

Grass Valley The Church Walk

10 kilometer route



Directions are numbered with turns in **BOLD CAPS**. For your safety, **stay on the left side when walking on streets with no sidewalks or on bike paths.**

Copyright © Placer Pacers 2012

These directions may be used only upon registration at a currently sanctioned AVA event.

1. Exit the Flour Garden and turn **RIGHT** along the front of the Safeway Store, then **BEAR LEFT** through the parking lot toward the Tribal Weaver on Neal Street
2. **LEFT** on Neal and go up the hill to Mill Street
3. Cross Mill and turn **LEFT**

The small two story apartment at 238 Mill was once the site of the Lotta Crabtree House. It was in Grass Valley that Lotta met Lola Montez who taught her to sing and dance. Lotta entertained in mining camps and later graced the American stage until she retired at the age of 44. She was the first American entertainer to become a millionaire, earning \$3 million. At 248 Mill is the site where local government began under an oak tree in 1850. A cabin was built here in 1851 and was purchased by the international celebrity and performer, Lola Montez. She retired here until 1855, when she returned to San Francisco. The current structure is a replica of Lola's original house.

4. Continue on Mill until you approach the Highway 20 overpass. Before the overpass, cross French Avenue and turn **RIGHT** to Brighton Street
5. **RIGHT** on Brighton Street to Chapel Street
Restrooms can be found at Brighton and Minnie Street. Past Minnie Street Park is the Grass Valley Fire House.
6. **RIGHT** on Chapel Street. the playground of the Mount Saint Mary's Academy will be in front of you

7. When you come to St Patrick's Catholic Church turn **LEFT** at the cross walk onto South Church Street
8. Continue on Church to West Main Street

The Old St Patrick's Cemetery will be on your right. This cemetery is one of the area's oldest, dating to 1853. On the other side of the street are the Grass Valley Museum and the Mt St Mary's Convent Chapel. The first Mount St. Mary's Chapel was dedicated in 1859 and was completed in 1863. During the early years, the Sisters of Mercy operated a school for the orphans whose parents had died from mining accidents or illness. The existing St Joseph's Hall was built in 1894. The Episcopal Church located at 234 South Church Street was completed in 1858 and is the oldest Episcopal Church in California and the oldest church building surviving in the Sierra Nevadas. You will find a number of other churches on this street and throughout the walk.

9. Cross West Main and turn **LEFT**
Notice Holbrooke Hotel, a historic hotel at 212 West Main, one of Grass Valley's most recognized landmarks. The Golden Gate Saloon was established on this site in 1851 and was rebuilt with stone and brick after the fire of 1855. It became known as the Exchange Hotel.
10. Continue on Main to Alta Street
11. **RIGHT** on Alta and go up the hill to Ridge Road, which is at the end Alta.
12. **RIGHT** on Ridge and go a fair distance to Hughes Road
13. **RIGHT** on Hughes to Lidster Avenue
14. **RIGHT** on Lidster until you come to what looks like the end of the road. At this point Lidster makes a very sharp left and becomes Cypress Hill Drive
15. Continue on Cypress Hill back to Hughes Street
16. **RIGHT** on Hughes and go down the hill to East Main Street
17. **RIGHT** on East Main as it goes down the hill and veers to the right

18. Continue on East Main until it becomes West Main

At 116 W. Main was the Montez Theater.

Named for Lola Montez, this theater operated in the 1930's and 1940's. Today the building has been remodeled to become the Main Street Mall.

19. Continue on West Main to Mill Street

20. At Mill Street turn **LEFT** through the shopping area to Neal Street

21. **LEFT** on Neal and go down the hill to the Safeway Store and return to the Flour Garden

