

Tour 12 - Historic Plumas County

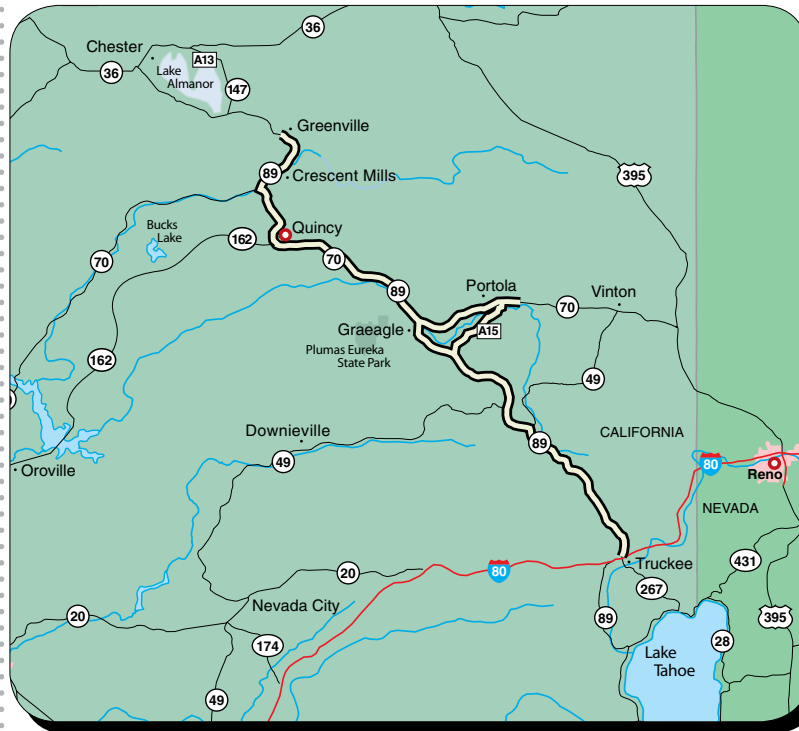
This tour highlights many of Plumas County's historic attractions and small museums. Local experts may be available for tours or presentations on specific areas of historical interest. A brochure, "Museums of the Feather River Country," is available that offers more details about the county's nine museums.

The history of Plumas County extends far beyond the Gold Rush. The region's original inhabitants, the Mountain Maidu, lived here for a thousand years before Europeans "discovered" the region in the 1800s. In 1821, Spanish explorer Captain Luis Arguello gave the Feather River its name ("El Rio de las Plumas") after seeing feathers floating in the water. In 1850, while searching for a fabled "Gold Lake," pioneer James Beckwourth discovered the lowest pass through the Sierras. The route was opened for wagon travel in 1851. During the 1850s, miners poured into the area, setting up towns and mining camps and displacing the native Maidu.



A Mountain Maidu family in 1900

Explore the history of this Northern Sierra recreational paradise, from Maidu Indians to the Gold Rush, railroading to timber harvesting.



Day 1 Truckee to Plumas County

- Graeagle
- Plumas-Eureka State Park

Day 2 Indian Valley and Quincy

- Crescent Mills
- Greenville Walking Tour
- Plumas County Museum

Day 3 Eastern Plumas County


- Railroad Museum
- Williams House
- Beckwourth Museum



Plumas County's gold attracted many miners.

Completion of the Western Pacific Railroad through the Feather River Canyon in 1909 allowed lumber from Plumas forests to be shipped nation-wide. Thanks to the seemingly endless supply of trees, the timber industry emerged as the main economic force in the region. The Feather River Highway (State Route 70, now a national forest scenic byway) was completed in 1937, following parts of Beckwourth's wagon trail. This all-weather highway links Plumas County to the Sacramento Valley. Today, Plumas County is a recreational paradise rich in history.

Many events and live concerts are scheduled during the off-season (October through May), including small town festivals, food and wine tastings, sled dog races, historic longboard races, Christmas tree cutting, snowmobile poker runs, and holiday festivities. Contact the Visitors Bureau (800-326-2247, or www.plumascounty.org) for information on events scheduled during the time of your visit.

 There are several self-guided historic auto tour routes detailed in free brochures available from visitor centers around the county. These can be explored independently, or added to this tour.

An Ancient Trail of the Mountain Maidu Indians*

Historic Beckwourth Trail Route**



Downtown Graeagle



Mohawk Stamp Mill, Plumas-Eureka State Park




Plumas County Courthouse in Quincy

Historic Town Sites on the Plumas National Forest**


Backcountry Roads Tours of Plumas County**

* Open all year ** Partially or entirely closed after first snow fall


The date of your visit and snow conditions will determine the availability of these tours.


 Traveling from Reno, Lake Tahoe, Grass Valley, Auburn or the Sacramento Valley: Take Interstate 80 to Truckee. From Truckee take Hwy. 89 north to Plumas County.

Day 1 - Truckee to Plumas County


 **Take Hwy. 89 north** from Truckee for 47 miles to the community of 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.)


 **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 County 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. Within the park is the tiny town of Johnsville, which preserves the rich heritage of the area's gold mining legacy. The museum's 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.

 **Lunch in Graeagle Area:** See restaurant listings

 **Return to Hwy. 70** and travel west 24 miles to Quincy.

 **Lodging check-in – Quincy**

Ada's Place (530-283-1954)

Lariat Lodge (530-283-1000)

Quincy Courtyard Suites (530-283-1401)

Gold Pan Motel (530-283-3686)


Pine Hill Motel (530-283-1670)

Ranchito Motel (530-283-2265)

The Feather Bed B & B (530-283-0102)

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, antique and thrift shops, gift shops, and stores selling books, clothing, candy, toys and more are located along this route.

 **Dinner in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

 **A presentation given by a local historian** can be arranged for your group with advance notice by contacting the Plumas County Museum (530-283-6320).

Evening entertainment can also include a movie at the historic Town Hall Theatre on Main St. or a community concert or show (depending on schedule.) Athletic and other events are often available at Feather River College and Quincy High School. You can also workout at the Feather River Fitness Center or try out your skill at the bowling alley.

The Town Hall Theatre is open Thurs-Mon and offers a movie starting at 7pm, with a matinee at 4pm on Sunday only. (530-283-1140)

La Sierra Lanes bowling alley is open evenings seven days a week. (530-283-1633)

Quincy Library is open until 8pm on Thursdays. (530-283-6310)

Feather River College schedules evening events. (530-283-0202)



Greenville's Historic Main Street



The original Variel Home in Quincy



Western Pacific Railroad Museum

Feather River Fitness and Recreation Center is open until 9pm Mon-Fri. (530-283-2255) One-day passes are available.

Plumas Arts schedules evening concerts and exhibits. (530-283-3402).

Quincy High School hosts evening events. (530-283-6510)

Day 2 – Indian Valley and Quincy

Breakfast in Quincy: See restaurant listings

Depart Quincy driving northwest on Hwy. 70. At 9 miles, take Hwy. 89 north (right) toward Greenville, passing through the small community of Crescent Mills.

Crescent Mills: Visit Crescent County, a unique antique and gift shop (530-284-6016).

Self-Guided Walking Tour of Greenville's Historic Main Street (3 blocks) (allow 1/2 hour)

For a free tour and guide map brochure contact the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce (530-284-6633 or www.indianvalley.net)

Lunch in Greenville:

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

Return to Quincy

Quincy is home to the following attractions:

Plumas County Museum 500 Jackson St. (530-283-6320), Open 8am - 5pm Tuesday-Saturday year-round. 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 (allow 1/2 hour) by contacting the museum (530-283-6320).

Self-Guided Walking Tour of Quincy's historic buildings (4 blocks, allow 1/2 hour). A free tour and guide map is available at the Plumas County Museum.

Plumas County Courthouse 520 Main St. Open 8am - 5pm Monday - Friday. Advance arrangements can be made for a guided group tour (allow 20 minutes) by contacting the museum (530-283-6320).

Dinner in Quincy: See restaurant listings

Day 3 – Eastern Plumas County

Breakfast in Quincy: See restaurant listings

Lodging check-out.


Depart Quincy on Hwy. 70 and drive 30 miles east to Portola


Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola (530-832-4131). Advance appointment advised during off-season (allow 45 minutes). A former Western Pacific diesel shop with 12,000 feet of track where visitors can climb aboard an extensive collection of train cars and locomotives and even run a locomotive themselves! Model trains, artifacts, memorabilia, photos and more. Open seasonally April through October from 10am to 5pm daily.


Williams House Museum (530-832-5784) 424 E. Sierra St (Hwy 70) A restored 1931 log home built by Sam and Ethel Williams. Local family histories, photographs, handmade quilts. Open Mon-Sat 10am-3pm and Sunday 1-3pm, or by appointment.

Jim Beckwourth Museum (530-832-4888) Rocky Point Rd. just south of Hwy. 70, one mile east of Portola. Pioneer Jim Beckwourth's 1850s log cabin trading post and "hotel," featuring V-notch construction. Emigrant wagon trail artifacts and Beckwourth history. Open weekends 1-4pm Memorial day through Labor Day, other times by appointment. Free admission.


Shopping 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 leaving Plumas County and concluding the tour.

 **To return to Truckee** continue south on A-15 to Hwy. 89, then follow it south to Interstate 80 and Truckee.

NOTE: *Off-season business hours vary. Contact the businesses prior to your arrival to ensure a positive travel experience.*

 For more information on this tour, visit www.plumascounty.org



Inside Portola's Williams House Museum

Rural museums, historic buildings, a state park and auto routes are among the attractions on this three-day glimpse into the origins of Plumas County.



The hotel and trading post built by pioneer Jim Beckwourth was restored and turned into a museum east of Portola.



James P. Beckwourth



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