

# Healey Trip

## Calaveras Road out of Milpitas north to Sunol and return via Niles Canyon Road.

Here's a little spin through the East Bay foothills.

**Total distance:** Milpitas-to-Milpitas--40.9 miles.

**Total time:** Figure 60-90 minutes depending on how fast you push it.

**What to See:** Suddenly you're out of the sprawl and into the countryside with rolling hills for a background. There are minimal houses, lots of meadows and open spaces, and in the spring everything is a beautiful green and the wildflowers are in bloom.

**Start:** Pick up Calaveras Boulevard at I-880 or I-680 in Milpitas and head east. Calaveras Boulevard becomes Calaveras Road and starts climbing into the foothills surrounding Calaveras Reservoir. The road is well paved, but narrow and twisty where it is cut out of the hillsides above the reservoir. On the downhill side the road is uppy-downny through a narrow valley with tree nurseries and grazing cattle. This segment is well paved and two-lanes. Calaveras Road ends at I-680 just south of the Rte 84 turn-off to Livermore.

**End:** You can return to Milpitas on I-680 south at this point, head north on I-680, or you can continue west on 84 to Main Street (just past the narrow bridge) and into downtown Sunol. There's a good restaurant there, an antique mall and a railroad station. If you're lucky you'll see the steam engine operated by the Niles Canyon Railway. Continue south on 84 down through Niles Canyon to Rte 238. Take a left and follow 238 to I-680 and back to Milpitas, or continue straight into Niles if you like antique stores (in fact I think that's all that there is in Niles).

**Watch out for:** Bikers and bicyclists. Calaveras Road is a narrow track for the most part with practically no turn-outs and no passing areas. If you get behind a gawker, you might be stuck with him (her). Also there are stretches of the road around the reservoir where there are no barriers between you and the drop. At the beginning of the run out of Milpitas there are several stables, so be wary of horse cookies in the road. I guess E-Qz don't use pooper-scoopers. Also: there are no services on Calaveras Road, so be sure to tank up.

