

Tour 2 - Gold Rush and the Great Outdoors

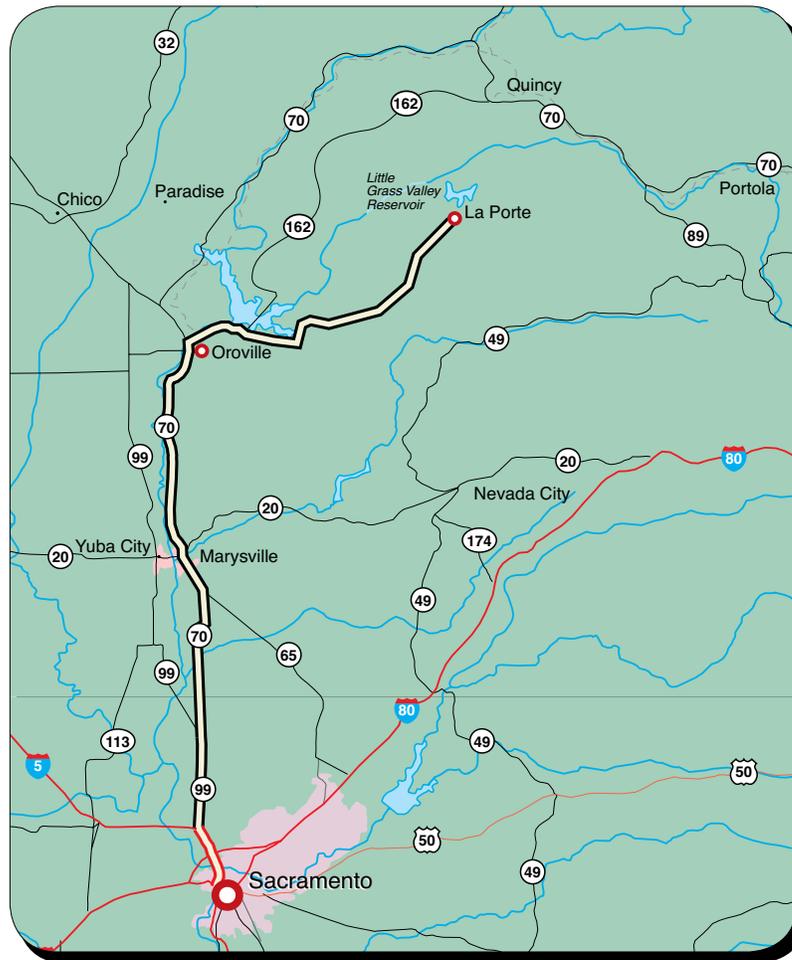
Former Gold Rush towns Oroville and La Porte offer a glimpse of history, scenic beauty and plenty of outdoor fun and exercise.



Lake Oroville provides some beautiful scenery on the trip to La Porte.

This outdoors-oriented Northeastern California three-day tour will acquaint you with Oroville in Butte County, situated in the Central Valley, and with La Porte, located in Plumas County in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Learn about Gold-rush history, tour scenic landmarks and participate in outdoor recreation activities. Bring your own outdoor recreational equipment (skis, snowshoes, fishing gear, hiking gear, etc.) because equipment rental is not available on the tour.

Butte County's diverse terrain includes the Sacramento Valley and the oak-studded foothills at the base of the Sierra and Cascade mountain ranges. The county played an important role in California's Gold Rush and today offers plenty of outdoor fun.



- Day 1**
Oroville to La Porte
 - Chinese Temple
 - Lake Oroville
- Day 2**
La Porte
 - Outdoor Recreation
- Day 3**
La Porte to Oroville
 - Feather Falls

Day 1 - Oroville to La Porte

 **Sacramento to Oroville** – 70 miles, allow 1.5 hrs.

Arrival in Oroville

The city of **Oroville** was born as a gold mining town beside the Feather River and later became an important agricultural center. Oroville, which means "City of Gold," is known for its recreational opportunities, for its history and for its many antique shops. Oroville's Chinese Temple, built in 1863, displays extensive tapestries, costumes and puppets. The adjacent Chinese Garden is a memorial to Oroville's original Chinese families and is one of the few in the nation that is open to the public. The C.F. Lott Historic Home in Sank Park is a romantic Victorian Gothic revival-style home built in 1856, filled with artifacts. With its 167-mile shoreline, nearby Lake Oroville offers a variety of outdoor water activities. Oroville Dam, which created the lake, is the tallest earth-filled dam in the world.

This tiny, four-seasons mountain retreat offers an unhurried pace, fresh air, and lots of room to roam in the surrounding forest.



The Union Hotel (top) and Frank C. Reilly Museum in La Porte are some of the historic buildings in this Gold Rush hamlet.

Attractions available in Oroville:

Oroville Chinese Temple & Garden Tour (530-538-2496) 1500 Broderick St. Open daily. noon- 4pm (allow one hour.) Admission \$3/person.

C.F. Lott Historic Home Tour (530-538-2497) 1067 Montgomery Street Open Sun, Mon & Fri; 11:30am -3:30pm or by appointment (allow 45 minutes.) Admission \$3/person.

Shopping Montgomery and Myers St., many antique shops. (allow 1 hr. for shopping)

Wine tasting at Grey Fox Vineyards, off Mt. Ida Road, open noon-5 pm Saturday-Sunday (530-589-3920 for group tour appointment), **Long Creek Winery**, 233 Ward Boulevard, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, (530-589-3415 by appointment), and **Quilici Vineyards**, 72 Quail Hill Place (530-589-5088, by appointment only.)

Lake Oroville Visitor Center - (530-538-2219) open daily 9am - 5pm. Self-guided museum. The 47-foot observation tower offers spectacular views of Oroville Dam, Lake Oroville and Sutter Buttes. The auditorium shows films on local history, State Water Project, Native American Culture, mining, wildlife, and plants. Guided group tours are available with advance appointment. (Allow 1 hour)

 To get there, travel east off Hwy. 70 on Hwy. 162 (Oroville Dam Blvd.) for 2 miles. Turn right at Olive Highway (Hwy. 162) and continue 6 miles on Olive Hwy. Turn left on Kelly Ridge Rd. Continue to the end (3 miles) to the Visitor Center.

Lunch in Oroville

Near antique shops:

Western Pacific Brewing & Dining (530-534-9101) Oliver & High St.

Tong Fong Low (530-533-1488) 2051 Robinson St.

Near the Dam and Visitors Center:

Lakeview Restaurant (530-589-0774) 5131 Royal Oaks Dr. overlooks Lake Oroville and Kelly Ridge Golf Course.

 **Depart Oroville** northeast on Hwy. 162, drive approximately 2 miles and turn right onto Forbestown Rd. (#174). Continue 16 miles to La Porte Rd. (# 20) at Forbestown and continue 38 miles to La Porte, passing from Butte into Plumas County.

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 forestland. With only eight people per square mile, this rural four seasons mountain retreat offers beauty, solitude, clean air, and an unhurried pace.

The tiny community of **La Porte** is a former gold mining town with lots of history and charm. The area surrounding this semi-isolated wilderness, including Little Grass Valley Reservoir, offers an abundance of outdoor recreation.

Arrive in La Porte

Hotel check-in

Union Hotel Sierra Retreat - available for group rental only - (530-675-2860) The hotel has 21 rooms with private baths and a kitchen/lounge available for use.

 During snow season the area offers good winter sports terrain. There are many groomed trails for cross-country skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers. There is no equipment rental.

Scenic hikes and walks are options for outdoor activity when there is no snow.

Dinner

Reilly's Saloon & Cafe (530-675-2359) or **Rabbit Creek Deli** (530-675-1609) or **prepare own at the Union Hotel**



Bring cross-country skis and snowshoes to explore La Porte's pristine winter terrain.



Feather Falls

Day 2 - La Porte

Breakfast

Rabbit Creek Deli (530-675-1609) or **prepare own at the Union Hotel**

Self-guided walking tour

From the hotel, take a walk around La Porte, originally called Rabbit Creek. A short walk up the hill from the hotel will bring you to the historic La Porte Cemetery. Advance appointment is required to visit the Frank C. Reilly Museum (530-675-1922 or 2841)

The Frank C. Reilly Museum was named after a longtime La Porte resident. It features displays of the town's gold mining and ski-racing history, as well as the archives of the local chapter of the Clampers, a historical organization that began in the late 1800s.

Lunch - Box lunches available from local restaurants

 **Outdoor recreation** - cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, hiking; **free time and relaxation**

Dinner

Reilly's Saloon & Cafe (530-675-2359) or **Rabbit Creek Deli** (530-675-1609) or **prepare own at the Union Hotel** Large screen TV available in community room after dinner

Day 3 - La Porte to Oroville

Breakfast and hotel check-out

 **Travel south on La Porte Rd.** back to Forbestown Rd, then continue south on Forbestown Rd. toward Oroville to Lumpkin Rd.

OPTION 2

 **Feather Falls hike** - maintained trail is 9 miles round trip, open all year. Allow 4 hours.

 **Turn right onto Lumpkin Road**, travel 2 1/2 miles to Feather Falls trail head and parking lot. There are public restrooms, and a large parking lot allows adequate turn around space for a bus.

Feather Falls is the sixth tallest waterfall in the continental United States. The magnificent 640-foot waterfall is a breathtaking sight and the hiking trail features lovely forest scenery with many species of flora and fauna.

NOTE: *Weather conditions and the agility/physical condition of the tour group will determine if taking this scenic and strenuous hike is an appropriate option.*

 **Lunch at Feather Falls**, box lunches provided by local restaurants

 Following the hike, return to Oroville to conclude this tour.

OPTION 2

 **Travel into Oroville directly from La Porte** and have lunch at one of the previously listed restaurants. Visit any of the previously listed sites that were excluded on the original stop in Oroville to conclude the tour.

 **Depart Oroville south on Hwy. 99** back to Sacramento.

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.*