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LITTLE RIVER -- LOCAL INFORMATION, ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

- The town of Little River – population 412 – is two miles south of the popular tourist town of Mendocino. The coastal community is named after Little River, a waterway that reaches the Pacific Ocean in Van Damme State Park. Despite its small size – the town center hosts a grocery store with two gas pumps, a deli, a post office, and several restaurants – Little River has its own airport.
- The area boasts a wide range of activities, from rural nature walks, hiking and biking to art-gallery, restaurant and spa outings. Outdoor activities include: hiking, mountain biking, foraging for wild mushrooms and berries, beach combing, tidepooling, bird watching, golf, and abalone diving.
- Local parks and nature preserves abound, including: Van Damme State Park, Jughandle State Park, Russian Gulch, Mendocino Headlands, Big River Beach and Trail, MacKerricher State Park, Ten Mile River and Beach, Mendocino Pygmy Forest, Montgomery Woods, Caspar State Beach, Virgin Creek Beach, Albion River, Navarro River and Beach, Hendy Woods and Spring Ranch.
- The Point Cabrillo Preserve includes the historic 1909 Light Station (30.5 acres), and approximately 270 acres of undeveloped coastal bluffs and prairie. The property was purchased and preserved from development by the California State Coastal Conservancy and managed by a non-profit affiliate, the North Coast Interpretive Association. In 2002, the property transferred to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Management of the Preserve's programs and restoration activities was assumed by a newly formed non-profit organization: The Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association. Restoration of the West Light keepers' house, the historic fencing and gardens, and several buildings is now underway.
- The Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens is the perfect retreat for those with a green thumb, featuring 47 acres of manicured and wild gardens, a breathtaking view of the ocean, a nursery and ice cream stand.
- The Skunk Train offers three- and four-hour trips departing from downtown Fort Bragg (20 minutes from Little River), crisscrossing over the Noyo River and cutting through the coast mountains to towering redwood forests. This family-friendly adventure can be booked for barbecue packages and special events or simply to enjoy riding the rails.
- Paddle sports make for a popular outing. Liquid Fusion Kayak Company offers exciting kayak tours and lessons for people of all skill levels.

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- Catch your own dinner of salmon, rockfish, crab or tuna on one of our local fishing charters. Embark on a trip to see the majestic grey whales up close and personal as they make their annual migration between Baja California and the Bering Sea.
- Mendocino Wine Tours offers a scenic ride to local wineries — a short drive along some of the prettiest stretches of the California coastline, followed by a journey through a hauntingly beautiful old-growth redwood forest into the lush Anderson Valley. Wine tours include: pick up and drop off at the cottages, tastings at four wineries, barrel and reserve tastings, full gourmet lunch, behind-the-scenes tours, discounted cases of wine, and discussions with winemakers. The front desk can help schedule your tour.
- Glass Beach is one of the most unique beaches in the world, not because nature created it that way, but because time and the pounding surf have corrected one of man's mistakes. Beginning in 1949, the area around Glass Beach became a public dump. It is hard to believe these days, but back then people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. By the early sixties, some attempts were made to control what was dumped, and dumping of any toxic items was banned. Finally in 1967, the North Coast Water Quality Board realized what a mistake it was and plans were begun for a new dump away from the ocean.

Mother Nature has reclaimed this beach. Years of pounding wave action have deposited tons of polished glass onto the beach. You'll still see the occasional reminder of it earlier life, such as a rusted spark plug, but for the most part what you'll see is millions of pieces of glass sparkling in the sun. (Sorry, collecting is not allowed).

- There are more than 20 art galleries, theatres, opera, music and film festivals in the area, as well as several museums on the Mendocino Coast.
- Visit Ricochet Ridge Ranch for redwood and coastal mountain horseback-riding trips. Both English and Western horses are available.
- Fort Bragg and Mendocino are pet-friendly towns, with attractions to keep you and your dog occupied for days. Fort Bragg is home to the dog-friendly Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. In addition, Fort Bragg is home to Noyo Beach, the only off-leash spot in Mendocino County where you can officially play or picnic with your pet. Big River Beach in Mendocino is pet friendly as well, but leashes are required. Pomo Bluffs Park is a popular ocean-side destination for walking with your leashed pet; even McKerricher State Park welcomes leashed dogs on many trails, beaches and campsites. When you've had enough of the wild side, take your pet on a stroll through the historic downtown shops. You'll discover many have dog treats at the ready, while several restaurants offer out-of-doors dining and are happy to welcome your furry friend.
- Tony de la Torre and Julie Wood, the innkeeper/managers at the Cottages at Little River Cove, can arrange tours and excursions for guests upon request. Detailed information on local activities is available at the front desk as well as in custom guidebooks in each cottage.

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