

About the Inn

The historic Benbow Inn—with its distinctive Tudor architecture and beautiful setting—has intrigued travelers for almost eight decades. It was designed by architect Albert Farr, who was commissioned by the Benbow family to create a cornerstone for the resort community they intended to build in their 1,290 acre valley.

The “Hotel Benbow” opened to the public in July of 1926 and soon became a popular destination for motoring tourists traveling up the newly-completed Redwood Highway. The combination of seclusion and elegant hospitality served as quite an attraction for the Hollywood elite: Spencer Tracy, Clark Gable, Alan Ladd, Charles Laughton, Joan Fontaine, and Basil Rathbone were all patrons of the Inn, as well as dignitaries Eleanor Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover. Guests enjoyed luxurious accommodations along with the best of the great outdoors: riding stables, golf course, swimming, boating and fishing in the Eel River.

The Benbow family sold the hotel in 1962, and each of the four subsequent owners has added many personal touches and improvements, while preserving as much of the original as possible (including the main building guest room doors, hand-painted by Eva Benbow). The Inn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. John and Teresa Porter and Jack Macdonald purchased the Inn in 1994, bringing over fifty years of innkeeping experience with them. They have continued to upgrade and restore the Benbow Inn, maintaining a four-diamond designation, and adding even more services for the comfort of their guests. In July of 2004 they purchased the adjacent Benbow Valley Resort, which includes the 112 space RV Park, and 35-par 9-hole golf course. In addition to the golf course and RV Park, Benbow Inn guests now have use of the pool, jacuzzi, pro shop and store with the ability to sign charges to their individual rooms.

Each guest room is graced with antique furniture, fine prints, a basket of mystery novels and poetry, robes, a decanter of sherry, coffees and teas and complimentary WiFi. All terrace rooms have private patios, antiques, televisions, CD players and VCRs; several of these rooms have fireplaces and one has a private jacuzzi. The Lobby and other common rooms are filled with antiques, paintings, needlepoint and *objets d'art*—a perfect setting for reading, games, puzzles, and afternoon tea and scones.

Our beautiful dining room, which offers the finest fresh regional cuisine, is open daily for breakfast and dinner, weekend breakfast and lunch in the summertime. Please make dinner reservations for every evening you will be staying with us. Dining Room dress is *Casual Elegance*. Our lounge serves a full array of fine spirits, great wines, imported and domestic beers including local microbrews.

Just a reminder. . . Our historic hotel has no elevator, but we do have a bellman on duty to assist you with luggage. Our entire staff is at your service to make your stay at Benbow a most enjoyable one.

Special Events and Items of Interest

- Now open year round.
- 4th of July celebration.
- Jazz in June Festival.
- November Wine Tasting charity event with fifteen of California’s finest wineries participating.
- December 1-January 1—Toyland Christmas celebration and New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance. Very special decorations and entertainment.
- Complimentary English tea and scones served at 3:00 p.m. daily in the lobby.
- Complimentary hors d’oeuvres at 5:00 p.m. daily.
- Complimentary WiFi.
- Massage services available by appointment.
- Summer swimming at beautiful Benbow Lake (July and August).
- Swimming pool and jacuzzi.
- Bicycles and helmets for our guests.
- 9-hole PGA rated Golf Course, driving cage & putting green.
- Tennis nearby in Redway.
- Pro Shop, retail store and gift shop.
- Boat rentals at State Park (July and August).
- Avenue of the Giants—scenic drive through the Giant Redwoods.
- Visit Ferndale, a beautiful Victorian town of shops and galleries.
- Classic film library of over 250 films.
- Gift certificates for that special someone.
- Facilities for groups, seminars and corporate retreats.
- Hiking nearby and Lost Coast.

Events Subject to Change

The Four Seasons

Spring

Spring begins with a paradise of color, the trees fresh with new greenery, and primroses, narcissus and tulips showing their glorious spring tints. The rhododendrons and azaleas fill the gardens with brilliant color. It is a time for walking in the Redwoods, biking, golfing or just plain relaxing.

Summer

Benbow Lake is in (July thru mid-September) and swimming, boating and sun bathing are in order. The roses are in full color, along with impatiens, lilies, marigolds and all the local wildflowers. Dinner guests fill the Terrace in the warmth of beautiful summer nights. Bicycle rides and leisurely picnics occupy the days.

Autumn

This season shows Benbow Valley at its most beautiful and colorful. Unknown to most Californians, the Benbow Valley has a warm Indian Summer well into October, then the woods and surrounding areas turn in a Fall Foliage display that rivals those found in New England. November is a time for leisurely walks in the woods or relaxing with a book or puzzle in front of our lobby fireplace.

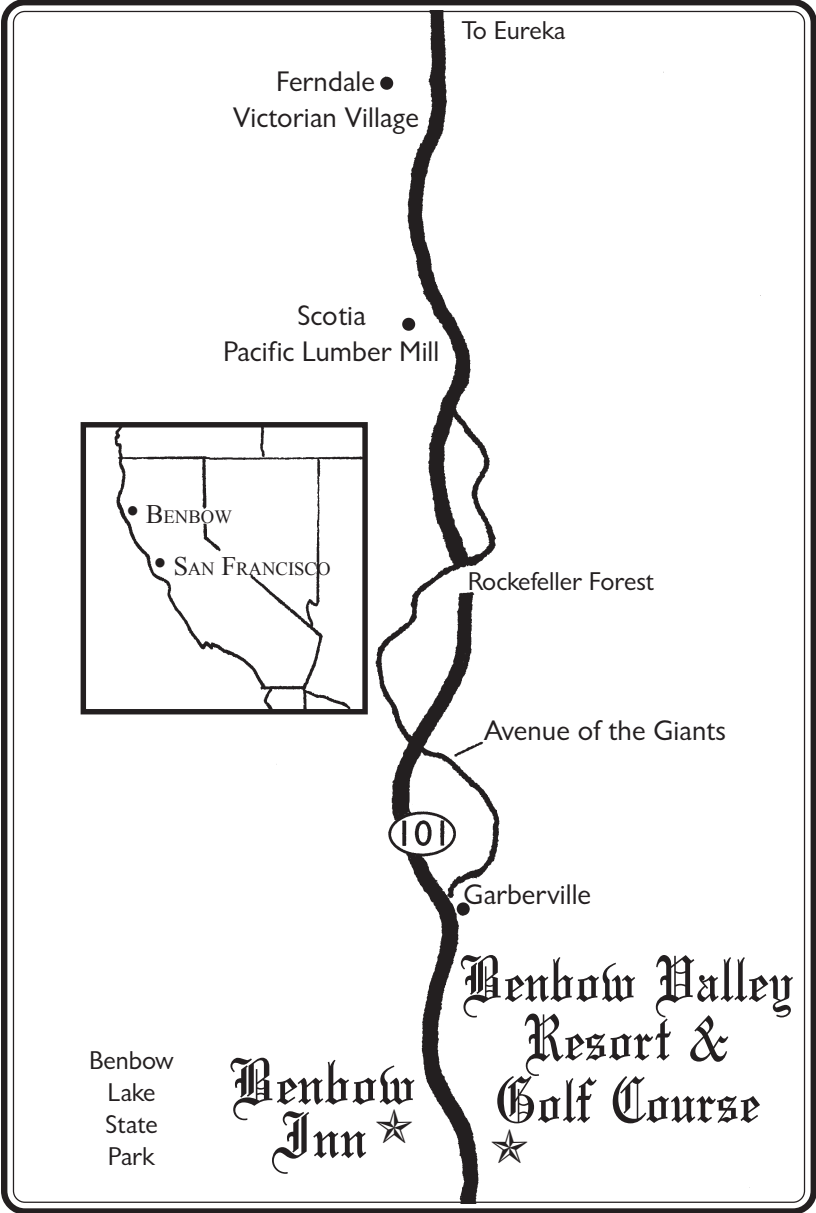
Winter

The excitement of our Holiday season is here. The Inn is decorated from top to bottom: thousands of white lights outline the hotel, the Lobby is decked out with a 15 foot tall animated teddy bear tree, and a tiny gift shop is filled with delightful gifts and goodies. Our Toyland Christmas Celebration is highlighted by a five-course Christmas Day dinner. Our New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance is a gala party not to be missed. During the entire holiday season we have special entertainment for our guests including light opera, Olde English balladeers, caroling and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

Come spend all the beautiful seasons with us!

• • •

Remember . . . for the comfort of all our guests, no smoking, no pets, and no cell phones in our public areas, please.



Drive Times

From San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge	3 hours 30 minutes
From Sacramento	5 hours
From Santa Rosa	2 hours 30 minutes
From Eureka	70 minutes
From Ferndale	45 minutes

Benbow Inn
 445 Lake Benbow Drive
 Garberville, California 95542

Benbow Inn

A National Historical Place



445 LAKE BENBOW DRIVE, GARBERVILLE, CA 95542
 PHONE (707) 923-2124
 1 (800) 355-3301 • FAX (707) 923-2122
 email: benbow@benbowinn.com • website: www.benbowinn.com