

Kayaking Delta Style

Scenic Waterways and Inspiring Beauty

By Naomi Walker Photos by Naomi Walker and Susan Newberg

Kayaking is a great way to get out on the water and experience the Delta firsthand.

The California Delta is an expansive inland river delta and estuary in Northern California. It is formed at the western edge of the Central Valley by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin River and lies just east of where the rivers enter Suisun Bay. The total area is about 1,100 square miles, including both land and water.

The Delta was formed by the raising of sea level following glaciation. Since the Ice Age, geologically, the area has existed for about 10,000 years. Much of the region sits below sea level and behind levees. With the many channels and sloughs, the Delta it is a great area for kayaking and exploring the waterways.

The areas within the Delta range from vast, expansive, open water to narrow and enchanting sloughs with various species of plant and animal life.

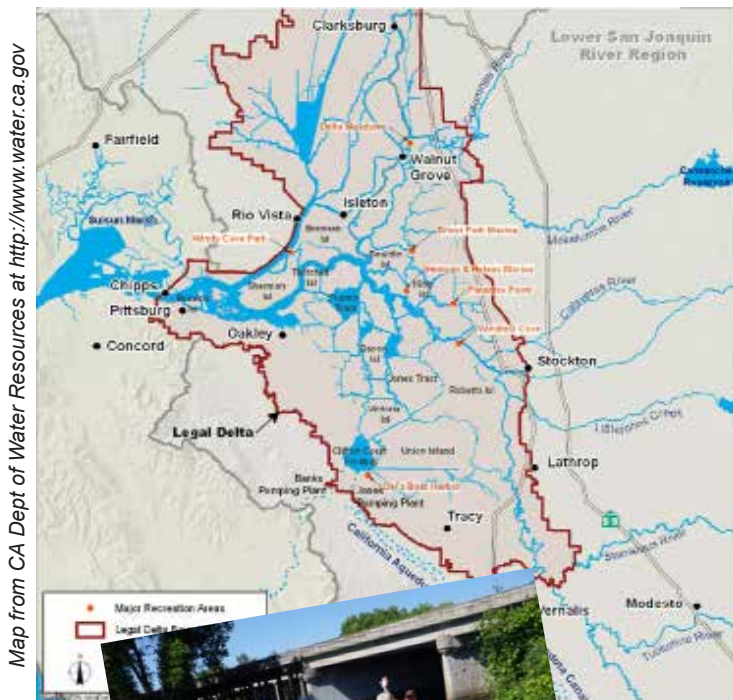
There are a number of great put-in areas.

Steamboat Landing

Steamboat Landing is located at 12414 State Highway 160 in Courtland on Sutter Island, across from the northern tip of Grand Isle. Grab a snack at the nearby Steamboat Landing eatery, then launch from the beach. There is a fee for beach access.

New Hope Landing and Marina

New Hope Landing and Marina is located at 13945 West Walnut Grove Road in Thornton. Once in the water, continue straight ahead, which heads up the Cosumnes River. This is a beautiful area of the river to paddle. A sharp left takes you towards Wimpy's Restaurant and Marina on the Mokelumne River, where you can stop for a bite to eat. There is a \$10.00 per car fee for parking.



Kokopelli Kayak Rentals

Kokopelli Kayak Rentals is located on the Delta Loop at 151 Brannan Island Road in Isleton, in front of the Lighthouse Restaurant. Rent single kayaks for \$15.00 per hour and tandem kayaks for \$20.00 per hour at this location. The resort is closed Mondays.

Suisun City Boat Landing

The Suisun City Boat Landing is located on Cordelia Slough at the end of Kellogg Street in Suisun near several interesting nearby eateries. The slough winds through the Suisun Marsh, which is one of the

largest contiguous wetland preserves in the nation. Check the tides before you go as some areas may become too shallow for paddling. Be sure to watch the wind as well because it can be very windy and rough on some of the sloughs. Parking is free.



Cosumnes River Preserve

Cosumnes River Preserve is located at 13501 Franklin Blvd. in Galt. Access to the Cosumnes River is about 1/2 mile from the Preserve office. Borrow a trailer from the office to walk your kayak to the water. The office holds your driver's license for security. The Preserve offers organized paddle trips with guides. For more information see <http://www.cosumnes.org>. There are no fees at this location.



Note, when going to sites with parking fees, be sure to bring the exact fee in cash, as most sites do not have an attendant. It is also wise to have a pencil and pen with you to denote where you are parking.



The California Delta is a beautiful, scenic area that moves and inspires — especially when you're out on the water. Kayak this intricate and complex area to paint a picture for your personal memories.