch will fit neatly into your saddlebag. Wondering which hike suits your fancy? Billie to the rescue again, this time with directions and descriptions of the trails. Rather try your hand at a trail ride? On-site stables nestle in the nearby meadow.

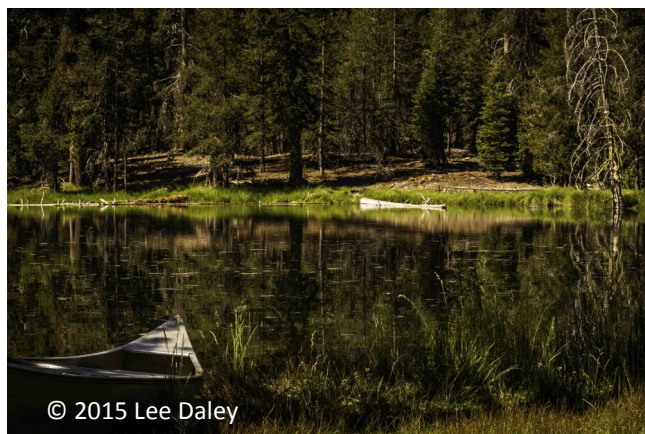
Drakesbad's complex of rustic cabins, a lodge, dining hall, thermal pool and stables clusters in the southernmost section of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

**Getting There:** From the San Francisco Bay Area, take Interstate 5 north to Red Bluff, then east on Highway 36, which leads directly to the park's southern entrance. Drakesbad Guest Ranch is about a five-hour drive.

**Contact:** [www.drakesbad.com](http://www.drakesbad.com).

**Tel:** (866) 999-0914

**Lassen Volcanic National Park:** [www.nps.gov/lavo](http://www.nps.gov/lavo)



**Lee Daley - Travel Writer / Photographer**

[www.leedaleytravelwriter.com](http://www.leedaleytravelwriter.com)

[www.epicureanddestinations.com](http://www.epicureanddestinations.com)