

out and about

A California getaway, the joy of horseback riding, and pet advice from our country vet

Paperwhite carries beautiful stationery sets, journals, letterpress cards, and out-of-the-ordinary party supplies.

Five Reasons to Visit Petaluma

This laid-back Northern California town comes to life in spring, with a lively farm festival and one of the state's finest antiques fairs.

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1. You'll score fabulous antiques—at great prices.

On April 25, the already-thriving Petaluma antiques scene will shift into overdrive, as more than 180 vendors from across the West set up booths downtown for the spring Antique Faire (below). Check out Federal-era furniture and Art Deco silverware as well as vintage wallpaper, Bakelite jewelry, old-movie posters, architectural salvage, and garden statuary. As the photos here show, there's something for everyone—and every budget. (petalumadowntown.com)



Last year, this set of bone-handled cutlery went for \$75.



Vintage flower frogs, from \$12 to \$40



Dozens of 1960s woven purses, priced to sell at \$20 or less



Late-19th-century pharmacy bottles usually start at \$40 each.



This ivoryine hand mirror from the 1920s brought \$38.

2. Civic pride's alive and well.

Once called the "egg basket to the world," Petaluma celebrates its agricultural roots with the annual Butter & Egg Days festival, held this year on April 24. Started in 1918, the event includes food and craft booths, a marching-band parade, and the most adorable baby-chick-costume contest on the planet. (petalumadowntown.com)



4. Rooms at this historic inn start at \$89 a night!

Four blocks from downtown, the Metro Hotel (*above*) features 15 spacious rooms with high ceilings, claw-foot tubs, and free WiFi (metrolodging.com). Looking for a full-service hotel with a gym and pool? Splurge on a night at the Sheraton Sonoma County (*from \$169*; starwoodhotels.com).



3. You can't beat the downtown shopping.

In addition to Paperwhite (*above*; 707-775-4200), which carries a carefully edited selection of stationery and gift items, check out Petaluma Collective, a rambling co-op of 25 antiques dealers (707-765-2920). One block away, the popular independent bookstore Copperfield's stocks new releases, plus some 45,000 used and rare volumes (707-762-0563).

5. "Fresh and local" is the food mantra.

At Tea Room Café (*below right*; 707-765-0199), order a frittata made with Petaluma eggs and *fromage blanc* from nearby Cowgirl Creamery, or try just-picked area produce in soups and salads at Water Street Bistro (707-763-9563). And don't miss Lala's organic, small-batch ice creams (707-763-5252).



GETTING THERE

Fly into San Francisco International Airport, then rent a car and drive the 40 miles north to Petaluma. Although taxis are available, having your own wheels means the option to explore Point Reyes National Seashore and the vineyards in Sonoma, all of which lie about 30 minutes from town.