Chester/Lake Almanor Area
Lake Almanor and its magnificent views of Lassen Peak make it a popular base camp for fall foliage drives. Star out on Main Street in Chester; where cotonwoods and domestic maples grace the highway and banks of the Feather River. Miles of wildened dregwood are found east and west on Hwy. 36. Turning onto Feather River Drive at the first fork, you’ll be rewarded with glowing birch and aspen along forest roads to Warner Valley, Bennett Creek and Juniper Lake. East of Chester, follow Hwy. 96 to Hwy 17, which parallels Deer Creek. There are many places to pull over and enjoy the alders, oaks and Indian Rhubarb along the creek. Another great drive is into Lassen Volcanic National Park on Hwy. 89, for quaking aspen, thermal pools and stunning landscapes.

Graeagle/Lakes Basin Recreation Area
Steady ornamental silver maples, liquid ambers, sycamore, locust trees and Virginia creeper adorn downtown Graeagle, framing its grand four-story courthouse and historic homes with autumn splendor. Don’t miss the row of maples at Quincy High School; the best take Quincey Junction Road to Chandlir Road for spectacular valley vistas of oak and cotonwood. Then head up Buckie Lake Road, home to large masses of dogwood and Big Leaf maple, with worthy side trips on unpaved roads out of Meadow Valley. Follow the Big Creek road, and continue a few miles past Buckie Lake, where there are several beautiful groves of aspen and creek willows.

Quincy/Bucks Lake Area
Aspen, oak, willow, deerbrush and bitter cherry are abundant on this quiet drive, which can be combined into a grand four-story courthouse and historic homes with autumn splendor. Don’t miss the row of maples at Quincy High School; the best take Quincey Junction Road to Chandlir Road for spectacular valley vistas of oak and cotonwood. Then head up Buckie Lake Road, home to large masses of dogwood and Big Leaf maple, with worthy side trips on unpaved roads out of Meadow Valley. Follow the Big Creek road, and continue a few miles past Buckie Lake, where there are several beautiful groves of aspen and creek willows.

La Porte Road/Cromberg
Just east of Quincy, turn south on La Porte Road and drive less than a mile to the old Thompson Ranch. On the left side of the road stands an enormous English maple that turns incredible shades of champagne pink and deep scarlet. The steep 45-minute drive to the former Gold Rush town of La Porte is a spectacular fall color excursion that winds along canyons and meadows, crossing the Middle Fork Feather River and passing a historic bridge. Back on Hwy. 70, dazzling colors of oak, cotonwood and dogwood jump out at you from the roadway, hillsides and mountaintops between Quincy and Cromberg.

Greagle/Lakes Basin Recreation Area
Cottonwoods, willow and aspen turn yellow to gold along the Middle Fork Feather River around Greagle, where golfers also can take on a fabulous foliage on the scenic forest-lined courses. Take a short drive on Country Road Aix, leading to the charming town of Johnsville and Humas-Bear Lake State Park. A must-see destination for leaf-peepers is over the Cold Lake Highway into the pristine, rugged Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Quaking aspen, cotonwoods and a myriad of ground cover provide the luminous color that contrasts starkly against granite peaks and sparkling alpine lakes. You can spot good color along numerous hiking trails and side roads. The drive past the Sierra Buttes and into Sierra City continues the dramatic show along the Yuba River on Hwy. 89.

Portola/Lake Davis/Beckwourth
Groves of bright yellow aspen and full fishing are the highlight on the short trip to Lake Davis. Follow West Street north from Portola, and meander along the unpaved west side of the lake. Back on Hwy. 70, head east of Portola; large golden cotonwoods frame the road as it parallels the Feather River. At Beckwourth, turn north onto the Beckwourth-Genesee Road and continue after it turns to gravel into the replenished Clover Valley. Aspen, oaks, willows deerbrush and hines cherry are abundant on this quiet drive, which can be combined into a longer loop with #8 below.

Little Chance Creek/Frenchman Lake
Unique formations of dark volcanic rock form an exquisite backdrop for many yellow aspen found on the road to Frenchman Lake north of Chilcoot. For a wide range of colors, species and vistas, venture off-road on a rewarding three-hour loop trip (approximately 34 miles) beginning at an ending at Beckwourth-Genesee Road (see #8). From Beckwourth, continue past Crocker campground, to a Y-intersection and turn right back onto pavement. Travel approximately five more miles, passing the Goodman Park campground and turn right at the sign toward Millford. Go about 100 yards and make another right onto #23803, which eventually follows Ferra Creek and Little Chance Creek. Continue south toward Frenchman Lake; the route becomes #23911, following the lake west shore, and eventually returns to the paved Frenchman Lake Road that intersects Hwy. 70. Have a camera handy, you’ll pull over often to enjoy the large stands of aspen, plus willow, maples, cotonwoods, oaks and more.

PLUMAS COUNTY FALL COLOR TOUR MAP

Up-to-date leaf-peeper reports: www.PlumasCounty.org 800-326-2247
Chester/Lake Almanor Area
Lake Almanor and its magnificent views of Lassen Peak make it a popular base camp for fall foliage drives. Start out on Main Street in Chester, where cotonwoods and domestic maples grace the highway and bank of the Feather River. Miles of widened roads are found east and west on Hwy. 89. Turning onto Feather River Drive at the first hill, you’ll be rewarded with glowing birch and aspen along forest roads to Warner Valley, Brecken Creek and Juniper Lake. East of Chester, follow Hwy. Hwy. 36 to Hwy. 32, which parallels Deer Creek. There are many places to pull over and enjoy the alders, oaks and Indian Rhubarb along the creek. Another great drive is into Lassen Volcanic National Park on Hwy. 89, for quaking aspen, thermal pools and stunning landscapes.

Feather River Canyon
The Feather River Scenic Byway (Hwy. 70) from Oroville to Quincy is a breathtaking 75-mile drive featuring steep rugged canyons, oak and cottonwood. As you drive along, you’ll find many opportunities to pull off the road and admire the changing leaves. You can jump out at you from the roadway, hillsides and mountaintops.

Indian Creek/Indian Valley
This pastoral drive follows Indian Creek, beginning at the intersection of Hwys. 70 and 89, heading north toward Greenville. The road is lined with amber willow and flaming red Indian Rhubarb. Heading toward Taylorsville, the entire valley is visible at the base of Mt. Hough. Broad bands of oak and aspen descend the mountain ravines, resembling giant sulfur waterfalls. You can continue the drive beyond Antelope Lake, or return to Hwy. 89 and head north. The road up to Round Valley Lake is worth a trip to view large groves of dogwood, Big Leaf maple and cotonwood.

Quincy/Bucks Lake Area
Stately ornamental silver maples, liquid ambers, cottonwood, locust trees and Virginia creeper adorns downtown Quincy. Framing its grand four-story courthouse and historic homes with autumn splendor. Don’t miss the row of maples at Quincy High School; after these take Quincy Junction Road to Chandler Road for spectacular valley vistas of oak and cotonwood. Then head up Buckle Lake Road, home to large masses of dogwood and Big Leaf maple, with worthy side trips on unpaved roads out of Meadow Valley. Follow the Buck Creek route, and continue a few miles past Bucke Lake, where there are several beautiful groves of aspen and creek willow.

La Porte Road/Cromberg
Just east of Quincy, turn south on La Porte Road and drive less than a mile to the old Thompson Ranch. On the left side of the road stands an enormous English maple that turns incredible shades of champagne pink and deep scarlet. The steep 3-minute drive to the former Gold Rush town of La Porte is a spectacular fall color excursion that winds along canyons and meadows, crossing the Middle Fork Feather River and passing a historic bridge. Back on Hwy. 70, dazzling colors of oak, cotonwood and dogwood jump out at you from the meadows, hillocks and mountain tops between Quincy and Cromberg.

Greagle/Lakes Basin Recreation Area
Cottonwoods, willow and aspen turn yellow to gold along the Middle Fork Feather River around Greagle, where golfers also can take in fabulous foliage on the area’s forest-laden courses. Take a short drive on Country Road A14, leading to the charming town of Johnsville and Humas-Eureka State Park. A must-see destination for leaf-peepers is over the Gold Lake Highway into the pristine, rugged Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Quaking aspen, cottonwoods and a myriad of ground cover provide the luminous color that contrasts starkly against granite peaks and sparkling alpine lakes. You can spot good color along numerous hiking trails and side roads. The drive past the Sierra Buttes and into Sierra City continues the dramatic show along the Yuba River on Hwy. 49.

Portola/Lake Davis/Beckwourth
Groves of bright yellow aspen and fall fishing are the highlight on the short trip to Lake Davis. Follow West Street north from Portola, and meander along the unpaved west side of the lake. Back on Hwy. 70 heading east of Portola, large golden cottonwoods frame the road as it parallels the Feather River. At Beckwourth, turn north onto the Beckwourth-Genesee Road and continue after it turns to gravel into the replendent Clover Valley. Aspen, oak, willows, deerbrush and hines cherrys are abundant on this quiet drive, which can be combined into a longer loop with #8, below.

Little Last Chance Creek/Frenchman Lake
Unique formations of dark volcanic rock form an exquisite backdrop for many yellow aspen found on the road to Frenchman Lake north of Chico. For a wide range of colors, species and vistas, venture off-road on a nesting three-hour loop trip (approximately 35 miles) beginning (or ending) at Beckwourth-Genesee Road (see #7). From Beckwourth, continue past Crocker campground, to a Vintersection and turn right back onto pavement. Travel approximately five more miles, past the Gold Lake campground and turn right at the sign toward Millford. Go about 100 yards and make another right onto #2R8603, which eventually follows French Creek and Last Chance Creek. Continue south toward Frenchman Lake; the route becomes #3N1, following the lakes west shore, and eventually returns to the paved Frenchman Lake Road that intersects Hwy. 70. Have a camera handy; you’ll pull over often to enjoy the large stands of aspen, plus willow, maples, cotonwood, oaks and more.