

# The View From Mount Diablo

As mountains go, Mount Diablo isn't particularly tall - only 3,849 feet. However, it is surrounded by low, rolling hills and broad, flat valleys, so the view from the summit is remarkable. When conditions are best, you can see almost 200 miles.

The best time to come for the view is in the winter and early spring after a storm clears the air. The features of San Francisco, the Sacramento Valley and the Sierra Mountains are readily visible.

On other days, drifting smog and fog from the Bay Area, common in late spring and summer, can reduce visibility.

To pick out cities and land features, go to the observation platform of the Summit Building, and face west towards the lower parking lot and communication towers. Walnut Creek and Concord are below you and to the right.

Also looking in this direction, beyond the East Bay hills, are the Santa Cruz Mountains, San Francisco, San Pablo Bay and Mount Tamalpais (2600 feet). You may be able to see the Farallon Islands, 25 miles past the Golden Gate.

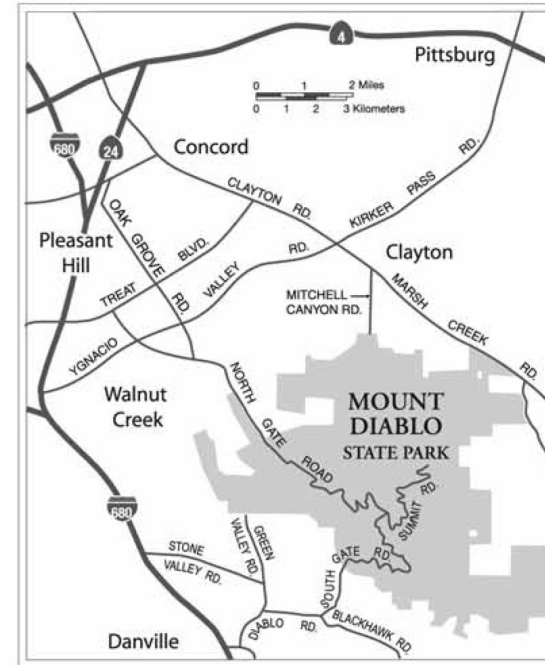
Facing northeast, Pittsburg is to the left. Also, in this direction are the delta formed by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and the

Sacramento Valley with the Sutter Buttes at the far end. If it's very clear you may sight Lassen Peak beyond the Buttes, about 165 miles to the north. Though Mount Shasta, approximately 240 miles away, is too far to see directly, a partial image of the peak, refracted by the earth's atmosphere, is sometimes visible.

To the east, the Sierra Nevada rises behind the San Joaquin Valley and stretches southward for about 400 miles to Mount Whitney. Under perfect conditions, with a trained eye or binoculars, you may be able to make out Half Dome in Yosemite Valley.

To the south are the Livermore-Pleasanton Valleys and Mount Hamilton (4200 feet). The reflection from the top of the Lick Observatory is often seen.

All in all, you can see over 40,000 square miles and about 35 of California's 58 counties from the top of Mount Diablo.



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