

**20. El Rey Theatre**

230 W. 2nd Street

*(formerly the Majestic)*

Built in 1905, the Majestic was the first vaudeville theatre in Chico. It hosted such world famous personalities as Al Jolson and Harry Lauder. Inside are murals of fairies, elves, a scene from Peter Pan, and an auditorium that seats 900 people.



**21. Chico Museum**

141 Salem Street; (530) 891-4336.

Housed in the distinctive 1904 Carnegie Library at Second and Salem Streets, the museum has three parts: a historical museum, which includes a permanent Chico collection, a re-creation of a Taoist temple altar much like one formerly found in Chico; and a rotating exhibit. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, from Noon to 4 p.m. Entry is free but donations are appreciated.

**22. The Madison Bear Garden**

316 W. 2nd Street; (530) 891-1639

*(formerly the Lusk Home)*

This popular restaurant for the young and young-at-heart has enjoyed an interesting history. The home was built in 1883 by a prominent Chico lawyer. After his death in 1909, it was passed into the hands of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. The organization then sold it to Grand American Faire in 1977. Current proprietor, Jack Sterling, has maintained "The Bear's" historic roots, complete with eye-catching antiques and stunning movie memorabilia. A must-see for all!

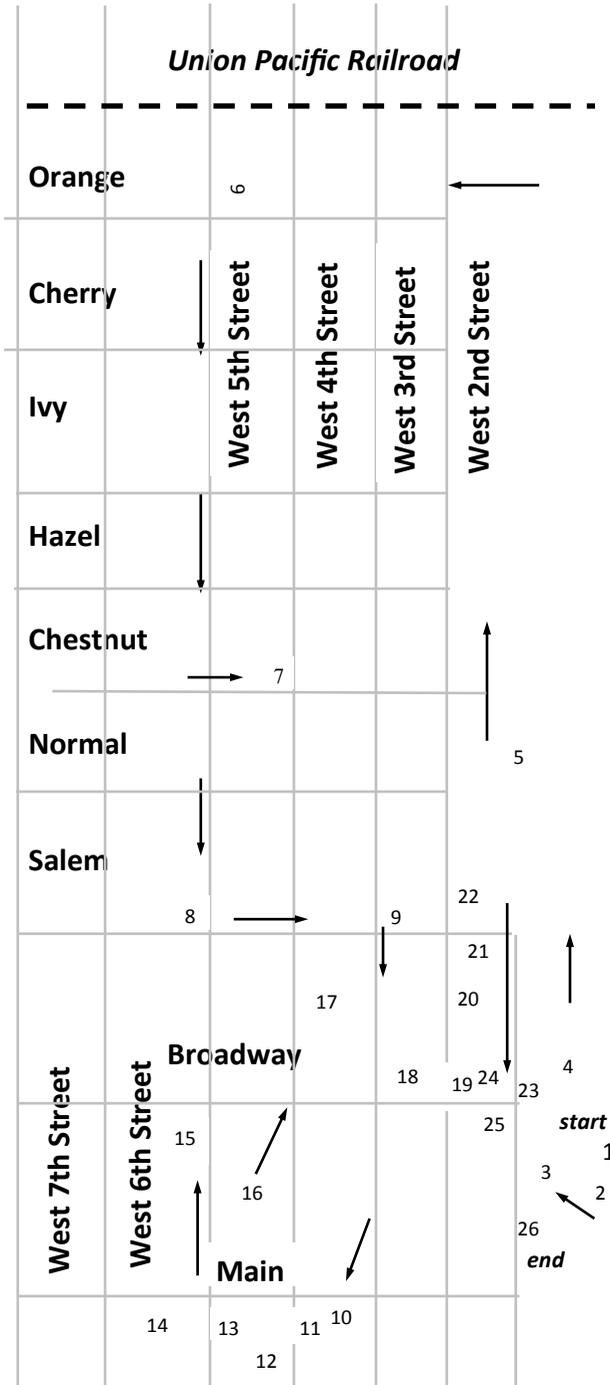
**23. Bidwell Memorial Presbyterian Church**

208 W. 1st Street; (530) 343-1484

The church was originally built in 1871 on the corner of Fourth Street and Broadway but it was rebuilt on First Street and Broadway in 1909. The inside of the building was damaged by arsonists in 1931 and rebuilt in 1932.

**24. Formerly General Bidwell's Rancho Chico office**

100 Broadway now houses Tres Hombres Restaurant. The north wall with its 1/2-round windows dates to the original use in the 1800s.



**25. Collier Hardware**

105 Broadway Street; 530-342-0195

Collier Hardware has been a part of downtown Chico since 1871. Even today, the store has natural plank flooring harkening back to the old days. The second floor originally housed the old Masonic Lodge, but is now the home of Blue Room Theatre.

**26. Ringel Park**

On the site of what once had been the nursery of John Bidwell, the park is located between Main Street and Broadway on First Street. The park was dedicated in 1981 to Eugene A. Ringel; one-time mayor, and active in community and civic activities.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour.

For additional information on Chico, give us a call, stop by our office or visit our website:  
[www.ChicoChamber.com](http://www.ChicoChamber.com)



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# Walking Tour of Historic Downtown and Points of Interest



**Chico's downtown area has a rich history and a positive future to be explored!**



Start your tour at the Chico Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Bureau, located at the corner of 4th and Wall streets in downtown Chico. You'll find extensive visitor information, and plenty of ideas for things to do while you're in town. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10a.m. to 4p.m. For more visitor information check out our website at [www.chicochamber.com](http://www.chicochamber.com)

**1. Gateway Science Museum**

625 Esplanade; (530) 898-4121

Our newest museum in town, Gateway Science Museum, opened their doors in March 2010 to hundreds of eager visitors. GSM encourages curious minds of all ages to discover science and the natural heritage of Northern California by exploring the museum's diverse collection of exhibits.

Hours: Wed-Sun. 12-5p.m. Cost: Adults \$5, Children \$3, Members FREE [www.csuchico.edu/gateway](http://www.csuchico.edu/gateway)



**2. Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park**

525 The Esplanade; (530) 895-6144

This mansion was home to Chico's founder, Gen. John Bidwell and his wife Annie. It was designed by Henry W. Cleaveland who later designed the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. The construction of the three-story, pink-and-brown 26-room mansion began in 1865. Now a state park, it is located across the creek from Children's Playground; a footbridge joins the two. Tours are conducted on the hour: Saturday & Sunday 11-4 p.m. & Monday 12-4p.m. The cost is \$4 for 18 and older, \$2 for ages 5-17. Ages 4 and younger are free.

**3. Children's Park**

Given to the City of Chico in 1911, this park was dedicated to the children of the community by Annie Bidwell. This is a perfect spot for a break or a picnic lunch under the shady trees. Near the First Street entrance is a marker honoring the citizens of Chico who died in World War I.



**4. Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater**

Built by Work Projects of America in 1938. This unique structure has its stage separated from the audience by Big Chico Creek. Arrangements for use can be made through the City at 530-896-7800.

**5. California State University, Chico**

Officially opened as a normal school in 1887 and a teacher's college in 1923. Chico state is the second oldest university in California. Besides the many art galleries and special displays, are attractions like the George Peterson Rose Garden and the Alumni Glen located along the Big Chico Creek. Guided tours of the campus are available at the University Information Center. Call (530) 898-6116.

**6. Chico Railroad Depot and Chico Art Center**

450 Orange Street; (530) 895-8726

The Depot was first built in 1892 after the "shabby" depot from 1869 was pulled down. The new site added a ladies waiting room and a separate baggage room. The depot soon couldn't handle the level of traffic and was closed to passengers in 1957. The City of Chico and the Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Committee worked together to keep the historic depot intact. After years of remodeling, it serves as a small unattended station for Amtrak.

The walls in the waiting room have pictures of the two previous stations. Adjacent to the waiting room is the Chico Art Center, featuring local artists' work in monthly exhibitions, art classes, critiques and workshops for all ages. The Depot is included in the National Register of Historic Places.



**7. St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**

435 Chestnut St.; (530) 343-8741

The church still stands on the original land given to it by Gen. John Bidwell. The original redwood church was built in 1878. The current building started in 1908. It was completed in 1913 when the tower was finished. The building was remodeled in the 1960's following changes instituted by Vatican II. Adjacent to the church is Notre Dame School, which was established in 1927.

**8. Stansbury House**

307 W. 5th Street; (530) 342-3037

Chico's historic Stansbury house, located at the southwest corner of Fifth and Salem streets, was listed on the national Register of Historic Places in 1975. Tours of the beautiful Italianate Victorian home are conducted on the weekends from 1 to 4 p.m.

**9. St. Augustine's Anglican Church**

230 Salem Street (corner of W. 3rd St.)

This red brick church, built in 1905, originally stood at W. 5th St. and Broadway. It was moved to its present location to make way for the building of the U.S. Post Office now on that site.

**10. Chico Children's Museum**

325 Main Street; (530) 809-1492

Our newest museum in town, Chico Children's Museum is a kid-friendly exploratorium allowing children to learn and connect through play. Open Tuesday-Sunday.



**11. Town Hall Marker**

This plaque marks the location of Chico's first Town Hall. A mural depiction can be seen looking north from the Council Chamber steps.

**12. Municipal Center**

This center serves as the meeting site for various city groups including the city council.

**13. Old Municipal Building**

Built by A.J. Bryan in 1911, now a meeting place.

**14. Senator Theatre / Community Performing Arts Center**

Built in 1928, the theatre has murals inside of Syrian Running Deer, other animals and a mural of Chico's Hooker Oak Tree. It's located on 517 Main St. For more information call (530) 898-1497.

**15. Downtown Post Office**

Mail in Chico was first handled through Gen. John Bidwell's store at 1st and Broadway streets. This building was Chico's first permanent post office. Construction began in 1914 and continued until 1916. This is one of two post offices in town.

**16. City Plaza**

Designated as a community gathering place by Gen. John Bidwell in 1872, the City Plaza continues to serve as a public park for the growing community. It was redesigned in 2006. It now has a bubbling fountain, performance area, and wireless internet connection throughout. City Plaza is the stage for many local events including the summer Friday night "Concerts in the Park." For more information on the Plaza call the Parks Department at (530) 896-7800

**17. Hotel Diamond**

220 W. 4th Street; (530) 893-3100

The Hotel Diamond originally opened for business on September 3, 1904. The reign of the Diamond was a relatively short 12 years, as a major fire in 1916 closed the doors. In 2001 a local businessman purchased the building and restored it to be the "Jewel" of Chico.



**18. National Yo Yo Museum**

320 Broadway (located inside of Bird in Hand) (530) 893-1414

The premier display of America's favorite toy. Thousands of items on display including past contest awards and nostalgic photos. Among the exhibits is "Big Yo," the largest yo-yo in the world. Open daily with no admission fee.

**19. Hibbard and Sommer Marker**

Located on the northwest corner of Second St. and Broadway, this marks the location of a jewelry and watch-making store during the late 1800s. The first telephone in town ran from here to the Sommer home on Normal Avenue.