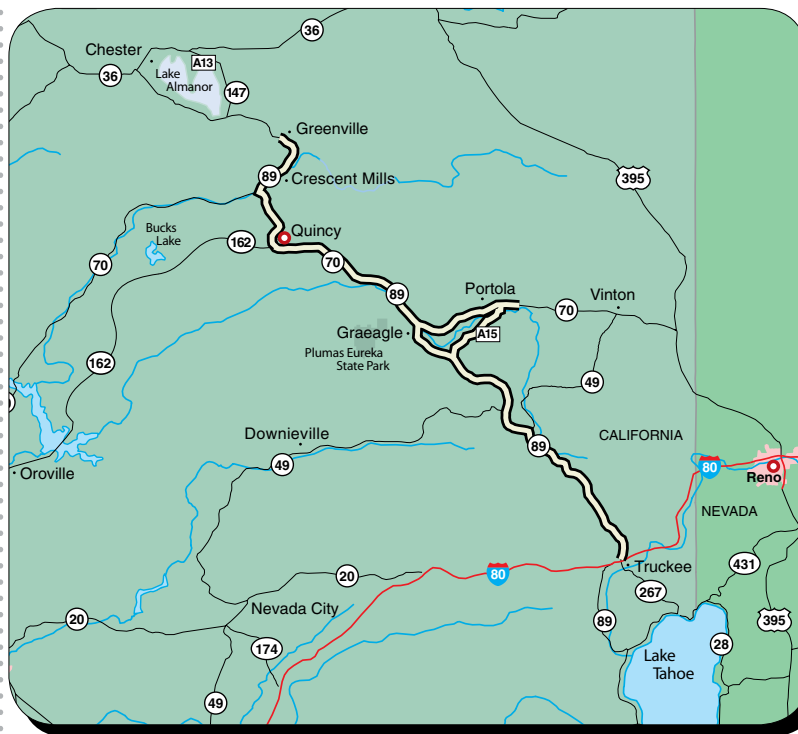


Tour 12 - Historic Plumas County

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.



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

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, sled dog races, historic longboard races, Christmas tree cutting, snowmobile races and 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 the Plumas County Visitors Bureau. These can be explored independently, or added to this tour.

An Ancient Trail of the Mountain Maidu Indians*

Historic Beckwourth Trail Route**



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.



Plumas County's gold attracted many miners.



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 8am-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. Admission \$3 adults, \$1 for ages 6-16, outdoor attractions are 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. 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)

Sporting Inn (530-283-4300)

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, sporting goods 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 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.

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)



Crescent Mills



The original Variel Home in Quincy



Western Pacific Railroad Museum

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 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). Just across Hwy. 89, take a peek at the Mountain Market (530-284-7712).

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 Plumas County Visitors Bureau (800-326-2247 or www.plumascounty.org) or the Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce (530-284-6633 or www.indianvalley.net)

Lunch in Greenville:

Sierra Sunrise (530-284-6968) Hwy. 89 or **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).

L **Lunch in Portola:** See restaurant listings

V 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.

R **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.*

I For more information on this tour, contact the Plumas County Visitors Bureau at 800-326-2247 or 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.
- 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