

## Tour 5 - Seasonal Pleasures and Small Town Treasures

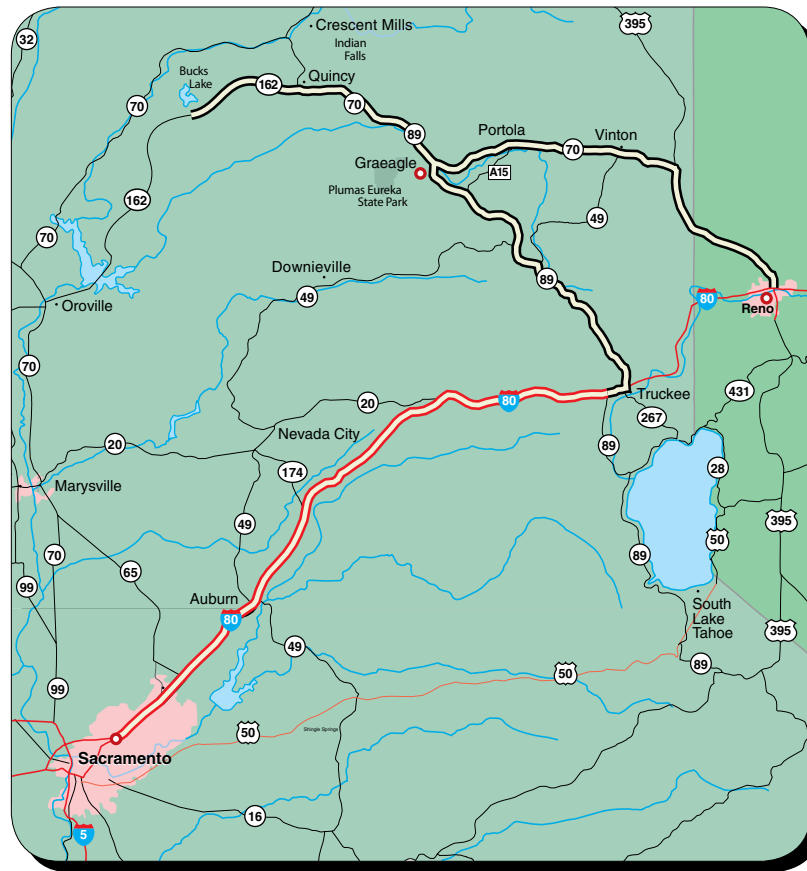
In autumn, conditions are perfect in Plumas County for touring quaint historic communities dotted with “mom and pop” shops, restaurants and small museums. View spectacular fall foliage, enjoy birding at picturesque lakes, streams and valleys, play a round of golf at one of several beautiful courses, and visit a private working ranch. At this scenic time of year there are fewer vacationers, making Plumas County the ideal spot for a peaceful and memorable getaway.

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. Off the beaten path, it’s not crowded with tourists. 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.

*A peaceful stay in the tiny village of Graeagle combines shopping and fine dining with birding, historic buildings, a ranch visit, trains, fall foliage and tales from the Gold Rush.*




Downtown Graeagle



- Day 1**  
**Graeagle to Quincy**
- Bucks Lake
  - Shopping & touring Quincy
- Day 2**  
**Eastern Plumas County**
- Portola
  - Plumas-Eureka State Park
- Day 3**  
**Eastern Plumas County**
- Sierra Valley: birds, cattle ranch

### Day 1 - Graeagle to Quincy

-  **From Reno** travel north on U.S. 395, then west on Hwy. 70 to Hwy. 89.
- From Sacramento** travel east on I-80 to Truckee, then north on Hwy. 89 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.

-  **Motel check-in:**

Chalet View Lodge (530-832-5528) with restaurant and wine bar


River Pines Resort (530-836-2552) with restaurant and bar




Beautiful Bucks Lake, near Quincy




Historic buildings on Quincy's Main Street.

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

#### OPTION 1

 Weather and roads permitting, a 45-minute drive from downtown Quincy going west on Bucks Lake Rd.

 **Lunch at Bucks Lake**, Bucks Lake, 17 miles southwest of Quincy, offers year-round recreation in a beautiful, semi-isolated destination. Sandy beaches, tall pines and a wilderness area attract visitors. Amenities include a lodge, a B&B, marinas, and restaurants.

Bucks Lake Lakeshore Resort, 16001 Bucks Lake Rd., 530-283-2848

#### OPTION 2

 **Lunch in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

Quincy, the Plumas County seat, 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. Take a walking tour of Quincy's downtown Main Street historic buildings and murals.

 **The following attractions are available in Quincy:**

**Plumas County Museum** 500 Jackson St. (530-283-6320), Open 8am - 5pm Tuesday- Saturday year-round. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 for children 12-17, children under 12 free (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) in Grover Alley 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, antique and thrift shops, gift shops, and stores selling books, clothing, candy, toys and more are located along this route.

 **Depart Quincy** and return to Graeagle.


**Free time** to relax or explore the shops and galleries in Graeagle and Blairsden.

 **Dinner in the Graeagle area:** See restaurant listings


### Day 2 – Eastern Plumas County


 **Breakfast:** See restaurant listings

#### OPTION 1

 **Western Pacific Railroad Museum** at Portola. (530-832-4131) Advance appointment advised during off-season (allow 45 minutes.) Open seasonally April to October from 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 around a one-mile track are offered. 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




A miner's home at Plumas-Eureka State


 **Return to Graeagle** and enjoy free time for shopping, walking, relaxing

#### OPTION 2

 **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. Admission free. (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 Graeagle.


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

### Day 3 – Eastern Plumas County

 **Motel check-out**


**NOTE:** An early start is advisable this morning in order to experience better birding conditions in Sierra Valley.

 **Breakfast in Graeagle:** See restaurant listings


 **Depart breakfast stop to Hwy. 70** and travel east 8 miles to Portola.


The city of **Portola** and the **Sierra Valley** are intersected by the Union Pacific Railroad and the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The city is home to the renowned Western Pacific Railroad Museum, and the area also serves as the gateway to Lake Davis and Frenchman Lakes, trophy trout fisheries.


#### OPTION

 **Visit the Jim Beckwourth Museum** just east of Portola (530-832-4888), free admission. This small museum is housed in a 1850s two-room log cabin featuring V-notch construction. The cabin was built by African American explorer and pioneer James Beckwourth, who discovered the lowest pass over the Sierra. Open only by advance appointment during off-season.

 **Birding** in Sierra Valley

 **From Portola travel east 4 miles on Hwy. 70** to County Road A-23 and turn right (south). Continue 5 miles to Marble Springs Rd. (shown as Dyson Lane on some maps). Turn left (east) on Marble Springs Rd. and travel 3 miles to the end. This dirt road offers excellent birding especially where it crosses the streams. Continue north 5 miles on A24 to Hwy 70. Turn left (east) on Hwy 70 and continue 9 miles to Vinton. At 3/10ths mile beyond the turn off to Hwy. 49, turn left off Hwy. 70 at the Pitchfork Ranch sign and follow this unpaved country road one mile to the final destination.

 **Pitchfork Cattle Co.** (530-993-4636) Learn about cattle ranching in Sierra Valley while enjoying a hay ride around the 100 year old ranch, watch a live demonstration of a working sheep/cattle dog and eat a home cooked barbecue lunch (pre-arranged appointment required).

 This is the final stop before departing Plumas County and ending the tour. From Vinton continue east 8 miles on Hwy. 70 to Hwy. 395 at Hallelujah Junction. Turn right (south) on Hwy. 395 and continue 24 miles to Reno. Turn west (right) at Hwy. 80 to return to Sacramento.

If your tour originated in Sacramento you may decide to take Hwy. 70 west from Vinton to the intersection of Hwy 89 at Blairsden and follow the same route south on Hwy. 89 back to I- 80 at Truckee.

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



Western Pacific Railroad Museum



# 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