The Earth Moved Under Your Feet…

Resting beneath your feet are the ancient remains of a volcano that erupted 10 million years ago. Strange animals once roamed here, like long-necked camels and three-toed horses. Today they are replaced by grazing cattle, deer, and domestic dogs. Slowly, over millions of years, this volcano uplifted, tilted on its side, eroded, and crept along the Calaveras and related faults to its present location.

As you explore this unique area, look for traces of the past and footprints of the present. Take the self-guided trail exploring the many geologic features exposed by rock quarrying that began in the late 1940's. The deep underpinnings and interior of the volcano have been exposed for study; no other volcano in California is similarly exposed. Examine the planted eucalyptus trees and Monterey pines along a portion of the National Skyline Trail. Look for wildlife in and around the ponds and search the sky for golden eagles.