

danville

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Danville offers plenty of options for daily vacations – daycations, that is.

Photography by Kyle Mix

Enjoy Summer Days In Danville

Written by Andrea Cardinale

Wanna get away? Summer's coming, and it's time to plan for fun and adventure. But that doesn't mean you have to travel, as Danville offers plenty of options for daily vacations – daycations, that is.

Warm weather beckons outdoor adventures, and Danville is a great place for walking, hiking and biking. The trails are plentiful and the atmosphere is serene. Stroll the Iron Horse trail, open daily from dawn 'til dusk, hike Mount Diablo or meander through Danville's Certified Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings for fresh fare and bountiful bouquets.

If you're seeking a bit of culture to pair with your outing, check out Tao House, the national historic site and home of legendary playwright Eugene O'Neill, that's tucked into the Las Trampas Wilderness. Headed inside? Try Danville's many art galleries and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, which is housed in the restored railroad depot and which offers a permanent collection of historic items and rotating exhibits. The Village Theatre is a great option as well, with live award-winning productions all year 'round and a new art gallery that houses diverse exhibits for all ages.

Kids at day camp? Drop into a yoga or Pilates class for a workout or don a plushy robe and savor a spa day. Danville has no shortage of salons, offering

everything from radiant facials to deep tissue massage. Later, enjoy a light lunch with the ladies and browse the boutiques for a new bauble.

When evening arrives there are plenty of options for dining: Whet your whistle by wine tasting at The Vine and head over to one of Danville's countless eateries for a quick, chatty, casual or elegant experience. Whether cozying inside or dining al fresco, you'll truly feel as though you're vacationing. Afterward, coffee, a nightcap, gelato and chocolates await at one of the Town's numerous sweet spots.

Daycations A-Plenty for Kids

From toddlers to teens, there are daycation opportunities for every age in Danville.

Kids tire of toast, so start a spectacular summer day by heading out for a hearty breakfast at one of the Town's numerous eateries. Or pick up bagels, pastries or an energizing smoothie and head over to one of Danville's six beautifully-designed parks for a peaceful outdoor feast. Don't forget to grab a coffee, tea or hot cocoa along the way. Fido in tow? Hap Magee Park's Canine Corral provides instant playmates for your pup and an adventurous play structure for your little ones.

Your child's teacher suggested it's important to keep up with reading all summer long, right? Homework doesn't have to be dreary. Grab your bikes, map out a route and hit the Danville Library to check out a favorite tome, sit in on a Kids Book

Group discussion or attend story time. If you'd like to purchase a book on your daycation, Rakestraw Books, a quaint independent book store, is sure to offer old favorites, the classics and the hottest bestsellers.

Do your kids enjoy sports? Talkin' Baseball is a great spot for memorabilia and sports cards, while Danville Bowl will take you from sedentary to strikes in no time. Need a new toy or game? Try Games Unlimited, Game Stop and G. R. Doodlebug. If your kids are crafty, custom candles and jewelry can be created at Stella Luna or Beaded Bliss. Browse the shops, boutiques or second-hand stores for back-to-school clothes. Invite a few friends over to hang out, or head to Boswell's Party Store for a spectacular array sure to transform your back yard into a Polynesian paradise.

Along the way, lunch and dinner for all ages are a cinch in Danville: From to-go sandwiches and burritos to gourmet pizza and juicy burgers, the choice is yours. Afterward, satisfy your sweet tooth and round out your daycation with an evening treat of ice cream, frozen yogurt, gelato, gooey caramel apples, artisan pastries, decadent chocolates—the makings for sundaes and s'mores – with friends.

For further information on Danville's offerings and specific ideas for Danville daycations, visit www.danvilleinstyle.com.

DANVILLE FINE ARTS FAIRE THIS MONTH

■ No need to tour Italy this year. You might just spot the Sistine Chapel in downtown Danville.

The Danville Fine Arts Faire will be held on June 19 & 20 and will highlight 200 fine art and craft exhibits from the country's celebrated painters, potters, jewelers, photographers, glass blowers, sculptors and more.

"The Danville Fine Arts Faire is a tremendous opportunity to show off Danville and draw people from surrounding areas," said Melony Newman, president and CEO of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce.

This year Italian Street Painting is a "mustsee," featured as part of a Weekend with the Masters series. An Italian tradition since the 16th century, street painting has grown in popularity in California and is a delightful element of the Danville Fine Arts Faire. Talented artisans will spend two days on their hands and knees recreating classic images from the Sistine Chapel and other Renaissance masters in 12-foot by 12-foot areas -- using chalk. Stop by on Saturday morning to view the initial outline and pop over again on Sunday afternoon to behold the development of a magnificent masterpiece.

"The Weekend with the Masters street painting is not something typically found in art faires, and it's amazing to watch artists transform a piece of pavement into incredible art. It's breathtaking," said Newman.

Sponsored by the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Danville, the festival, in its 19th year, has something for everyone. Families with children will enjoy face painting, bounce houses and street corner concerts that are both danceable and diverse, featuring New Age Celtic harp, hot Latin guitar and harmonious keyboards. Do browsing and admiring make you hungry and thirsty? Look no further than the festival's first-rate food offerings, fine wine and chilled microbrews.

The Danville Fine Arts Faire, held June 19 and 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., is located downtown on four blocks between Diablo Road and Hartz Avenue. Admission is free and timed parking in all town-owned lots and curbside spots near the event will not be enforced. For more information about the Danville Fine Arts Faire visit www.mlproductions.com.

SPEND THE DAY AT JERO'L

■ If you've driven by Jero'l Salon and Day Spa and think it's just a typical cut and color scene. Think again.

From updos waxing, massages, mani-pedis, and facials to eyelash extensions, makeup application and more, Jero'l Salon and Day Spa has been a Danville institution for more than 30 years. Its owner, Alamo resident Dana Wilson, began at Jero'l as a manager in 1980. Wilson bought the shop, expanded it to twice its original size and opened a spa upstairs. She purchased the property next door, which now serves as a beauty supply haven.

Wilson credits the shop's phenomenal success to its comfortable environment, its expert offerings (as a result of extensive training) and its top notch customer service. Clientele is accommodated seven days a week, up to 16 hours a day, and services are guaranteed. One could argue that the secret to Jero'l's longevity is Wilson herself, whose savvy business sense and all-for-one management style have resulted in sweet success. "I come from a big family and I run my business like a big family," said Wilson, who juggles countless employees and independent contractors. "I want everyone to succeed. There's no competitiveness here, there's an open door of communication and a willingness to share in successes."

Wilson's commitment to quality and education are evident via "Growing Our Own," an apprentice program that ensures she educates and hires just the right people to join her team. In the shop at any given time, are a handful of apprentices paired with seasoned stylists, soaking in their expertise daily.

Jero'l's utilizes prestigious New York City-based Bumble and Bumble products exclusively in the salon, an affiliation that has afforded Wilson continued education in the latest fashion-forward techniques and national recognition. In February Jero'l stylist Cindy Hargrove was invited to attend New York's Fashion Week, where she styled models and worked with the world's top hairstylists.

"There are so many different directions in my industry," said Wilson, who has traveled all over the world to study new and different beauty techniques, shows no sign of slowing down. "I love what I do. I love people and I love making them feel great. I don't plan on retiring. I'll be here 'til I drop."

Jero'l Salon and Day Spa is located at 301 Hartz Avenue. For more information, call 820-6044.

Changes on the Way to Veterans Memorial Building

Written by Andrea Cardinale

The much-anticipated renovation and reconstruction of Danville's Veterans Memorial Building are underway. The 85-year-old structure, has served not only as a commitment to remembering and recognizing veterans, but as a central gathering spot for veterans, seniors and the community.

Last August, plans were approved for a multi-million dollar renovation of the historic structure that will restore and preserve a portion of the existing building as a state-of-the art veteran's facility. The renovated two-story space will house a dedicated veteran's area including a lounge, a board room, an event hall and a resource center. The auditorium and parking lot at the rear of the building will be demolished, making way for a stunning new community hall, a catering kitchen and meeting rooms for senior programs. Once complete, the building will double in size and will

surely become a hot spot for events such as weddings, banquets, reunions and meetings. Construction is set to begin in July.

"The Veterans Memorial Building represents the heart of the community for long-time residents, and this renovation will provide an even better experience for them," said Marcia Somers, Danville's Assistant Town Manager and project manager for the renovation.

"Our veterans and seniors will be able to have a place to call their own, one that they can point to with pride because they've been involved in developing it," said Somers. Referring to the group of veterans, seniors and community representatives formed to plan for the new site, "It was really a great showing of community support, to hear all of



the input from so many locals who care about this facility."

The Veterans Memorial Building is located at the corner of Hartz and East Prospect avenues. Project funding is provided by the Town of Danville, the Veterans Memorial Building Development Committee, EBRPD Measure WW and Federal Housing and Urban Development funds. For more information on the renovation please visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

3 things to do in Danville

1 Moonlight Movies

Looking for a little fun Friday nights? Bring the gang down to the Town Green for some fresh air and a great flick. Danville's Moonlight Movies offer family-friendly films in a picturesque outdoor setting under the stars. Don't forget your lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks to make it complete. Danville's Moonlight Movies are free and open to the public. For dates and time, visit the event calendar at www.ci.danville.ca.us.

2 Year Round Farmers' Market & Seasonal Recipes

Take a Saturday and explore one of the finest Farmers' Market in the East Bay, in Danville from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The assortment of fresh healthy fruits, vegetables, flowers, breads, olive oils, vinegars, tapenades, chocolate, grass fed beef, and homemade pasta will easily help you create an amazing healthy meal for family and friends. Need recipe ideas for all those amazing market finds, visit the Farmers' Market page on www.danvilleinstyle.com and click on recipes.

3 July 4th Parade- Honoring our Heros

Save the Date...for a day of fun, Sunday, July 4, 2010! The Danville 4th of July Parade will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Park yourself curbside and cheer on the bands, gymnasts, Scouts, and other community organizations as they proudly march by. Horses and other animals will pace the route, while antique cars inch along for your enjoyment. If interested in registering a float in the parade, or for more parade information, visit www.kiwanis-srv.org.

For more information on these and other events, check out the datebook page at www.danvilleinstyle.com.



Want to be in the know about special events in Danville this summer? Visit the datebook at www.danvilleinstyle.com.

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