



# Family Bike Ride Recommendations

Take the family out on some of our great nearby biking paths. To make your planning easier, REI employees have selected some of their favorites below.

## Be sure to bring these necessities along on your ride:

- Helmet
- Drinking water
- Lunch or snacks
- Map and route directions
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- First-aid kit
- Tire mini-pump or CO2
- Spare tube or patch kit
- Tire levers



For a complete cycling checklist, visit [Expert Advice](#) on REI.com.

## Here Are Five of Our Favorite Kid-Friendly Local Bike Rides

### Stevens Creek Trail in Mountain View

Terrain: **Paved trail**

Distance: **4 miles one-way. No elevation gain.**

**Why This Ride:** This ride offers a great natural experience in an urban setting.

**Ride Description:** The paved trail follows Stevens Creek starting at the east side of Shoreline Park (at Crittenden Marsh) and ends near El Camino Real. Start out heading south past the bird-filled tidal flats of Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area. The trail takes you from bay marshes to the wooded greenbelt of Stevens Creek. As you ride, watch for signs of the abundant wildlife residing in the area. You'll ride through several parks and near schools with terrific playgrounds that offer the opportunity for a little off-bike fun.

**Driving Directions:** Take 101 to the Shoreline Boulevard exit off of Highway 101 and go north on Shoreline toward the Bay. Turn right on Crittenden Lane and park along the road.

**Tips:** Plan your trip so that you return to Shoreline Lake in time to watch the sunset. There are restrooms at Shoreline Park and at other parks along the way.

### Sawyer Camp Trail

Terrain: **Paved trail**

Distance: **7 miles roundtrip. No elevation gain.**

**Why This Ride:** This is a fun, easily accessible trail that parallels the shore of beautiful Crystal Springs Reservoir.

**Ride Description:** There is plenty to see along the Sawyer Camp Trail, as both Crystal Springs Reservoir and the Coastal Range parallel the route. Start from the trailhead at the shore of the reservoir and head northwest, with the water to your left. In addition to the deer, squirrel and coyotes that call the area home, more than 180 species of birds have been spotted along this trail. You'll also see Monterey pine, oaks, madrona and cypress trees in the forest bordering the trail. Mile markers dot the trail every half mile. A good turnaround point is the 3.5-mile mark, where the Jepson Laurel tree—600 years old and the oldest and largest laurel in California—stands as a landmark. There is a picnic area here, too—a perfect place for a mid-ride snack or lunch.

**Driving Directions:** From I-280 take the Black Mountain Road/Hayne Road exit. Travel west to Skyline Boulevard, then go south on Skyline to trail entrance (1 mile). The trail begins at the junction of Skyline Boulevard and Crystal Springs Road. There is free street parking all around the trailhead.

**Tips:** Be mindful that there is some poison oak along the trail, so take appropriate precautions. There are restrooms scattered along the trail; drinking water is available at the north end (Millbrae Entrance) and the Jepson Laurel area.

## Los Gatos Creek Trail

Terrain: **Paved trail**

Distance: **The total length of the trail is 9.7 miles one-way, but you can turn around at any point along the way. No elevation gain.**

**Why This Ride:** The section within Vasona Park is very child and family friendly, offering flat, paved terrain and many opportunities to view interesting sights along the way.

**Ride Description:** Though the Los Gatos Creek Trail stretches from Lexington Reservoir to Campbell and San Jose, the best part for kids is the area around Vasona Lake. The trail is paved, level and no vehicles are permitted. There are a number of percolation ponds along the side of the route where Canada geese, egrets and mallard ducks can be spotted. Additionally, there are many bicyclists, runners, walkers and inline skaters that utilize the route, which creates a fun, spirited atmosphere similar to a boardwalk.

**Driving Directions:** From Highway 17 South, take Highway 9 and exit at Saratoga/Los Gatos Road. Travel west to University Avenue, and turn right. Go north on University Avenue and then turn right on Blossom Hill Road. The entrance to the park is on the left, after crossing the bridge. Vasona County Park has plenty of parking, though a fee is charged.

**Tips:** Visit the Youth Science Institute's Science and Nature Center, which features live animals that live in the Guadalupe Watershed, and spend some time exploring the other amenities and attractions at the park. There are plenty of restrooms along the trail.

## Foster City Bay Trail

Terrain: **Paved trail**

Distance: **A 12-mile loop, but you can ride any section; there's good access from main roads. No elevation gain.**

**Why This Ride:** This section of the venerable Bay Trail is a fun, easy ride for young children who are just getting comfortable on their bikes.

**Ride Description:** For this ride, access the Bay Trail at Port Royal Park. The beginning of the Foster City section is just past the park. From here you can follow along the east shore of Marina Lagoon in either direction. The paved route circles the boundary of Foster City and follows the Foster City Pedway/Bike-way route. There is a great variety of scenery along this trail and each section of the trail has something different to offer—including pickleweed marshes, iceplants, mudflats, sea grass, the Belmont Slough and a stretch of shoreline along the San Francisco Bay.

**Driving Directions:** From Highway 101, take the Hillsdale Boulevard exit and go East. Turn right on Edgewater Boulevard in Foster City. Make a right onto Port Royal. The park will be on the immediate left. Free parking and restrooms are available.

**Tips:** Bring a hat and/or sunscreen since most of the trail is unprotected by tree canopy. There are no restrooms.

## Cañada Road

Terrain: **Paved road**

Distance: **4 miles one way; but you can turn around at any point. Minimal elevation gain.**

**Why This Ride:** This road is closed to traffic for several hours on Sundays, creating a unique opportunity for families to ride together.

**Ride Description:** Cañada Road is open exclusively to cyclists on Sundays from April to October 9am–4pm and from November to March 9am–3pm. Begin where Edgewood Road runs into Cañada Road and it has been closed to traffic. This is a perfect ride for beginners or young children, because it offers the ease of riding on a nice wide street without the challenge of having to deal with traffic. The mostly flat road heads north toward San Francisco's water source, Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir. Along the way, enjoy the amazing views of the eastern slope of Montara Mountain, the foothill country lined with grasslands and oaks and the reservoir itself. You'll also pass the Pulgas Water Temple, a very peaceful, unique location to stop for a picnic, as well as the historic Filoli Estate, with its beautiful formal gardens. Restrooms are available at both sites. The turnaround point is at Highway 92, where Cañada Road opens again to traffic.

**Driving Directions:** From I-280 North take the Woodside Road exit. Turn left at the end of the exit and drive into the town of Woodside. Take a right on Cañada Road and drive to where it is blocked off at Edgewood Road. You can park along Edgewood.

**Tips:** Take a self-guided tour of Filoli Estate's historic house and amazing gardens (admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for kids ages 5–17). Please note that drinking water is not available along this trail.



REI's PEAK program uses a fun presentation filled with hands-on activities and games to teach kids ages 6 through 12 about taking care of the outdoors.

Ask an REI team member about scheduling a free PEAK presentation for your classroom or youth group, or visit [www.rei.com/PEAK](http://www.rei.com/PEAK) for more information.



**First Saturday in June** The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, sponsored by REI, is a nationwide celebration of trails. Celebrate with your family by taking a hike, or volunteering for a trail clean-up project. Ask an REI team member about how to get involved, or visit [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com) for more information.