

Tour 1 - Fall in Love with Plumas County

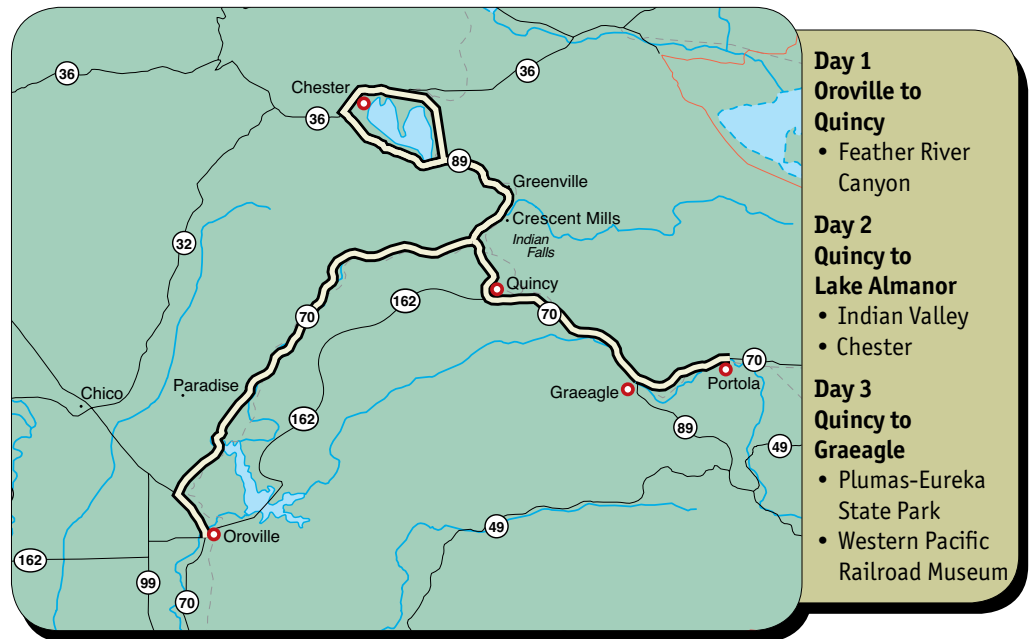
Fall foliage puts on such a spectacular show in Plumas County that locals call it “Awesome Autumn.” Varying elevations produce vibrantly colored foliage from creekbeds to mountaintops, and the fall colors contrast brilliantly against the dark green pines that dominate the landscape.

Plumas County is located in northeastern California, where the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges meet. It boasts more than 100 lakes, 1,000 miles of streams and over a million acres of forest-land. With only eight people per square mile, this rural four seasons mountain retreat offers beauty, solitude, clean air, and an unhurried pace. Off the beaten path, it’s not crowded with tourists. Yet, you’ll find plenty of attractions and things to do in this undiscovered part of the state, with year-round events, scenic drives and even a state and national park.

Fall offers perfect conditions for touring Plumas County’s quaint communities dotted with “mom and pop” shops, restaurants, and small museums. At this scenic time of year there are fewer vacationers, making this the ideal spot for a peaceful, memorable getaway. Live concerts and events, including the annual Mountain Harvest Festival, take place during the fall season. Contact the Plumas County Visitors Bureau (800-326-2247 or www.plumascounty.org) for information on events scheduled during the time of your visit.



Autumn brings stunning fall foliage to the Feather River Canyon.



Day 1 Oroville to Quincy

- Feather River Canyon

Day 2 Quincy to Lake Almanor

- Indian Valley
- Chester


Day 3 Quincy to Graeagle

- Plumas-Eureka State Park
- Western Pacific Railroad Museum




The Tobin Twin Bridges -- where railroad crosses over highway -- are among the attractions along the Feather River National Scenic Byway.

Day 1 - Oroville to Quincy

 **Oroville to Quincy** – 80 miles, allow 2 hrs.

From Oroville, drive east on Hwy. 70 along the Feather River National Scenic Byway.

 The byway offers spectacular views of the canyon and fall colors appear around almost every turn. The canyon is an awesome gorge carved by river through granite, climbing up into mountain forests and meadows. The human additions of highway, railroad and powerhouses are amazing feats of engineering in their own right.

In the fall, stunning views of golden oak, blazing dogwood and quaking aspen, ranging in color from chartreuse to flaxen yellow, intermixed with evergreens, make the drive along the Feather River a breathtaking experience.

Along with beautiful foliage, notable attractions along the byway include three drive-through tunnels, the Tobin Twin Bridges, the Bucks Creek Powerhouse, the Eby Stamp Mill and the famous Keddie Wye – the only train trestle of its kind in the world.



Lots of red can be found along the road to Bucks Lake, just outside of Quincy.

It's a stunning show that Mother Nature puts on each year, with brilliant fall colors appearing all over the landscape.

The Plumas County seat of **Quincy** is nestled against the western slope of the Sierra Nevada and tucked at the edge of the lush American Valley. The four-story courthouse building on Main Street is the county's most dominant and impressive structure. Quincy's historic downtown buildings feature browse-worthy shops and murals.

In fall, the trees in and around Quincy become beautiful displays of color. Those near the courthouse, Quincy High School, and the downtown residential area are especially worth viewing.

Lunch in Quincy: See restaurant listings

Motel Check-In:

Ada's Place (530-283-1954)

Gold Pan Lodge (530-283-3686)

Greenhorn Creek Guest Ranch (530-283-0930)

Lariat Lodge (530-283-1000)

Pine Hill Motel (530-283-1670)

Quincy Courtyard Suites (530-283-1401)

Ranchito Motel (530-283-2265)

Attractions available in Quincy:

Plumas County Museum 500 Jackson St. (530-283-6320), Open 9am - 4:30pm Tuesday- Saturday. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 for ages 12-17, free to children under 12 (allow 1 hour.)

Historic 1878 Variel Home 137 Coburn St., next to Plumas County Museum

Advance arrangements can be made for entrance and a guided group tour by contacting the museum (530-283-6320, allow half hour.)

Self-Guided Walking Tour of Quincy's historic buildings (4 blocks)

(allow half hour.) A free tour and guide map is available at the Plumas County Museum.

Plumas County Courthouse 520 Main St., (allow 20 minutes) Open 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday.

Advance arrangements can be made for a guided group tour by contacting the museum (530-283-6320.)

Give your feet a rest and stop by **Alley Cat Cafe** (530-383-0902) 541 Main St. or **Dunn's Coffee & Fine Teas** (530-283-5061) 231 W. Main St. for a cup of gourmet coffee, tea, and a homebaked treat. Or, sip a varietal at Quincy's new wine bar, **The Drunk Brush** in Grover Alley.

Shopping in Quincy - W. Main St. and adjacent side streets, Plumas Pines Shopping Center at Hwy. 70 and Quincy Junction Rd. and East Quincy along Hwy. 70. Art galleries, thrift shops, gift shops, and stores selling books, clothing, candy, toys and more are located along this route.

Dinner in Quincy: See restaurant listings

Evening entertainment can include a movie at the historic Town Hall Theatre on Main St. or a community concert or show (depending on schedule). Events are often available at Feather River College and Quincy High School. For a schedule of events, call Plumas Arts. (530-283-3402)

Day 2 - Quincy to Lake Almanor

Breakfast in Quincy: See restaurant listings

The 100-mile full-day-tour to and from the Chester/Lake Almanor basin includes many opportunities for exploring Plumas County's recreational paradise.

Travel to Chester north on Hwy. 89 along the west side of Lake Almanor (48 miles). Allow 1-1/2 hours. The Lake Almanor loop is included in the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway, recently named an All American Road.

The dazzling fall colors along this route, which follows Indian Creek, are some of the best in the county. Masses of golden oak, chokecherry and dogwood line one side of the road, while on the other, the crystalline waters of the stream are accented with amber willow and flaming red Indian rhubarb. Beautiful vistas and a stunning mountain backdrop can be seen throughout Indian Valley, which eventually leads to the southern end of Lake Almanor.



Varying elevations and a wide variety of species make Plumas County a renowned fall foliage destination.



Lake Almanor and Lassen Peak



Dazzling Indian Rhubarb along creeksides



Indian Falls

Lake Almanor and Chester offer year-round recreation, and the area serves as a gateway to Lassen Volcanic National Park. Spectacular views of Lassen Peak can be seen from Lake Almanor. Look for beautiful fall foliage in the large cottonwoods and other trees along Chester's Main Street.

Lake Almanor Recreation Trail - Turn right off Hwy. 89 onto an unpaved road across the highway from the Humbug/Humboldt Road. From the parking lot, a 10-foot wide trail leads northeast to the shoreline of Lake Almanor. Spectacular views of the lake, Dyer Mountain and Lassen Peak can be seen along the entire 11-mile paved trail.


Lassen National Forest Almanor Ranger District 900 E. Hwy. 36, located 1 mile east of the intersection of Hwy. 89 and Hwy. 36, just 1 mile west of Chester. This ranger station offers public restrooms, an interesting display of wildlife and bird specimens, free pamphlets on the local area and a gift shop filled with books and unique treasures.

Shopping in Chester (allow 1 1/2 hours) along Main Street


 **Lunch in Chester/Lake Almanor:** See restaurant listings

Afternoon beverage stop:


The Coffee Station (530-258-4112) 192 Main St. or **Main Street Coffee Bar** (530-327-9414) 240 Main St.

 **Depart Chester** traveling east on Main St. to road A-13, then south to Hwy. 147, staying along the east side of Lake Almanor to Hwy. 89. Stay on Hwy. 89 south to Indian Valley.

The communities of **Greenville** and **Crescent Mills** are part of the Indian Valley, which is named for the Native American Maidu who were the valley's original inhabitants. The area is dotted with ranches, old barns, grazing cattle, and quiet roadways – which are great for spotting fall colors.

 **Stop at Crescent Mills** to visit **Crescent Country**, a unique antique and gift shop (530-284-6016).

OPTION:


 **Indian Falls** - allow 30 minutes - depending on the agility and physical condition of the tour group. To view the falls turn left off Hwy. 89, 2 miles after the turn off to Taylorsville. Follow this dirt road 100 yards down a slope to a small dirt parking area. Follow the steep dirt trail 1/4 mile down to the edge of Indian Creek where an open rocky area overlooks the falls and large swimming hole, a popular spot with locals.


 **Dinner in Quincy Area:** See restaurant listings


Day 3 - Quincy to Graeagle


 **Motel Check-out**

 **Breakfast in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

 **Depart Quincy** traveling east on Hwy. 70. For a view of fall colors at their best, turn right onto La Porte Rd, 3 miles out of Quincy.

 View magnificent **English maple tree** 1 mile south on the left side for a wonderful photo opportunity.

 **Return to Hwy. 70** and continue east along the Feather River National Scenic Byway. Oaks, cottonwoods, maples and willows provide significant color along this route, which eventually follows the Middle Fork of the Feather River. You'll pass the historic Feather River Inn (now under renovation), which has been serving visitors since 1915.

 **Arrive at the intersection of Hwy. 70 and Hwy. 89** (25 miles, 40 minutes from Quincy). Turn right onto Hwy. 89 and drive 1 mile to Graeagle.

The village of **Graeagle** features an array of identical red buildings that once were homes for workers at the former lumber mill. Today they house shops and services, and the nearby Graeagle Mill Pond is a popular spot for relaxation. Explore the shops and galleries in this quaint town (allow 45 minutes.)



Mohawk Stamp Mill at Plumas-Eureka State Park in Johnsville





Western Pacific Railroad Museum

Combine “leaf peeping” with museum hopping and small town shopping on a fall visit to Plumas County at the quiet northern edge of the Sierra Nevada.


It’s easy spotting fall color along the Feather River and Gray Eagle Creek, and numerous hiking trails within Plumas-Eureka State Park and the Lakes Basin Recreation Area also provide excellent off-road foliage viewing.

OPTION 1


 **Plumas-Eureka State Park** (530-836-2380) Open 9am-4pm in summer; when staff is available during the rest of the year.

 **Travel (west) for 5 miles on road A-14.** Advance appointment required for the museum during off-season. Free admission. (allow 1 hour)

The museum and park are located at the foot of Eureka Peak, which produced some \$25 million in gold from hard-rock mining during the late 1880s. Both are within the tiny Gold Rush town of Johnsville, which preserves the rich heritage of the area’s gold mining legacy. The indoor-outdoor complex includes a miner’s boarding house, the five-story Mohawk Stamp Mill, a blacksmith shop and a restored miner’s home.

 **From the museum, continue west on A-14** for a few blocks to see Johnsville’s historic buildings. Then take A-14 back to Hwy. 70. Turn right (east) onto Hwy. 70 and continue 5 miles to Portola.


OPTION 2

 **Western Pacific Railroad Museum** at Portola (530-832-4131.) Advance appointment advised during off-season (allow 45 minutes). Open seasonally April to October 10am to 5pm daily.

Railroad buffs from all over the world visit the Western Pacific Railroad Museum, where you can view displays, inspect historic trains and even drive a locomotive. Train rides in cabooses and vista flatcars are offered around a one-mile track. This hands-on museum is housed in a former Western Pacific diesel shop, and includes 12,000 feet of track.

Shopping stop along Commercial Street and Hwy. 70 in Portola (allow 45 minutes.)

 **Lunch in Portola:** See restaurant listings

 **Visit Nakoma Golf Resort** (530-832-5067) to see its unique Frank Lloyd Wright design and browse the gift shop.

This is the final stop before departing from Plumas County and concluding the tour.

NOTE: *Off-season business hours vary. Many local restaurants and attractions are happy to accommodate groups during non-business hours by advance appointment. Contact the sites prior to planning your tour to ensure a positive travel experience.*

 visit www.plumascounty.org





Plumas County Restaurant Guide for Tour Groups

Call to verify off-season hours.

Quincy

Breakfast

- Courthouse Cafe (530-283-3344) 525 W. Main St.
- Patti's Thunder Cafe (530-283-3526) 557 Lawrence St.
- Plumas Cafe (530-283-0591) 40 E. Main St.

Lunch

- Courthouse Cafe (530-283-3344) 525 W. Main St.
- Moon's (530-283-9900) 497 Lawrence St. (Groups only.)
- Patti's Thunder Cafe (530-283-3526) 557 Lawrence St.
- Pangaea (530-283-0426) 461 W. Main St.
- Pizza Factory (530-283-4545) 490 W. Main St.
- Plumas Cafe (530-283-0591) 40 E. Main St.
- Roundtable Pizza (530-283-2320) 60 E. Main St.

Dinner

- Moon's (530-283-9900) 497 Lawrence St.
(Groups of 20 or less, weekday only.)
- Pangaea (530-283-0426) 461 W. Main St.
- Pizza Factory (530-283-4545) 490 W. Main St.
- Plumas Cafe (530-283-0591) 40 E. Main St.
- Sweet Lorraine's (530-283-5300) 384 W. Main St.

Chester/Lake Almanor

Breakfast

- Kopper Kettle Cafe (530-258-2698) 243 Main St., Chester
- St. Bernard Lodge (530-258-3382) Hwy. 36, west of Chester

Lunch and Dinner

- Knotbumper (530-258-2301) 274 Main St., Chester
- Kopper Kettle Cafe (530-258-2698) 243 Main St., Chester
- Locker Room Sports Grill (530-258-5010) 300 Main St., Chester
- Luciano's Cucina Di Pasta (530-596-4133) 449 Peninsula Dr., Lake Almanor
- Maria's Mexican Restaurant (530-258-2262) 159 Main St., Chester
- Red Onion Grill (530-258-1800) 303 Peninsula Dr., Lake Almanor
- St. Bernard Lodge (530-258-3382) Hwy. 36, west of Chester
- Tantardino's Pizzeria and Pasta (530-596-3902) 401 Ponderosa Dr., Lake Almanor

Portola

Breakfast

- Alpine Grill (530-832-1200) 448 W. Sierra Ave.
- Sharon's Cafe (530-832-4874) 270 Commercial St.

Lunch and Dinner

- Alpine Grill (530-832-1200) 448 W. Sierra Ave.
- Lena's Cantina (530-832-5360) 165 E. Sierra Ave.
- Log Cabin (530-832-4400) 64 E. Sierra Ave.
- Pizza Factory (530-832-0430) 197 Commercial St.
- Sharon's Cafe (530-832-4874) 270 Commercial St.

Graeagle

Breakfast/Lunch

- Bontaful Gardens (530-836-1619) 190 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Coyote Bar & Grill (530-836-2002) Hwy. 89
- Gumba's Pizzeria & Grill (530-836-1212) 350 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Mountain Cuisine (530-836-4646) 250 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Nakoma Golf Resort (530-832-5067) 348 Bear Run, Clio

Dinner

- Coyote Bar & Grill (530-836-2002) Hwy. 89
- Cuccia's Pasta-Pizza-Wine Bar (530-836-2121) 1228 Johnsville Road
- Grille at Chalet View Lodge (530-832-5528) 72056 Hwy. 70, between Graeagle and Portola
- Grizzly Grill (530-836-1300) 250 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Gumba's Pizzeria & Grill (530-836-1212) 350 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Longboards Bar & Grill (530-836-1111) 402 Poplar Valley Rd., Plumas Pines Estates
- Mt. Tomba Dinner House (530-836-2359) 10 minutes west of Graeagle on Hwy. 70 in Cromberg

Greenville

Breakfast/Lunch

- Anna's Cafe (530-284-1998) 300 Main St.

Dinner

- Main Street Dinner House (530-284-6888) Hwy. 89