

# *MEDITATION PRAYER WALK*

## *At Turtle Bay Exploration Park*

**Turtle Bay Exploration Park** is a fun, 300-acre non-profit, cultural center and gathering place located along the Sacramento River in Redding, CA featuring a museum, indoor & outdoor animal exhibits forestry & wildlife center, arboretum, botanical gardens, playgrounds, and the world-famous Sundial Bridge. At the gateway to the Sacramento River Trails, Turtle Bay celebrates far Northern California as part of the world we share. Our Mission Statement is to inspire wonder, exploration, and appreciation of our world.

Our values are:

- *playfulness* (learning is easier when it's fun and interactive and incorporates that spirit of enjoyment, healthy movement and activity when appropriate),
- *real world experiences* (learning is enhanced through interaction with living and non-living collections and this special place along the river we call home),
- *interdisciplinary* (learning is enhanced when we recognize connections between art, history, & sciences),
- *community* (we strive to make our park accessible & affordable, base our offerings on relevant community needs & feedback, & value our many community partnerships which make us stronger),
- *lifelong learning* (the pursuit of knowledge & the joy of learning is important at every age; we aim to give both children & adults the opportunity to learn in a safe environment),
- *integrity* (we accomplish our goals with honesty & transparency, seeking excellence in service), and
- *sustainability* (we strive to be the best stewards we can be of natural and cultural resources, protecting them for generations to come).

**The Sundial Bridge** is a world-famous pedestrian bridge and public art installation that crosses the Sacramento River and connects the north and south campuses of Turtle Bay Exploration Park. Opened on July 4, 2004, serves as a new downtown entrance for Redding's extensive Sacramento River Trail system.

Access to the Sundial Bridge and surrounding river trails are free to the public. As the name suggests, the Sundial Bridge is, in fact, a working sundial and is one of the largest in the world. The sundial shadow traces such a large arc that it can record only four hours a day, from 11am-3pm. It is not accurate in winter because the shadow is too far into the arboretum to be seen. The shadow, when visible, moves about one foot per minute, so you can readily see it move.

The bridge celebrates human creativity and ingenuity, important themes of the 300-acre Turtle Bay Exploration Park. The steel, glass, and granite span evoke a sense of weightlessness and the translucent, non-skid decking provides for spectacular viewing at night. The bridge is also environmentally sensitive to its river setting. The tall pylon and cable stays allow the bridge to avoid the nearby salmon-spawning habitat as there are no supports in the water while encouraging public appreciation for the river. Plazas are situated at both ends of the bridge for public use; the north-side plaza stretches to the water allowing patrons to sit at the river's edge.

**The Turtle Bay Museum** is where art, science, history, forestry, and horticulture meet with permanent exhibits about our region and changing exhibitions from around the world. The airy, light-filled space blurs the line between indoors and out just as the design of our permanent exhibits highlights the intersection between the natural world and human culture. Separately lit and climate-controlled galleries allow Turtle Bay to host traveling exhibitions from all over the world.

Deep roof overhangs help keep the Museum cool and protect from sun and rain, allowing our guests to enjoy a spectacular view of the Sacramento River and the Sundial Bridge from the patio of the glass-walled Museum Store and Coffee Bar, which borders our xeric garden and blends naturally into the popular Sacramento River Trail head. It is a perfect place to people-watch!

If watching wildlife is more your style, the Boardwalk between the Museum and Paul Bunyon's Forest Camp winds through a forest of cottonwoods and oaks, well above the seasonal wetland and year-round riparian habitat. Keep an eye out for some of the wild native creatures that are NOT part of Turtle Bay's animal family.

**The Museum Store** features locally crafted items and memorable treasures related to our current exhibitions and programs.

**The McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Gardens** are on the north side of the park campus and the Sundial Bridge and feature over 200 acres of native and non-native trees and plants. A one-mile walking trail loop surrounds the Arboretum and directly links to the rest of the award-winning Sacramento River trail. The Gardens comprise 25 acres of Mediterranean-climate display gardens, a children's garden, a medicinal garden, and two beautiful and unique water features and a large seasonal pond that is home to many animals. The Children's Garden is home to Mosaic Oasis, a whimsical and fun water feature that includes a drinking fountain, ornamental fountain, and play structure designed by local mixed media artist Colleen Barry. The Garden is full of fun and interesting plants from around the world.

**Animals** ~ Guests can see over 64 different species of animals, many of which are native to Northern California. All of the animals are non-releasable and can no longer survive on their own in the wild. The **Parrot Playhouse**, a walk-through, interactive, aviary, features lorikeets, and Australian birds seen in every color of the rainbow! Enjoy looking at these beautiful parrots and feeding them from your own hand and they land on your arm.

**The Saturday afternoon *Meditation Prayer Walk* will be at Turtle Bay. We will be meeting after Session III in the hotel lobby to carpool. A prayer booklet will be in your Convention folders for you to take with you to reflect upon whenever you take a break from walking and exploring.**

**The \$10 fee on the Registration Form will go to MITES.**