



PLUMAS
County Visitors Bureau

Tour 14 - Ethnic Diversity in Northeastern California's

Come to the Sierras and learn about the history of this region's ethnically diverse population. You will be traveling along the historic Beckwourth Trail and following ancient routes used by the Mountain Maidu Indians. Along the way you will also visit sites of historical interest, including a Chinese temple built in the 1860s and a California Registered Historic Landmark honoring the Yahi Indians.

For a thousand years northeastern California was Maidu country. The Yahi occupied the land to the west, in what is today Tehama and Butte Counties. The tribes led hunting and gathering lifestyles. Their way of life was abruptly interrupted in the 1850s when thousands of miners and settlers came to northern California, claiming tribal land as their own.

James P. Beckwourth was born a slave in 1798. He was freed by his father and came west with a fur trapping expedition in 1824. Beckwourth discovered the lowest pass through the Sierra Nevada in 1850 while he was searching for a fabled "Gold Lake." His wagon trail began in Truckee Meadows (now Reno) and ended at Bidwell Bar (a mining camp now under Lake Oroville). Today, a portion of the Beckwourth Trail is Hwy 70, a national scenic byway, and the Bucks Lake-Oroville Highway.

Beckwourth wasn't the only one looking for the legendary "Gold Lake." The search drew thousands of miners to what is today Plumas County. By 1880, the largest ethnic percentage of these miners was Chinese. In 1880, neighboring Butte County had the second largest Chinese population in the nation.

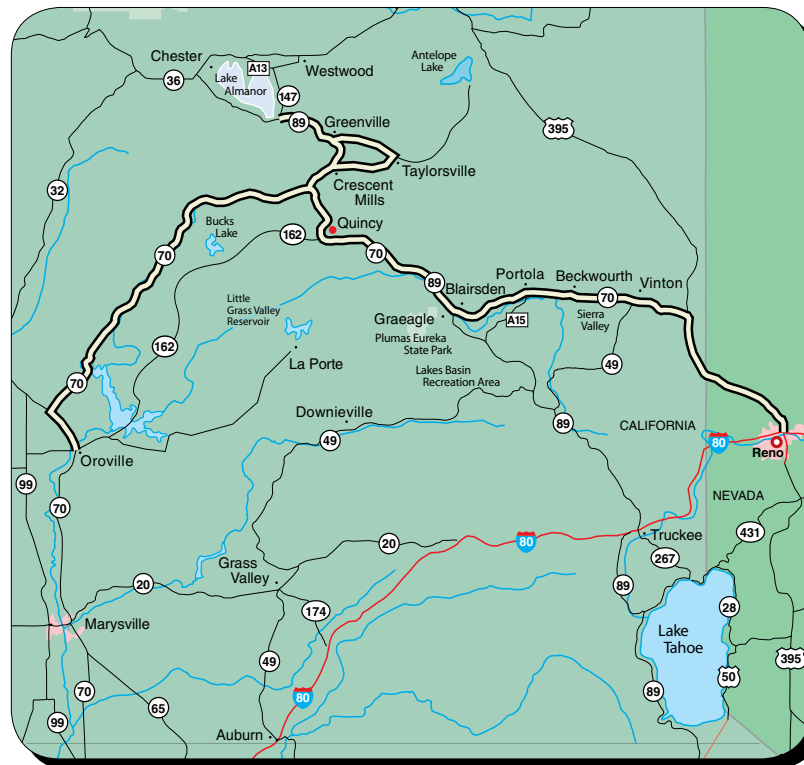


A Mountain Maidu Indian family in 1900

Follow the paths of early residents and explorers of many nationalities to learn about the Northern Sierra's multicultural heritage.



African-American explorer James P. Beckwourth



Day 1

Reno to Quincy

- Sierra Valley barns
- Beckwourth Museum
- Chinese Cemetery
- County Museum

Day 2

Quincy to Indian Valley


- Maidu Auto Tour
- Indian Valley Museum

Day 3

Quincy to Oroville

- Lake Oroville
- Ishi Monument
- Chinese Temple

Day 1 – Reno to Plumas County

 **Take Interstate 395 from Reno** north to Hallelujah Junction and turn west onto Hwy. 70. Drive 20 miles to the small community of Beckwourth. Along the way (or on short sidetrips off the highway along county roads), you can view several historic barns and ranches started up by Swiss-Italian immigrants during the 1850s. The Swiss-Italians produced dairy products and hay for nearby mines, and their descendants raise cattle today. Many of the area's Swiss-Italian population were laid to rest at the **Vinton Cemetery**, which can be visited on the north side of Hwy. 70 near Vinton.



Jim Beckwourth Museum near Portola




Plumas County Museum in Quincy



Maidu mural in downtown Quincy

Jim Beckwourth Museum – Drive through Beckwourth. About one mile west of town, make a left onto Rocky Point Road. The historic cabin, built in the 1853, is believed to have been the trading post of James Beckwourth. Today it houses wagon trail artifacts. Open weekends 1-4pm Memorial day through Labor Day, other times by appointment. Free admission.

 **Continue on Hwy. 70** for five miles to Portola, or keep going for approximately 10 miles to Graeagle.

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

 **Continue west on Hwy. 70** to Quincy (24 miles).

 **Lodging check-in:**

Ada's Place (530-283-1954)

Gold Pan Motel (530-283-3686)

Lariat Lodge (530-283-1000)

Pine Hill Motel (530-283-1670)

Quincy Courtyard Suites (530-283-1401)

Ranchito Motel (530-283-2265)

Sporting Inn (530-283-4300)

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

 **Attractions in Quincy**

Chinese Cemetery – located on top of the hill between east and west Quincy, on the north side of Hwy. 70 off Radio Hill Road. Park behind the large blue-gray building to visit this state point of historical interest. A large red sign reads "Chinese Memorial Park." A gravel path leads from the parking lot down to the cemetery and memorial plaque. The segregated cemetery was created in 1913 following public outcry over an attempt to bury a Chinese girl in the whites-only Quincy Cemetery. Ten of the 11 people buried here died between 1916 and 1935. (Allow 15 minutes.)

Plumas County Museum – 500 Jackson Street (530-283-6320). Open 8am – 5pm, Tuesday-Saturday year-round. Admission: \$2 adults, \$1 ages 12-17, under 12 free (allow 1 hour).

Museum exhibits include:

A marker for the Beckwourth Trail: in front of the museum.

Davis Basket Collection: a variety of baskets made by the Maidu prior to 1900. Arrowheads, bow, arrows, tu tums (baby boards), and other artifacts make up this exceptional collection.

Falck Basket Collection: a collection of Maidu basketry unrivaled anywhere in the state.

Replica of a Maidu hut.


Chinese Collection: artifacts, clothing and other items representing the presence of the Chinese and the contributions they made to Plumas County.

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

Self-guided walking tour of Quincy's historic buildings (allow 1 hour). A free guide map is available at the Plumas County Museum. Don't miss the **Mountain Maidu mural** on the corner of Main and Bradley Streets in downtown Quincy.

Shopping along W. Main Street and adjacent side streets. Browse-worthy businesses include a bookstore, a candy shop, antique shops and clothing stores, among others. Stop in while taking the self-guided walking tour of Quincy.

 **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 Visitors Bureau (800-326-2247 or www.plumascounty.org)

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 or unwind in a spa at the Feather River Fitness Center or try out your skill at the bowling alley.



Dog Rock, Ancient Trail of Mountain Maidu



Maidu Indian room at Indian Valley Museum



Northern Sierra Indian Days in Greenville

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)


Feather River Fitness and Recreation Center is open until 9pm seven nights a week. (530-283-2255) One-day passes are available.


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


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

Day 2 – Quincy to Indian Valley

 **Breakfast in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

 **Take a side-trip** from the Beckwourth Trail and travel to beautiful Indian Valley. Learn about the history of the region's native people, the Mountain Maidu, while following the self-guided auto tour "An Ancient Trail of the Mountain Maidu." This tour is 67 miles one-way (Quincy to Susanville). Complete all or part of the tour while exploring Indian Valley.


 **To get to Indian Valley**, leave Quincy heading west on Hwy. 70. Continue approximately nine miles to the junction of Hwys. 70 and 89. Make a right and take Hwy. 89 north for approximately five miles to Indian Valley. Take Arlington Road off Hwy. 89 (just south of Crescent Mills) five miles to Taylorsville.

 **Indian Valley Museum** – corner of Main Street and Cemetery Road, Taylorsville (530-284-6511). The museum has a room dedicated to the Mountain Maidu that features handmade baskets and other cultural items. Open 1-4pm Sat, Sun and holidays from Memorial Day weekend through early fall, or by appointment. Free admission, donations accepted.

 **Return to Hwy. 89** and travel north three miles to Greenville.

 **Lunch in Greenville:**

Sierra Sunrise (530-284-6968) Hwy. 89 or **Anna's Cafe** (530-284-1998) 300 Main St.

 Depending on the date of your visit, drop by **Northern Sierra Indian Days**, an intertribal pow wow held annually at Greenville High School the third weekend of September. The pow wow is a celebration of traditional and contemporary arts and features dancing, crafts, and food. There is usually a nominal fee for admission. To verify the date of the pow wow, contact the Visitors Bureau (800-326-2247).

The **Roundhouse Council** (530-284-6866) at 330 Bush St. is a Maidu Education Center with a resource library, classes and activities. Council staff are available to answer questions regarding Maidu culture.


As an option, continue following the "Ancient Trail of the Mountain Maidu" north on Hwy. 89 to Lake Almanor and Westwood. Return to Quincy following Hwy. 89 south and Hwy. 70 east.


 **Dinner in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

Day 3 – Quincy to Oroville

 **Lodging checkout**

 **Breakfast in Quincy:** See restaurant listings

 **Pick up Beckwourth's route** and travel from Quincy to Oroville (in Butte County) to visit a Chinese Temple and learn about Ishi, the last of the Yahi Indians.

 Following Beckwourth's trail, **take Hwy. 162 (Bucks Lake Road) to Oroville** (check road conditions prior to departure). The highway begins in west downtown Quincy, just west of the courthouse.

During snowy or adverse weather conditions, take Hwy. 70 to Oroville. The trip takes approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes on either road.

Coming into Oroville on Hwy. 162:

Lake Oroville Visitors Center – 917 Kelly Ridge Road (530-538-2219). Take a right on Canyon Drive, a right onto Royal Oaks drive, then a left onto Kelly Ridge Road. Visitor Center is at the end of the road. Stop here for visitor information and to see an excellent example of bedrock mortar, where acorns and seeds were ground into meal and used for food by local Indians.

The Last Yahi Indian, a California Registered Historic Landmark, can be seen at the corner of Oro-Quincy Hwy. and Oak Avenue in Oroville. The landmark is a small monument, made of rock from Deer Creek Canyon, with a bronze plaque commemorating the Yahi people. In 1911 a 50-year-old Indian wandered into Oroville. The man had lived in the Deer Creek Canyon area with his family and he was the last surviving member of the Yahi tribe. An anthropologist from U.C. Berkeley took the man to the university and named him Ishi. Additional information about Ishi is available at the Lake Oroville Visitors Center (530-528-2219).

A mural of Ishi can be viewed downtown on Robinson Street between Lincoln and Huntoon Streets. Nearby, a mural of a Chinese parade is on the corner of Robinson and Huntoon Street.

Chinese Temple – 1500 Broderick St. The Oroville Chinese Temple & Garden was financed by the Emperor and Empress of China and built in 1863 to serve a community of 10,000 Chinese. The three-chapel structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Don't miss the garden area, which was designed as a place for meditation and reflection and includes plantings that originated in China. Chinese residents deeded the temple to the city of Oroville in 1935.

Open 12-4pm daily. Closed Dec 15 to Jan 31. Cost is \$2 for adults, children under 12 free. Call (530) 538-2496 for group tour reservations (\$1.50 per person 15 or more).


Chinese Cemetery – on Feather River Boulevard, across from the old Oroville Cemetery. A plaque, a historical marker and coffin-shaped holes are all that remain at this historic cemetery. Most of the bodies were disinterred and returned to China.

Lunch in Oroville:


Oberon's on the Green (530-589-3600) – 5131 Royal Oaks Drive (near the Visitors Center)

The Depot (530-534-9101) – corner of Oliver and High Streets (near downtown)

Vino Vino (530-532-9463) – 2053 Montgomery (near downtown)

 **To return to Reno**, take Hwy. 70 east through Plumas County to Hwy. 395, then head south. Or take Hwy. 99 south to Marysville, pick up Hwy. 20 and go through Grass Valley to connect with Interstate 80. Take I-80 east to Reno.

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**, contact the Plumas County Visitors Bureau at 800-326-2247 or visit www.plumascounty.org.



Ishi, the last Yahi Indian



Chinese miners played an important role in California history.



Chinese Temple in Oroville



Plumas County Restaurant Guide for Tour Groups

Call to verify off-season hours.

Quincy

Breakfast

- Courthouse Cafe (530-283-3344) 525 W. Main St.
- Morning Thunder Cafe (530-283-1310) 557 Lawrence St.
- Plumas Cafe (530-283-0591) 40 E. Main St.

Lunch

- Cafe Le Coq (530-283-0114) 189 Main St.
- Courthouse Cafe (530-283-3344) 525 W. Main St.
- Moon's (530-283-1310) 497 Lawrence St. (Groups only.)
- Morning Thunder Cafe (530-283-1310) 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.
- Stoney's Country Burger (530-283-3911) 11 Lindan Ave.

Dinner

- Cafe Le Coq (530-283-0114) 189 Main St.
- Moon's (530-283-0765) 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

- Bidwell House (if the group is staying there, 530-258-3338) #1 Main St., Chester
- Chester Kitchen 530-258-4272) 278 Main St., Chester
- Kopper Kettle Cafe (530-258-2698) 243 Main St., Chester

Lunch and Dinner

- Chester Kitchen 530-258-4272) 278 Main St., Chester
- Knotbumper (530-258-2301) 274 Main St., Chester
- Kopper Kettle Cafe (530-258-2698) 243 Main St., Chester
- Maria's Walker's Mexican Restaurant (530-258-2225) 159 Main St., Chester
- Mi Casita Mexican Restaurant (530-258-1879) 686 Main St., Chester
- Peninsula Grill (530-596-3538) 401 Peninsula Dr., Lake Almanor
- Volcano Grill (530-258-1000) 384 Main St., Chester

Portola

Breakfast

- Dee's Station Cafe (530-832-4852) 165 Pacific St.

Lunch

- Casa Carmelita (530-832-5360) 165 E. Sierra St.
- Dee's Station Cafe (530-832-4852) 165 Pacific St.
- Pizza Factory (530-832-0430) 197 Commercial St.

Dinner

- Casa Carmelita (530-832-5360) 165 E. Sierra St.
- Pizza Factory (530-832-0430) 197 Commercial St.

Graeagle

Breakfast/Lunch

- Bonta St. Bistro (530-836-1497) 190 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Cafe Mohawk (530-836-0901) 1228 Johnsville Rd., Mohawk
- Eureka Peak Brewery (530-832-5528) 72172 Hwy. 70
- Graeagle Mill Works (530-836-2828) Hwy. 89
- Gumba's Pizzeria & Grill (530-836-1212) 350 Bonta St., Blairsden
- Mountain Cuisine (530-836-4646) 250 Bonta St., Blairsden
- The Village Baker (530-836-4064) 340 Bonta St., Blairsden

Dinner

- Coyote Bar & Grill (530-836-2002) Hwy. 89
- Eureka Peak Brewery (530-832-5528) 72172 Hwy. 70
- 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
- Sierra Valley Lodge (530-994-3367 or 800-858-0322) Off Hwy. 89, Calpine
- Trattoria Rosa Cucina Italiana (530-836-0371) 15 minutes west of Graeagle on Hwy. 70 in Cromberg