

# BEHIND THE ROD

## 3-Day Hidden Fishing Lakes Road Trip Itinerary (California)

*From NorCal Giants to SoCal Secrets - Discover California's Best Fishing Lakes*



### Lake Shasta – Northern California's Iconic Fishing Giant

**LOCATION:** Lakehead, CA

**TARGET FISH:** Rainbow trout, salmon, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, catfish

**Morning:** Shoreline fishing near Jones Valley or rent a boat at Bridge Bay Marina - head to the Sacramento River for trolling Chinook salmon

**Afternoon:** Camp lakeside or stay at a floating cabin

**Bonus Stop:** Burney Falls State Park (30 min away)

**Must-Snap:** Sunrise mist over the lake w/Mt. Shasta peeking through



### Lake Isabella – The Central Sierra's Underrated Gem

**LOCATION:** Kern Country, CA

**TARGET FISH:** Largemouth bass, rainbow trout, crappie

Often overshadowed by bigger lakes, Lake Isabella offers peaceful coves and a rustic, wild-west backdrop for serious anglers.

**Morning:** Drive south (~6 hrs from Shasta) and fish the North Fork area

**Afternoon:** Cast for catfish near the South Fork Wildlife Area

**Evening:** Book a riverside cabin in Kernville or primitive campgrounds

**Bonus Stop:** Hike the nearby Kern River Trail for a break between casts



### Dixon Lake – San Diego County's Hidden Fishing Oasis

**LOCATION:** Escondido, CA

**TARGET FISH:** Largemouth bass, rainbow trout (seasonal) bluegill, catfish

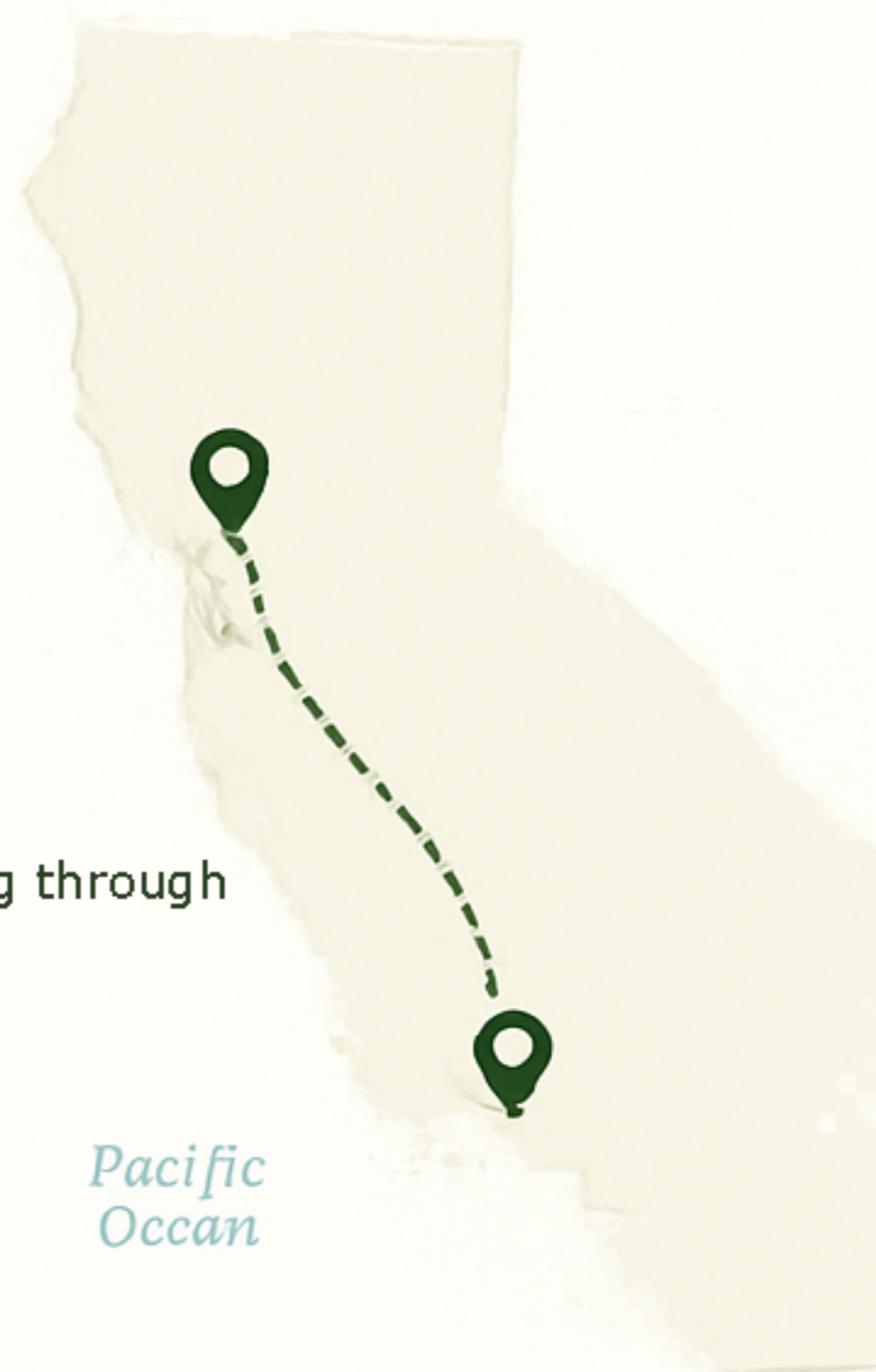
Tucked in the foothills, Dixon Lake is a kept SoCal secret

**Afternoon:** Early arrival for shoreline or pier fishing (no license needed here!) Hike around the lake

**Evening:** Cast for bass near Jack Creek or rent a boat

**Food-Stop:** Post-fish tacos from TJ Tacos in Escondido

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*Pacific Ocean*

#### What To Pack

- Rods for both trout and bass fishing
- Region-specific bait/lures
- Sun protection + wide-brim hat
- Refillable water bottle + trail snacks
- Cooler for catch transport
- Camping gear (if staying off-grid)

#### Total Driving Distance:

- Approx. 950 miles total
- Shasta to Isabella:  
~6 hrs (325 miles)
- Isabella to Dixon Lake:  
~4.5 hrs (285 miles)